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Book reviews: A History of the Tennessee Supreme Court

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Now that the 2004 election is over, it seems like a good time to remind new officeholders as well as reelected incumbents of the importance of libraries to the health of the nation, and of the need for their support for libraries. In our district in Washington County, we have a new representative to the Tennessee legislature who promises to set up a public forum to find out the concerns of his constituents. My wife and I plan to attend and let him know our thoughts. In many areas the local chapters of the League of Women Voters will be setting up "meet your elected officials" events to provide the citizens of Tennessee with opportunities to talk to their representatives. Then of course, TLA sponsors Library Legislative Day so that we can go to Nashville and make sure that our public servants understand what we do and why it is important.

Beyond the state level, you can contact our representatives in Washington D.C. You can telephone Senator Bill Frist's office at 202-224-3344 or e-mail him from his website: http://frist.senate.gov/. Senator Lamar Alexander also provides his telephone number 202-224-4944 and the opportunity to e-mail him at: http://alexander.senate.gov/index.html. And then of course, our House members have their websites with contact information.

Now that President Bush is contemplating what the next four years will hold, we have a special opportunity to remind him that libraries represent a fundamental value of our society. After all, his wife is a former school librarian and a great reader, and consequently must be an advocate for libraries in the presidential household as well as through her foundation. The president's web address is: http://www.whitehouse.gov. Let his administration know what constituents in one of the "red states" expect during his second term.

In this issue of Tennessee Librarian, Scott Cohen interviews Jim Rettig, University Librarian at the University of Richmond and reference innovator. I read this interview with particular interest because Jim was reference department head in my first library job at the University of Illinois at Chicago. We are also publishing the 2003 Tennessee Bibliography, the latest in our annual list of books about Tennessee, about Tennesseans, or by Tennessee authors. To complement the bibliography, Marie Jones has put together a webliography of sites for authors represented in the bibliography as well as sites devoted to Tennessee authors in general.

Mark Ellis, TL Editor
This twenty-first annual Tennessee Bibliography consists of books published in 2003, which are about Tennessee or by Tennessee authors. Also included are titles published earlier, which have not previously been included in the bibliography. Government publications are generally omitted. An asterisk is used to designate juvenile books. Brief annotations are provided when the title does not indicate why the entry has been included.


Bass, William M. and Jon Jefferson. *Death's Acre: Inside the Legendary Forensic Lab the Body Farm Where the Dead Do Tell Tales.* New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2003. The “Body Farm” is a three acre fenced-off lot behind the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville used for forensic research.


By His Grace and for His Glory: Celebrating a Century with Bellevue Baptist Church. (Memphis, Tenn.). Cordova, Tenn.: Bellevue Baptist Church, 2003.


Cheatham is a professor at Cumberland University.


Hatchett, Marion J. *Folklife Along the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003. Hatchett is a professor at the University of Tennessee.


Jarmon, Laura C. *Wishbone: Reference and Interpretation in Black Folk Narrative*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003. The author is a professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin.


Jones, John Americus and Jennings Andrew Jones. *Among the Hills of Tennessee*. Murfreesboro, Tenn.: Publications and Graphics Department, Middle Tennessee State University, 2003.


Ramsey, J. G. M. *The Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century: Comprising Its Settlement, as the Watauga Association, from 1769 to 1777; a Part of North-Carolina, from 1777 to 1784; the State of Franklin, from 1784-1788; a Part of North-Carolina, from 1788-1790; the Territory of the United States, South of the Ohio, from 1790 to 1796; the State of Tennessee, from 1796 to 1800*. Baltimore, Md.: Clearfield Company, Inc., 2003.


Wheatley, Christopher J., and Kevin Joseph Donovan. **Irish Drama of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries.** Bristol [England]: Thoemmes, 2003. Donovan is a professor at Middle Tennessee State University.


Williams, M. Ryan. **Black Cinders, Golden Miles: The 130 Year History of Vanderbilt Track & Field.** Nashville: Vanderbilt University, Athletic Dept., 2003.


* Indicates a work of juvenile literature.

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Eloise Hitchcock, editor


In the early part of the twentieth century, the Southern Highlands region experienced what has come to be known as the Appalachian Craft Revival. This craft revival, begun by outsiders who came to the mountains to start settlement schools, had two main missions: to save traditional crafts from dying out and to create a source of income for people who had no other means of making a living. The reintroduction of weaving, which had begun to die out after the Civil War when commercially manufactured cloth became more readily available to mountain homes, is seen as the beginning of this movement. In *Weavers of the Southern Highlands,* Philis Alvic capably relates the history of the weaving movement by relating the stories of the men and women behind the weaving revival, such as Allen Eaton, William Goodell Frost, Anna Ernberg, Lucy Morgan, and Winogene Redding, and the weaving centers that they helped to start or operate.

