

MERCER

UNIVERSITY PRESS



spring / summer / 2025

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

I had another letter written for this catalog, but this afternoon came the news that Jimmy Carter had passed at the age of 100.

I am now in my thirtieth year at Mercer University Press, and as that has been the subject of conversation many times in the past few months, people have begun asking me questions like “what is your most remembered accomplishment?” or “do you have favorite stories,” or “what has changed in your time at Mercer?” Inevitably, someone will ask if I have a favorite author or two. Since we have published nearly 1,200 books in those thirty years, there are too many wonderful authors to list.

However, there are certain memories and authors that come up first—and Jimmy Carter is at the top. It is not because he was a former president, or a former governor of Georgia, but it is his humility and faith that I think of first.

Several years ago at a Mercer University Trustee meeting, we had a table displaying our books. At the time, former President Carter had recently been elected to the board of Trustees. He arrived with some secret service speaking to many trustees and university officials as he walked around. All at once, he walked over to our table, stuck out his hand, and said, “Hello, I’m Jimmy Carter.”

He introduced himself to me. Here was a former president of the U.S., Nobel Peace Prize winner, humanitarian, house-builder, and eradicator of diseases, and he introduced himself to me.

A few years later we published two books with him: *The Craftsmanship of Jimmy Carter* (2017) and *The Paintings of Jimmy Carter* (2018). Both show his imaginative creativity and his artistic ability.

In December 2017 at our 28th Annual Mercer University Press Authors Luncheon, Jimmy Carter spoke and signed books. Even though it had snowed in Atlanta, he still came all the way from Plains to be there. That day he gave the Press a compliment I will never forget. He said that Mercer Press did a better job on his book than any of his other publishers.

But of all the images I have in my mind when I think of Jimmy Carter—president, peacemaker, house builder, craftsman, artist—the one I will always think of first is Sunday School teacher.

Earlier today he passed...to a new life, where the houses are built, all diseases have been eliminated, where peace rules. And where his smile is the norm.



Marc Jolley
29 December 2024

—See *Jimmy Carter remembrance* on page 15 of this catalog

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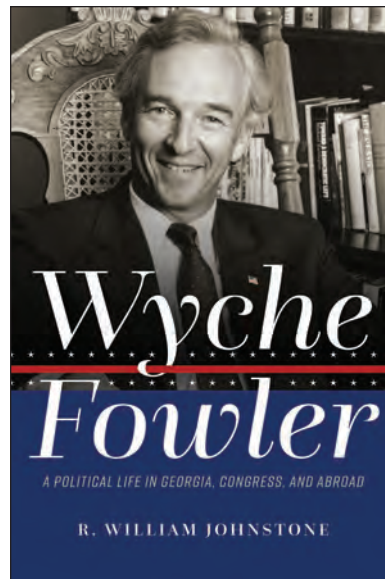
On the Cover: *Black Bear*
(iStock: credit Jim Kruger)

WYCHE FOWLER

A Political Life in Georgia, Congress,
and Abroad

R. William Johnstone
introduction by Wyche Fowler

JULY 2025
Biography/Politics



The remarkable career and persona of one of Georgia's major political figures in the final decades of the twentieth century

WYCHE FOWLER: A POLITICAL LIFE IN GEORGIA, CONGRESS, AND ABROAD examines Wyche Fowler's career in winning election to and serving in the U.S. House and Senate, including his pivotal role in the Nicaragua Contra war and the 1990 budget summit. On the campaign side, the Georgia elections of 1977 (in which Fowler defeated John Lewis to succeed Andrew Young in the U.S. House), 1986 (Fowler's upset win over Republican Mack Mattingly), and 1992 (Fowler's defeat in Georgia's unique General Election runoff) are featured.

Fowler's Congressional career is contextualized via briefer considerations of his early life and years in Atlanta politics and his subsequent work, especially as Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. His legislative accomplishments included updating and improving the nation's historic preservation policy; reforming agricultural, forestry, and rural programs; obtaining federal funding for a large number of infrastructure and other projects throughout Georgia; jump-starting federal support for renewable energy; and promoting American leadership in space. His multi-year effort to strengthen Congressional oversight of covert operations drew attention to the subject and helped to expose the excesses ultimately revealed in the Iran-Contra affair.

The Georgian served as a coalition-builder and negotiator, playing important roles in passing such landmark bills as the Social Security Amendments of 1983, the Tax Reform Act of 1986, and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.

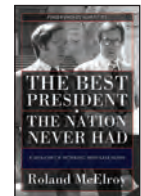
Highlighted are examples of Fowler's well-known storytelling, which has been a major part of his efforts to reach out and bond with others, including constituents and colleagues.

R. William Johnstone worked closely with Wyche Fowler throughout Fowler's Congressional career as his legislative director in the U.S. House, chief of staff in the Senate, and campaign manager in his Senate races. Johnstone also worked for U.S. Senator Max Cleland and was a staff member on the 9/11 Commission. He is the author of *9/11 and the Future of Transportation Security* and *Bioterror: Anthrax, Influenza, and the Future of Public Health Security*.

TITLES OF INTEREST



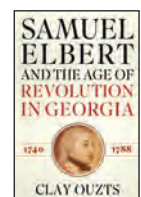
Andrew Young and the Making of Modern Atlanta
Andrew Young, Harvey Newman, and Andrea Young
Hardback | \$29.00t | H921
978-0-88146-587-7



The Best President the Nation Never Had
A Memoir of Working with Sam Nunn
Roland McElroy
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978-0-88146-628-7



A Giant from Georgia
The Life of U.S. Senator Walter F. George, 1878-1957
Jamie H. Cockfield
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978-0-88146-676-8



Samuel Elbert and the Age of Revolution in Georgia, 1740-1788
Clay Ouzts
Hardback | \$45.00t | H1027
978-0-88146-858-8

JULY 2025 | BIOGRAPHY/POLITICS

6 x 9 | 416 pp. | Hardback, \$45.00t | 978-0-88146-969-1 | H1054 | Index | Photographs
e-book | 978-0-88146-970-7

E.J. Wade is an award-winning poet whose work has been published in the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, *Women Speak*, *Salvation South*, and *Callaloo Literary Journal*. She holds an EdD in Disability and Equity in Education from National Louis University, an MA in Appalachian Studies from Shepherd University, and an MA in Creative Media Practice from the University of the West of Scotland.

Karen Spears Zacharias is an American writer whose work focuses on women and justice. She holds an MA in Appalachian Studies from Shepherd University and an MA in Creative Media Practice from the University of the West of Scotland. A Georgia native, she lives at the foot of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon. Learn more about her at www.karenzach.com.

TITLES OF INTEREST



No Perfect Mothers

A Novel

Karen Spears Zacharias
Hardback | \$25.00t | H1042
978-0-88146-919-6
e-book available online



Mother of Rain

A Novel

Karen Spears Zacharias
Paperback | \$17.00t | P469
978-0-88146-448-1
e-book available online



Burdy

A Novel

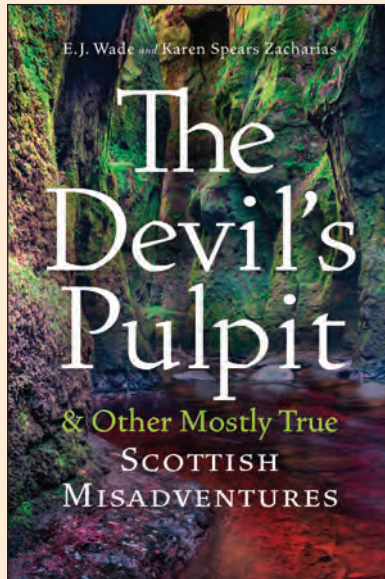
Karen Spears Zacharias
Paperback | \$15.00t | P514
978-0-88146-539-6
e-book available online



Christian Bend

A Novel

Karen Spears Zacharias
Paperback | \$17.00t | P548
978-0-88146-623-2
e-book available online



THE DEVIL'S PULPIT & OTHER MOSTLY TRUE SCOTTISH MISADVENTURES

E.J. Wade and Karen Spears Zacharias

Also available in e-book format

MARCH 2025

Poetry/Essays

“A heartwarming collection that perfectly captures the magnificence of Scotland...” —Signe Pike, author of *The Lost Queen Series*

ON THE HEELS OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC, TWO POST-MENOPAUSAL Appalachian women, one black, one white, abandoned hearth, home, and spouses shrugging in dubious wonderment to live and study abroad together in a university flat along Scotland's River Ayr.

Poet E.J. Wade and author Karen Spears Zacharias roamed from the depths of Finnich Glen to the outcroppings of Dunure Castle. Sometimes wishing they'd been raised by Buddhist Monks instead of by foul-mouthed chain-smoking Appalachian mothers, these two University of the West of Scotland grad students embraced the wandering spirits of their matriarchal ancestors and left no ScotRail ticket unused.

In Glasgow's Sloans Ballroom, as musicians reimagined the compositions of writer and abolitionist Ignatius Sancho, they danced a *cèilidh*. Along Edinburgh's High Street, Wade performed a salsa. Hiking past windsurfers and golfers, they went in search of fairies and unearthed magical moments. They snuzzled Highland coos in Stranraer and stood gap-mouthed before the Falkirk Kelpies.

The Devil's Pulpit & Other Mostly True Scottish Misadventures is part travelogue, part memoir, part poetry, and in outlandish Scottish storytelling tradition, a wee bit of winging it.

