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On the Cover:

Black Bear in Jasper National Park, iStock

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

I write this on April 22, 2023 (EARTH DAY) in anticipation of this very catalog you are holding. As I sit outside and look down towards Sabbath Creek, the birds are—in the words of Friend Owl in *Bambi*—twitterpated, as are the chipmunks and all of the other creatures. Our Spring here has been beautiful with a good mix of sun and rain, and pleasant temperatures. New life is coming from the plants, the flowers, the trees. The birdhouse someone gave me two years ago now has residents in it and those eggs will hatch soon and new life will fly out to find sustenance. Our red-shouldered hawks, the great blue heron, and the rest of our Sabbath Creek residents are surviving and thriving.

As I sit outside after I get home in the evening, the birds sing until dark. Their songs are mystical, and they remind me every day that we avoided (so far) the silence that Rachel Carson warned us about in *Silent Spring* (1962). With scientific acumen and the pen of a storyteller, she wrote a book that changed the world. It alerted the public to the dangers of DDT and other chemicals that were harming both nature and humans, but not separately. We were being harmed together, for her point was that humans cannot be separated from nature—we are one.

So, thanks to a book and a movement we still have musical Springs, and the air is filled with nature's playlist from cardinals to wrens, from hawks to eastern towhees.

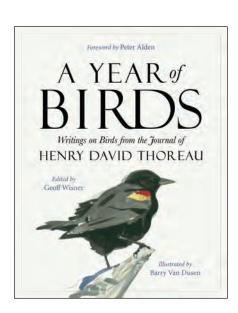
Even though your Spring may be a few weeks away when you read this, each book is—like Spring—a new life, a voice that is desiring to be heard. Whether it is a novel that will fulfill your evening, or a poet sharing a moment of sublimity, or a historian sharing a "new" old story, each book is a sign of a perpetual Spring. Each book is a reminder that Spring is a renaissance.

Marc Jolley April 2023 New Release www.mupress.org 866-895-1472

## A YEAR OF BIRDS

Writings on Birds from the Journal of Henry David Thoreau edited by *Geoff Wisner* illustrated by *Barry Van Dusen* foreword by *Peter Alden* 

MAY 2024
Nature



Includes daily entries of Thoreau's descriptions of birds and 150 watercolors and field sketches by bird artist Barry Van Dusen

A WORK OF ART AS WELL AS A WORK OF LITERATURE, A YEAR OF BIRDS WILL be welcomed by nature lovers, art lovers, and birders. With 150 watercolors and field sketches by renowned bird artist Barry Van Dusen and a foreword by celebrated naturalist Peter Alden, the author of numerous Audubon Field Guides, A Year of Birds showcases Henry David Thoreau's writings on birds in a way never seen before.

Unlike previous collections, the observations in *A Year of Birds* are arranged by the day of the year, emphasizing the relationship of birds with their environment and the spiritual significance of the seasons. On any given day, curious readers might step into their yards and compare the birds they observe with those that Thoreau saw and heard.

With a focus on the town of Concord, Massachusetts, where Thoreau spent most of his life, *A Year of Birds* includes the best of Thoreau's unparalleled descriptions of birds, from the red-tailed hawk to the Blackburnian warbler. Also included are descriptions of bird hunting, birds in museums, and birds as metaphor. Special sections are devoted to the now-vanished passenger pigeon and to Thoreau's mysterious "night warbler."

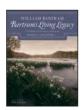
"A partridge bursts away from under the rock below me on quivering wings like some moths I have seen. We have then flowers and the song of birds before the woods leave out—like poetry." —Henry David Thoreau (May 1, 1852)

Geoff Wisner is a board member of the Thoreau Society and the editor of *Thoreau's Wildflowers* (Yale) and *Thoreau's Animals* (Yale). He earned a degree in English and American Literature from Harvard University, and has written for the *Boston Globe, Christian Science Monitor*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. Learn more about him at www.geoffwisner.com.

Massachusetts artist **Barry Van Dusen** is the author and illustrator of *Finding Sanctuary*, based on visits to sixty-one of Mass Audubon's wildlife sanctuaries, nature centers, and museums. He is a strong proponent of working directly from life, even with difficult subjects such as wild birds. Learn more about him at www.barryvandusen.com.

Peter Alden followed Thoreau's trails and bird notes growing up in Concord, where he still lives. He has authored fifteen bird/nature/travel books and has led wildlife tours to more than 100 countries. His Great Walden Bioblitzes have found 3,600 species within five miles of Walden Pond.

#### TITLES OF INTEREST



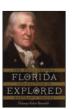
Bartram's Living Legacy The Travels and the Nature of the South edited by Dorinda Dallmeyer with original artwork by Philip Juras Paperback | \$28.001 | P415 978-0-88146-222-7



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2 MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS SPRING/SUMMER 2024 New Releas

Richard Rankin writes books and articles on cultural history, nature, and hunting. After a long career as a college professor and administrator and an independent school headmaster, Rankin directs the Interlaken Wildlife Center in Cameron, South Carolina. An outdoorsman, conservationist, and Presbyterian layman, he and his family are the sixth generation living on family land in the North Carolina Piedmont.