Around the beginning of the twentieth century, a number of settlement schools were started throughout Appalachia. Although their main focus was education, they also tried to solve other social problems. Many of the men and women involved in this movement saw crafts, particularly weaving, as a solution to some of these problems because weaving could bring income into mountain families without altering traditional rural lifestyles. Ms. Alvic discusses the development of several important weaving centers such as Berea College’s Fireside Industries in Kentucky, Penland Weavers and Potters in North Carolina, and the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Independent weaving operations such as the Mary Hambidge’s Weavers of Rabun in Georgia, and the Churchill Weavers in Berea are also discussed.

*Weavers of the Southern Highlands* describes how the weaving center directors had to find and train women to weave, develop products that would appeal to the buying public, and create a market for the finished goods. Since many of these centers shared similar problems, the book also discusses joint efforts to resolve problems, such as the Conference of Southern Mountain Workers, the Southern Industrial Education Association, and the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild. This pooling of resources certainly helped to encourage the revival of weaving. The reader might even be surprised to discover that TVA played a role in the movement. Finally, Ms. Alvic tells how several of these centers eventually became popular craft schools that continue to attract people to their classes to this day.

Philis Alvic is eminently suited to write about weaving in the Appalachian region. Her interest in weaving began while a student at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1976, she received a Certificate of Excellence of the Handweavers Guild of America. Since the mid-1990s, Ms. Alvic has made five trips abroad as a volunteer consultant in weaving techniques, product design, and crafts marketing. Her book, *Weavers of the Southern Highlands,* is the result of ten years of research, and would make a wonderful addition to any public or academic library with an interest in Appalachian culture and crafts.

Kathy Campbell
Sherrod Library
East Tennessee State University


The author, Eddie M. Ashmore, is a Tennessee native, a former Lambuth University administrator, and a founding member of the International Police Historical Society. The book is a chronological narrative of the Jackson, Tennessee, Police Department from its creation in 1882 to the present. While Ashmore willingly admits the work is sympathetic to law enforcement, he does not hesitate “to show the force warts and all.” Proceeds from the book will be donated to Crime Stoppers of Jackson, Tennessee, Inc.

The work is divided into ten chapters, including a foreword written by Chief Richard S. Staples of the Jackson Police Department, a preface, an introduction, five appendices, notes, a bibliography, and an index. The book is also peppered with over two hundred photos and images, and is largely based on interviews, official reports, city minutes, and period newspapers. Ashmore has written an incredibly detailed account of a specific police department, and also placed that department within the context of larger state and national events such as the Civil Rights and Feminists Movements. The work assumes that the reader has a basic understanding of U.S. history, but a good introduction to the history of policing is provided.

Throughout the work, Ashmore uses quotes from his various resources generously. The author explains that he has used a
large number of long quotes intentionally for two reasons; one is to “flavor accounts with the words of individuals” and to “show the humanity of the beat cop.” For the most part, the use of extended quotations are appropriate and succeed in creating social and personal history in addition to an administrative history of the Jackson Police. For instance, in chapter three, “A New Era of Law and Order, Ashmore uses a variety of quotes in relaying the events surrounding the death of Officer Newton C. Perkins in 1876.

Overall, the work is very well written and researched. Ashmore has a clear and smooth writing style, and even though the book is packed to the gills with details, it does a good job of breaking the information down into manageable chunks. The work is recommended for all library types.

Lisa A. Ennis
Government Documents Librarian
Austin Peay State University


This work by a talented team of historians is the result of a their survey of Upper Cumberland architecture during the 1980s and 1990s. The eight counties that are covered include Putnam, Jackson, Overton, Fentress, Cumberland, White, Dekalb, and Smith counties. The authors do not cover four Upper Cumberland counties (Macon, Pickett, Roane, and Scott) due to space limitations. Their chronological approach begins with the log houses of the late eighteenth century and concludes with the modernistic styles of the mid-twentieth century. They cover sixteen styles in all, and offer technical descriptions of approximately 120 homes, churches, courthouses, and other types of buildings.

The book is packaged to appeal to the general reader. The inclusion of over 90 well-chosen photographs makes the technical descriptions of many of the buildings much easier to understand. We can see an example of a gambrel roof, better understand the true visual impact of Doric columns on a Greek revival home, or appreciate the elaborate features of Sparta First Presbyterian Church’s octagonal turret. Readers who are unfamiliar with architectural terms (e.g., gambrel, lintel, quoin) will frequently turn to the glossary. Finally, a bibliography lists over 250 sources for readers who want to learn more about the region or specific counties.