Somewhere along Scotland's northernmost tip to its southernmost brigs, they forged a friendship that defies generations of racial animosity. At its heart, this collection is the rediscovery of friendships first formed through studying and mucking about.

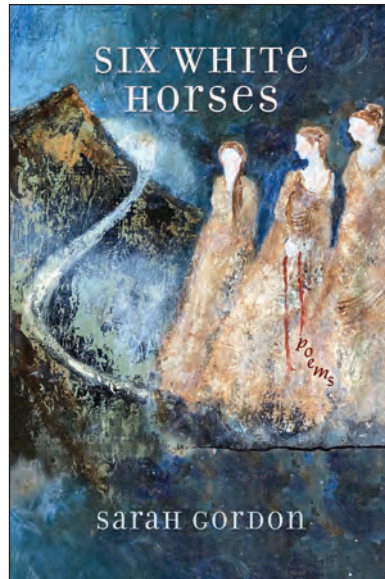
MARCH 2025 | POETRY/ESSAYS

5.5 x 8.5 | 240 pp. | Paperback, \$20.00t | 978-0-88146-017-9 | P708 | Photographs
e-book | 978-0-88146-024-7

SIX WHITE HORSES

Poems
Sarah Gordon

FEBRUARY 2025
Poetry



“Like salt in the full flush of its flavor, these are poems to be savored.” —Angela Alaimo O’Donnell, author of *Holy Land*

SARAH GORDON’S *SIX WHITE HORSES* IS A BOLD COLLECTION OF POEMS concerned with meaning—of such liminal matters as time, family, home, and loss. For Gordon, there are no easy answers; her broadly allusive poetry searches for spiritual mooring through the power of language and a keenly observant eye. Gordon’s penetrating gaze rarely provides readers with facile uplift, but summons us to look more closely, to see from more than one point of view, and to appreciate the stunning and often bewildering complexity of life.

“Gordon writes about ‘the lasso of language’ in her first poem here, and after that, we’re off and running, trying to get that rope around the world’s neck, to haul it in and tame it. Fat chance! The last poem, too, touches on the diehard cowpoke work ethic that animates this whole collection, and it, too, is a beauty. But then so is every poem between.”

—David Kirby, Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of English,
Florida State University

“From memories of Gordon’s mother decked out as a gypsy, to the heart-rending memorial to a friend, to her tribute to famous believers, her close examination of *The Book of Kells*, and the marvelous “Owls in Daylight” that opens with an eye-opening, honest appraisal of herself—always the power of language.”

—Alice Friman, author of *Blood Weather*

“If I were allowed just one word to describe *Six White Horses*, I believe I would go with *smart*: She takes ostensibly familiar topics—love, death, religion, history—and cants them at new angles. If you give me another word or three, I’d have to consider *musical, dense, beautiful* and (in a positive way) *mean*.”

—Stephen Corey, poet, essayist, and editor emeritus of *The Georgia Review*

Sarah Gordon is the author of widely published poems and two previous collections of poetry: *Distances* and *The Lost Thing* as well as *Flannery O’Connor: The Obedient Imagination* and *A Literary Guide to Flannery O’Connor’s Georgia*. Gordon is professor emerita of English at Georgia College & State University where she chaired five O’Connor symposia and was named Distinguished Professor. She is a recipient of The Governor’s Award in the Humanities and lives in Athens, Georgia.

TITLES OF INTEREST



The Lost Thing Poems

Sarah Gordon
Paperback | \$17.00t | P638
978-0-88146-830-4



The Way the Moon Poems

Holly Haworth
Paperback | \$20.00t | P707
978-0-88146-944-8



Vert Poems

Catherine Staples
Paperback | \$20.00t | P690
978-0-88146-921-9



Your Autobiography Poems

Kelly Cherry!
Paperback | \$18.00t | P580
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Eve Hoffman
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978-0-88146-659-1



Arm in Arm Poems

Catharine Savage Brosnan
Paperback | \$19.00t | P639
978-0-88146-831-1

FEBRUARY 2025 | POETRY

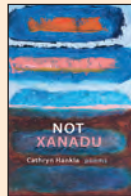
6 x 9 | 118 pp. | Paperback, \$20.00t | 978-0-88146-045-2 | P712

Cathryn Hankla is the author of multiple works in several genres and a visual artist who grew up in Southwest Virginia. Recent publications include *Immortal Stuff: Prose Poems, Not Xanadu: Poems*, and *Lost Places: On Losing and Finding Home*. Hollins University professor emerita of English & Creative Writing, Hankla lives in Roanoke, Virginia. Learn more about her at cathrynhankla.com.

TITLES OF INTEREST



Immortal Stuff
Prose Poems
Cathryn Hankla
Paperback | \$20.00t | P662
978-0-88146-874-8



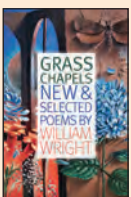
Not Xanadu
Poems
Cathryn Hankla
Hardback | \$22.00t | H1022
978-0-88146-832-8



Galaxies
Poems
Cathryn Hankla
Paperback | \$16.00t | P545
978-0-88146-616-4



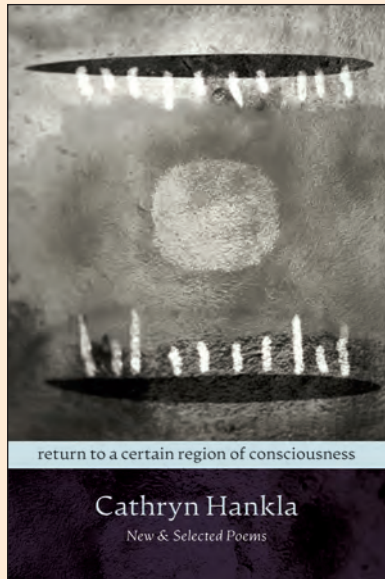
Lost Places
[Essays] On Losing
and Finding Home
Cathryn Hankla
Paperback | \$20.00t | P558
978-0-88146-648-5



Grass Chapels
New & Selected Poems
William Wright
Paperback | \$20.00t | P629
978-0-88146-799-4



According to Sand
Poems
Thorpe Moeckel
Paperback | \$17.00t | P651
978-0-88146-857-1



RETURN TO A CERTAIN REGION OF CONSCIOUSNESS

New & Selected Poems
Cathryn Hankla

FEBRUARY 2025
Poetry

“Imaginatively free and endlessly inventive, Hankla’s poems have a sensibility all their own.” —Carol Moldaw, author of *Go Figure*

CATHRYN HANKLA’S *RETURN TO A CERTAIN REGION OF CONSCIOUSNESS* gathers recent poems with those culled from eleven previous volumes to reveal a mature poet and her journey through more than four decades of subjects, places, selves, and the challenging art of poetry. From moon shots to pandemic ambiguities, like a color wheel of approaches to poetry’s mystery and meaning, this book’s prose poems, strict syllabics, metrics, and nonce forms of the poet’s making pull into a coherent whole, unified not by consistency but by the poet’s perceptive imagination. A painter who began as a photographer and filmmaker, Hankla is at home in long poems or haiku, employing close observation, associative collaging—and spinning stories into talismans.

This collection samples projects such as *Galaxies* and *Last Exposures: A Sequence*, as well as volumes of prose poems published twenty years apart and the several books between, telescoping backward to Hankla’s earliest works, *Afterimages*, praised by William Stafford, and *Phenomena*, her prizewinning launch from University of Missouri Press. The poet’s preoccupations include travels, history, domestic life, childhood, family tragedy, love relationships, art, and environmental and personal losses, while the complicated cultural backdrop of Appalachia together with its topography, flora, and fauna forms a through line, a fault line, and a heartline. Hankla remains a steadfast witness and guardian of the region that has shaped her.

As Henry Taylor wrote, Hankla’s poems drift from a recognizable world “through something like a beaded curtain” to evoke “several of the other worlds that are in this one.”

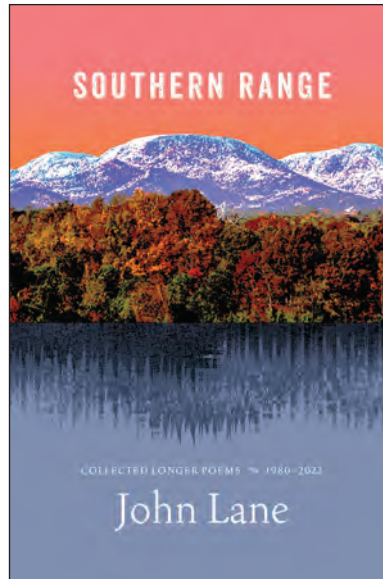
FEBRUARY 2025 | POETRY

6 x 9 | 224 pp. | Paperback, \$22.00t | 978-0-88146-041-4 | P710

SOUTHERN RANGE

Collected Longer Poems,
1980–2022
John Lane

APRIL 2025
Poetry



“John Lane’s world is a world worth living in, a world where we find beauty and rapture.” —David Lee, author of *Driving & Drinking*

SOUTHERN RANGE GATHERS JOHN LANE’S LONG POEMS INTO A VOLUME spanning over four decades. Since the early 1980s Lane’s imagination has often taken the form of long poems, or sequences of poems. By choosing to write to longer impulses Lane has explored formal traditions practiced by many of the poets he most admires. Sometimes meditative, often layered, associative, and playful, *Southern Range* borrows images and explores memories from landscapes Lane knows well, mostly the upper Piedmont of South Carolina. There are rivers, hills, gullies, and hardwood groves.

