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Book Review: Eat Drink Delta: A Hungry Traveler's Journey Through The Soul of the South

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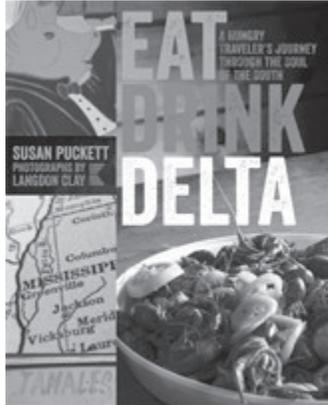
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Democracy, Dialogue and Community Action is an excellent starting point for that discussion

This book is recommended for academic and public libraries.

Peter R. Dean
University of Southern Mississippi



Puckett, Susan. Photographs by Langdon Clay. *Eat Drink Delta: A Hungry Traveler's Journey Through the Soul of the South*. Athens: University of Georgia, 2013. 294 p. ISBN 13: 978-0-8203-4425-6 (pbk.) ISBN 10: 0-8203-4425-7 (pbk.) \$24.95.

Eat Drink Delta is an enchantingly delightful treasure describing marvelous eating establishments in the Delta of Mississippi and Tennessee along with an abundance of their recipes. The inviting and intriguing masterpiece consists of Contents, an excellently handy Eating and Drinking Venues by Chapter, Acknowledgments, Introduction, 1. Memphis Gateway to the Delta, 2. Tunica and Environs Las Vegas of the South, 3. Clarksdale Cradle of the Blues, Crossroads of Cultures, 4. Como Hill Town with a Delta Rhythm, 5. Tallahatchie County Wild and Mysterious, 6. Cleveland and Environs, Home of the Fighting Okra, 7. Greenville Athens of the Delta, 8. Leland Imagination Flows along Deer Creek, 9. Sunflower County Homegrown Legends, 10. Greenwood and Environs from Cotton Capital of the World to Home of the High-Tech Range, 11. Humphreys County The Catfish Capital, 12. Yazoo City Half Hills and Half Delta, 13. Vicksburg Red Carpet City of the South, Epilogue, Resources, About the Recipes, Selected Readings, Photo Credits, a superbly indispensable Index of Restaurants and Places of Note, and a tremendously useful Index of Recipes. Marvelously helpful to potential Delta restaurant customers, a map provides the locations of the towns in the Delta where the fabulous eateries are. One hundred seven lovely bright photographs of the exquisite fare and charming dining sites enhance the discussions. The fantastic book enriches readers with two hundred fourteen recipes of the superior food.

The beautiful brilliant author Susan Puckett is from Jackson, Mississippi. The initial Delta eating place Susan ate with a boyfriend from Ole Miss is Lusco's of Greenwood renowned for small rooms with curtains for each dining party, pompano fish, gumbo, shrimp, steaks, and spinach soufflé. The splendid work has connection to the Southern USA by author Susan Puckett who is from Jackson, Mississippi and the content of the monograph is the history and discussion of spots to eat in the Delta of Tennessee and Mississippi. The writing style is superior. The content is magnificently researched and presented. The perceived interest to the readership of the journal is outstanding because of the numerous variety of delicious food and entertaining sites and activities illustrated that are available to people, tourists, and librarians in the Southeastern United States.

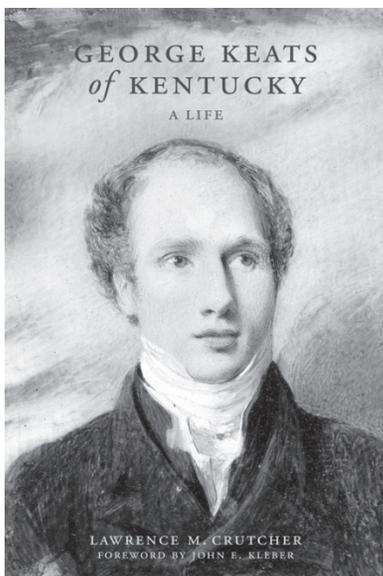
For example, alluringly, Memphis welcomes visitors with the beautiful Peabody Hotel on the National Register of Historic Places and its Chez Philippe Restaurant and Capriccio Grill. Memphis also delights people with the residence of Elvis Presley, Graceland. The book discloses instructions for banana and peanut butter on bread that Elvis Presley and his family enjoyed. Tunica casinos enrich visitors such as Paula Deen's southern all you can eat buffet at Tunica's Harrah's for five hundred sixty persons. Clarksdale directs a Tennessee Williams Festival due to Tennessee Williams being there as a child. Oxbow Restaurant of Clarksdale, noted in the periodicals *People* and *Travel and Leisure*, and on the Travel Channel, entices patrons with tacos and tuna stuffing and hummus using black eyed peas.