The authors excel in explaining how technological advances and economic conditions influenced architectural styles in the region. For instance, the advent of balloon framing and the growing number of lumber mills contributed to the popularity of I-Houses. Likewise, the expansion of railroads made it easier to acquire the materials necessary to build houses in the Queen Anne and Italianate styles. Nevertheless, the comparatively poor region limited the number of two-story Greek revival homes, and delayed the appearance of some styles.

The prevalence of architectural styles also varied significantly within the Upper Cumberland. The largest numbers of Upper Cumberland Federal-style homes were found in Smith County, which is not surprising because Smith is the oldest of the eight counties. The authors have made such distinctions more obvious by including maps that indicate the number of extant buildings (at the time of the survey) in each county for six of the styles. Readers can easily note that whereas Gothic Revival buildings were fairly evenly distributed across the region, Classical Revival and Craftsman/Bungalow buildings were heavily concentrated in Putnam County. An appendix lists the properties in each county that are on the National Register.

Carroll Van West’s Tennessee’s Historic Landscapes: A Traveler’s Guide (University of Tennessee Press, 1995) has sparked a renewed interest in Tennessee architecture. Works such as Upper Cumberland Historic Architecture build upon this interest by providing information about many more buildings in specific regions. Although this work will obviously be appropriate for public libraries in the region and academic libraries that support architecture and/or historic preservation programs, all libraries of any size should also consider purchasing it. Given the importance of Tennessee’s architecture to its cultural heritage, this book belongs on the shelves of more than just a handful of the state’s libraries.

Ken Middleton
James E. Walker Library
Middle Tennessee State University

Complete issue 54:3


This is the first in what the editor hopes will be an annual compendium of human-interest stories surrounding southern food ways. It is published in association with the Southern Foodways Alliance, Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. Many of the essays have previously appeared in newspapers or magazines. The essays are grouped by theme with the final section drawn from papers delivered at the Southern Foodways Symposium, which has been held annually since 1998 at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

The varied articles involving Southerners’ relationship to food deal with “People”, “Times”, “Things”, and “Places”. The authors describe the ambience surrounding certain foods, the memories evoked, the connectedness of fellow southerners in foreign lands (north of the Mason Dixon Line) when sharing a meal reminiscent of home. There are, of course, stories of barbecue; how it differs from state to state, and street to street. Foods that have a common name may not have any common ingredients depending on the locale. Brunswick stew is not the same in Virginia as it might be in Brunswick, Georgia. Jack Hitt hilariously recounts the South Carolina family feud over barbecue recipes, race, and heritage. Fred Chappell regales with his contrary ideas on ice tea; Brian Carpenter on Kentucky bourbon; the Lee brothers on boiled peanuts and other “endangered foods”. The description of Fredericksburg peaches made my mouth water for those juicy sweet treats and brought back my own fond memories of picking peaches in the Texas hill country. There are directions for eating a scuppernong “a ballet of teeth and tongue to separate seeds from pulp.” One can learn that the true signs of a southern luncheon are food either covered in crust or congealed. There are discussions of the many rituals, most especially funerals, associated with southern foods. One of the papers from the symposia contains an enlightening description of the female farm economy.

This is a wonderful book from which to snack or enjoy appetizer to dessert. It would make a great gift for that unfortunate soul who no longer has ready access to “down home cookin”. There is only one quibble: it would have been nice to have the contributors’ information on the first page of the essay so that the reader doesn’t have to keep flipping back and forth. There is a bibliography, but no index. Recommended for public libraries and academic libraries supporting popular culture or regional studies.

Margaret Cardwell
Plough Memorial Library
Christian Brothers University.


This book follows a handful of other volumes dedicated to the highest-level state courts. It is a sound contribution to this small but growing field of state court histories. Overall, this book is nicely organized. Each chapter, although written by a different author, seeks to place actions and issues before the Tennessee Supreme Court within the context of the social and political happenings of Tennessee, the South, and the nation during the time from 1790 - 1998. It is chronologically divided into periods that, although they cover varying amounts of time, are cohesive segments with respect to aspects of the Court. As noted in the preface, "the volume treats a number of issues, including the evolution of and organization of the Supreme Court, biographical information about the judges, the changing nature of the Court’s case load, judicial review, issues pertaining to judicial selection and tenure, the relationship between the Court’s work and the social and intellectual climate of the state, and governance of the bar."

