North Mississippi Homeplace: Photographs and Folkllife

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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


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 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.
Ford’s dynamic photographs appear true and real as they present the people and their environments between 1971-1975.

As a followup Ford returned to Oxford and the areas he visited in 1971-1975. The photographs taken in 2013 thru 2016 give us a “then and now” contrast of a “way of life” that disappeared or is disappearing. The drama of the change seems directly related to mechanization, environmental observations and ways of life of those who now live in North Mississippi.

As an added opportunity to see Ford’s research through the eyes of a film camera, see Ford’s 1975 documentary award winning film, “Homeplace”. It can be viewed on YouTube.

As an added opportunity to see Ford’s research through the eyes of a film camera, see Ford’s 1975 documentary award winning film, “Homeplace”. It can be viewed on YouTube. Also to learn more about the Michael Ford Materials Collection, go to the American Folklife Center, at the Library of Congress. www.loc.gov. Recommended for public and academic libraries and archival centers.

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant


On the day that a review copy of The Power of the Plan: Building a University in Historic Columbia, South Carolina arrived at my door, I wondered, “Is this another over-sized coffee table book?” To my delight, Richard Galehouse’s beautiful and historically fascinating book is not a mere coffee table treasure.

As a graduate of both the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Education and the master’s program in the College of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina, I may not have been the best reviewer to give my thoughts on Galehouse’s book. Certainly bias may have entered into my praise as you will see below. Inside the pages, the research provides to the reader the University’s planning history from its beginning days in 1801 through the 200 years that have followed. The book is a journey documenting planning, vision and the leadership the University has provided to integrate and enrich its provenance within the city of Columbia.

This story shows the evolution of this state university’s involvement and enrichment in and of the City of Columbia. Richard Galehouse tells the story that explains the first days of the South Carolina College plan of 1801—the famed Horseshoe concept for the campus. Situated in the center of the town of Columbia, the evolution of the college into a university spread and grew within the city. Sometimes troubles impeded plans and sometimes successes allowed the growth needed to continue within the confines of the city. Galehouse’s outstanding and highly readable research documents his stories. Of great interest are today’s vigorous plans for the Innovista research campus and its potential great value to the city and surrounding areas.

Mere words cannot explain the beauty of the graphics within each chapter – full color photographs, intricate plans for building sites, notations for all inserts, portraits of famous individuals who have spurred planning and nurtured growth of both campus and city. Historical research into manuscripts, interviews, many valued documents explain and verify planning over the years and photographs, maps and charts are the highlights of this book.

The book offers an insider’s view of how a city and a university’s leadership worked together tirelessly over those 200 years to produce “a university in a city”.

Recommended for public, academic and graduate school collections (particularly architecture, landscaping and land management).

Carol Walker Jordan
Librarian and Consultant