Additionally luring, B.B. King is from Sunflower County where the fourteen million dollar B.B. King museum is located. Jim Henson, creator of Kermit the Frog and the Sesame Street muppets was from Leland, Mississippi where the Leland Chamber of Commerce oversees a Sesame Street museum. The boulevard entry road to Greenwood displays palatial regal residences that Garden Clubs of America and US Chamber of Commerce remarked as one of the most gorgeous areas. Humphrey's County is the catfish capital, although the one hundred thousand acres of farms of catfish has lessened from 1990. Greenwood's Larry's Fish House produces catfish. In September, Cleveland's Sillers Coliseum offers for two dollars hundreds of rice dishes in honor of National Rice Month. Greenwood's The Alluvian Hotel is like a Europe hotel with baths, spas, and a steak house.

Also enchanting, the museum of the initial Coca-Cola bottling is the Vicksburg Biedenharn Candy Company Museum of Coca-Cola. The tapestry pilgrimage reveals Vicksburg's lavish mansions and eateries. Cedar Grove Mansion Inn Restaurant and Bar has the best dining room in Vicksburg with beautiful statues. Vicksburg National Military Park draws people. Tamales are the best fare of Delta. Tamales originated from Mexican labor. The wonderful book covers twenty-two eating establishments that serve tamales and makes known a Mississippi Delta tamale recipe. *Delta Magazine* of Cleveland shares recipes and occurrences and eateries in the region guests would

like. This stunning success is paramount for academic and public libraries and is beyond price to people interested in the Delta.

Melinda F. Matthews
University of Louisiana at Monroe



Crutcher, Lawrence M. *George Keats of Kentucky: A Life*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2012. 342 p. ISBN 978 -0-8131-3688-2. \$40.

In the book, “*George Keats of Kentucky: A Life*”, any reader will be immediately drawn to the family connection that highlights this biography. Written by Lawrence M. Crutcher with a foreword by John E. Kleber, this 342 page publication sets a delightful pace and maintains it as the story unfolds.

Mr. Crutcher is a Former President of Book of the Month club and currently is a corporate director. Mr. Crutcher is a great-great-great grandson of George Keats and author of another book, *The Keats Family*.

George Keats of Kentucky: A Life begins with an introduction of the biography of George Keats by alerting us quickly to the relationship between George Keats and the famous English writer and brother, John Keats. Taking us to the towns of Henderson, Kentucky, and soon thereafter to Louisville, we see George plunge into business ventures and became a community leader and respected entrepreneur using the natural resources that abounded in the newly developing country during the early 1820s in lumber mills, steamboats, and real estate, George made connections and led business associates. By 1828, George was highly connected with local entrepreneurs and flourished financially.

The table of contents gives the reader a look at periods in George’s life that defined his challenges and successes as a leader in his community in Louisville and shed light on his

family in England, especially his famous brother, John Keats. One such chapter, entitled, “Who Failed the Poet?” leads the reader to ponder four questions: was it (George) his brother who failed to provide financial support to John, was it his doctors who failed to treat his illnesses, was it his critics who failed to give him open minds, or was it the poet himself who cared little for his personal health.

The book jacket and photograph that stares out at the reader presents a sophisticated, quite British subject with elegant dress with an open innocent stare—not a dandy but certainly the look of privilege. The reader is immediately drawn to the mystery behind the face and the innocence apparent of any hard and grueling impacts his life may have faced.

For a scholar of John Keats, the author’s research, almost painstaking, gives many avenues to investigate the 1800s in Kentucky life and times. Family interactions and stressful concerns about a family divided by allegiances to both England and to the new life in America tugged at the familial connections between the brothers and their families. While George appears to keep his family ties in England alive, he can be seen to grow tired of his brother’s complacency and the lack of strong dedication to the achievement motives he felt so dramatically in the newly developing Kentucky.

A beautiful collection of color plate photographs, depicting the life and the acquaintances and scenes from George and his family life and surroundings, add greatly to the imagination of the life and times of George Keats. The author of the work diligently searched and bought forth items and related information on the cultural and sociological background that is highlighted through the biography.

The Appendices --Circle of Friends and Acquaintances, Pertinent Documents, Events in the Life of George Keats, the Notes, Bibliography and Illustration Credits bring invaluable resources to an historian searching for documentation for on-going research on the life of the Keats families and the history of early Kentucky cultural and sociological development of real estate, banking, manufacturing and shipping.

The issue for the reader of this book may be the desire to know more of the life of George Keats’ brother, John. At first glance, *George Keats of Kentucky: A Life* may appear to be another biography but the tact with which the author draws the reader into the story by weaving George’s relationship with his famous brother, the renowned English poet, John, keeps the reader involved and that character development does not falter as the story unfolds. The book will be helpful to historians as it creates highlights of the rich cultural and social fabric of life in 1800s in Kentucky!

Dr. Carol Walker Jordan
Queens University of Charlotte