Covering 208 years in one volume provides an overview to the events and persons involved. I found this work surprisingly readable for a historical work that focuses on the legal field. Some of the legal concepts and cases discussed would require a general knowledge of the field, or additional study of sources in the notes and bibliography to fully understand their relationship to the rest of the work. This book brings to life the larger sphere that the court operates within and attempts to inform the reader with the rationale for the courts actions and opinions.

There are three appendices. The first appendix consists of short biographies of the justices from 1790-1998, the time span of the book. The second appendix lists the "courts", naming each justice that sat on the court and providing an introductory paragraph that notes the changes in titles and numbers of justices and terms of service of each court. The third appendix contains the ubiquitous table of cases, without which no legal work would be complete. Endnotes are arranged by chapter and appear after the table of cases appendix. Another useful feature is a selective bibliography that covers manuscript collections, newspapers, state documents, contemporary published sources, books, articles, dissertations and theses. Also included in the back matter are short biographical descriptions of the authors and the editor, who are primarily history and law professors. Each biography includes a reference to a prior work that indicates the authors’ ongoing interest in the legal history. This book also includes a
The book is written for an educated adult audience. I would recommend this title as a must have for college and university libraries that collect state history or legal works. It is also a good selection for larger public libraries. With the index, bibliography, and biographies of the justices, it could help field reference questions, or be a starting place for research on any of the topics covered.

Cathy Cochran
College of Law Library
University of Tennessee


Charles M. Hudson’s book, Conversations with the High Priest of Coosa personalizes the history and myth of the Coosa, an ancient Native American tribe indigenous to the Southern Appalachian region. Hudson bases the novel on historical records written by Domingo de la Anunciacion, a Spanish friar who accompanied the Tristan de Luna expedition in 1559 – 1560 to frame the story. The original detailed accounts described the physical features of the Coosa people, their customs, and geographical information, but lacked observations of the culture’s temperament and belief structures.

The novel weaves dialogue between a fictionalized Domingo de la Anunciacion; Teresa, whose character is created from the female translator originally enslaved by the de Soto expedition in 1540; and Raven, a mystical sage and tribal elder created by Hudson. The structure verges on simplistic and transparent. Raven represents the culture and beliefs of the Coosa people that have been handed down through countless generations as well as his individual perspective. Teresa interprets Raven’s stories into Spanish and communicates with the Raven in the Coosa language on behalf of the friar. Domingo de la Anunciacion’s narrative represents medieval European thinking and provides a Western European interpretation of his experiences. Domingo de la Anunciacion’s narrative is problematic for the work. The sixteenth century priest does not provide an appealing persona to engage the reader in identification. The priest lacks flavor. His inner thoughts revolve exclusively around the teachings of Catholicism, the resulting condemnation of the Coosa society, and his anguish over lack of success in converting the Coosa.

The value of the book’s fictional structure is to present highly informative research in an illustrative format. The Raven’s fables provide entertainment and a window into the Coosa culture. They are based on anthropological research conducted by John Swanton, the Smithsonian anthropologist and preeminent collector of Southeastern Native American oral literature and James Mooney’s research of Cherokee lore. Hudson also incorporated folklore and customs of the Natchez and Tunica tribes as well as legends from Muskogean-speaking groups such as Creek, Koasati, Seminole, Choctaw, Chickasaw, etc. An extensive annotated list of sources is provided.

Hudson strives to paint a story of the Coosa people based on history and give the culture a complex and interesting humanity as well. Although individual characters in the book lack depth, Hudson succeeds in raising awareness of the Coosa people in a way that could potentially increase interest in further historical and anthropological study.

Rachel Kirk
James E. Walker Library
Middle Tennessee State University


If you buy no other gardening book this year, the book to purchase is Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee: The Spirit of Place. Margie Hunter has produced a book that will be beloved by general gardeners as well as specialists. It is actually three books in one: a basic botany guide, a short geological history of Tennessee and a detailed gardening book. Lavishly illustrated with color photography this book could also be used as a handy wildflower guide. Covering 450 plants native to Tennessee, Ms. Hunter is an avid gardener who understands what gardeners want to know. Plants are listed with nicknames and botanical names, as well as a phonetic pronunciation of each botanical name. The author includes size, growing, and propagation information along with the areas of the state in which each plant is normally found. Included are several plant charts listing site...
preferences and distinguishing characteristics and time of bloom. Information on freeze dates and growing seasons for different areas of the state, in addition to information on which plants are likely to become invasive nuisances, is invaluable information for all types of gardeners.