#### TITLES OF INTEREST



\*While There Were Still Wild Birds A Personal History of Southern Quail Hunting Richard Rankin

Southern Quail Hunting Richard Rankin Paperback | \$20.00 | P596 \*NOT IN STOCK \*Order Only from Bookshop.org Amazon.com, or B&N.com



Down by the Eno, Down by the Haw

A Wonder Almanac Thorpe Moeckel Paperback | \$16.00t | P590 978-0-88146-721-5



Coming into Animal Presence John Lane

Paperback | \$20.00t | P660 978-0-88146-871-7 e-book | \$20.00 978-0-88146-872-4



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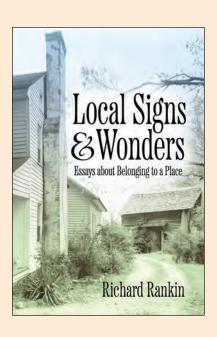
#### Sifting Artifacts Essays

Rathy A. Bradley
Paperback | \$20.00t | P642
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Wondering Toward Center

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Kathy A. Bradley
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# LOCAL SIGNS AND WONDERS

Essays about Belonging to a Place Richard Rankin

Also available in e-book format

APRIL 2024
Essays

Essays honoring the continuity of the family homestead—and the importance of protecting the natural world and its creatures

**LOCAL SIGNS AND WONDERS IS AN ESSAY COLLECTION DESCRIBING HOW** attachment to a family homestead creates a sense of wellbeing, fulfillment, and belonging. Richard Rankin lives on family property settled in the mid 1760s and farmed until the 1970s. The Rankin home place sits in a shrinking countryside about twenty miles west of fast-growing Charlotte, North Carolina.

The desire to belong to a place grows out of a deep yearning to feel at home in the world and to find a particular location where that feeling is best satisfied.

Individual essays treat diverse local topics including the disappearance of family farms, complicated racial history, soil conservation, physical labor as recreation, the influence of a great tree, chicken fighting, folk history, folk healing, the disappearance of bobwhite quail, black bear restoration, and exemplary outdoorsmen. As a whole, the pieces reveal how a settled inhabitant's personal identity grows from a local landscape and its history and culture. How the Creator invites the settler to join an ongoing partnership to re-create and steward a beloved place and its creatures. And how this creative process leads to a greater appreciation of local things and people.

With local farming gone, suburban development exploding, and the planet warming, several essays focus on land stewardship and conservation as a remedy. Despite rural decline and environmental peril, these essays show how staying on family land benefits personal wholeness, rich relationships with family, neighbors and wildlife, and service to creation.

APRIL 2024 | ESSAYS

5.5 x 8.5 | 200 pp. | Paperback, \$20.00t | 978-0-88146-924-0 | P691 | Index e-book, \$20.00 | 978-0-88146-933-2

New Release www.mupress.org 866-895-1472

### READING VAN GOGH

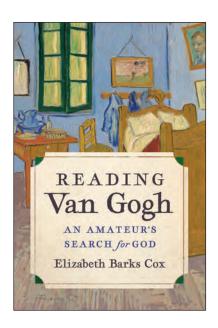
An Amateur's Search for God

Elizabeth Barks Cox

Also available in e-book format

MARCH 2024

Memoir



Learning to live inside one's own unfathomable longing and how yearning for God can shape a willing life

VINCENT VAN GOGH, EVEN WITH HIS MENTAL ILLNESS, POVERTY, ISOLATION, and persistent failure, reflected compassion remarkable for his own life of rejection. He loved God. He loved beauty. He acknowledged his own shortcomings and was never as good as he wanted to be. He might be an unlikely role model for some, since he was neither saintly nor successful; but his serious attention to human suffering, as well as to beauty in the world around him, gave this author a different vision.

In a nation that lives inside the politics of the day—reveling in the constant wish to be right, or for others to be wrong—these essays might prove to be an antidote. Cox writes about her own experiences—sometimes imprudent, sometimes profound: weeks spent living in a homeless shelter in New York City, a trip to the Mid-East where she visited Yasser Arafat in his compound, an unexpectedly impacting Alaskan adventure, working with abused/neglected children, and the explorations of the mind through reading. Each experience reflected and gave insight into what this author lacked, while deepening a sympathy learned from those around her—always trying to cross that bridge of understanding. One section titled "Prayer Walks" includes a more daily pursuit into a life of "paying attention."

*Reading Van Gogh* plunges into the ideas of psychologists, artists, poets, physicists, and fiction writers who combine reason, imagination, and experience in a way that might enlarge, or even change, the definitions we live by.

"Elizabeth Cox writes beautiful, energetic prose, and she writes particularly well of the great human mystery of 'going in,' and of the greatest mystery, of finding there as a certainty, the great lovingness she recognizes as God. This book is elegantly lived theology." —*Coleman Barks*, author of *The Essential Rumi* 

MARCH 2024 | MEMOIR

5.5 x 8.5 | 280 pp. | Paperback, \$24.00t | 978-0-88146-920-2 | P689 e-book, \$24.00 | 978-0-88146-932-5 Elizabeth Cox has published five novels, a collection of short stories, and a book of poetry. She has won the North Carolina Fiction Award, the Lillian Smith Award for a novel, and in 2013 she was awarded the Robert Penn Warren Award for Fiction. Cox taught creative writing at Duke University for seventeen years, and has also taught at Bennington College, Boston College, and MIT. She resides in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Learn more about her at www.elizabethcox.net.