There is also the period irony of “Against Information” and the tour de force of “Kingdom & Glory,” a narrative reimagining Spartanburg County’s 1903 flood from the perspective of a preacher riding downstream in his own church.

“Lane’s imagination is never far from ... the ancient processes of the natural world,” says William Carlos Williams scholar Mark Long in his preface to the volume. “You will sense below the ridgelines, lurking in the draws and hollows, the tributaries of family and place—the shady streambeds, the eddies in the passing of time, the swirling waters where these poems were made.”

“‘What does poetry know?’ John Lane asks. In his magnificent *Southern Range* the poet is always asking, always digging, comes close to knowing.”
—Sharon Doubiago, author of *Hard Country* and *South America Mi Hija*

“In the same way *Abandoned Quarry* shows his mastery of the short form, these poems show a poet pushing his skills while challenging his readers with a joyride of stunning imagery, amazing leaps, and sonic pleasures.”

—Mike James, author of *Portable Light: Poems 1991–2021*

APRIL 2025 | POETRY

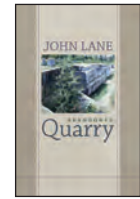
6 x 9 | 214 pp. | Paperback, \$22.00t | 978-0-88146-042-1 | P711

John Lane is the author of many books of poetry and prose, including eight from Mercer University Press. He has won the Louisville Review Prize and Prairie Schooner’s Glenna Luschei Award. His *Abandoned Quarry: New & Selected Poems* won the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance Poetry Book of the Year prize in 2012. In 2014 he was inducted into the South Carolina Academy of Authors. A cofounder of the Hub City Writers Project in Spartanburg, South Carolina, Lane also taught creative writing and environmental studies at Wofford College for over three decades.

TITLES OF INTEREST



Anthropocene Blues
Poems
John Lane
Paperback | \$17.00t | P549
978-0-88146-625-6



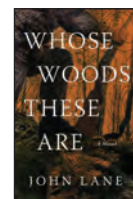
Abandoned Quarry
Poems
John Lane
Paperback | \$20.00t | P428
978-0-88146-241-8



**Begin with Rock,
End with Water**
Essays
John Lane
Paperback | \$25.00t | P451
978-0-88146-384-2



**Coming into Animal
Presence**
[Essays/Stories]
John Lane
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978-0-88146-871-7
e-book available online

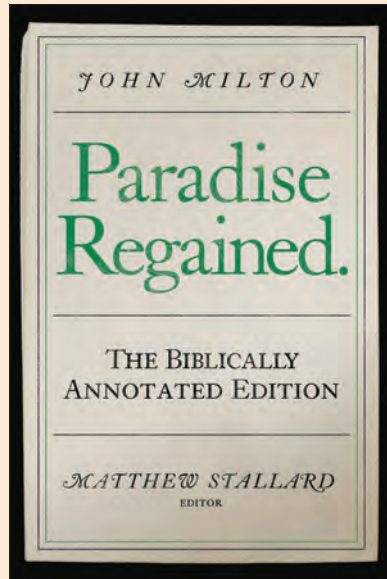


**Whose Woods
These Are**
A Novel
John Lane
Hardback | \$24.00t | H993
978-0-88146-761-1
e-book available online



**Fate Moreland’s
Widow**
A Novel
John Lane
Paperback | \$18.00t | P630
978-0-88146-800-7

Matthew Stallard is associate professor of English Instruction at Ohio University. When he is not busy tracking down Biblical references in English Renaissance literature, he is playing old-time Appalachian fiddle and is a recording artist for Appalshop's June Appal Recordings music label. He is the former assistant editor of *Milton Quarterly*.



JOHN MILTON, PARADISE REGAINED

The Biblically Annotated Edition

John Milton;
edited by Matthew Stallard

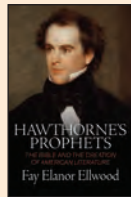
APRIL 2025
Poetry/Religion

A comprehensive edition of Milton's work for scholars, students, and the general reader

TITLES OF INTEREST



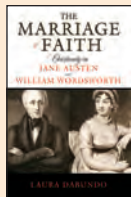
**John Milton,
Paradise Lost**
A Biblically
Annotated Edition
edited by Matthew Stallard
Paperback | \$24.00t | P440
978-0-88146-268-5



**Hawthorne's
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The Bible and the
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Fay Elanor Ellwood
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978-0-88146-950-9
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Listening for God
Malamud, O'Connor,
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Peter C. Brown
Hardback | \$35.00t | H999
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**The Marriage
of Faith**
Christianity in Jane Austen
and William Wordsworth
Laura Dabundo
Hardback | \$35.00t | H844
978-0-88146-282-1

MATTHEW STALLARD RETURNS TO TRACE JOHN MILTON'S BIBLICAL ECHOES and appropriations in *John Milton, Paradise Regained: The Biblically Annotated Edition*, continuing what he started with the bestselling *John Milton, Paradise Lost: The Biblically Annotated Edition*. Milton's stunning second epic focuses upon Christ's triumph over Satan found in the New Testament synoptic gospel accounts of the temptation of Jesus in the Judean wilderness.

Stallard's edition of *Paradise Regained* brings new energy to the poem by isolating Milton's deft mining of the scriptures beyond the Gospels as he draws broadly and deeply upon the 1534 Tyndale Bible, the 1539 Coverdale Bible, the 1540 Great Bible, the 1560 Geneva Bible, the 1568 Bishops Bible, the 1610 Douay-Rheims Bible, and the revised 1612 Authorized Version of the Bible.

In an illuminating and scholarly introduction to the poem, Stallard contends that the key question that ties together *Paradise Regained* and *Paradise Lost* is "who has the right to be called a Son of God?" By presenting the poem alongside hundreds of Renaissance Biblical notes, Stallard conveys the full breadth of the poem's powerful significance in its historical Puritan context.

This generously annotated edition makes the work of John Milton, arguably the greatest poet in the English language, more accessible, enjoyable, and comprehensible for scholars, students, and the general reader.

APRIL 2025 | POETRY/RELIGION

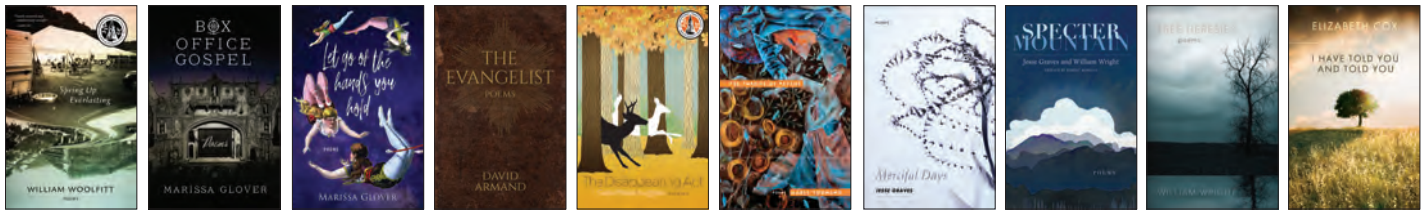
6 x 9 | 248 pp. | Paperback, \$29.00t | 978-0-88146-965-3 | P716

POETRY



- Bloodroot: Poems** Bill King† P682 | \$20.00t | 9780881469103
One Thousand Sheets of Rice Paper: Poems Kevin Cantwell P663 | \$20.00t | 9780881468755
Tamp: Poems Denton Loving P661 | \$20.00t | 9780881468731
Happy Neighborhood: Essays and Poems Thomas Hallock P681 | \$22.00t | 9780881469097
Scaring the Bears: Poems Gordon Johnston P619 | \$16.00t | 9780881467796
Where Here Is Hard to Say: Poems Gordon Johnston P680 | \$20.00t | 9780881469080
No Brother, This Storm: Poems Jack Bedell P572 | \$16.00t | 9780881466751
Color All Maps New: Poems Jack Bedell P617 | \$16.00t | 9780881467772
Against the Woods' Dark Trunks: Poems Jack Bedell P650 | \$17.00t | 9780881468564
Old Gods: Poems Clifford Brooks P678 | \$20.00t | 9780881469066

POETRY



- Spring Up Everlasting: Poems** William Woolfitt P601 | \$16.00t | 9780881467352
Box Office Gospel: Poems Marissa Glover P664 | \$20.00t | 9780881468762
Let Go of the Hands You Hold: Poems Marissa Glover P621 | \$17.00t | 9780881467826
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The Throne of Psyche: Poems Marly Youmans P422 | \$18.00t | 9780881462326
Merciful Days: Poems Jesse Graves P611 | \$16.00t | 9780881467567
Specter Mountain: Poems Jesse Graves and William Wright P562 | \$16.00t | 9780881466539
Tree Heresies: Poems William Wright P501 | \$18.00t | 9780881465204
I Have Told You and Told You: Poems Elizabeth Cox P468 | \$18.00t | 9780881464474

POETRY



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Andy Plattner

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HOME FROM WORLD WAR I, BEN HELD DECIDES TO ESCAPE HIS HOMETOWN of Newport, Kentucky, and become a barnstorming race-tracker. Bonnie Dennert, his sweetheart, chooses to stay behind. Years later, they are reunited amid World War II, when Ben returns home because horse racing has been banned across America. He wants Bonnie back, and tells her of Stymie, the great horse in the stable where he works as a foreman. When the ban on racing lifts, Ben hopes for Bonnie to join him so they can watch Stymie race together.