Using native plants will appeal to gardeners who want to save time by selecting easy to grow plants suited to the countryside, as well as the environmentally conscious and those who simply love the beauty of our native plants. Hunter, a Nashville resident, understands that the three divisions of Tennessee are distinct geographic areas with differing demands and addresses them as such. The book is thoughtfully organized for easy use and includes an index and a general bibliography. The four appendices contain a nursery list, a botanical garden list, native plant conference list and listings of state agencies that the reader might find of interest. The table of contents is detailed and comprehensive, and each chapter includes its own bibliography specific to its subject matter. Certainly, this title is the most comprehensive and encyclopedic book on Tennessee gardening in print. It should appeal both to beginning and expert gardeners, as well as amateur naturalists. This title is a highly recommended purchase for public and university libraries.

Susan Stovall, Director
Coffee County Lannom Memorial Library


In this small, but well written book, Marshall and her daughter give the reader a warm and friendly history of the Antioch community in southeastern Davidson County. The book focuses on the community located within a one-mile radius of what became the town depot. Based on memories, stories, interviews and documentary evidence, the first half of With Good Will and Affection... spans the community’s development from the late 1790’s to 1930. The second half of the book offers brief genealogical vignettes of the early families of Antioch.

The authors trace their own connections to the Antioch community back more than nine generations. Christine Marshall has researched the community for more than a quarter century, providing a balanced account of its development, including the heyday and decline of the town. There are brief mentions of the impact of the interstate highway and Hickory Hollow Mall on the history and future of Antioch.

The work is packed with photographs of both the former inhabitants of the community and the buildings that made up the vital area of Antioch. Many of those buildings are gone now, but they will live forever in Marshall’s work. All of the photographs are well identified. Also included are facsimiles of various documents relating to the community.

The organization of With Good Will and Affection... is similar to many community histories. It begins with the civil development, then the educational, followed by the religious aspects of the community and the family information. Marshall has included several appendices that will be of value to genealogists. She has also included a listing of the pioneers with the years of their land acquisitions extracted from the Davidson County Deed Indexes; a map detailing the locations of the 122 buildings and homes in the early Antioch community; and a listing of community deaths spanning 1955 to 1981, compiled by community resident Mrs. Gladys Carper. There is a detailed bibliography and footnotes as well as an “every name” index.

Not only will family researchers with a connection to the Antioch community enjoy this title, readers who are interested in small town life in the rural South will find With Love and Affection... a treat as well. Any library with an historical interest in the settlement of Davidson County or Middle Tennessee would do well to include this title in its collection.

Suzanne Robinson
Branch Manager, East Branch
Nashville Public Library


From Montezuma (Chester Co.) to Yum Yum (Fayette Co.), Miller compiles information about Tennessee place names and provides “the reasons for naming Tennessee’s hamlets, towns, and cities.” He claims that this book possesses “by far the best and broadest coverage of any similar work on Tennessee’s populated places.” An Ohio native and advertising copywriter, the author’s previous publications include Ohio Place-Names, as well as numerous fact articles, columns, photo spreads, and poetry. While the Encyclopedia of Tennessee contains major city and county names, Miller’s contribution provides coverage of
obscure place names such as Busy Corner (Coffee Co.), Gift (Tipton Co.), and Zu Zu (Fayette Co.), and it is this fact that heartily recommends the addition of this book to reference collections.

While the title’s value lies in its usefulness as a reference book, it could be read from cover to cover. The author writes simply and presents the information in a manner that is accessible for most levels of readers and researchers. Accordingly, the Tennessee Gazetteer is rich in historical information prior to its publication date, but falls short in providing contemporary information. Comprising just over eleven pages of selected cities and towns, place name entries in Speer’s Tennessee Handbook are comparable in content to Miller’s. However, Miller’s book lives up to his claim that it is the most comprehensive. After a quick comparison to The Tennessee Locator and the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History & Culture, as well as the other sources mentioned above, it is evident that Tennessee Place-Names contains unique, useful information. Like most guides of this type, entries are arranged alphabetically by name and followed by the name of the county in which it is located. Entries range from a brief sentence in the case of Diana (Giles Co.), “Contemporary county archivists can only speculate that this designation honored a woman residing in the area at the time of naming,” to Blythe Ferry (Rhea Co.), the longest entry containing sixteen sentences. Miller includes brief entries of county names at the back of the book. Libraries with Tennessee reference collections will be incomplete without this book.

Rebecca Tolley-Stokes  
Sherrod Library  
East Tennessee State University


Intended to be a collection of personal stories about life during a simpler time in a place that most of us know at least a little about, Bill Powell’s rendering of childhood and adolescence in Sevier County does not provide much fulfillment for the reader of this offering. As intriguing as the title makes this book sound, the content lacks the same enthusiasm and allure. In a book that is 158 pages long (including the Epilogue), it is difficult to think of this collection of 180-plus “encounters” as much more than brief recollections or vignettes, rather than fleshed-out stories. Many of them will spark remembrances of childhoods among readers, but readers may become more entranced in their own memories than in the ones supplied by Powell.