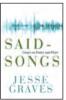
#### TITLES OF INTEREST



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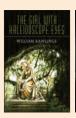
Nature, Law, and the Sacred Essays in Honor of Ronna Burger edited by Evanthia Speliotis Hardback | \$45.00t | H989 978-0-88146-711-6



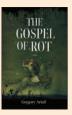
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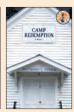
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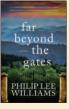


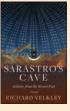


















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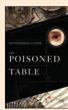
A Death at the White Camellia Orphanage: A Novel Marly Yournans P467 | \$18.00t | 9780881464467 e-book | \$12.00 | 9780881463644

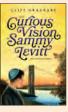
**Glimmerglass: A Novel** *Marly Youmans* H896 | \$24.00t | 9780881464917

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New Release www.mupress.org 866-895-1472

# No Perfect Mothers

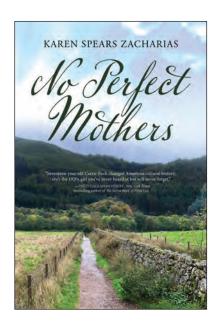
A Novel

Karen Spears Zacharias

Also available in e-book format

MARCH 2024

Historical Fiction



"Carrie Buck's tragically-true story is as important in today's world as it was a century ago..." —Cassandra King, author of Tell Me a Story

THERE IS MUCH ABOUT HER HOMETOWN THAT CARRIE BUCK LOVES: Venable Elementary where she first learned to read; Starr Hill because that's where Miss Mora lives; Chancellor's Drugstore where she sometimes gets a free cola; and Anderson's Bookstore where a girl can look through all the books she likes.

While 1920s Charlottesville, Virginia, is a charming place to grow up, there's one thing Carrie doesn't like about her hometown—her home. Abandoned by her father and taken from her mother, Carrie is put up for fostering as a toddler. A silent child, her foster parents regard her as slow. She feels no obligation to correct them. At age ten, Carrie is forced to leave school to work as a domestic.

Carrie's lone ally, Miss Mora, a Scottish immigrant, is hindered by racial barriers from being the helper Carrie so desperately needs. But when Carrie turns up pregnant at seventeen, it is Miss Mora—Charlottesville's most competent midwife—who she turns to.

Fearing their nephew's assault of Carrie will be discovered, Carrie's foster parents fraudulently commit her to the Virginia Colony for Epileptics and Feebleminded. They claim custody of her infant daughter. Dr. Priddy, the colony's superintendent, deceptively labels Carrie an imbecile, unfit to bear children. In pursuit of a legal argument granting states the right to forcibly sterilize individuals, he exploits her.

No Perfect Mothers explores characters, historical and imagined, who over the late 1800s to the 1920s were parties to the infamous Buck v. Bell U.S. Supreme Court case of 1927. Here, Carrie is given back what was denied her by the Court and by society some 100 years ago—her own voice and personhood.

MARCH 2024 | HISTORICAL FICTION

5.5 x 8.5 | 256 pp. | Hardback, \$25.00t | 978-0-88146-919-6 | H1042 e-book, \$20.00 | 978-0-88146-922-6 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 West Scotland. She lives at the foot of the Cascade Mountains in Deschutes County, Oregon. Zacharias taught First-Amendment Rights at Central Washington University and continues to teach at writing workshops around the country. Learn more about her at www.karenzach.com.

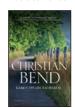
#### TITLES OF INTEREST



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Through the Needle's Eye A Novel Linda Bledsoe Paperback | \$17.00t | P581 978-0-88146-702-4 e-book | \$12.00 978-0-88146-703-1

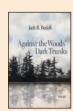


Lightningstruck A Novel Ashley Mace Havird Paperback | \$16.00t | P540 978-0-88146-596-9 e-book | \$12.00

6 MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS SPRING/SUMMER 2024 New Releas

Jack B. Bedell is professor of English and coordinator of Creative Writing at Southeastern Louisiana University where he also edits *Louisiana Literature* and directs the Louisiana Literature Press. His latest collections are *Against the Woods' Dark Trunks, Color All Maps New,* and *No Brother, This Storm.* Bedell served as Louisiana Poet Laureate, 2017–2019. Learn more about him at www.jackbbedell.com.

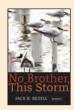
#### TITLES OF INTEREST



Against the Woods'
Dark Trunks
Poems
Jack B. Bedell
Paperback | \$17.00t | P650
978-0-88146-856-4



New Poems Jack B. Bedell Paperback | \$16.00t | P617 978-0-88146-777-2



No Brother, This Storm Poems Jack B. Bedell Paperback | \$16.00t | P572 978-0-88146-675-1



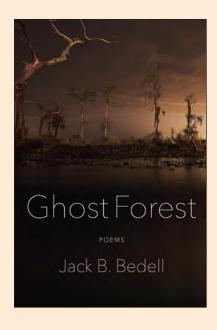
Merciful Days Poems Jesse Graves Paperback | \$16.00t | P611 978-0-88146-756-7



Specter Mountain
Poems
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William Wright
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Tree Heresies
Poems
William Wright
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# **GHOST FOREST**

Poems

Jack B. Bedell

FEBRUARY 2024
Poetry

## Evoking memory and respecting ghosts of the past and present

**ALL MANNER OF GHOSTS HAUNT THE POEMS IN JACK BEDELL'S NEW** collection, *Ghost Forest*. From memories of lost loved ones, to the ghosts of heroes, to the remnants of an eroding coastline, these spectres fill Bedell's lines with beauty and wisdom to help us all move into the future.

