Praying With One Eye Open: Mormons and Murder in Nineteenth-Century Appalachian Georgia

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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


Two reviews of Mary Ella Engle’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, Engle 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 Engle 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 Engle 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.
This book is recommended for academic and public libraries. Pages 228 includes a Conclusion, p. 150, Appendices 181, Notes 187 to 220 and Index 221 to 228.

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant

*Shelter In a Time of Storm: How Black Colleges Fostered Generations of Leadership and Activism.*

As I am an avid fan of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC, one of the Historical Black Colleges and Universities in the United States, I was delighted to see Jelani M. Favors book, “Shelter in a Time of Storm: How Black Colleges Foster Generations of Leadership and Activism”.

Historically black colleges across the states that embraced their development provided two levels of academic development for black students—one was for a traditional liberal arts learning and a second was for a second curriculum that explained the American history of pain and agony suffered by black citizens.

This history of the establishment and sustainment of black colleges and universities is well established in Favor’s book. A dual curriculum, one obvious and one quiet but evident, helped students to prepare themselves for leadership roles in their career fields. The second curriculum enlightened the students as to how they might find ways to get involved in social and political activities and bring equality of access to black citizens.

Across the United States these graduates moved into teaching, social services, government, law, medicine and the arts, knowing they had challenges in their new posts. Yet, their college educations taught them to ignore and move beyond any roadblocks. These are the blessings of the black colleges!

Acknowledgements Pg. 252, Notes 262, Bibliography 316, Index 242.

Missing are lists of the Historic Black Colleges and Universities and any Historical Figures in the Movement who established these colleges and universities… Also missing are any photographs of men and women who fought politically and helped establish the institutions…

Thanks to Jelani M. Favors for giving us insights into the second curriculum and to the professors and staff who supported the second curriculum!

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant

*North Mississippi Homeplace: Photographs and Folkllife.*

*North Mississippi Homeplace* is a hauntingly beautiful collection of color photographs that capture the North Mississippi world that inspired the fiction of William Faulkner, the photographs of William Eggleston, and the music of Ortha Turner, and the metal work of Marion Ralph Hall.” (William Ferris, author of The South in Color: A visual Journal.)

Michael Ford began his landscaping photo adventure to North Mississippi when he was a graduate student and college teacher in Boston, Massachusetts. At that time, his aspiration was to be a filmmaker who focused upon landscape photography. In 1971 he, his wife and young son packed his aging Volkswagen bus and set out for North Mississippi, eventually settling in Oxford, Mississippi.

Over the next 4 years, 1971-1975, Michael Ford settled into the community in Oxford and into the surrounding region, making himself a visible and active member of the communities he photographed.

Shown in his book, North Mississippi Homeplace, his photographs document an apprenticeship to a blacksmith, daily life in a general store, the craft of a molasses maker, the skills of plowing and planting farmers, the art of quilting and observations of fife and drum musicians.