

10-1-2017

## The Life and Work of John C. Campbell

Carol Walker Jordan

*University of North Carolina at Greensboro*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Jordan, Carol Walker (2017) "The Life and Work of John C. Campbell," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 65 : Iss. 3 , Article 6.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol65/iss3/6>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Southeastern Librarian by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu).

Why select this book to review for a University or College library collection?

Both personal and academic research interests in literacies drew my attention. Born in Kings Mountain, North Carolina, I confess to positive feelings toward the Appalachian Mountains, to Appalachian culture made real for me through its music, art and crafts, to family legacies, and small town ways of life.

Sunderhaus and Donehower's book appealed to me also because I find literacies an intriguing topic. Appalachia may be described using stereotypes such as poverty, corrupt politics, drug abuse, domestic violence, low employment and poorly developed health and medical systems. What did literacies have to do with these civic issues?

The ten essayists in Sunderhaus and Donehower's fine collection are described as "storytellers who are also trained as academicians". (p.1) It seemed very appropriate to me to describe collected research in literacies in Appalachia as stories since that is my memory of how I believe literacies (learning, speaking and civic involvement) evolved within Appalachian families and culture.

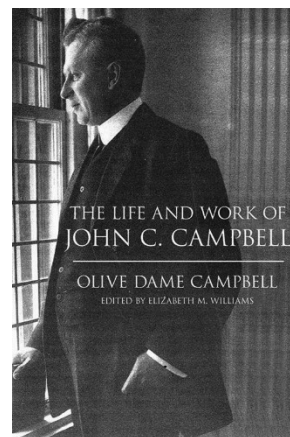
In addition to providing historical perspectives on literacies, a reader is given insights into pressing topics in today's Appalachian communities and regions-- first generation college students completing college and having to leave home to find employment, prejudice toward LGBT community members, growth and infusion of African American art and folklore.

This is a good choice for a library collection in an academic library and will support and provide readings for faculty assignments and continued faculty and student research. While there are no illustrations (it might have been interesting to see a Kentucky Moonlight School) there is a detailed list of references at the conclusion of each essay. The text has 228 pages, and an Index and

Acknowledgements section as well as a biographical sketch of each essayist.

*Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D.*  
*University of North Carolina, Greensboro (retired)*

**The Life and Work of John C. Campbell.** Olive Dame Campbell; edited by Elizabeth M. Williams. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 2017. ISBN 978-0-8131-6854-8 (cloth, \$60); ISBN 978-0-8131-6855-5 (web pdf, \$60); ISBN 978-0-8131-6856-2 (epub, \$60). 720 p.



If you are a letter writer, or if you collect family letters and correspondence, you will truly enjoy this gift from the family of John C. Campbell and Olive Dame Campbell. Going from the opening of the book beginning on page 9, you will be led into a fascinating collection of correspondence. Who were John C. Campbell and Olive Dame Campbell is revealed throughout the well organized chapters of their lives from 1867 to 1919.

This beautifully bound volume of 720 pages holds a significant collection of correspondence amassed during the life of John C. Campbell. Dr. Campbell's wife, Olive Dame Campbell, and her close friend, Elizabeth M. Williams, edited the original documents that are presented in this book.

The Russell Sage Foundation became John C. Campbell's ally in his lifelong passion to define and help others to understand the people known as Southern Highlanders. John C. Campbell and Olive Dame Campbell reveal and document through the collected letters a strong social activism and determined reform efforts they employed to raise awareness and build respect for the peoples of Appalachia.

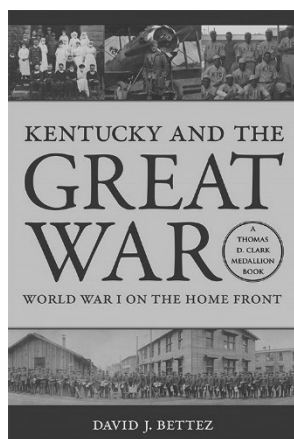
Cover notes highlight the various types of documents used to create the volume, "never before published this unique volume draws extensively on diary entries and personal letters to illuminate the significance and lasting impact of John C. Campbell's contributions".