Sometimes through memory, sometimes through visitation, sometimes through pure fantasy, Bedell's poems invoke spirits to help us see the world as it needs to be seen—or put back whole our broken pasts to make moving forward possible.

No matter if it's Sonny Liston in need of a moment's peace, a ghost forest glowing as harbinger of what's headed our way, or old habits left to us by family we've lost come back around on the breeze to make their souls present in this world, *Ghost Forest* takes time, page by page, to pay its due respects.

"Ghost Forest is a vibrant collection devoted to the seen and unseen. These poems sing, building lush rhythms rejoicing in how memory, nature, music, death, and life are always shaping us." —Michael Garrigan, author of River, Amen and Robbing the Pillars

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CATHERINE STAPLES GREW UP IN MASSACHUSETTS AND IT'S THERE—IN

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Catherine Staples is the author of *The Rattling Window* and *Never a Note Forfeit*. Her poems have appeared in *Kenyon Review, Poetry, The Southern Review, The Yale Review*, and *Academy of American Poets* at poets.org. Awards include the Guy Owen Prize, a McGovern Poetry Prize, and a Walter Dakin Fellowship. Staples teaches in the Honors and English programs at Villanova University. Learn more about her at www.catherinestaples.com.

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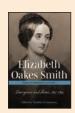
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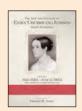


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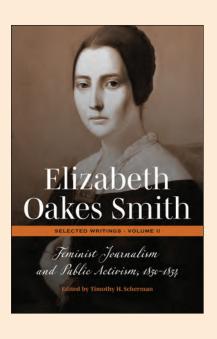
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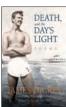


















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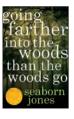




















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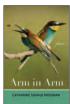
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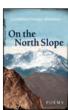
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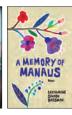
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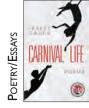
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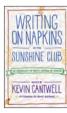
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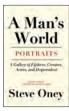


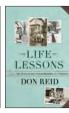












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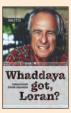
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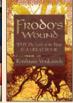












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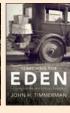
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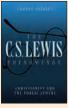




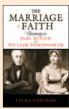














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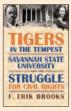
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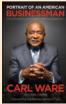
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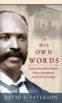














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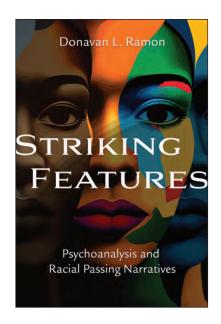
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Donavan L. Ramon

**FEBRUARY 2024** *African American Studies* 



Donavan L. Ramon is assistant professor of English at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. He holds a BA in English from Hunter College and a PhD in English (African American Literature) from Rutgers University. Ramon has published articles in the College Language Association Journal, Philip Roth Studies Journal, and was a guest editor for South Atlantic Review. Learn more about him at www.donavanramon.com.

Exploring the trauma and psychological consequences of racial passing in the twentieth and twenty-first century

**How does Psychoanalysis animate racial passing and how does** racial passing inspire psychoanalysis? Despite long-held beliefs that the two have nothing in common, Donavan L. Ramon poses that psychoanalysis *is* relevant for understanding the reasons behind jumping the color line.

Beginning with the premise that Sigmund Freud created psychoanalysis to contend with his own anxieties about race, Ramon explores canonical and non-canonical passing narratives using psychoanalytic perspectives. He closely reads narratives by Charles Chesnutt, James Weldon Johnson, Nella Larsen, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Jessie Fauset, Anita Reynolds, Danzy Senna, Vera Caspary, Anatole Broyard, and Philip Roth to advance several provocative claims about the intersections of passing and psychoanalysis. Chief among them are the youthful trauma and psychological consequences of racial passing. For instance, while the death drive motivates fictional racial passers to hasten their own deaths, those who pass in real life often seek their own immortality through print despite hiding their Blackness. Throughout this analysis, Ramon underscores the nuances of racial passing in school as the place of trauma for Black subjects.

Ramon's work is deeply interdisciplinary, threading psychoanalysis and other theoretical perspectives throughout persuasive close readings of twentieth and twenty-first century racial passing narratives. The monograph concludes with a meditation on today's ineffective language of race, which hinders racial progress.

Scholars of race, African American Literature, American Literature, and psychoanalysis will find Ramon's book compelling.

