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Savannah in the New South: From the Civil War to the Twenty-First Century

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

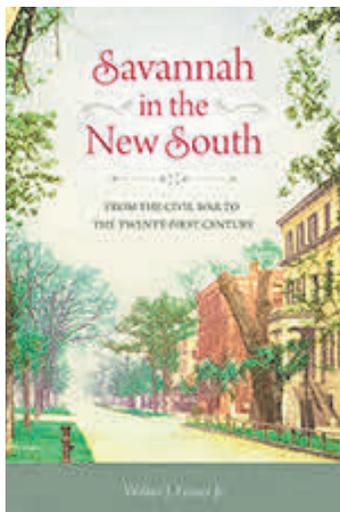
To the surrounding neighbors and other community groups, the Benehaleys were perceived as Native Americans, Negroes or islanders. By building their own school, church and homes, the Turkish family established their isolation over many years. Terri Ognibene's passion as a researcher, writer and descendent 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.

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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.

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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.

