

7-7-2017

Democracy Abroad, Lynching at Home, Racial Violence in Florida

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Recommended Citation

Jordan, Carol Walker (2017) "Democracy Abroad, Lynching at Home, Racial Violence in Florida," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 65 : Iss. 2 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol65/iss2/7>

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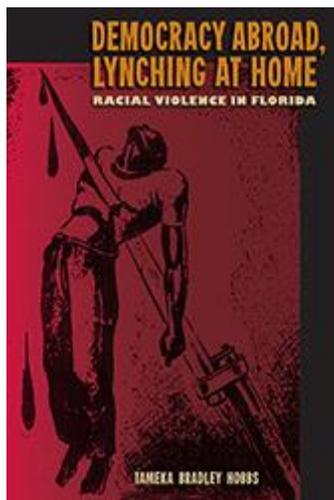
Metzmeier in his research reveals the political dangers of being both a court reporter and a lawyer. Some court reporters, like William Littell, wrote documents that not only rankled people in power but hurt his own reporting career. Littell petitioned the Kentucky house of representatives to pass a law that would allow women to divorce men who were guilty of abandonment, adultery, or physical cruelty. Littell's bill failed, yet he fought back by decrying the use of slaves as prostitutes, which violated the "code of silence" concerning sexual violence against slaves by slave owners.

The book notes how the Kentucky legislature eliminated the court reporter position in 1878. National and regional court reporters filled the necessity of covering new kinds of litigation that was inadvertently created by the rise of factory, railroad and "big capital" in the late 19th century. In all, 13 court reporters are profiled covering a period of almost 100 years of court reporting. Metzmeier briefly refers to how online legal research now delegates the court reporters of years past to the "occasional footnote" in a case. The reporters, who gave all the coverage on other people's court dramas, have had little coverage of their own efforts to preserve the written legal word so other attorneys didn't have to spend hours in a court clerk's office.

Though Metzmeier's book is at times dry and technical, it writes about the important, sometimes mundane writing that doesn't generate gratitude from its readers, yet served an invaluable service at the time. This book is strongly recommended.

Peter R. Dean
University of Southern Mississippi

Democracy Abroad, Lynching at Home, Racial Violence in Florida. Tameka Bradley Hobbs, Gainesville: The University Press of Florida, 2015. 978-0-8130-6104-7 (hardcover) \$74.95; 978-0-8130-6239-6 (pbk.) \$24.95. 288 p.



Tameka Bradley Hobbs draws upon highly personal experiences to take us into her historical research of criminality surrounding lynching of black men in the state of Florida. While an undergraduate at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, listening to a lecture on racial violence in Florida, her professor asked her, "I'll bet you didn't know they lynched a boy in Live Oak".

Hobbs explains she was astounded by this comment as she had not discussed race relations in her home town with her family. She sought to learn more about the lynching from her grandfather on her next trip home. She learned Willie James Howard was hanged with his hands and feet bound, and suspended from a tree branch by a sheet that was tied around his neck. Grandfather Reverend Freeman Grimme, Jr., recalled for her his feelings on the hanging, "Yeah, baby, I remember when they killed that boy...I remember in those days, when I'd go into town, if I even saw a white woman walking my way, I'd turn around and go home" (p. xiii).

Lynching of a black man for accusations that he had somehow sexually interacted with a white girl or woman became the way in which "extralegal murder" was somehow justified. Hobbs points out that the focus of her study "is to provide a detailed analysis of ... lynchings that took place during the 1940s". She goes on to say, "by the 1950s, nearly 5,000 people, primarily black men living in the South lost their lives at the hands of white vigilantes". (p. 4) Additionally though the Jim Crow laws enacted in many southern states were to separate white and black citizens and ease some tensions, these laws achieved the opposite effect. Suppressing voice for black people and giving enforcement powers to local officials led to more heated anger and uprisings and riots.

Hobbs writing style borders on a clearly absorbing storytelling mode. It challenges the reader to look away from horrific descriptions of lynching and related body mutilation and torture while immediately resuming the story she is telling.

Poignantly so, the book's title "Democracy Abroad, Lynching at Home, Racial Violence in Florida" is a perfect choice for Hobbs' research. The setting in the 1940s and 1950s in the "south", particularly Florida, was a racist culture filled with abuse and neglect of black people and power centered in the hands of white supremacists. While abroad, World War I and World War II raged under the banner of "freedom for all people" no matter their race, color, national origin, or national allegiance. Hobbs sees the inconsistency in these professed national policies.

This book is a "must" purchase for a collection in academic libraries and public libraries. With its 227 pages, a Notes section on page 221, a Bibliography on page 251 and an Index on page 265, it provides rich detail and figures for students and researchers.

For more information on Tameka Bradley Hobbs, see Facebook: www.facebook.com/DrTamekaHobbs

Carol Walker Jordan

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Sapelo People and Place on a Georgia Sea Island.

Buddy Sullivan; Photographs by Benjamin Galland. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2017. ISBN 978-0-8203-5016-5 (hardcover: alk.paper); 334 p. \$34.95.