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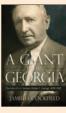
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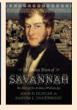












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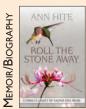
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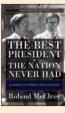




















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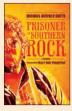
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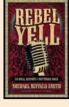




















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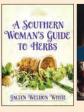


















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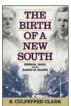
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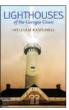






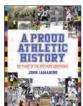












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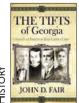
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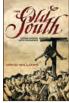
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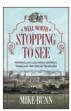
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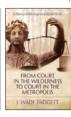
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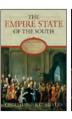




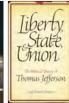












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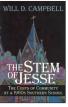


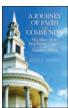




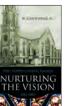














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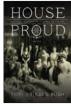
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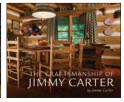














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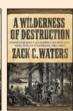
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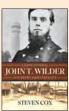
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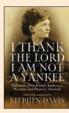
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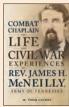




















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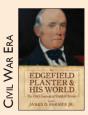
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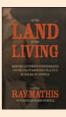
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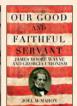
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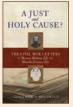
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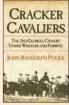






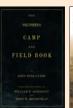














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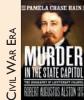
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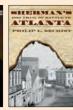
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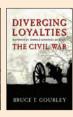
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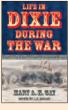
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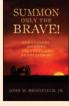


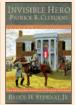






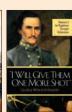












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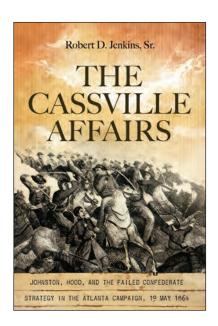
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Johnston, Hood, and the Failed Confederate Strategy in the Atlanta Campaign, 19 May 1864 Robert D. Jenkins, Sr.

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Civil War History



Reexamining controversial events at Cassville—including the Confederate leadership—during this decisive campaign

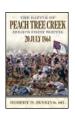
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The Cassville Affairs—there were two of them—because there were two critical decisions that the Confederate leadership faced at Cassville: first, whether to attack a portion of the Federal army in the morning; and second, once the morning attack was no longer feasible, whether to stay and fight the next day. Both decisions were the responsibility of Johnston, and both decisions involved the advice and assistance by Hood. Johnston issued a General Order to all soldiers that morning proclaiming that the army had fallen back enough and would now turn and face the enemy. After a series of unforeseen circumstances, however, the Southern commander withdrew without a fight.

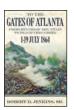
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A native of Chamblee, Robert D. (Bob) Jenkins, Sr. has been a trial attorney in Dalton, Georgia, since 1990. He holds a BBA in Business Management from Georgia Southern University and a JD from Mercer University School of Law. He is the author *The Battle of Peach Tree Creek* and *To the Gates of Atlanta*. Jenkins is president of Save the Dalton Battlefields, LLC and is vice chair of Whitfield County's Historic Preservation Commission. Through their efforts, the County has acquired and opened Mill Creek Gap Park, Potato Hill Park, and Rocky Face Ridge Park.

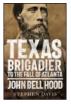
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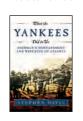
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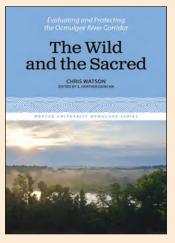
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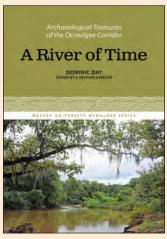
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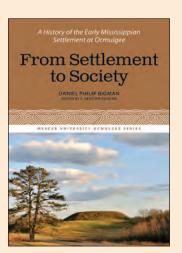
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# THE WILD AND THE SACRED

Evaluating and Protecting the Ocmulgee River Corridor, Volume 1

Chris Watson; edited by S. Heather Duncan

CHRIS WATSON BEGAN DEVELOPING A TOOL FOR MAPPING WILDNESS ACROSS the Georgia landscape, but as work progressed, the study's conception of the region's significance expanded beyond ecology: the floodplain's value is immeasurable to the Muscogee Indians. As the earliest people to settle the Southeast, their ancestors left a physical imprint on the land, from the remains of villages to giant earthen mounds. In turn, the land left a spiritual imprint upon the Muscogee that is still felt today.

**Chris Watson** is campaign director with the National Parks Conservation Association's southeast regional office in Knoxville, Tennessee. With the organization since 2010, he directs projects primarily in Georgia and Kentucky. Watson holds a PhD in Conservation Geography from the University of Georgia.

## A RIVER OF TIME

Archaeological Treasures of the Ocmulgee Corridor, Volume 2 *Dominic Day;* edited by *S. Heather Duncan* 

**EVERY YEAR, THOUSANDS OF VISITORS CLIMB THE TALLEST OF THE ANCIENT** Ocmulgee Mounds in Macon, Georgia. Gazing fifty-five feet down from the top of this Great Temple Mound gives a sense of the might and mystery of the earliest Southeastern American civilization. According to Dominic Day, the archaeological finds cover more than fifteen thousand years, the complete human record in the Southeast. While most are not included in the national historical park, this Mercer study makes a strong argument that many should be.

**Dominic Day** is a Middle Georgia native and a geospatial and cultural resource professional. Day completed studies in anthropology at Georgia State University and geographic information science at Georgia Tech. He currently works with the Environmental Planning group at HNTB in Atlanta, Georgia.

# FROM SETTLEMENT TO SOCIETY

A History of the Early Mississippian Settlement at Ocmulgee, Volume 3 *Daniel Philip Bigman*; edited by *S. Heather Duncan* 

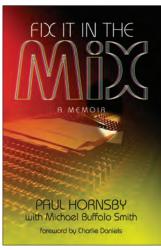
**DANIEL BIGMAN'S RESEARCH PLACES OCMULGEE'S DEVELOPMENT IN THE** context of other large Early Mississippian mound centers and communities in the geographic region. Bigman argues that Ocmulgee is not a "mystery"—something odd and different—but rather a case study in understanding the interactions among Mississippian communities and how Ocmulgee's struggle for power shaped an individual settlement while leadership roles evolved and social inequality fluctuated.

