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The U.S. Senate and the Commonwealth: Kentucky Lawmakers and the Evolution of Legislative Leadership

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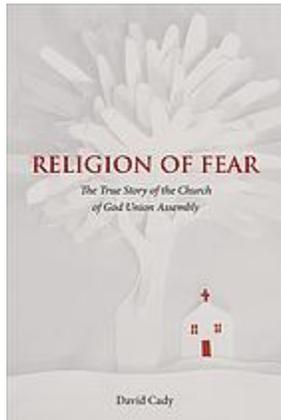
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Coastal Carolina Plant Profiles shares two hundred fifteen plants of the Carolina waterside. Each profile provides common names, scientific names, geographic range, habitat, growth habit, time of flowers and fruits, status of wetland, origin, description of species, value of ecology and wildlife, usage by people, and geographic region usefulness. Illustrations consist of five diagrams, four maps, and approximately one hundred sixty four excellent quality color photographs of Carolina waterfront plant life. Reference Resources comprise fifty-six books, thirty six scientific journal articles, twenty-three other documents, and thirty-four annotated internet resources. Two hundred sixty terms and their definitions compose the glossary. The recommendation for audience is individuals and researchers interested in plants and especially plants on the seaside of North Carolina and South Carolina. This text on Carolina coastal region plant life is recommended for academic and public libraries.

Melinda F. Matthews
University of Louisiana at Monroe

Religion of Fear: The True Story of the Church of God of the Union Assembly. David Cady. The University of Tennessee Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1-6219-0508-0l. 282 p.



David Cady’s *Religion of Fear: The True Story of the Church of God of the Union Assembly* shows an author’s ability as a fascinating story teller. “At times it reads like a novel, full of intrigue and suspense. Yet it is not a novel. Neither is it the work of a historian nor that of a psychologist...” (Foreword).

“Religion of Fear helps the reader to understand how a Pentecostal sect, the Church of God of the Union Assembly, evolved into one of the largest and wealthiest cults in America.” (Back Book Cover)

Through hundreds of interviews, Cady reveals that members were expected to demonstrate a sense of loyalty and belief in the people who led the church. Some examples of expectations: 1) contribute huge amounts of their personal income, 2) make a pledge not to seek medical help even in death circumstances for themselves,

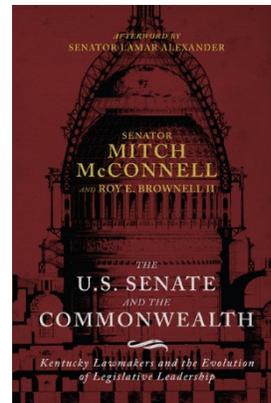
loved ones and children, 3) submit daughters or wives to a “training closet” if they violated church rules, 4) work long and hard hours of farm labor with no pay, 5) mortgage their homes and lands and give money they received to the church. Additionally anyone who left the church was to be shunned by those who remained in the church.

Cady established through the interviews the story of how the Union Assembly grew to fifty-four churches across nineteen states, spanned almost 100 years and 3 generations of family leadership (Back Cover).

Cady’s conversations reveal bizarre behaviors of church leaders when examined in the light of freedoms and rights church members enjoy in 2019. This book is recommended for theological libraries, public libraries, academic libraries and historical societies. There is a list of black and white illustrations, Notes, a Bibliography, an Index and a Prologue – all of which will be helpful for further research.

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant

The U.S. Senate and the Commonwealth: Kentucky Lawmakers and the Evolution of Legislative Leadership. Senator Mitch McConnell and Roy E. Brownell II. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-8131-7745-8 (hardcover); ISBN: 978-0-8131-7746-5 (pdf); ISBN: 978-0-7747-2 (epub), 415 p. \$40.00 hardcover.



U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky has been, to say the least, a controversial figure starting with his stated hope to make Barack Obama a “one-term President.” While that particular objective proved elusive, McConnell has been very successful serving as Senate Majority Leader in obstructing much of President Obama’s agenda, ensuring the rapid and somewhat controversial confirmation of (so far) two conservative U.S. Supreme Court justices during the administration of President Donald Trump along with a larger number of conservative justices in lower-level federal courts, and rapidly pushing through the major tax cuts of 2017. Along with a wily and somewhat ruthless approach to running the Senate, McConnell’s success can also be attributed to his truly in-depth understanding of

Senate rules, procedures, and history. This book is a testament to McConnell's understanding of how the U.S. Senate operates. It is also a fascinating history of the institution and of Kentucky's significant contributions to the development of the U.S. Senate. Co-author Roy E. Brownell, II is an attorney and has published a number of articles and books on Congress and the presidency. He has also served as McConnell's deputy chief of staff and legal counsel.

