

Fall 10-1-2018

South Carolina's Turkish People: A History and Ethnology

Carol Walker Jordan

Library Research Consultant

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



Part of the [Information Literacy Commons](#), [Scholarly Communication Commons](#), and the [Scholarly Publishing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Jordan, Carol Walker (2018) "South Carolina's Turkish People: A History and Ethnology," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 66 : Iss. 3 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol66/iss3/10>

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.

Chromatic Homes: the Joy of Color in Historic Places is an uplifting dazzling masterpiece detailing buildings of gleaming hues and homes of vibrant shades referred to as chromatic homes. Best observed areas on planet Earth containing some of the beautiful chromatic residences and buildings are Moscow, Russia, Havana, Cuba, Louisville, Kentucky Original Highlands, San Francisco, California, Burano, Italy, Miami Beach, Florida Art Deco Historic District, and New Orleans, Louisiana. More are Cincinnati, Ohio, New Albany, Indiana, Nashville, Tennessee, Charleston, South Carolina, Elgin, Illinois, Sunset Park, New York City, and Eureka, California. The work of art reveals some of the shiny tinted beautiful homes and buildings in approximately one hundred ninety one outstanding color photographs. Brilliant lovely landscapes surround several of the gorgeous structures.

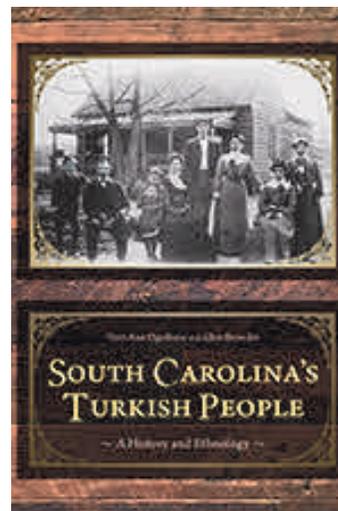
The intriguing monograph features fourteen thought-provoking quotes such as from Winston Churchill and Ernest Hemingway. A piece Books by John I. "Hans" Gilderbloom notes eight books Mr. Gilderbloom authored. There are thirty-one references. A section John I. "Hans" Gilderbloom discusses Mr. Gilderbloom's professional experience and expertise. Jerry Abramson, five time Mayor of Louisville, Kentucky, authored the foreword *Chromatic Homes How to Ignite a Neighborhood*. Book sections include Chromatic Appeal; Why Now?; Can chromatic homes be the secret sauce for neighborhood and community regeneration?; Activism, House-Self-Identity; Art and Inspiration; Lovability; Sustainability; San Francisco, California, Art Holmer's moving art of the colorful Cable Car helped inspire the chromatic homes movement; Miami, Florida; New Orleans, Louisiana; Cincinnati, Ohio; Covington, Kentucky; Portland, Oregon; Nashville, Tennessee; Russia: Moscow, Saint Petersburg, and Samara; Neighborhoods in Cuba; Burano, Italy; Amsterdam, Netherlands; Arles, France: "Yellow House (The Street)"; Louisville Love Story: How One City Turned Around a Dying Neighborhood, Paint or no paint?; Vinyl Siding; A Historic Look at Victorians in the Original Highlands; Graffiti and Angry Art: Detroit, Houston, and Louisville; and Pink Houses.

Famous enchanting constructions that are chromatic are Mark Twain's mansion in Hartford, Connecticut, St. Basils' Cathedral in Moscow, Russia, Church of the Savior of Spilled Blood, St. Petersburg, Russia, and Muhammad Ali's childhood residence a Louisville Pink Lady house. Others are Pink Palace of Louisville, Rotterdam's great yellow Cube House, New Orleans Mid-City shotgun houses, and Alice Walker's Pink Lady residence in San Francisco. Two eateries in Covington, Kentucky, Frida 602 and Otto's, mentioned are adorably colorful in appearance. Two areas in Cincinnati displaying magnificent intensely hued structures are Columbia Tusculum and Findlay Market. Thoroughfares including picturesque arrays of architectural creations in Louisville are Bardstown, Pope, Highland, Hepburn, Rubel, Christy, Barrett, Breckinridge, Highland, and Morton. A Van Gogh picture "Yellow House (The Street)" is chromatic with numerous highly animated tints.

Lustrous colorants painted on buildings and houses hopefully create happiness, prohibit crime, and stimulate occupations. This fabulously written and history of the chromatic edifices of the world is perfect and a must for academic and public libraries. I would highly recommend this fascinating book to anyone interested in stunning buildings or the history and subject of community development and maintenance.