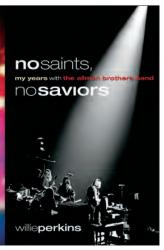
**Daniel Bigman** received a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Georgia with a focus on archaeological geophysics applied to Native American sites in the southeastern United States. He is the founder of Bigman Geophysical, LLC, a private firm focusing on training, consulting, and technology supply.

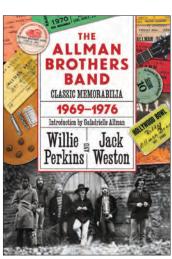
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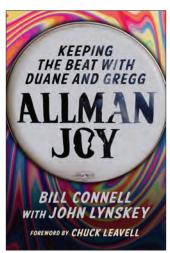
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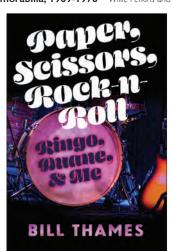
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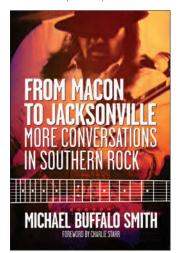
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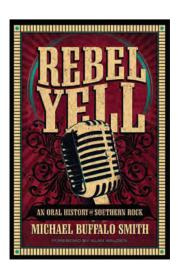
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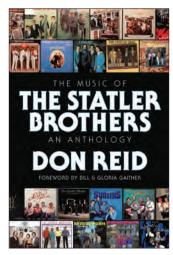




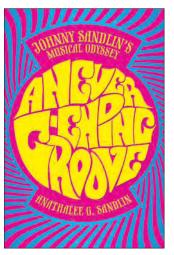


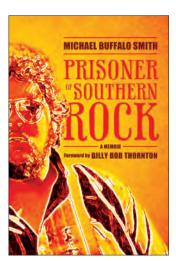


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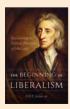
Charlotte C. S. Thomas is professor of Philosophy, director of the Great Books Program, and codirector of the McDonald Center for America's Founding Principles at Mercer University. Her work focuses on ancient political philosophy, philosophy of culture, and ethics. She is the author of *The Female Drama: The Philosophical Feminine in the Soul of Plato's* Republic.



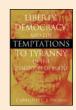
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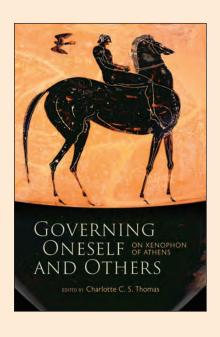


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On Xenophon of Athens edited by *Charlotte C. S. Thomas* 

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Essays on Xenophon as historian, philosopher, and political theorist in the Cyropaedia, Hellenica, Memorabilia, and Symposium

**XENOPHON** (430–354 BCE) WAS A MAN OF MANY MODES: FOLLOWER OF Socrates, Athenian General, friend to Sparta, philosopher, political theorist, military historian, and writer. This collection of essays explores his writings across three genres, all of which he blends into one another: philosophical dialogue, political theory, and history.

In whatever form he chose, Xenophon seems to have several foundational questions always in mind: What makes a human life good? How best should human beings be governed? What aspects of character and accidents of history contribute to good and bad rule and to good and bad lives? Like his teacher Socrates, there seem to be no questions off limits to Xenophon, who defied convention in his writing and in his life. And like his contemporary, Plato, he embraced the practice of altering the facts to illuminate the truth of the human condition.

Xenophon was once considered among the most important figures in Classical Literature, then in the nineteenth century he was marginalized. But his reputation is again on the rise among scholars, and these essays offer ample evidence for why that is a very good thing. The volume focuses on his *Cyropaedia*, *Hellenica*, *Memorabilia*, and *Symposium*.

This collection is based on the 2022 A.V. Elliott Conference on Great Books and Ideas, sponsored by The Thomas C. and Ramon E. McDonald Center for America's Founding Principles at Mercer University.

Contributors include Peter Ahrensdorf, Wayne Ambler, Thomas Martin, Gregory McBrayer, Carol McNamara, Paul A. Rahe, Richard Ruderman, and Charlotte C. S. Thomas.

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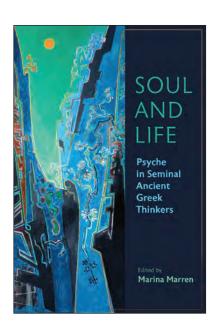
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### SOUL AND LIFE

Psyche in Seminal Ancient Greek Thinkers edited by *Marina Marren* 

FEBRUARY 2024

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Marina Marren is assistant professor of Philosophy at the United Arab Emirates University. Her research focuses on Ancient Greek, political, as well as nineteenth and twentieth century philosophy. In addition to numerous scholarly articles, Marren is author of Plato and Aristophanes: Comedy, Politics, and the Pursuit of a Just Life and editor of In Dialogue with Plato's Politics and Education.