Most of Powell’s memories take up only a paragraph or two and seem to end abruptly, as though the author might not want to reveal too much to the reader, or as though there really might not have been so much to tell after all. The author has obviously led an interesting life, amidst interesting characters. For him to tease readers with these shortened versions of what were likely very engaging times, people, and places seems unfair at best. The work would likely be less disjointed if we had more story to go along with factual explanations of the way things used to be, and more details when Powell verges on letting us in on the stories that are lurking just beneath what he tells us through his writing.

While certainly not a horrible book, the author’s choice of arranging memories into such very short sections in Snakes, Grapevine Swings, and Slingshots makes the overall work seem more of a forced diary than a method by which to share memories as beloved stories from childhood. The lack of organization other than merely chronological makes the collection less appealing and less interesting than it might have been if organized differently. Add to this the fact that he has changed some names, and has used “very few… real full names,” the book really loses much of its chance to enhance local history collections. Recommended for those who are interested less in stories of living during the 1930’s and 1940’s in Sevier County than in the day-to-day, more factual existence during the period.

Chrissie Anderson Peters  
Wayne G. Basler Library  
Northeast State Technical Community College


Carroll Van West, Associate Professor at Middle Tennessee State University’s Center for Historic Preservation, has edited an important and fascinating book. The scope of the book is broad, covering African American history in Tennessee from the 1700s to nearly the present day, and is arranged in three sections: “The Era of Slavery”, “Emancipation, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow Tennessee”, and “The Struggle for Civil Rights.” There are twenty-two chapters, each of which was previously published in the Tennessee Historical Quarterly between
1979 and 2000. According to the introduction, the collection of essays “demonstrate[s] how historians have slowly come to integrate African American voices into their interpretations of Tennessee’s past, and how the people, places, and events of the state’s African American history point the way to new narratives of Tennessee history itself.”

The book covers different historical periods and sections of the state, and no matter what the time or place in Tennessee history, this work demonstrates that African Americans played a vital role in Tennessee history from the beginning. African Americans helped build towns and cities, kept households running, doctored people of all ages and colors, built social and religious communities, became ministers, and excelled in education. The essays also reveal a pattern: one of constant struggle of African Americans for simple human rights. These rights include those written in the Declaration of Independence: “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”. Even after slavery was abolished, African Americans often could not move and travel freely, had to struggle to participate in government, and were hurt or killed because of the color of their skin. These are things that are unimaginable to many people in today’s world. It is also hard to imagine having to deal with the threat of physical violence each day at school, as the students did during the Clinton desegregation crisis of 1956. It is difficult to realize that people of all races could not eat in the restaurant of their choice in Knoxville a few decades ago.

There are sixteen pages of interesting photographs as well as an index. Although all contributing authors have excellent scholarly credentials, their writings are accessible to the adult general reader. This is an important work that shows how African Americans played a vital role in Tennessee history and profoundly shaped that history for all people with their struggle for human rights. It also shows the reality and unreasonableness of prejudice and discrimination. This would be appropriate in all academic collections as well as public libraries.

Jennifer Newcome
Hardwick Johnston Memorial Library
Hiwassee College


What do you call a guitar player who knows only two chords?

Riddles like this one and jokes told by celebrities from the world of country music fill this book of humor. Billy Edd Wheeler, known as the “Dean of Country Humor,” is a songwriter and an inductee into the Nashville Songwriters Association International Hall of Fame. Judy Collins, Johnny Cash, Elvis, Neil Young, and many others have recorded his songs. With over thirty years of experience working in Nashville in the country music industry, he knows how important humor is to country music and the performers. He has compiled a book of riddles and jokes from some of the great artists and songwriters of country music.

Billy Edd Wheeler has dedicated the book to Chet Atkins, who died in 2001 and was arguably the best guitar player in the world. One chapter is a tribute to him with comments from friends and a few of his jokes. With additional contributions from Dolly Parton, Hank Williams, Ray Stevens, Janis Ian, Roger Miller, Mac Davis, and many others, the book is a small 129 pages.

The book is divided into twelve chapters with topics including home, friends, religion, work, play, and growing old. Photographs of some of the celebrities are included. Biographical information about the contributors is also included in a section at the back of the book. It was a very enjoyable read and could have been longer -- much longer -- without being tiresome. A good buy for libraries with country music collections.

Oh, and what do you call a guitar player who knows only two chords?
A music critic.

