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Discovering the South: One Man's Travels through A Changing America in the 1930s

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dry, child care, and gardening, they found a ready supply of those men and women who were known to them as the “swamp people.” “Swamp people” came in the early morning and returned to the swamp in the late evening.

Living in a swamp, a vast uninhabitable wetland, was an intolerable choice to most summer visitors who had homes along the coastal regions of Virginia and the Carolinas. Yet, as Marcus Nevius, shows us in his research in *City of Refuge: Slavery and Petit Marronage in the Great Dismal Swamp 1763-1856*, the maroons defined a life for themselves and sustained economies that gave them the free life they yearned to achieve.

Marcus P. Nevius presents a fascinating and enlightening look at the lives of maroons. He helps us to understand the history of people who rejected the underground railroads as a means of escape from slavery and chose to enter the swamp regions to avert capture and use their abilities and skills to carve out a life for themselves. These men, women, and families established an informal slave’s economy, petit marronage, which spread along the Atlantic coastline/swamp regions.

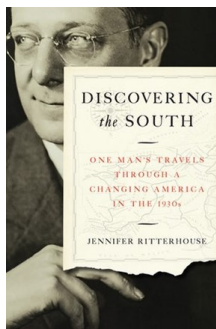
Nevius’ research divided into chapters, 1-6 provide rich information on the in-depth life and times of life and economies of those who chose to live in the Great Dismal Swamp between 1763-1856. Particularly interesting is the Epilogue “From Log Cabin to the Pulpit” William H. Robinson and the Late Nineteenth-Century Legacy of Petit Marronage, p. 103. There are illustrations throughout the text and a Notes and Index section, p. 109 and 141. Recommended for academic, public, and historical collections libraries.

Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS.

Discovering the South: One Man’s Travels through A Changing America in the 1930s

Jennifer Ritterhouse
Chapel Hill: University of North
Carolina Press, 2017
ISBN: 9781469630946
384 p. \$34.95 (Hbk)

This book is divided into ten Chapters, illustrated with 26 black and white photographs,



supported by Notes, p. 295, Bibliography, p. 333, and an Index, p. 351-363. A daunting task by author, Jennifer Ritterhouse, to document the travels in 1937 of Jonathan Daniels, a newspaper publisher who set out to learn about the changes taking place across his “homeland,” the Southern United States.

On May 5, 1937, Jonathan Worth Daniels, a brilliant, young white newspaper editor “set out on a ten-state driving tour of his native south with the goal of writing a book” (Introduction, p.1). With a driving tour and a determination to see and experience if the South was actually the place he perceived as halfway between “Erskine Caldwell’s *Tobacco Road* and Margaret Mitchell’s *Gone with the Wind*.”

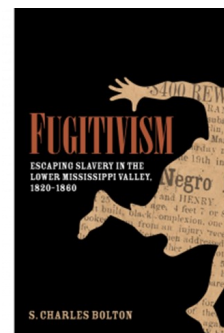
Daniels searched interviews, community meetings, one on one discussions from town to town, traveling in his car and stopping for food and visits with people along the way. Individuals who volunteered to talk were the hitchhikers and others in the streets Daniels met. All waited to share news of how the economy, medical communities, and family histories changed and grew.

Ritterhouse displays detailed interviews and document research to enlighten the changes that occurred in the 1930s in the South where Daniels traveled. Recommended for academic, public, and archival libraries.

Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS

Fugitivism: Escaping Slavery in the Lower Mississippi Valley, 1820-1860

S. Charles Bolton
Fayetteville: University of
Arkansas Press, 2019
ISBN: 9781682260999
312 p. \$34.95 (Hbk)



“During the antebellum years, over 750,000 enslaved people were taken to the Lower Mississippi Valley, where two-thirds of them were sold in the slave markets of New Orleans, Natchez, and Memphis” (Cover).

S. Charles Bolton’s research is presented in the studies he has conducted on fugitivism in