In addition to Ben's evolving world, the novel faithfully follows Stymie's real-life career. A castoff as a young racer because of his vicious temperament, Stymie endured challenging campaigns to become a beloved horse in New York, where he raced for most of his career. Stymie's modest beginnings eventually earned him the nickname as "The People's Horse."

The stories in *Stymie* highlight his early races and his legendary battles with other equine stars of the era, including the great Assault. Eventually the horse is retired and, with Ben, takes up residence at the fictional Galileo Farm in Kentucky, where their pasts are revisited through unexpected events.

Ben Held and Stymie mark a place in time; Stymie's legacy and record might never be duplicated.

Andy Plattner, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, has worked as a horse groom, a farm hand, a horse race journalist, and a university professor. His first novel, *Offerings from a Rust Belt Jockey*, earned the Mid-Career Novel Prize from Dzanc Books and won the Dr. Tony Ryan Award for best book on thoroughbred racing. His other award-winning titles include *Winter Money*, *Tower*, and *Dixie Luck*. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

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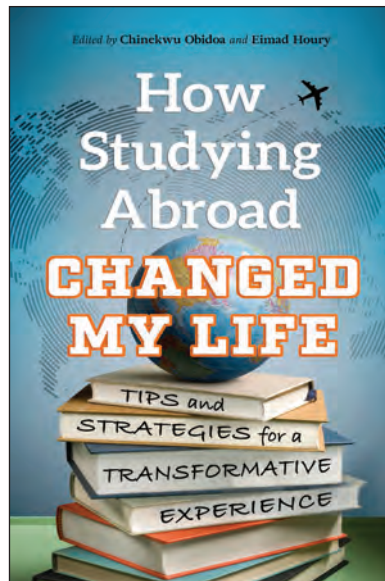


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HOW STUDYING ABROAD CHANGED MY LIFE

edited by *Chinekwu Obidoa*
and *Eimad Houry*

MARCH 2025
Essays



Stories highlighting the impact of immersive learning experiences through Mercer University's study abroad program

FROM FOSTERING A DEEP APPRECIATION FOR OTHER CULTURES AND HUMAN experiences to becoming more empathetic, self-assured, generous, open-minded, reflective, adaptable, and analytical, while gaining a deeper understanding of one's identity and culture, studying abroad has left an indelible mark on Mercer University students.

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MARCH 2025 | ESSAYS

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Chinekwu Obidoa is associate professor of Global Health Studies and Africana Studies at Mercer University. She earned a PhD from the University of Connecticut and holds Master's degrees in Geography, Public Health, and International and Area Studies. In 2017, Obidoa received the Mercer University Innovation in Teaching Award.

Eimad Houry is emeritus professor of Political Science and International Affairs at Mercer University. He holds a PhD from Florida State University. Houry developed, led, or co-led 28 study-abroad programs, Mercer's first-ever international internship program, and was a recipient of Mercer's prestigious Joe and Jean Hendricks Excellence in Teaching Award.

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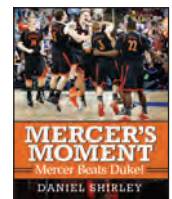


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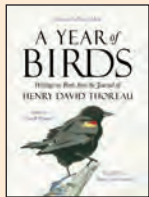
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Kathryn C. Dolan is professor of English at Missouri University of Science and Technology, publishing articles on Thoreau in *Henry David Thoreau in Context* and *Rediscovering the Maine Woods*. She serves on the board of directors of the Thoreau Society.

John J. Kucich is a professor of English at Bridgewater State University and author of *Unsettling Thoreau: Native Americans, Settler Colonialism, and the Power of Place*. He serves as president of the Thoreau Society.

Henrik Otterberg, a Swedish economist at Kagaku Analys AB, wrote his PhD on Thoreau's aesthetics. Since 2017, he has served as bibliographer and review editor for the *Thoreau Society Bulletin*. He has organized international Thoreau conferences in Gothenburg, Sweden, and Reykholt, Iceland.

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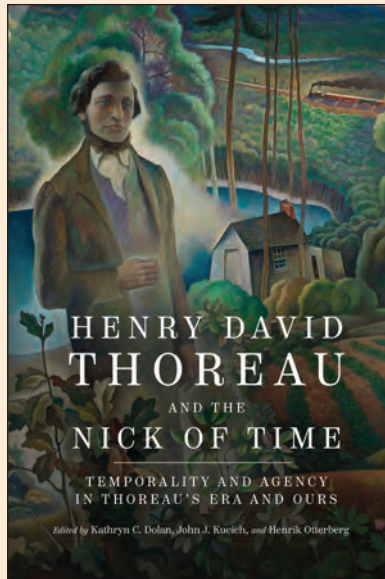
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MAY 2025

Nature/Essays

Essays on the implications of Thoreau's manifold explorations of the nature of time and their meaning for his world and ours

HENRY DAVID THOREAU FELT HE WAS BORN IN THE NICK OF TIME, AT THE cusp of the modern global capitalist era, what he called in *Walden* “this restless, nervous, bustling, trivial Nineteenth Century.” He wrote at a moment when the current trajectory of the Anthropocene was not yet fully formed, and his writing allows us to imagine alternatives. His effort to live between two eternities, the past and the future, involved both a sharp focus on the injustices of his own time and attention to the longer rhythms and cycles of time that resist the temporalities of “progress” and “efficiency.” Thoreau wove ancient human and non-human understandings of time into the Concord of his present while resisting the historical pressures of his own world. To see the world more clearly, and to help save it from our worst human actions, Thoreau argued, we need to step outside of our ordinary perception of time and seize the moment.

This collection of essays brings together a range of distinguished and exciting new Thoreau scholars from across the globe who address some of the implications of Thoreau's manifold explorations of the nature of time and their meaning for his world and ours—and show how sustained attention to a writer from our not-so-distant past can help us reimagine our future.

Contributors include Albena Bakratcheva, Kathryn C. Dolan, Kathy Fedorko, Robert A. Gross, Richard Higgins, Ólafur Páll Jónsson, David G. Kristinsson, John J. Kucich, Henrik Otterberg, Benjamin Schacht, Paul Schacht, Robert Sattelmeyer, Bergur Þorgeirsson, Robert Thorson, Laura Dassow Walls, and Elizabeth Hall Witherell.

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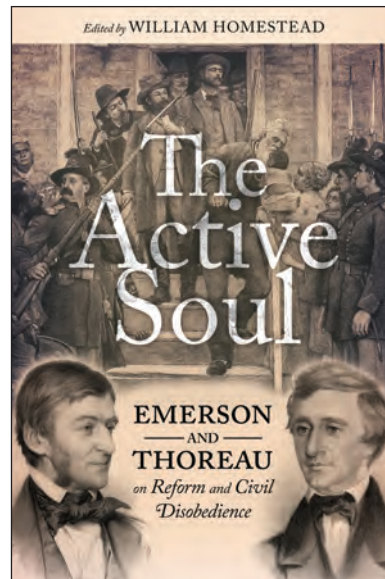
THE ACTIVE SOUL

Emerson and Thoreau on Reform
and Civil Disobedience

edited by *William Homestead*

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MAY 2025
Literary Criticism



*Studying the writings of two early American authors who applied
transcendentalist principles to the abolitionist cause*

EMERSON AND THOREAU ARE WORTH STUDYING FOR THEIR RESPONSE TO a burgeoning techno-industrial capitalist world, as well as the intolerable and seemingly intractable institution that fueled it: slavery. Their abolitionist work is the main focus of the essays and speeches in this volume. By exploring that work we also find the roots of today's intolerable and seemingly intractable injustices, including climate injustice fueled by environmental racism.

But what does effective counter-friction activism look like? Do we fight for reform of existing institutions, more radical change, or for both? Do we start with changing ourselves or society or both? What are the best strategies and tactics for changing lifeways and structures? What rhetoric is most persuasive? Is violence ever a proper response to violence? Does turning to violence lead to the loss of the moral high ground? How should we define violence? How can we pursue the ethical good while putting up the good fight?

Emerson and Thoreau do not have final answers to these questions. No one does as they are ongoing questions that need ongoing and always renewed responses. But there are plenty of lessons to be learned from the writings and actions of Emerson and Thoreau, who delved deeply into these questions by applying transcendentalist principles to the abolitionist cause. We need to mine those lessons if we are to fittingly respond to our Anthropocene angst and call forth a better future. This much is clear: *we need the active soul.*

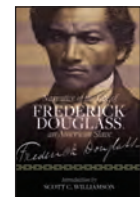
Contents include Emerson's "The Over-Soul" (1841), "The Fugitive Slave Law" (1854), and "John Brown" (1860); Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience" (1849), "Slavery in Massachusetts" (1854), and "The Last Days of John Brown" (1860); and an introduction by the editor, "From Abolitionism to Climate Justice."

William Homestead is an associate professor and author of *Not Till We Are Lost: Thoreau, Education, and Climate Crisis* and *An Ecology of Communication: Response and Responsibility in an Age of Ecocrisis*. He had a long association with the Ometeca Institute, a nonprofit devoted to the integration of the sciences and humanities. Homestead is a member of the Thoreau Society and the International Environmental Communication Association (IECA).