Margaret Casado
Hodges Library
University of Tennessee

Book Review Editor:
Eloise Hitchcock
Editor's note: Book Review Editorial Change

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Eloise Hitchcock for her service as Book Review editor for Tennessee Librarian. She has moved to North Carolina to become Assistant Director of Personnel & Planning at Western Carolina University. During her seven-year tenure with TL, she balanced with skill and efficiency the many tasks of book review editor -- collecting reviews, finding reviewers, supplying them with books, collecting and editing the reviews, and sending them to me. Although TL has experienced publishing delays from time to time, Eloise was always a source we could count to meet the deadlines for this important feature of the journal. We wish her well in her new position.

Rebecca Tolley-Stokes, Cataloging and Reference Librarian here at Sherrod Library, has been appointed our new Book Review Editor. Rebecca has experience in both technical and public services in public and special libraries as well as in her current position at ETSU. She has been reviewing books for Tennessee Librarian, Choice, and Library Journal for several years, and served as ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter Book Review Editor from 2001 to 2004. We are fortunate to have her join the editorial staff of TL.

Interview: Jim Rettig

Scott Cohen, Column Editor

Read interview here: http://faculty.jscc.edu/scohen/rettiginterview.html

This issue's interview is with Jim Rettig, University Librarian at University of Richmond. He earned his MALS at the University of Wisconsin at Madison after earning a BA and an MA in English at Marquette University.

Throughout his career he has been active in reference librarianship as practitioner, author, critic, theoretician, and reviewer. Prior to taking his present position in 1998, he held reference and administrative positions at Murray State University, the University of Dayton, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the College of William and Mary. He has made presentations and published numerous articles on reference librarianship, with a focus recently on its future and on the role of information fluency. From 1981 through 1999 he was author of the “Current Reference Books” column in the Wilson Library Bulletin and its Web successor, “Rettig on Reference.”

He has been active in the American Library Association and currently serves on its executive board and its Council. He has served as president of ALA’s Reference and Adult Services Division, has chaired the ALA Publishing and Organization committees, and has served on a variety of committees in ACRL, LAMA, and RASD/RUSA.

He contributed a chapter to and edited Distinguished Classics of Reference Publishing (Phoenix: Oryx Press, 1992), a collection of histories of landmark reference books. In 1993 it received the American Library Association’s G.K. Hall Award for Library Literature. He has also received the Isadore Gilbert Mudge Citation for contributions to reference librarianship, the Louis Shores-Oryx Press Award for achievement in reviewing, and the Information Access Corporation’s Information Authorship Award for the best article in Online in 1996-97."

About the interview column: This column is designed to introduce you to some of the most prominent librarians in our region and throughout the country who will discuss topics of concern to their colleagues.

I'd like to invite you to participate in planning future columns. Please send me names of librarians whose views and thoughts would be interesting to you and your colleagues.

If you could provide me with their e-mail addresses and/or phone numbers and what topics that they might discuss, that would enable me to contact them for the interview. Any questions that I might use in the interview would be greatly appreciated also. You will be given credit for your questions.
Send information to Scott Cohen (scohen@jscc.edu).

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Webliography: Tennessee Authors & Publications

Marie Jones

This Webliography provides two different sets of links. The first group is a list of sites about Tennessee authors and publications. The second set of links provides information on authors or books in this year's Tennessee Bibliography, or, when no specific author site is available, information on the book itself.

Sites about Tennessee Authors & Publications

Tennessee Authors, Past & Present
http://www.lib.utk.edu/refs/tnauthors/

Hosted by the University of Tennessee Libraries, this site is an encyclopedia of information about the many writers who have called Tennessee home. Entries feature brief biographies of authors and bibliographies of their primary works. A bibliography of selected secondary works is also included for most authors. All of the authors lived in Tennessee (at some point during their lives) and are people the compilers feel have made a significant contribution to Tennessee literature. Over 800 authors are listed; around 300 have biobibliographies.

Tennessee Authors of Adult Fiction, Poetry & Drama: 1970s - Present
http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/pubsvs/tnauthor.htm

This site, part of the Tennessee State Library and Archives Historical and Genealogical Information pages, is intended to update and supplement bibliographical works about Tennessee authors. This list includes authors with a strong connection to Tennessee writing since 1970. It includes known information about each author, and indicates by short title each post-1970 published monographic work (or piece in a Tennessee anthology).

CORE LIST OF TENNESSEE BOOKS SUGGESTED FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES
http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/pubsvs/corelist.htm

From the Tennessee State Library and Archives, this page lists recommended titles, arranged by region of the state.