Sapelo: People and Place on a Georgia Sea Island is a spectacular work about Sapelo a Georgia barrier island. Contents include: Chapter I Ecological Sapelo: The Natural Perspective. Chapter II Archaeological Sapelo: The Early Occupiers, Chapter III French Interlude: Anatomy of a Failure, Chapter IV Agrarian Sapelo: the Apotheosis of Thomas Spalding, Chapter V Tabby: A Panegyric to Permanence, Chapter VI Geechee Sapelo: From Freedom to Self-Sufficiency, Chapter VII Sapelo ReGenesis: The Early Twentieth Century, Chapter VIII Sapelo in the 1950s: Autumn of the Old Regime, Chapter IX Scientific Sapelo: Conservation, Community, and Challenge. The writing style is eloquent. Notes encompasses four hundred and eleven references as well as an abbreviations section. Approximately one hundred seventy seven color and black and white pictures photographed by Benjamin Galland make known the beauty of Sapelo Island. Interesting sections called Boxes incorporate various topics involving Eugene P. Odum: Ecologist of Sapelo. Vasquez de Avllon in Sapelo Sound?, Live Oaking on Blackbeard Island, Spalding, Darien, and Local Politics, Muhammad Bilali: Black Overseer of Sapelo, Civil War Sapelo, The Sapelo Journal of A.C. McKinley, Behavior Cemetery, The Geechee Language and Sapelo, Sapelo Island Place-Names, and Allen Green of Raccoon Bluff. The monograph has maps such as one of the Georgia coast. From the early nineteen nineties until four years ago, author Buddy Sullivan administered Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve. Buddy Sullivan is an accomplished speaker on the Georgia coast.

Sapelo Island is regulated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The University of Georgia Marine Institute studies marsh ecology, forestry agriculture, and marine biology using a Marine Institute Laboratory at

Sapelo. Sapelo is the location of conferences on ecology and geology. The Sapelo marine biological laboratory was created by R.J. Reynolds inheritor of North Carolina's R.J. Reynolds tobacco. Sapelo allows visitors by contacting the Sapelo Island Visitors Center. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Sapelo Island Visitors Center provides boat entry to Sapelo and supplies private showings of Sapelo Island by reservations. Two Sapelo attractions on the National Register of Historic Places since 1996 are Hog Hammock and Behavior Cemetery. A stunning allure is the R.J. Reynolds mansion initially created by Thomas Spalding in 1811 almost completely destroyed in the Civil War, magnificently rebuilt by Sapelo Island Company of Macon and beautifully and gloriously added on to by Howard E. Coffin and R.J. Reynolds Jr. Coffin created the nearby famous resort Sea Island and gorgeous Cloister Hotel. The fascinating history of the island including its formation, the period of the Indians, the Spanish, the colonial era, the Civil War and Thomas Spalding its owner during the Civil War, the two other proprietors Howard E. Coffin maker of the Oldsmobile automobile and R.J. Reynolds Jr. to the present is researched.

Living creatures on Sapelo include Duguid shorebirds, ghost crabs, rattlesnakes, turtles, American oyster catcher, shore birds, black skimmer, gall-billed tern, least tern, Atlantic hawksbill, Atlantic leatherback, Marine turtles, Menhaden, bluefish, mullet, flounder, and yellowtail mummichog. Further, living on Sapelo are shrimp, dolphins, mink, gulls, terns, pelicans, ospreys, egrets, blue herons, marsh hens, fiddler crabs, Atlantic blue crab, gallinules, ducks, ibis, alligators, and water moccasins. More life on Sapelo comprises herring gulls, laughing gulls, brown pelicans, ring-billed gulls, double-crested cormorants, skimmers, clapper rails, black sanderlings, wood storks, white ibis, coots, woodpeckers, ducks, hawks, kestrels, mockinebirds, teals, rabbit, raccoon, and canvasbacks. Other natural life exists such as mockingbirds, turkey vultures, bald eagles, egrets, painted bunting, opossums, squirrels, bats, otters, minks, feral hogs, armadillos, cattle, kestrels, finfish, shellfish, shad, finfish, drum, Atlantic croaker, and buffalo. Foliage at Sapelo consists of sea oats, small oak, cedar hammock, Spanish bayonet, red cedar, scrub oak, morning glory, panic grass, water pennywort, beach hogwort, beach elder, beach pennywort, beach sand-spur, and Spanish bayonet (Yucca). Additional greenery embraces Chinese tallow tree, tamarisk, Muhlenbergia, prickly pear, buckthorn, wax myrtle, sabal palm, yaupon holly, and sand live oak. Added flora encompass live oak, bay holly, magnolia, laurel oak, cabbage palm, Slash pine, Spanish moss, Virginia creeper, water oak, and loblolly pine, and black gum. The masterpiece on Sapelo is excellent for academic libraries and public libraries. The recommended audience is individuals seeking data on Georgia's lovely barrier island Sapelo and the beautiful coast of Georgia.

Melinda F. Matthews

University of Louisiana at Monroe