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Christian Citizens: Reading the Bible in Black and White in the Postemancipation South

Carol Walker Jordan

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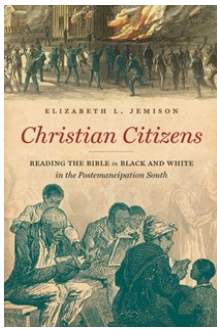
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Christian Citizens: Reading the Bible in Black and White in the Postemancipation South



Elizabeth L. Jemison
Chapel Hill: The University of
North Carolina Press, 2020
ISBN: 9781469659695
242p. \$29.95 (Pbk)

As Elizabeth L. Jemison's research and writing explains, following Reconstruction and the passing of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, evangelical black leaders formed churches and assembled congregations of black men and women throughout southern states in the postemancipation period. These leaders focused upon providing Christian training and support to newly freed citizens. Encouraged by their reliance upon identities as Christians and as fully endowed citizens, the strength to secure their rights within their newly formed territories and states seemed justified and reasonable. Yet, as Jemison points out, acceptance and inclusion did not meet successfully as the Evangelicals had hoped.

Whether the white citizens, both men and women, were fully open and welcoming to the new citizens or not, there was to be a hard fought battle over many years and on many different levels as the postemancipation years moved forward. White men were slow and skeptical to accept black men in public office, in leadership in clubs and organizations, in sports and leisure, or in evangelical settings. Women advocated for paternalistic attitudes and behaviors toward black women across religious, social and educational activities. Jemison justifies her arguments with excellent research into the development of a religious culture that differed greatly from the hopes that were presented by the original evangelical leaders of the Christianity movement in the postemancipation years.

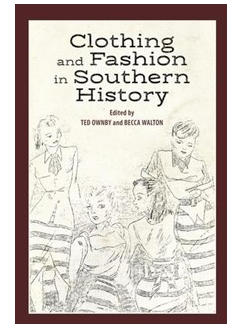
Jemison's studies focus mainly in an area of the lower Mississippi River Valley. The Chapters of her research focus upon the years of 1863-1900 and are organized under topics: Emancipation, Reconstruction, Redemption, Paternalism Reborn, Segregation, and a Conclusion: Family Values and Racial Order.

Recommended for academic and theological libraries, historical societies and public libraries. There is a Notes section on page 175, a Bibliography on page 203 and an Index on page 221. There are no internal Illustrations, however, the cover illustrations are original photographs of some incidents mentioned in the research.

Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS

Clothing and Fashion in Southern History

Ted Ownby and
Becca Walton, eds.
Jackson: University Press of
Mississippi, 2020
ISBN: 9781496829511
174 p. \$30.00 (Pbk)



Contributions by Grace Elizabeth Hale, Katie Knowles, Ted Ownby, Jonathan Prude, William Sturkey, Susannah Walker, Becca Walton, and Sarah Jones Weicksel.

Clothing and Fashion in Southern History's essays explore aspects of fashion and garment-making in the Southern states far removed from the historical attention typically paid to the antebellum fashion of Southern plantation owners. In 2016, Ted Ownby and Becca Walton organized a symposium at the University of Mississippi on Southern fashion and cloth production, later compiling and editing select contributor's essays on various aspects of the subject. Identifying an area of study which, up until recently, has not received the warranted level of academic research, this collection of original essays helps to fill in background and context for the importance of cloth and fashion in Southern culture and identity.

The first two essays by Katie Knowles and Sarah Jones Weicksel, respectively, cover the latter half of the nineteenth century. While Knowles explores the importance of enslaved people and their garments in impacting the textile industry, as well as their cultural imprint through cloth consumption and creating their own modes of dress, Weicksel's essay examines the roles women played in sewing confederate soldier's clothing and the subsequent elevation or demotion of those roles and their status in society by the changing governments.