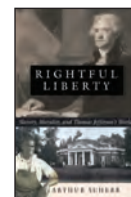
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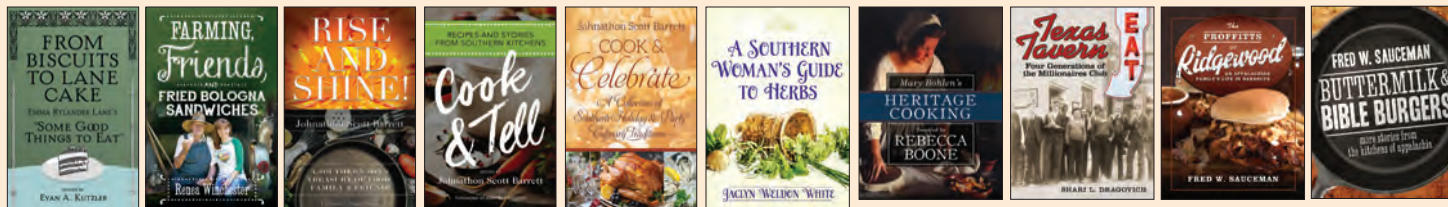
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JAMES EARL CARTER JR.

(OCTOBER 1, 1924–DECEMBER 29, 2024)

MERCER UNIVERSITY MOURNS THE LOSS OF LIFE TRUSTEE JIMMY CARTER

BY LARRY BRUMLEY

James Earl (Jimmy) Carter Jr., Mercer University Life Trustee, Nobel laureate, and the 39th president of the United States, died December 29, 2024. He was 100.

Initially elected in 2012 to the Mercer Board of Trustees—the only board he served on after leaving the White House—President Carter was elected a Life Trustee in 2017.

“President Carter, as with every endeavor he pursued, was an active, engaged trustee,” Mercer President William D. Underwood said. “Until his health began to decline in 2019, he never missed a board meeting. He asked tough questions, offered keen insights, and took every opportunity to advance Mercer and its mission. He offered wise counsel to me and was a good friend. His death leaves a significant void in the Mercer family. With profound gratitude for the life he lived, we offer our prayers to the Carter family for peace and comfort in this time of loss.”

President Carter’s support of Mercer spans half a century, dating to his tenure as the 76th governor of Georgia, when in the mid-1970s he authorized the initial state funding that led to establishment of the Mercer University School of Medicine, which opened in 1982. During his tenure on the Mercer board, he was a strong advocate for the School of Medicine’s mission to prepare primary care physicians for rural and other underserved areas of Georgia. As a trustee, President Carter made the motion to build a four-year campus of the School of Medicine in Columbus to provide more physicians for the state. It opened in 2022.

In 2018, President Carter called President Underwood and asked for his help in recruiting a physician to Plains, which had recently lost its only doctor. A couple of weeks passed, and President Carter followed up with an e-mail that simply read, “Bill, where’s our doctor?” That led to the School of Medicine opening its first rural clinic in Plains, staffed with a physician and nurse, within weeks of President Carter’s request. Mercer Medicine now has six rural clinics across Georgia and more locations under consideration.

President Carter was also a strong proponent of Mercer’s international service and research initiative, Mercer On Mission, which has deployed hundreds of Mercer students and faculty to dozens of countries around the world to improve the human condition. “As a trustee of the University, I know that Mercer On Mission programs inspire and empower students to continue to think of ways to put others before self,” he once said in an interview. It was a principle he modeled.

In 2016, President Carter spoke at Mercer’s Macon Commencement and assisted in the conferring of an honorary doctorate on musician Gregg Allman. The subject of a documentary titled *Jimmy Carter: Rock & Roll President*, he told the audience that he likely wouldn’t have been elected without the help of the Allman Brothers Band and Capricorn Records co-founder and Mercer graduate Phil Walden, who helped raise money for his campaign when it was running low on cash.

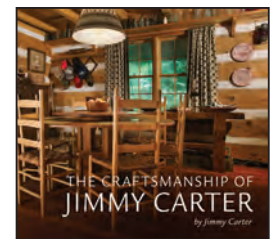
Carter published *The Craftsmanship of Jimmy Carter* (2017) and *The Paintings of Jimmy Carter* (2018) with Mercer University Press.

—excerpted from Mercer University’s online publication, The Den

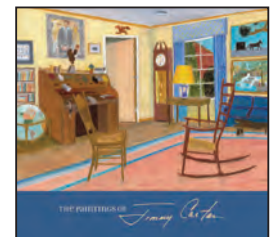


Photo courtesy Mercer University (2008)

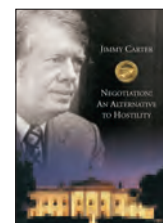
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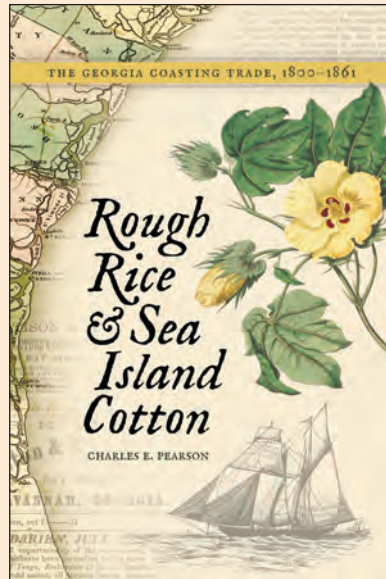
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Charles E. Pearson, a native of St. Simons Island, Georgia, received a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Georgia. He has conducted archaeological research at prehistoric sites in Georgia and at shipwreck sites in the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent waters. Pearson coauthored *The Last Voyage of El Nuevo Constante* and is an adjunct professor in the History department at Hampden-Sydney College. He currently resides in Appomattox, Virginia.



ROUGH RICE AND SEA ISLAND COTTON

The Georgia Coasting Trade, 1800–1861

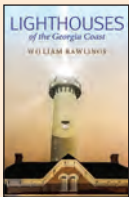
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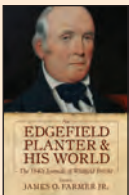
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IN THE YEARS PRIOR TO THE CIVIL WAR, A SMALL FLEET OF SAILING VESSELS plied the waters of the southeastern coast between lower South Carolina and northeastern Florida, transporting cargoes between the port of Savannah and the small port towns and plantations of the region.

These ships, single-masted sloops and two-masted schooners, were indispensable in the economy of the region where roads were few and overland travel difficult. The vessels sailed in the “coasting trade,” and they became important to the state of Georgia in the late eighteenth century with the introduction of Sea Island cotton cultivation and the expansion of rice agriculture along the coast. These two crops became the most lucrative commodities transported by the “coasters.” During the shipping season, from October to March, “coasters” sailed into Savannah from plantations and small towns all along this stretch of coast to unload their cargoes of Sea Island cotton and “rough” or unmilled rice. Disrupted by the American Civil War, this regional coasting trade never recovered to its pre-war importance.

Drawing heavily on shipping information published in port newspapers, as well as official vessel documents, this study examines the Georgia coasting trade from 1800 to 1861. Detailed information on these coasting ships, their owners, captains, crews, and the cargoes they carried is presented for this six-decade period. This story of the little studied local coasting trade shows its vital role in the coastal plantation economy and its importance in Southern maritime history.

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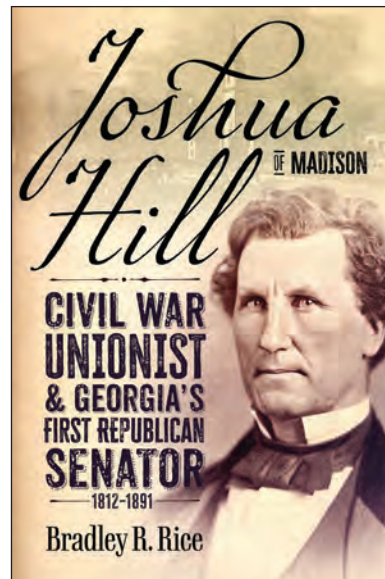
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Civil War Unionist and Georgia's First
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Biography/Georgia History



“A brilliantly researched history of this crucial figure in the history of the South.” —Philip Lee Williams, author of A Distant Flame

IN 1876, JOSHUA HILL MUSED, “NOT A FOOT PRINT WILL REMAIN TO SHOW that I was of those who lingered by the stormy sea of politics.” He was too pessimistic about his legacy. Distinguished Georgia historian Tom Dyer declared that Hill was “undoubtedly Georgia’s most prominent wartime Unionist.” Nevertheless, Hill’s career has lacked the full biography that it deserves.

Joshua Hill served in the United States House of Representatives prior to the Civil War and strongly opposed secession. During the War he ran for governor as the so-called peace candidate and later met with William T. Sherman in peace negotiations that failed. In November 1864 when the March to the Sea reached his hometown, Hill interceded with the Union command and earned his legendary—if sometimes exaggerated—title as the man who saved Madison, the village “too pretty to burn.”

During Reconstruction, Hill supported Republican President Ulysses S. Grant and endorsed black suffrage, yet the more conservative Hill clashed with the Radical wing of his own party. As a result of a compromise between Democrats and moderate Republicans, Hill became the state’s first Republican member of the U.S. Senate. After two years Confederate General John B. Gordon replaced him in 1873. Hill remained a Republican senior statesman until his death in 1891. Georgia did not send another Republican to the Senate until 1980.

Bradley R. Rice’s meticulous research has produced a long overdue account of the life and times of the man who was, as his gravestone reads, “a staunch southern friend of the Union.”

