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Jumping the Broom: The Surprising Multicultural Origins of a Black Wedding Ritual story

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don County jail to the jail in nearby Sumter County.

Stinney was brought back to Clarendon County for a speedy trial and conviction. Aside from what may have been a coerced confession, Stinney was also ill-served by the two lawyers appointed by the court to represent him: James W. Wideman and Charles N. Plowden. Both had political ambitions and both knew that if they provided a vigorous defense, they would be viewed unfavorably by the local white electorate, thus, they essentially did nothing for Stinney during his trial. Some members of local law enforcement also had political ambitions and Faber argues that this too contributed to the damning testimony they provided during the trial.

Although the trial received surprisingly little publicity, the relative inaction of the South Carolina Conference of the NAACP and, in turn, the national office of the NAACP, is dismaying. Faber determines that it was both a matter of inadequate financial resources plus the fact that the NAACP was at that very moment in 1944 heavily engaged in an ultimately successful attempt to win equal pay for African American teachers in South Carolina public schools.

Finally, Governor Olin Johnston proved unresponsive to the numerous appeals to commute George Stinney's death sentence because, he, too, had further political ambitions. Indeed, Johnston defeated longtime incumbent Ellison D. "Cotton Ed" Smith to become a U.S. Senator. Both Smith and Johnston were ardent white supremacists (p. 95). Commuting the death sentence of an African American male convicted of raping and killing two young white girls was, obviously, not in Johnston's best political interests.

Eli Faber has succeeded in publishing an important historical account of a grave racially-based injustice. While George Stinney's actual guilt or innocence probably can never be determined, what can be said is that the manner in which the murders were investigated, and the progress of his case through the South Carolina criminal justice system, and, finally, his execution via the electric chair, were an egregious example of the Jim Crow criminal justice system in action. The case was revived in 2013 and 2014 and, while not ruling on the guilt or innocence of Stinney, the court "vacated the judgment" of 1944 on the

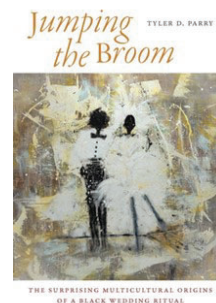
ground that "the courts have failed in a capital case to discharge their proper functions with due regard to the constitutional safeguards in the administration of justice" (p. 122-123).

Recommended for both academic and public libraries collecting in the areas of criminal justice, African American studies, and South Carolina/southern history.

Tim Dodge, Auburn University

Jumping the Broom: The Surprising Multicultural Origins of a Black Wedding Ritual

Tyler D. Parry
Chapel Hill: The University of
North Carolina Press, 2020
ISBN: 9781469660868
320 p. \$27.50 (Pbk)



This newly published book entitled *Jumping the Broom: The Surprising Multicultural Origins of a Black Wedding Ritual*, Parry reveals an historical, cultural, social and international tradition referred to as a "broomstick wedding". Parry tells us how the marginalized of society found comfort and honor in "a broom stick wedding". The act to clarify and formalize their wedding vows by jumping over a broomstick became a ritual as these acts traveled across the continents. Erica Ball cites, "ranging from eighteenth-century England, Scotland, and Wales, through the nineteenth and twentieth-century United States to the contemporary United States and Caribbean, this book offers a compelling and illuminating account of a quintessential product of transatlantic exchange—the broomstick wedding" (Cover leaf).

The broomstick wedding came to be a cultural exchange between African and European peoples. Parry explains "how the simple act of jumping the broom" became so loved and replicated as groups of people traveled the globe and included it in their wedding rites.

Parry leads the reader through a series of examples of countries, religious groups, advocacy groups, and differing sexual orientations where he gives examples of research in which "marginalized" peoples made decisions to alter or

change wedding rites to meet the needs of their members. The goal of most seem to be to align their choice of rites that express their commitment to each other and to the hope for long and lasting faithfulness in the life of a marriage.

This book demonstrates in-depth research on the topic of wedding marital rites and is of value to theological seminaries, public libraries, church libraries, and historical societies. It has a section of Notes, Bibliography, and an Index. Graphs and Figures are identified by page number.

Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS

Mary McLeod Bethune: Village of God



Yahya Jongintaba
Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2021
ISBN: 9781621906216
327 p. \$60.00 (Hbk)

Yahya Jongintaba author of *Mary McLeod Bethune: Village of God*, currently serves as a member of the academic community of Bethune-Cookman University. Having access to the extensive collection of papers, letters, lectures, and related priceless treasures in the archives at Bethune-Cookman University, Jongintaba became entranced by the larger than life spiritual being, Mary McLeod Bethune. Jongintaba brings in his biography of Mary the woman who once wanted to be a missionary in Africa but instead became a teacher and leader of education for girls in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Beginning with Mary's birth in a little town in South Carolina, the reader learns about Mary--the child of slave parents, in a family of 17 brothers and sisters, education in a rural school where she walked miles to attend, a seminary education, marriage, birth of her first child, followed by founding and opening of a school for girls in Florida (Daytona Educational and Industrial School for Negro Girls). Later we learn the school became the Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida. There Mary spent significant portions of her life as an educator and spiritual leader. Later in life Mary was appointed Administrator of Mi-

nority Affairs by President Franklin Roosevelt. She returned to Daytona for the later days of her life.

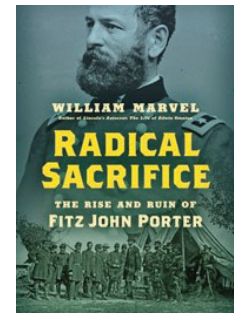
Jongintaba frames his biographical research within the spiritual and intellectual life Mary lived. He explains she chose to focus on her beliefs in the importance of lives centered on the concept of a Village of God. Collecting the important stages of Mary's life within the concept of the Lord's Prayer, he presents each chapter with a line of the prayer. This biography presents extensive research from the Archives at Cookman-Bethune University. Jongintaba shares that he attempts with this volume to write Mary's biography as he believes she wanted to write it herself but didn't.

See pages 187 to 327 for Notes and Bibliography in this 327 page biography. There are no illustrations. Recommended for archival libraries, theological libraries, church libraries, HCBU University and College libraries, and academic libraries.

Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS

Radical Sacrifice: The Rise and Ruin of Fitz John Porter

William Marvel
Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2021
ISBN: 9781469661858
496 p. \$35.00 (Hbk)



From the opening of William Marvel's book, the reader is drawn to Marvel's collection of fascinating photographs featuring Fitz John Porter's home where he was born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1824, to scenes during his war days with his staff in the fields of battles, and to a memorial statue on his horse in Portsmouth, in Hazen Park, erected to honor his service (Photos, p. 141-155). These photos draw the reader into the narrative of the biography. Porter was well prepared and led an exemplary military career until the politics arose between General McClellan, his commanding officer, and the military men who surrounded the events leading up to the battles in the late days of the Civil War.

According to Marvel in his writings of the tragedies of the loss of Porter's commission and