This densely-written but fascinating book is a combination of a study of the implementation of the intricate procedures of the Senate since the 1790s and in-depth historical and political analysis of 15 Kentuckians who have served major roles in the development of the U.S. Senate. A number of them also played a major role in American history. McConnell's own role is briefly summed up in an "Afterword" written by U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander (Republican – Tennessee) that paints a favorable if fairly bland picture of McConnell without really addressing his controversial actions mentioned above.

Readers of this book will learn of the evolving nature of the roles played by the U.S. Vice-President, especially as a vote tie-breaker, the Senate President Pro Tempore, the Senate Caucus Chairman, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Majority Whip, and Senate Party Campaign Chairman. Some of the Kentuckians who served in these roles were truly national figures such as Henry Clay (1777-1852) whom McConnell and Brownell credit with delaying the Civil War by 10 years, thanks to Clay's efficacy in reconciling opposing interests over slavery and expansion of U.S. territory via the series of bills known to historians as the Compromise of 1850 (92). Alben Barkley (1877-1956) served as a very effective Democratic Senate Majority Leader from 1937 to 1947 who shepherded through New Deal legislation as an ally of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. On one occasion Barkley and Roosevelt came to disagreement: in 1944 Roosevelt sought a \$10 billion tax increase to help fund the ongoing war effort while Barkley sought a much lower compromise tax increase of \$2.3 billion. Roosevelt vetoed the compromise bill so Barkley rather theatrically staged a one-day resignation as Senate Majority Leader (knowing he would be immediately voted back into office by his Senate colleagues) and successfully led the Senate to override Roosevelt's veto (168).

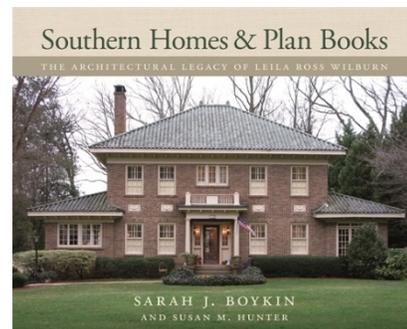
One of the more interesting aspects of *The U.S. Senate and the Commonwealth* are the passages (indicated by text appearing in *italics*) where McConnell provides his own personal observations on the significance of certain historical developments or relates his own personal experiences in dealing with similar situations. This is truly getting an insider's perspective on Senate operations. Here is a typical example: "Being a party leader is challenging because senators are exposed to many incentives that do not favor being a team player, such as enhanced media attention. If a senator wants to be noticed, a surefire way is to buck his own party's leadership. On occasion, being majority leader can feel like being a groundskeeper at a

cemetery where everyone is below you, but no one is listening!" (106).

This book is strongly recommended to academic libraries and most large public libraries. Many libraries in Kentucky, large or small, will find this work to be an appropriate addition considering its focus on U.S. Senators (and two U.S. Vice-Presidents) from Kentucky. As History and Political Science Librarian at my own institution, I find *The U.S. Senate and the Commonwealth* to be equally appropriate for both of my liaison departments. The scholarship is formidable and includes hundreds of endnotes, many of them annotated.

Tim Dodge
Auburn University

Southern Homes & Plan Books The Architectural Legacy of Leila Ross Wilburn. Sarah J. Boykin and Susan M. Hunter. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-8203-5181-0 (hardback: alk.paper); 146 p. \$42.95.



Leila Ross Wilburn was an architect and creator of house design books who lived in Decatur Georgia. Author Sarah J. Boykin is a Georgia architect with a degree from the University of the South. Author Susan M. Hunter is an Atlanta author and resided in an Atlanta house designed by Leila Ross Wilburn. The writing style catches the reader's attention. The contents include List of Plan Books and Publications, Foreword by Margaret Culbertson, Acknowledgments, Introduction, Chapter One A Man's Profession, a Woman's Domain: Leila Ross Wilburn's Architectural Practice and Plan Book Business, Chapter Two Southern Comfort, American Style: Leila Ross Wilburn's Early Plan Book Houses, Chapter Three From 1930s Small to 1950s Ranch: Leila Ross Wilburn's Later Plan Book Houses, Chapter Four Learning from Wilburn in the Twenty-First Century, Appendix: Leila Ross Wilburn's Custom Commissions and Non-Residential Work, Notes, Bibliography, Illustration Credits, and Index. There are two hundred thirty nine excellent notes. One hundred sixty beautiful photographs of houses designed by Wilburn and intriguing design plans are quite interesting and enhance the discussion of Leila Ross Wilburn. Thirty-five references compose the Bibliography.