Melinda F. Matthews
University of Louisiana at Monroe Library

South Carolina's Turkish People: A History and Ethnology. Terri Ann Ognibene and Glen Browder. Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2018. ISBN 978-1-61117-858-6 (Hardcover); 978-1-61117-859-3 (Ebook); both \$49.99. 248 p.



In a collaborative literary relationship, Terri Ann Ognibene and Glen Browder, fashioned a text which is a documentary of the lives of a group of families who chose to identify themselves as Turkish descendants. While Ognibene focused upon interviews with present day descendants of the Ottoman refugee, Joseph Benenhaley, Browder conducted historical research on primary documents and records spanning the two hundred years during which the "Turkish" families lived and survived in Sumter County, South Carolina.

This book caught my attention when I saw the cover photo which revealed a family in front of a home in which they lived in Sumter County, (Illustration from the Greg Thompson Collection). The property in Sumter County inhabited by the Benehaleys was awarded to Joseph Benenhaley by Colonel Thomas Sumter for Joseph's service to him as a scout in the Revolutionary War. Maintaining this property and continuing to build the Benehaley family, securing themselves as Turkish farmers, the Benehaley's established a closed community. For over

200 years, the family maintained their close familial lives and rarely married outside the original founding Benehaleys.

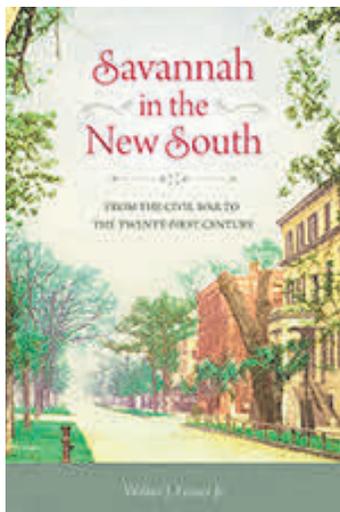
To the surrounding neighbors and other community groups, the Benehaleys were perceived as Native Americans, Negroes or islanders. By building their own school, church and homes, the Turkish family established their isolation over many years. Terri Ognibene's passion as a researcher, writer and descendent of Joseph Benehaley led her to seek to understand the social and legal struggles that her Turkish family suffered over the years in Sumter County-- as she described, "isolation, segregation, discrimination, oppression, and assimilation." (Cover fly leaf)

Photographs, maps, and illustrations provide assistance in visualizing the Benehaley family life over the years. Terri Ognibene's passion in seeking the Turkish descendants/individuals who might be willing to share highly personal stories about themselves and their social relationships in Sumter County is evident and must be applauded. Glen Browder's meticulous efforts in finding and sharing primary document research documents many of the struggles the Turkish families suffered.

A good resource for academic libraries, historical archives and for student research into sociology/kinship studies and family structures in rural communities.

*Carol Walker Jordan,
Library Research Consultant.*

Savannah in the New South: From the Civil War to the Twenty-First Century. Walter J. Fraser, Jr. Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2018. ISBN 978-1-61117-836-4 (Hardcover); 978-1-61117-837-1 (Ebook); both \$44.99. 400 p.



My desire to review this new book was to learn about the Savannah that I knew nothing about except friends'

encouragement to visit to see the beautiful architecture, gardens, and a visit to the Savannah College of Art and Design! An awakening to the history of Savannah's place in the development of the state of Georgia was not a pleasant and joyful awakening! Dr. Fraser, our author, died shortly after I began reading the book, adding to the sadness I felt when I realized I could not contact him and talk about his years of research on Savannah's history and its present days.

Dr. Fraser's truly painful history reveals slavery, discrimination, suppression of freed people, harassment, voter suppression, boycotts, racial tension, wealth disparity, and gang violence. From Dr. Fraser's documented research, little was recounted that in the state of Georgia and in Savannah freedom arose and was shared among citizens before and after the Civil War. Since I expected to find Savannah a southern city full of promise and one that left "jim crow" behind, I was highly disappointed. I closed Dr. Fraser's book in great disappointment with "a new South concept".

Yes, I should applaud the author who "tells it like it is" and then leaves us the readers to continue the research and activism to make Savannah a "city on a hill". Will it strive to be inclusive of all, open to conversations and collaboration, free of bias and prejudice, and representative of the freedoms we promise? I do not feel confidence in Savannah's future. Its history is somehow overpowering.

*Carol Walker Jordan
Library Research Consultant*

The Trials of a Scold: The Incredible True Story of Writer Anne Royall. Jeff Biggers. New York: Thomas Dunne Books, 2017. ISBN: 9781250065124. \$26.99. 260 p.