There is an extensive collection of manuscripts and other archival items on the life and work of John C. Campbell and Olive Dame Campbell held for researchers at Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Also visit the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina <https://www.folkschool.org/>

This is an excellent collections choice for academic libraries and for faculty teaching in Appalachia studies. The diaries and personal letters are fascinating! A great resource for United States history collections and for reference studies on Appalachia. Cloth bound and heavily supported with references, notes and an Index.

*Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D.*  
*University of North Carolina Greensboro (retired)*

**Kentucky and the Great War: World War I on the Home Front.** David J. Bettez. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-8131-6801-2 (cloth, \$45.00); ISBN 978-0-8131-6802-9 (web pdf, \$45); ISBN 978-0-8131-6803-6 (epub, \$45). 440 p.



This year marks the centenary of America's intervention into World War One. The United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917. In recent decades, the memory of this early twentieth century conflict has been overshadowed by other American military actions and wars. National surveys reveal that the majority of US citizens today have only a passing understanding of the events that led to the "Great War." Historians are being challenged to bring this event to life and demonstrate its continued relevancy to twenty-first century audiences. Looking beyond discussions of political alliances, military tactics, and diplomatic failings, many scholars are now examining home front mobilization and its effect on the lives of ordinary civilians and soldiers. Historian David J. Bettez explores the social and economic impact of American mobilization at the state level. Bettez's *Kentucky and the Great War: World War I on the Home Front* reveals how the state responded to specific local conditions to rally its populace for an overseas war.

To understand how Kentucky effectively overcame its own prewar social and economic divisions, Bettez's contends that it is critical to adopt a "ground up" approach. With 120 established counties in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the author conducted research in more than half of the county seats. Bettez argues that this twenty-month long war had a lasting impact on the state's development. Through an examination of how community leaders,

government officials, and social organizations supported home front mobilization, he concludes that Kentuckians overcame their differences and coalesced for a "brief and shining moment" to rally to the call for patriotic collective sacrifice.

The scope of this study is ambitious; Bettez considers all aspects of mobilization. By organizing his chapters both by logically related themes as well as by the flow of wartime events, Bettez provides the reader with a clear and accessible narrative and timeline. Chapters are loosely grouped around such themes as: public responses to the outbreak of war, government efforts to move state agencies and the economy onto a wartime footing, state intervention into the lives of its citizens, and postwar efforts to commemorate the war.

David J. Bettez devotes the first two chapters of his work to examine how the state's social, political, and economic landscape influenced the public's response to the declaration of war. Through an analysis of newspaper accounts of the war, the author highlights many of the tensions found between urban and rural constituencies, agricultural and industrial interests, and racial and ethnic communities. While the United States declared itself to be neutral in 1914, Kentucky newspapers were filled with stories of neighbors donating monies to relief societies, traveling to Europe to help war victims, and in some cases volunteering to fight. Not surprisingly, with a large German and Irish immigrant population located in northern Kentucky, several newspapers were overtly sympathetic to Germany and skeptical of pro-British news accounts. With the declaration of war in 1917, Bettez documents how Kentucky newspapers pivoted to support the allied cause and beseech their readership to "do their bit." In the following chapter, Bettez considers how public appeals to patriotism were translated into calls for sacrifice, loyalty, and unity. Kentuckians flocked to patriotic rallies, volunteered for military service, and bought Liberty Bonds. At the same time, the author reveals a darker communal response to the declaration of war that included a push to remove all reminders of Germany in public spaces.

The success of American mobilization was dependent on effective government coordination and civilian compliance. Hindered by the lack of funds and competition with other national government wartime agencies, Bettez concludes that the Kentucky Council of Defense had mixed success in its efforts to promote of Liberty Bonds and military conscription. At the same time, he argues that the Council did have an impact on communities. The Council strove to bring wartime programs to the most under-served regions of the state. Bettez also found that state officials and local leaders were not above the use of financial incentives and political "horse-trading" to ensure the implementation of mobilization programs. Beyond the use of incentives and persuasion, Bettez found that Kentucky did employ its judicial system and police apparatus to suppress political dissent. Drawing on several widely reported court cases, Bettez documents the state's surveillance of "suspect" individuals and groups. He also found that newspapers frequently reported on public trials of sedition as well as