Bradley R. Rice is emeritus professor of History at Clayton State University. He is past president of the Georgia Association of Historians and former board member of the Georgia Historical Society. For over fifteen years Rice served as editor of the learned journal of the Atlanta History Center. The author and editor of several articles and books, Rice retired to Madison, Georgia, where he serves as chair of the Historic Preservation Commission.

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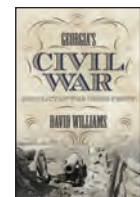
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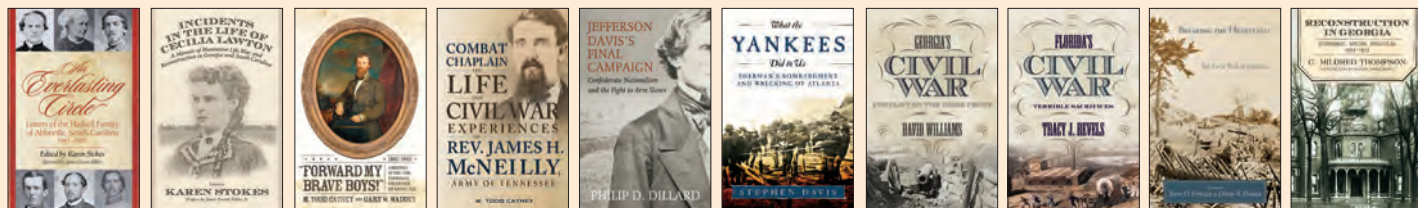
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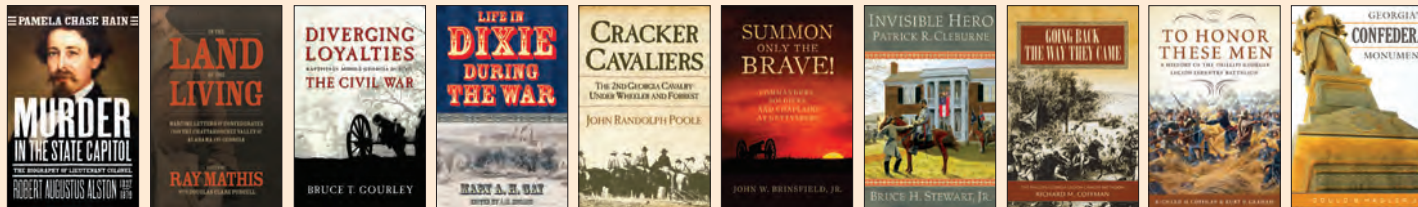
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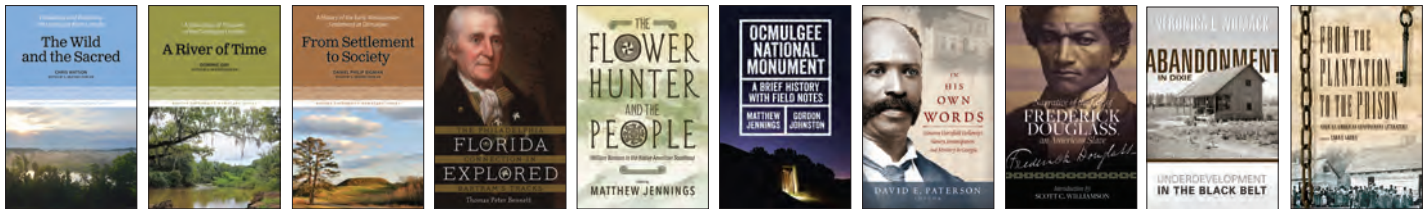
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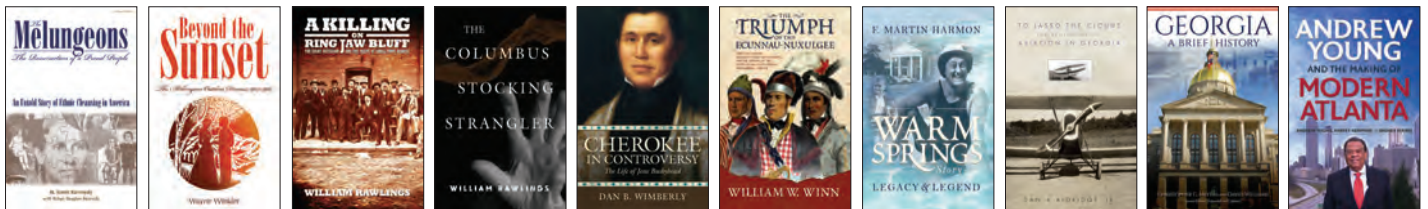
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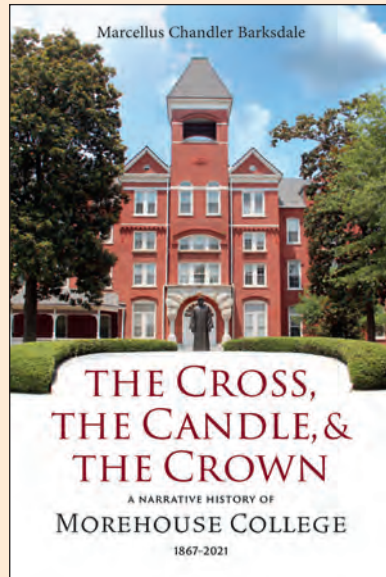
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Marcellus Chandler Barksdale is a graduate of Morehouse College, Atlanta University, and Duke University. He began his teaching career in the public schools of Gainesville, Georgia. Barksdale has taught at Emory University and was a professor of History and Africana Studies at Morehouse College for forty years. Barksdale is the author of *Black Georgians in the Twentieth Century*. His scholarship appears in journals and book chapters, and he is a member of organizations in his disciplines.



THE CROSS, THE CANDLE, AND THE CROWN

A Narrative History of Morehouse College, 1867–2021

Marcellus Chandler Barksdale

FEBRUARY 2025

African American History

TITLES OF INTEREST



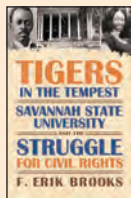
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“This is an American adventure story of how one school and its alumni profoundly transformed the nation.” —Robert M. Franklin

THE CROSS, THE CANDLE, AND THE CROWN IS THE INSPIRATIONAL STORY about how members of a church in Augusta, Georgia, had the idea that black men, just two years after the end of slavery, could be educated for service to their communities. With a strong faith and a sincere hope, they established a school for young men that would produce literate preachers and teachers. The school faced financial exigencies and housing challenges in its early years but survived to become one of America’s leading institutions of higher education.

In 1866, this idea was fostered by three men, Edmund Turney, Richard Coulter, and William White, who believed that African American men—some free, others just out of bondage; some literate, many others illiterate—could be educated to serve their people. The idea came to fruition in 1867 when Augusta Theological Institute was opened in the sanctuary and balcony of Springfield Baptist Church. The school met the challenges of the late nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century and was eventually named Morehouse College in 1913, now located in Atlanta, Georgia.

This is the story of Morehouse College, which still fosters the idea that black men can be educated for stewardship and service not only to their communities but to the world. The beliefs and dreams of the founders of Augusta Theological Institute in 1867 have developed into a world-class institution of higher education primarily for black men in keeping with its original mission but which is also open to men of all races and ethnicities. Morehouse did not develop in isolation but in conjunction with other colleges. Since 1965, when the Higher Education Act became law, Morehouse has been identified as an HBCU—a historically black college and university.

FEBRUARY 2025 | AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

6 x 9 | 456 pp. | Hardback, \$45.00t | 978-0-88146-967-7 | H1053 | Bibliography | Index

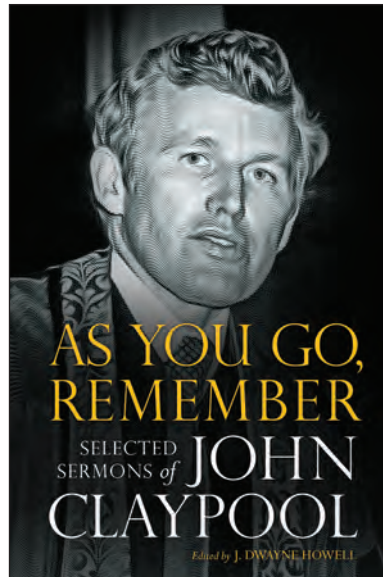
As You Go, REMEMBER

Selected Sermons of John Claypool

edited by J. Dwayne Howell

foreword by John Rowan Claypool V

MAY 2025
Religion/Sermons



“...an illuminating collection of sermons that delve into the profound theme of social justice.” —John Rowan Claypool V

IN 2022 THE SYMPOSIUM, “GLAD REUNION—CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY and Legacy of John R. Claypool,” was held at the Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Many attended the event, underlining the effect that the life and preaching of John Claypool still has on people. *As You Go, Remember: Selected Sermons of John Claypool* emerged, in part, out of this symposium. It seeks to make available additional sermons for those who know Claypool’s work and introduce a new generation to his preaching.

This collection shares sermons from his four main pastorates and his retirement. Claypool published thirteen books, many of which contained his sermons. *As You Go, Remember* adds to the corpus of his collected sermons. The book contains eleven of his sermons centering on social issues that affected the believing communities he served.

