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They Stole Him Out of Jail: Willie Earle, South Carolina's Last Lynching Victim

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contribution, we may ask ourselves if this is true of her writing?

Recommend this book for academic libraries and historical societies. There are no illustrations. There are 3 parts to the collection of submissions: Part I Memory, Part II Rivalry, Part III History, pages, 25-280, An afterword: a Tribute to Peter Onuf p. 281, Notes on Contributors p. 289 to 294, and Index 294 to 311.

Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS

They Stole Him Out of Jail: Willie Earle, South Carolina's Last Lynching Victim. William B. Gravely, Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1-61117-937-8. 336 p. \$29.99.



As I read the cover of the book, I was fascinated by the story of how on February 27, 1947, 24 year old Willie Earle an African American man was arrested for the murder of a Greenville, SC, taxi driver named T. W. Brown .

The story goes that Earle was abducted from his jail cell by a mob, and then beaten, stabbed and shot to death. The author says “this lynching of Willie Earle led to the most outrageous trial of 31 suspects, most of them cabbies, and twenty-one confessions--a nine day trial in May that attracted national press attention that ended in acquittal by an all-white jury” (cover leaf).

[The Lynching Of Willie Earle Historical Marker](https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=40503)
<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=40503>

William B. Gravely provides a comprehensive account of all the happenings in this major trial that included

- 1) the arrest of Willie,
- 2) the background of the trial proceedings,
- 3) the trial,
- 4) the complex political and legal issues that emerged over the trial,
- 5) its impact on white and black relations in South Carolina and the nation.

Gravely also provides in depth information on the topic of “lynching” (see Index, p. 302).

Lynching in the United States



Lynching is the practice of murder by a group of people by extrajudicial action. Lynching in the United States rose in number after the American Civil War in the late 19th century, following the emancipation of slaves; they declined in the 1930s. Most lynchings were of African-American men in the Southern United States,

Recommended for public and academic libraries. A comprehensive research document that brings into the criminal justice system a model for others to follow. Illustrations random pages 2-207. List of defendants pg. 231, Notes page 235, Bibliography p. 182, Index 293.

Carol Walker Jordan, PhD. MLIS

To My Dearest Wife, Lide: Letters from George B. Gideon, Jr., during Commodore Perry's Expedition to Japan, 1853-1855. Edited by M. Patrick Sauer and David A. Ranzan. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2019. ISBN 978-0-8173-2023-2 (Cloth); 978-0-8173-9237-6 (E Book). 272 p. \$49.95.



George Gideon's “letters had been in the possession of Gideon's great grandniece. Discovered after her death, the collection of 51 letters resided in her attic wrapped in manila paper like a badly wrapped paper”.