

Fall 10-1-2019

## Southern Snacks: 77 Recipes for Small Bites with Big Flavors

Melinda F. Matthews

*University of Louisiana at Monroe*

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



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

---

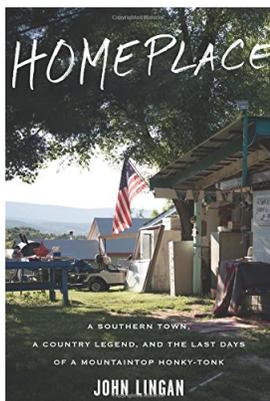
### Recommended Citation

Matthews, Melinda F. (2019) "Southern Snacks: 77 Recipes for Small Bites with Big Flavors," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 67 : Iss. 3 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol67/iss3/12>

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).

Lingan. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018. ISBN: 9780544932531. 251 p. \$27.00.



Joltin' Jim McCoy takes center stage in John Lingan's reporting on Winchester, Virginia in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. Sympathetically portraying the outsize reputation of the local country music king, and his connection to the queen of country, Patsy Cline, John Lingan depicts a way of life that has been supplanted by commercial progress and gentrification. *Homeplace: a southern town, a country legend, and the last days of a mountaintop honky-tonk* is ultimately the story of a transformative cultural shift in the region.

From its Shawnee origins through its current realization as a tourist designation, Winchester reflects many small towns throughout the United States where the old resists the new. George Washington spent time here and it was key in many Civil War battles. Always a hub for commerce, the region became recognized for its apple orchards, becoming the largest U.S. exporter. It propelled Harry Flood Byrd, its most successful orchard owner, to five terms as a U.S. senator. Corporations and businesses drove change as agricultural concerns were subsumed by new enterprises, but always remained a bastion for "old money." Lingan observes that the class system survives, albeit with new corporate owners ensuring continued inequality.

Social stratification is apparent today, as it was when Patsy Cline rose to fame. She grew up in Winchester in the 1950's and received her first break through Jim McCoy's radio program on WINC. Surprisingly, this country music luminary received little respect for her talent from her hometown. No matter how brightly her star shone in Nashville, her talent was denigrated by the old families in Shenandoah. Only after her death did Winchester's businesses begin to pay homage to her star appeal and build a cottage tourism industry around her fame, including designating September 4 as Patsy Cline Day.

Lingan profiles several movers and shakers in the area, like JudySue Hubert-Kemp, who galvanized action to support the Patsy Cline Historic House; Jeanne Mozier, who organized the Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting in its namesake town outside Winchester; and the late Joe

Bageant, a sympathetic voice for the rural poor and author of *Deer Hunting with Jesus*.

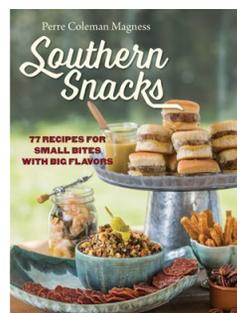
It's Jim McCoy's story, however, that provides an emotional backdrop for the book. With a music career starting back in the late 1940s hosting a half hour country music show on WINC in Winchester, he later toured with his band, Jim McCoy and the Melody Playboys, even recording with a Nashville label. Breakout success eluded him, though, and he spent countless hours on the road touring to stay afloat. He stayed friends with Patsy Cline and became especially close to Charlie Dick, her second husband. Finally, in 1986, the strains of touring and supporting his family encouraged him to return home and open a recording studio and honky-tonk, which he named the Troubador in homage to Ernest Tubb.

Situated in West Virginia, near Berkeley Springs, Troubador Park evokes a passing way of life, when country music was in its genesis and hillbilly and Western music were starting to merge. Jim McCoy was at the epicenter of this change and personified every country musician trying to be heard and break through to the big time. He embraced a rural lifestyle that is changing and when he passed away in 2016 he was mourned not only for himself, but for all he represented in the community.

Crafting his narrative with insight and empathy, *Homeplace: a southern town, a country legend, and the last days of a mountaintop honky-tonk* is both an examination of and a tribute to a vanishing rural culture told through the life of one exceptional man. With 8 pages of color photographs and chapter notes on sources, this book is recommended for public and academic libraries.

Melanie Dunn  
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

**Southern Snacks: 77 Recipes for Small Bites with Big Flavors.** Perre Coleman Magness. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-1-4696-3672-6 169 p. \$30.00.



This work is about delicious concoctions including their recipes southerners enjoy. The author's recipes appear in Southern Tennessee *Edible Memphis*, *OKRA: The Magazine of the Southern Food and Beverage Museum*. Two other Southern cookery titles by the author are *50 Recipes from Snacks to Main Dishes Inspired by the*

*Classic Southern Favorite* and *The Southern Sympathy Cookbook: Funeral Food with a Twist*. The content includes Introduction, Dips and Spreads, Cheese, Please, Deep-Fried Love, Seafood and Eat It, The Meat of the Matter, The Garden Path, Nuts for Snacks, Lagniappe, Sources for Ingredients, About the Author, and Index.