Why should sermons on social issues, written as long as sixty years ago, still be important to the reader today? The sermons included in this book are set in a certain historical context. There are mentions of fair and equal accommodations for all people, Watergate, the Moral Majority, and 9/11. However, while there is a historical context to each sermon based on past events, Claypool’s sermons share insights about dealing with topics still present in today’s society: racism, poverty, nationalism, neighborliness, and the arms race.

J. Dwayne Howell is professor emeritus of Old Testament and Hebrew at Campbellsville University. He has also pastored in local Kentucky churches for over thirty years. Howell is a founding member of the Homiletics and Biblical Studies section of the Society of Biblical Literature and served as its first chair. He is also an active member of the Academy of Homiletics.

TITLES OF INTEREST



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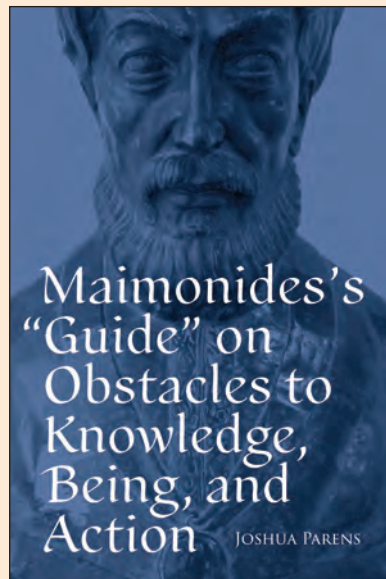
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Joshua Parens is professor of Philosophy and Politics, and former dean of the Braniff Graduate School at the University of Dallas. He received his BA in Liberal Arts from St. John's College and MA and PhD degrees in Political Science from the University of Chicago. Along with many articles, Parens has published two monographs on Alfarabi, one on Maimonides and Spinoza, and one on Leo Strauss. He has served as president of the Association for Core Texts and Courses.



MAIMONIDES'S “GUIDE” ON OBSTACLES TO KNOWLEDGE, BEING, AND ACTION

Joshua Parens

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A new perspective on one of the most important and elusive works in the history of both Judaism and philosophy

TITLES OF INTEREST



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Alex Priou

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MAIMONIDES'S *GUIDE OF THE PERPLEXED* (COMPLETED CA. 1191 CE) is among the most important and elusive works in the history of Judaism and philosophy. Among the greatest difficulties has been determining what genre of writing it belongs to. Leo Strauss challenged the contemporary consensus that it is a work of “Jewish philosophy.” Rather, the *Guide* is first and foremost a defense of the Law, or what his predecessor, whom he praised highly, Alfarabi identified as the art of *kalam* or dialectical theology. However, it is an unusual sort of *kalam*, which Strauss dubbed “intelligent *kalam*.”

Since Shlomo Pines's 1979 article on the limits of knowledge in Maimonides (as well as Alfarabi and Ibn Bajja), much of Maimonides scholarship has centered on these limits. In his book on the *Guide* published in 2013, Josef Stern identified two extremes on the limits of knowledge—the dogmatic and the skeptical. He expanded on Pines's skeptical reading.

Here, Parens provides a middle ground between these two extremes and argues that the limits are intentionally vague, thereby making possible not only a defense of the Law but also a defense of philosophy. The second part concerns the three great themes of the *Guide*: creation, prophecy, and providence. Maimonides's preferred position on prophecy is that God's will can prevent it. It is unlikely to be coincidental that obstacles, impediments, and prevention are also crucial in his accounts of creation and providence. Parens argues that obstacles or privation are a key to these themes and the *Guide* as a whole.

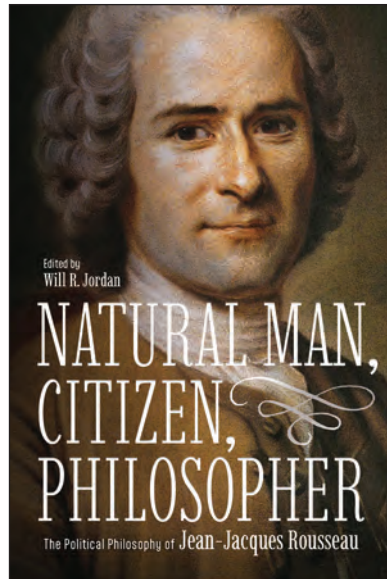
MARCH 2025 | PHILOSOPHY

6 x 9 | 320 pp. | Paperback \$30.00t | 978-0-88146-963-9 | P715 | Bibliography | Index
e-book | 978-0-88146-964-6

NATURAL MAN, CITIZEN, PHILOSOPHER

The Political Philosophy of
Jean-Jacques Rousseau
edited by *Will R. Jordan*

MARCH 2025
Essays/Philosophy



*Essays exploring the thought of one of the most influential
and enigmatic figures of the Enlightenment*

THE EIGHT ESSAYS IN THIS VOLUME WERE FIRST PRESENTED AT THE 2023 A. V. Elliott Conference on Great Books and Ideas, the fifteenth annual conference sponsored by Mercer University’s Thomas C. and Ramona E. McDonald Center for America’s Founding Principles.

The volume explores the political philosophy of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. One thread which unites the chapters is the attempt to understand and clarify Rousseau’s conception of his own highly idiosyncratic, philosophic activity, as well as how that activity relates to Rousseau’s competing archetypes of natural man and citizen.

This exercise requires engaging some of the most fundamental and vexing tensions of human life. Should we be understood and defined as individuals or as members of a community? How can we be free and live together? What in human beings is natural and what is the product of education, nurture, or historical processes? Are we defined more by our reason or by sentiment? How do we come to know something and how might our attempts to know potentially undermine truth itself? In working through all these problems, the Rousseau that emerges is truly a thinker of the first rank, a subtle and penetrating student of what it means to be a human being, a citizen, and a philosopher.

Contributors include Laurence D. Cooper, Christine Dunn Henderson, Christopher Kelly, Emma Planinc, Denise Schaeffer, John T. Scott, Samuel A. Stoner, and John Warner.

MARCH 2025 | ESSAYS/PHILOSOPHY
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Will R. Jordan is professor of Political Science at Mercer University. He holds a BA from Washington and Lee University and a PhD in Political Science from Loyola University Chicago. Jordan serves as codirector of Mercer’s McDonald Center for America’s Founding Principles. He has edited or coedited six previous volumes in the A.V. Elliott Conference Series.