Examining the relationship between how we think about the soul and making space for life in the world—in all life's multiplicity

**Soul and Life: Psyche in Seminal Ancient Greek Thinkers brings** together essays on Greek ontology, psychology, politics, and theories of soul in Socratic thought, Plato, Aristotle, and Herodotus. Among the included perspectives, there is the recognition in common that the soul or  $\psi\nu\chi\dot{\eta}$  (psyche) is not a mere hypostatization or reification of the object of cognitive studies.

Instead, the essays contained in *Soul and Life* attempt to understand the soul as distinguished by life itself and as setting out ways of being in the world. The essays in Part I focus on political psychology, pursue feminist themes, and engage with issues in ethics and education. Contributions in Part II argue that the soul situates the fundamental structures in ontology and the study of Being as such. The authors in Part II further approach ancient psychology in terms of new ways of understanding the capacities of living beings for nutrition and generation and articulate the soul as a central concept in the constitution of the world as knowable.

Contributors include Deborah Achtenberg, Cinzia Arruzza, Ronna Burger, Shane Montgomery Ewegen, I-Kai Jeng, Daniel P. Maher, Kevin Marren, Michael M. Shaw, Charlotte C.S. Thomas, and Stuart D. Warner.

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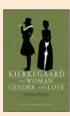
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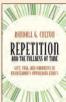














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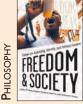
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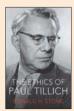
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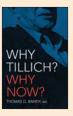




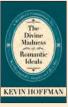
















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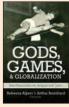






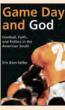














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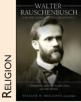
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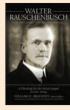
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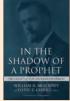
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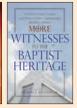


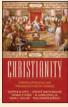




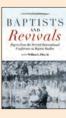


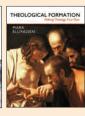












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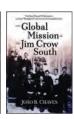
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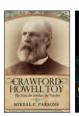
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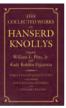




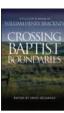


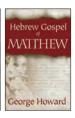












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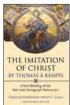
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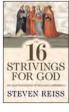


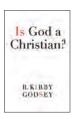


















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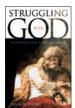
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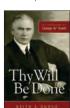
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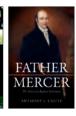


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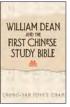


















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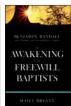
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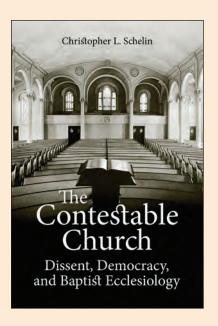
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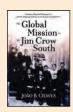


# THE CONTESTABLE CHURCH

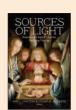
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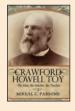


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For the contestable church, conflict spurs Christians to be ever receptive to difference and always reforming

BAPTISTS HAVE A WELL-EARNED REPUTATION AS A CONTENTIOUS PEOPLE. Lacking a centralized authority to settle disputes, and defending the conscience of each believer, they have excelled at conflict and division. But perhaps the resolution of this scandal is not for Baptists to stop fighting, but to learn to fight

In *The Contestable Church*, Christopher L. Schelin reconsiders Baptist ecclesiology from the perspective that conflict is not merely inevitable but is essentially constructive for the church's discernment of the mind of Christ. Enlisting the support of radical democratic political theory, as exemplified in the work of Romand Coles, the author argues that it is precisely through hospitable encounters with difference and disagreement that new possibilities emerge. Schelin invites Baptists not to shy away from conflict, employing convergences with radical democracy to reimagine key doctrinal themes such as soul competency, the priesthood of believers, and pastoral authority. By adopting insights from radical democracy, Baptists may avoid the competing dangers of excessive individualism and conformist authoritarianism.

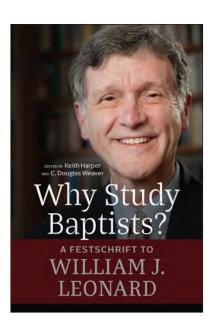
The Contestable Church offers a positive witness to the peace of God that is the horizon for conflict and invites Baptists to the practice of vigorous dissent for the sake of living faithfully. Instead of revealing a dissolution into chaos, dissent is an expression of hope that Christians are a pilgrim people for whom a vulnerable and challenging intimacy leads the way home.

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# WHY STUDY BAPTISTS?

A Festschrift to William J. Leonard edited by Keith Harper and C. Douglas Weaver

MAY 2024
Baptist History



Essays honoring the life and ministry of this Baptist scholar, author, mentor, colleague, and friend

**IF FESTSCHRIFTS CELEBRATE A PERSON FOR THEIR LIFE'S WORK, FEW ARE** more worthy of the honor than William J. Leonard. He is equal parts teacher, minister, and administrator, all with a style that is "uniquely Leonard." *Why Study Baptists?*: A Festschrift to William J. Leonard features eleven essays by friends, colleagues, and former students that bear witness to that style.

These essays explore topics ranging from race and spirituality to Appalachian religion and religious freedom. If one detects a familiar ring, it is because those are broad themes that reflect Bill Leonard's career. He will tell you that he is a radical when it comes to race—because he is. He will tell you that he keeps close tabs on the political scene, especially on religious liberty issues—because he does. He will tell you that he cares deeply about others, especially in matters bearing on spirituality and equality—because it's true.

