Mary McLeod Bethune: Village of God

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Recommended Citation
Jordan, Carol Walker (2021) "Mary McLeod Bethune: Village of God," The Southeastern Librarian: Vol. 69 : Iss. 1 , Article 9.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol69/iss1/9

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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 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 Minority 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