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Patriots and Indians: Shaping Identity in Eighteenth-Century South Carolina

Allison Faix
Coastal Carolina University

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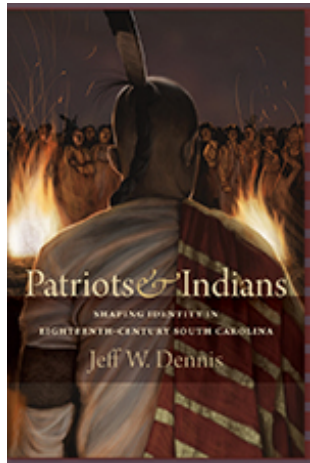
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Patriots and Indians: Shaping Identity in Eighteenth-Century South Carolina. Jeff W. Dennis. Columbia, SC: The University of South Carolina Press, 2017. ISBN: 978-1-61117-756-5 (hardcover), 978-1-61117-757-2 (ebook), \$29.99. 240 p.

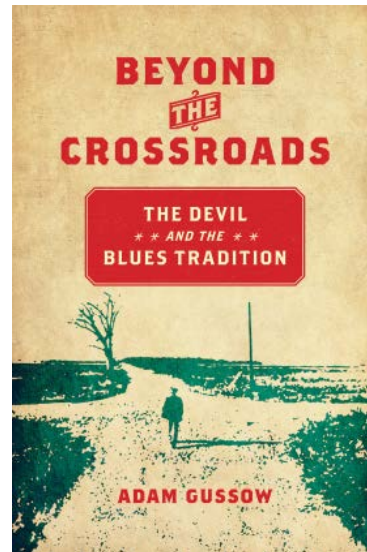


In his new book, Jeff Dennis closely examines the relationships between Native American and colonial leaders in the time period before, during, and immediately following the American Revolution in South Carolina. While other books have also looked at the history of Native Americans in South Carolina during the 18th century (M. Thomas Hatley's *The Dividing Paths*, Daniel J. Tortora's *Carolina in Crisis*), this book focuses specifically on how the interactions between the Native American and colonial leaders influenced the course of events and the beginnings of the formation of an American identity. In the introduction, the author points out that the "full story of American Revolutionaries and Native Americans is too rich and multifarious to examine comprehensively in one text" and that instead the book focuses primarily on South Carolina. South Carolina was the colony which was geographically closest to the greatest number of Native Americans in the pre-revolution time period covered by the book, making it an important location for examining the interrelationships and interactions between these cultures.

The book is arranged chronologically, beginning near the start of the Cherokee War of 1759-61 and ending in the time period immediately following the American Revolution. South Carolina colonial leaders discussed in the book include Thomas Sumter, Francis Marion, Andrew Pickens, William Henry Drayton, Henry Laurens, Christopher Gadsden, and William Moultrie. A small selection of primary source illustrations, maps, and paintings are also included in the text, as well as an extensive reference section and bibliography. For libraries where there is interest in Revolutionary War or Native American history, this book will fill a gap in collections and is highly recommended.

Allison Faix
Coastal Carolina University

Beyond the Crossroads: The Devil and the Blues Tradition Adam Gussow. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2017. ISBN 978-1-4696-3366-4 (pbk: \$29.95); 978-1-4696-3365-7 (Hard: \$90); 978-1-4696-3367-1 (Ebook: \$19.99). 416 p.



In the little southern town where I was born and lived in the 40s and 50s there was a small white lone clapboard house on a hill overlooking the town center. The town consisted of a gas station, a bank, a post office, a few retail shops, a library and two churches.

The little house seemed to be closed to the public and no one appeared in the yard or on the porch. One day I asked Daddy, "who lives there?". He hesitated and then said, "That house is a place where people "drink, play cards, smoke and cut each other with knives so never go there".

At home, one day, I asked Mom if I could learn to play cards with the kids in the neighborhood and she said it was a sin to play cards. Later I asked if I might go to the Friday night dances at the music hall or go to the new movie theatre that recently opened. She said it was a sin to play cards, to dance and to go to movies (unless the movie was about Jesus or cowboys).

Neither parent took the leap to tell me that sin and the devil were linked but I took that leap and believed that the places I wanted to go and the things I wanted to do were "the devil's workshop".

Reading the amazingly intense research Adam Gussow provides in "Beyond the Crossroads--The Devil and the Blues Tradition", I am reminded of that little town of my birth. I am reminded of my parents who saw sin and the Devil in places that fill the lyrics of blues music.

Most fascinating was my learning of Robert Johnson, 1911-1938, and his spiritual experiences at the "Crossroads in Clarksdale, Mississippi". Venturing beyond Gussow's writing to scanning various blues websites and listening to