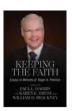
So, why should anyone study Baptists? The reasons vary from person to person, but one thing is certain: Bill Leonard has set a high standard. Future chroniclers of all things Baptist will do well to consult his works at some point in their journey. The essays in this volume are a testimony to Leonard's call for integrity of thought and deed. They are also a testimony to the effect one person can have on how you see the world around you.

Contributors include Randall Balmer, Linda McKinnish Bridges, Edward R. Crowther, Pamela R. Durso, Keith Harper, Andrew Manis, Molly T. Marshall, Robert N. Nash Jr., Meredith Stone, Corey D.B. Walker, and C. Douglas Weaver.

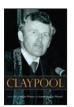
Keith Harper is senior professor of Baptist Studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the author of *The Quality of Mercy: Southern Baptists and Social Christianity* and *A Mere Kentucky of a Place: The Elkhorn Association and the Commonwealth's First Baptists.* 

C. Douglas Weaver is the Barbara Jo Beard Driskell Research Chair in Historical/Baptist Studies and department chair of Religion at Baylor University. His books include Baptists and the Holy Spirit, Claypool, and In Search of the New Testament Church: The Baptist Story.

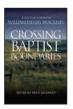
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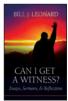
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Roger H. Prentice (1943-2022) was dean of the Manning Memorial Chapel and served as University Chaplain at Acadia University until his retirement in 2007. Prentice's service within the church, particularly among Maritime Baptists, and in the wider community, was recognized when he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Acadia University, the Queen's Jubilee Medal, and the Canadian Senate's Sesquicentennial Medal.

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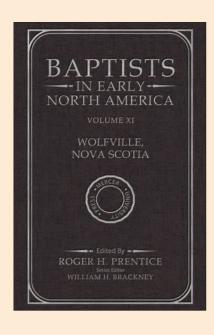
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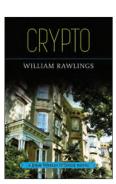
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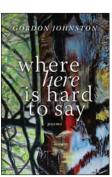
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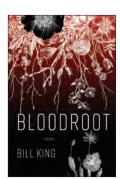












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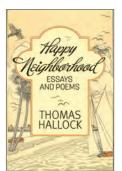
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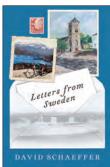
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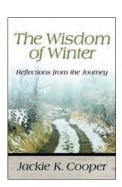
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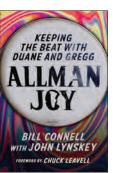
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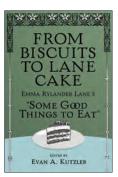
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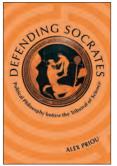
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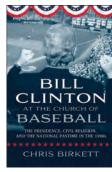
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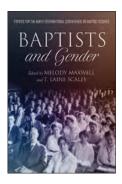
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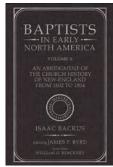
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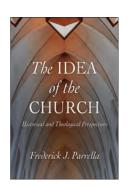
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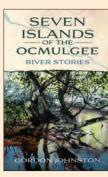
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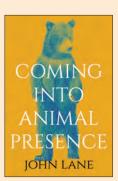
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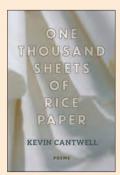
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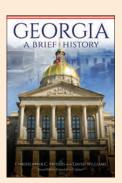
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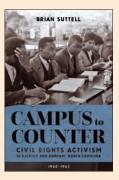
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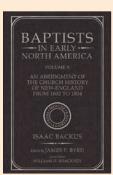












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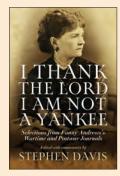
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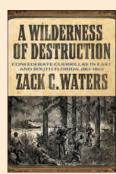
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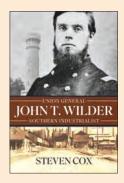
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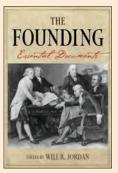
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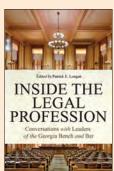
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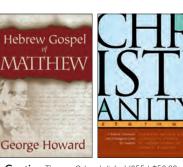
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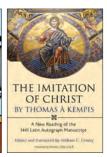
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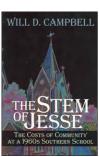
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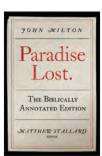
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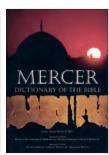












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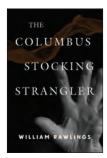
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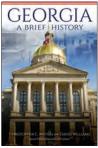
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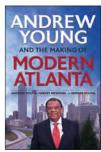
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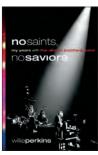


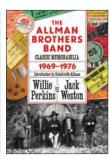












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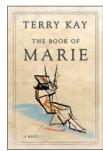
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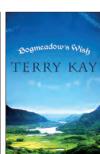
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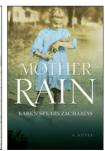
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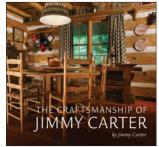
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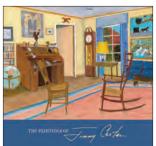
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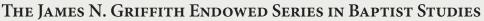
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