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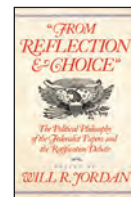
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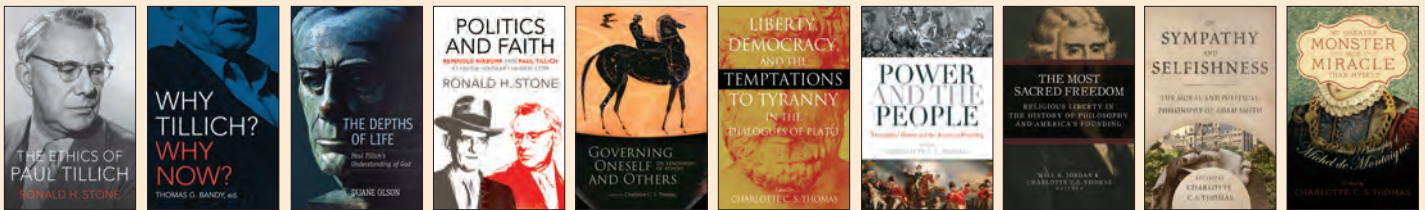
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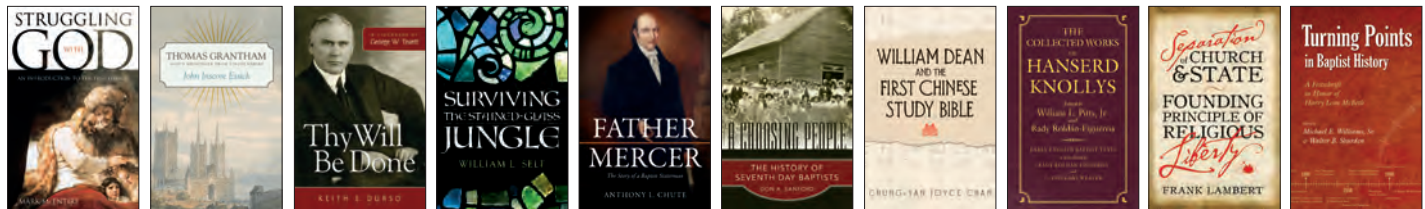
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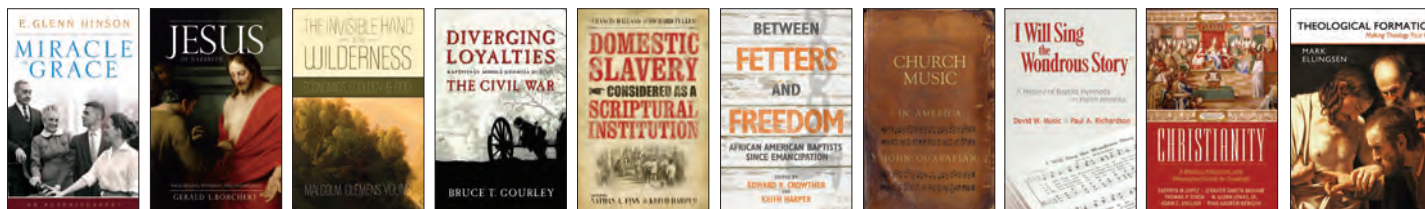
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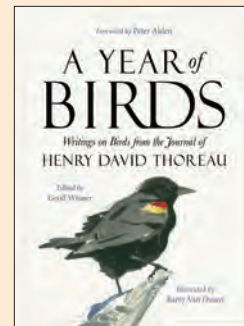
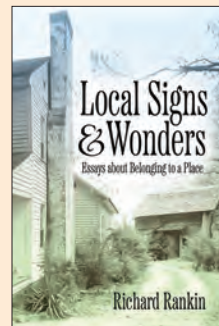
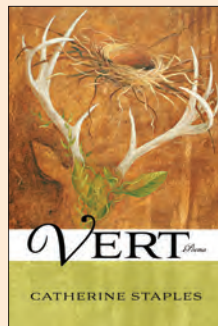
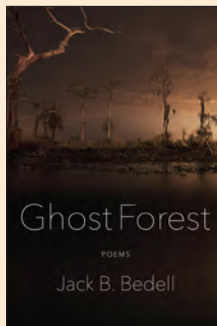
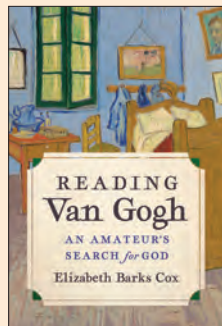
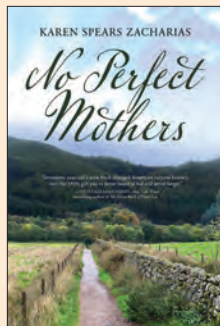
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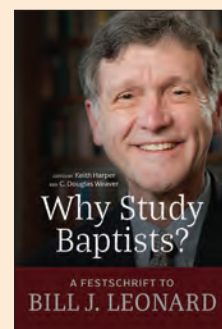
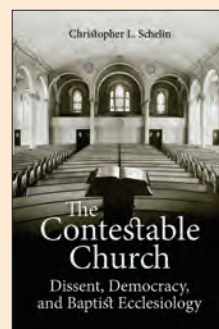
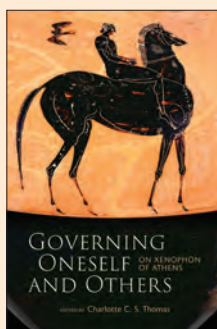
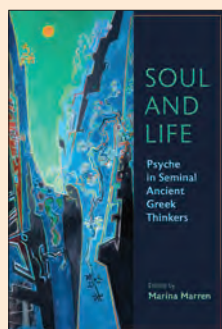
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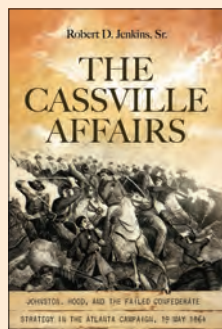
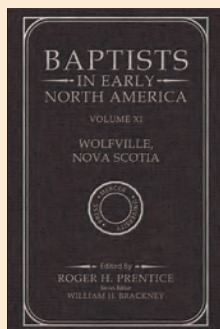
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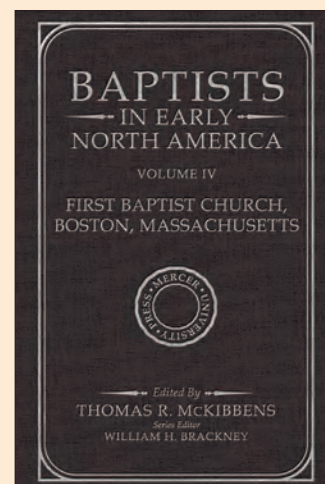
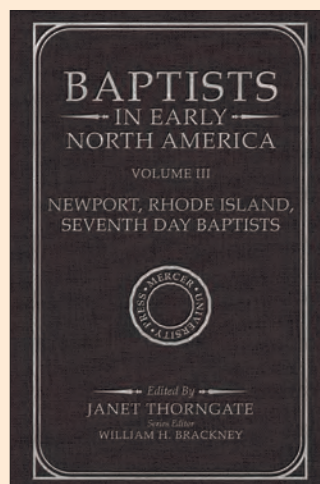
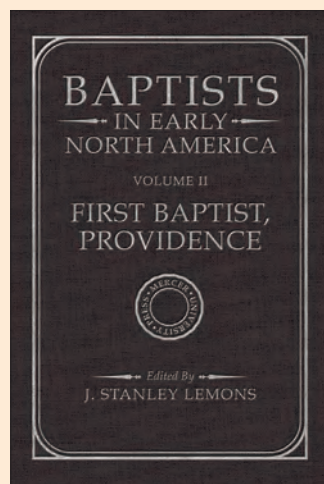
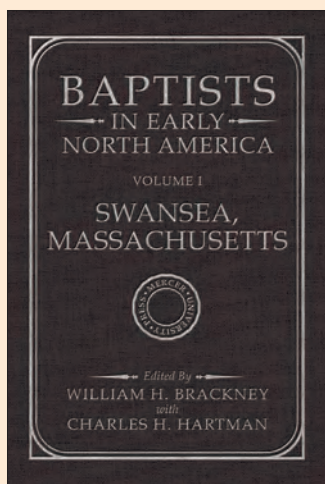
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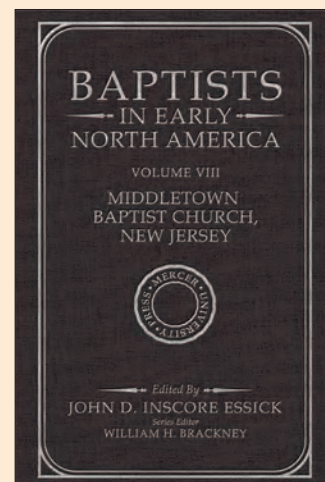
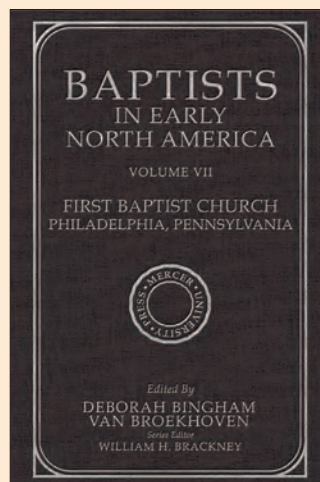
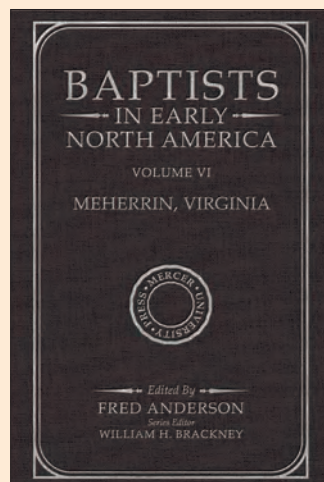
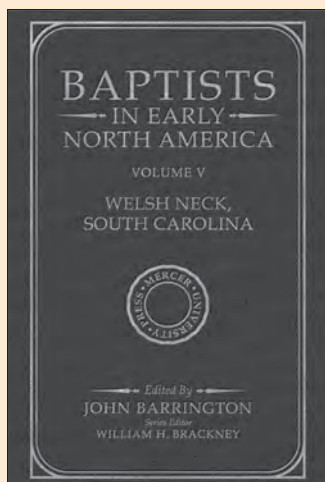


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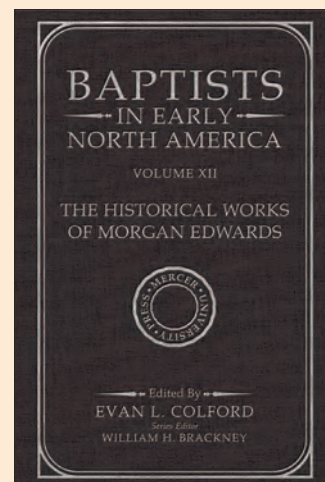
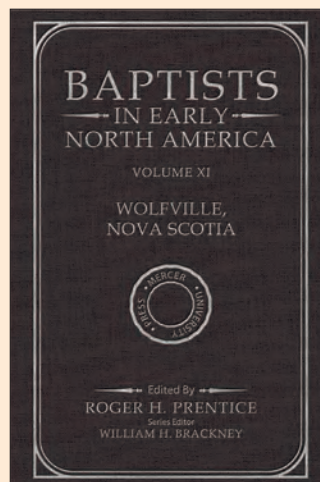
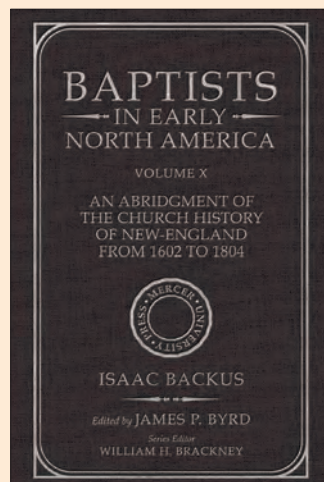
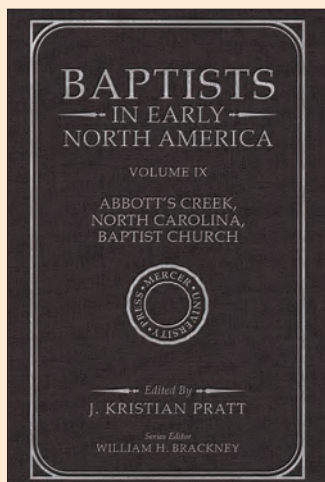


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