Sections in the milestone and gemstone cookbook are Sidebars consisting of interesting facts about southern traditions and refreshments comprising Ro-Tel, Tailgating, Sudden Sundays, The Southern Cheese Board, Derby Day, The Hollywood, Fair Food, The Stove-Top Smoker, Crawfish Boil, Midnight Snack, Barbecue Nachos and Other Uses for 'Cue, Opening Day of Dove Season, Vienna Sausages and Saltines, Ham Dust, Koolickles, Festival of Food, The Mardi Gras, Uncle Bill's Peanuts, The Sip and See, Gas Station Peanut Brittle, and Lagniappe. An example of a sidebar is Sip and See which is a social for a second infant to a family akin to a baby shower. A helpful Sources for Ingredients section shares where to buy Southern Cheeses, Country Ham, Sausage, Charcuterie, and Southern Pantry. Thirty seven beautiful bright colorful photographs of the delectable dishes intrigue readers to try the recipes. The recipes are very easy to comprehend. The book supplies a helpful list of the ingredients in each recipe along with the scrumptious recipes.

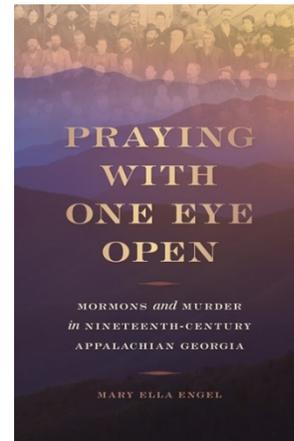
Fun jubilees mentioned include Dade City, Florida Kumquat Festival, Delta Hot Tamale Festival in Greenville, Mississippi, Emerson, Arkansas Purple Hull Pea Festival, Luling, Texas Watermelon Thump, Gueydan, Louisiana Duck Festival, and Vardaman, Mississippi Sweet Potato Festival. Other entertaining festivities are Centerville, Tennessee Banana Pudding Festival, Knoxville, Tennessee International Biscuit Festival, Paris, Tennessee World's Biggest Fish Fry, St. George, South Carolina Grits Festival, Georgia Peach Festival, Kentucky's World Chicken Festival, Georgia Vidalia Onion Fest, Columbia South Carolina Cornbread Festival, and Warren Arkansas Pink Tomato Festival. The recipe book shares instructions for refreshments enjoyed at Kentucky Derby celebrations such as Benedictine, Hot Pecan Country Ham Spread, Country Ham Cheesecake, Kentucky Beer Cheese, Kentucky Hot Brown Bites, Devils on Muleback (Pecan-Stuffed Dates Wrapped in Country), and Pecan Biscuits with Ham and Bourbon Mayonnaise. New Orleans, Louisiana Mardi Gras recipes disclosed are Muffuletta Salsa with Salami Chips, Natchitoches Meat Pies with Buttermilk Dip, Grilled Andouille Doubloons with Sweet Potato Mustard, Cajun Popcorn (Fried Crawfish Tails), Shrimp with White and Red Remoulade, Petite Crawfish Pies, and Calas with Charred Green Onion Dip.

The recommendation is for an audience wanting to cook and/or sample traditional Southern food. It is excellent for public and academic libraries and great as a gift.

Melinda F. Matthews  
University of Louisiana at Monroe

**Praying With One Eye Open: Mormons and Murder in Nineteenth-Century Appalachian Georgia.** Mary Ella

Engel. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2019. ISBN 9-780-8203-5561-0 (Pbk: \$24.95); 9-780-8203-5525-2 (Hard: \$99.95). 248 p.



Two reviews of Mary Ella Engel's book, *Praying with One Eye Open-- Mormons and Murder in Nineteenth-Century Appalachian Georgia*, suggest a distinct difference of opinion over the reasons Mormon missionaries met their deaths at the hands of fellow citizens during the history of our country.

In one death, the "virulent nineteenth century anti Mormonism of the times took the life of prophet Joseph Smith, and in the other death, Mary Ella Engel argues that the murder of Missionary Standing was a result of the recruitment successes in the North Georgia community where the murder occurred". (J. Bennett)

Of great significance in the years that led to the murder, Engel revealed that murder was a response to the challenges posed by the separation of converts from their loved ones. This separation was the separation of women and their dependents from heads of households.

Mormons' historical practice to condone polygamy and to find arguments in biblical text to support their belief that God suggested men might take and support multiple wives proved to disrupt 1800 and 1900 family structures. As Engel points out women of those communities that began to embrace the doctrines of the Mormon church created fear and anger in the husbands and fathers of the times.

In depth and historically significant research material is presented by Engel and will prove helpful to students and faculty who study her findings in academic settings. An added benefit of Engel's research to anyone who is interested in the dedication and workings of a Mormon missionary will learn from the life story of Missionaries Joseph Standings and Rudger Clawson.

Tragic and painful to read were the sections on the murders of Missionary Standing and the beatings and horrific terror placed upon Missionary Clawson.