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## Racing for America: The Horse Race of the Century and the Redemption of a Sport

Sarah Grace Glover

University of North Georgia, sarahgrace.glover@ung.edu

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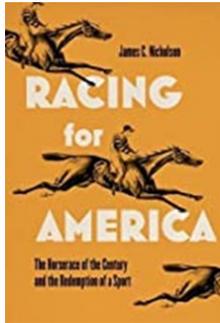
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***Racing for America: The Horse Race of the Century and the Redemption of a Sport***



James C. Nicholson  
Lexington: University Press of  
Kentucky, 2021  
ISBN: 9780813180649  
248 p. \$26.00 (Hbk)

*Racing for America: The Horse Race of the Century and the Redemption of a Sport* follows the ups and downs of American horse racing from 1895 to 1930. Starting with the struggles of the sport finding a place in mainstream society to the “Race of the Century” that solidified America as a racing powerhouse internationally. Nicholson’s work focuses on the social and governmental constraints on the sport as well as several notable racing figures. The book takes an in-depth look at racing’s relationship with and reliance on gambling and drinking during a time when these vices were held to the utmost scrutiny. Frequent bans on gambling often affected racetracks’ ability to sustain business and without prominent or prestigious tracks, the sport found trouble establishing itself with high society. Acceptance of the Pari-mutuel gambling system eventually allowed many racetracks to circumvent gambling laws and racetracks were able to invest money in upgraded grandstands, which attracted many affluent spectators.

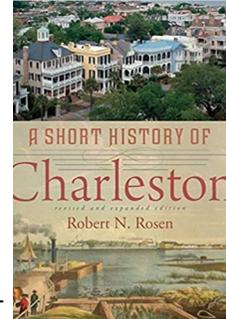
Nicholson also attributes the sports success to three fundamental racing pillars: oil tycoon and horse owner, Henry Ford Sinclair; renowned trainer, Samuel Clay Hildreth; and jockey, Earl Harold Sande. These men worked together intermittently for years before coming together as the team that would represent America in the “Race of the Century,” the first race where an English horse raced an American horse. The English previously would not race against American horses because they did not come from prestigious lineages – the Americans won the race (it should be noted that the track was muddy, and the English team had never raced on a track in that condition). Nevertheless, this solidified American respect of the racing world. After the international race, the horse racing in the United States experienced a come-

back with many new tracks built across the country.

The book contains pictures, notes, selected bibliography, and an index. Recommended for public and academic libraries.

*Sarah Grace Glover*, University of North Georgia

***A Short History of Charleston, revised and expanded edition***



Robert N. Rosen  
Columbia: University of  
South Carolina Press, 2021  
ISBN: 9781643361864  
216 p. \$18.99 (Pbk)

Many who consider Charleston a jewel in the state of South Carolina know little of the history of its people or its struggles to build and sustain an English settlement that began in 1670. Following his publication *A Short History of Charleston* in 1981, Robert N. Rosen provides readers with an updated and expanded edition of his latest research and writing.

Rosen confesses his first edition did not address the importance of the history of slavery and racism in Charleston. “Charleston’s unique, tragic, ironic, and bloodstained history continues to fascinate us and compel us to address American’s original sins of slavery and racism, in which Charleston played such a central role.” Rosen also says “Charleston was the capital of Southern Slavery... grew wealthy and powerful because of the institution but suffered inestimable pain because of it” (viii).

Rosen’s text provides a chronological history chapter by chapter listing from 1670 to 2015. Each is fascinating reading. Beginning with “Good King Charles’s City (1670 to 1720)” and ending with Rosen’s new chapter “The Age of Riley (1975-2015),” a reader will learn and find the city’s history more tragic and beautiful than we might have imagined. This edition is a guide book, a travel book, and a useful reference to anyone studying the history of Charleston.

There is a Selected Bibliography on page 191 and an Index on page 195. Illustrations are placed throughout the text. Also you might want

to see [Robert Rosen's website](#) with details of his career and his professional activities.

Recommended for archives and historical societies collections, public libraries, academic libraries and city planning collections.

*Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS*

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