About Tennessee Authors/Books in this year's bibliography

Arranged by author's last name. Jump to alphabetical listing using these links: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Anna Adams: The Bride Ran Away
http://www.eharlequin.com/cms/authors/authorDetail.jhtml?authorID=2

Elaine Marie Alphin: Davy Crockett
http://members.aol.com/elainemalphin/Index.html

Mark H. Anshel: Sport Psychology: From Theory to Practice
http://mtsu32.mtsu.edu:11368/

Edward L. Ayers: In the Presence of Mine Enemies: War in the Heart of America, 1859-1863
http://www.virginia.edu/history/faculty/ayers.html

Sandra L. Ballard & Patricia L. Hudson: Listen Here: Women Writing in Appalachia

Tim Barnwell: The Face of Appalachia: Portraits from the Mountain Farm
http://webpages.charter.net/timbarnwell1/profile.html

Tracy Barrett: Cold in Summer
http://www.tracybarrett.com/

William M. Bass: Death's Acre: Inside the Legendary Forensic Lab the Body Farm Where the Dead Do Tell Tales
http://gsm.utmck.edu/faculty/wbass.htm

Dr. William Bass & Jon Jefferson (interview on WNYC)
http://www.wnyc.org/shows/lopate/episodes/10282003

Robert Bernasconi: Race and Racism in Continental Philosophy
http://cas.memphis.edu/philosophy/faculty.html

Beverly G. Bond: Memphis in Black and White
http://www.people.memphis.edu/~bgbond/

Janann Sherman: Memphis in Black and White
http://cas.memphis.edu/~sherman/

Pat Booth: Nashville
http://www.twbookmark.com/authors/20/1505/

Michael R. Bradley: With Blood and Fire: Life Behind Union Lines in Middle Tennessee, 1863-65
http://oneweb.utc.edu/~tnwriter/authors/bradley.michael.html

Philip N. Bredesen: The Family Budget
http://www.wordiq.com/definition/Phil_Bredesen
http://www.state.tn.us/governor/biography.htm

Andrew Burstein: The Passions of Andrew Jackson
http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~andrew-burstein/
Benjamin Hubbard Caldwell & Robert Hicks: *Art of Tennessee*
http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1026/is_3_164/ai_108196780/pg_2

Anthony P. Cavender: *Folk Medicine in Southern Appalachia*
http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-6904.html

Tim Champlin: *Raiders of the Western & Atlantic* and *The White Lights Roar: A Western Story*
http://oneweb.utc.edu/~tnwriter/authors/champlin.tim.html
http://www.cowboydirectory.com/C/c--art.html

Marshall Chapman: *Goodbye, Little Rock and Roller*
http://www.tallgirl.com/bio

Loletta Clouse: *The Homesteads*
http://oneweb.utc.edu/~tnwriter/authors/clouse.loletta.html
http://www.tmwi.org/tmwi/2003conf.html#Clouse

Dianna Crawford: *An Echo of Hope* and *Lady of the River*
http://www.tyndalefiction.com/authors/showauthor.asp?aid=73

Don Cusic: *It's the Cowboy Way! : The Amazing True Adventures of Riders in the Sky*
http://www.wisc.edu/wisconsinpress/books/2661.htm

Top

Alan M. Dershowitz: *Supreme Injustice: How the High Court Hijacked Election 2000*
http://www.palmdigitalmedia.com/author/detail/1630
http://ebooks.palmone.com/author/detail/1630

Kieran Doherty: *Andrew Jackson: America's 7th President*
http://kierandoherty.com/index.html

Barbara R. & Brett H. Duncan: *Cherokee Heritage Trails Guidebook*
http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-5825.html

Top

John Guilford Earnest & Charles Swift Northen: *All Right Let Them Come: The Civil War Diary of an East Tennessee Confederate*
http://www.tn-humanities.org/author03.htm

John Egerton: *Generations: An American Family, 20th anniversary ed*
http://oneweb.utc.edu/~tnwriter/authors/egerton.j.html
http://www.tn-humanities.org/author03.htm
http://www.vanderbilt.edu/virtualschool/eger1.htm

Scott Elliott: *Coiled in the Heart*
http://www.penguininputnam.com/static/rguides/us/coiled_in_heart.html

Patricia Bernard Ezzell: *TVA Photography: Thirty Years of Life in the Tennessee Valley*
http://www.upress.state.ms.us/catalog/fall2003/tva_photography.html
Walt Foreman: *Fairy Tale*
http://www.pshares.org/issues/article.cfm?prmArticleID=4814
http://www.tn-humanities.org/author03.htm

William H. Frist: *Good People Beget Good People: A Genealogy of the Frist Family*
http://www.visi.com/juan/congress/cgi-bin/newmemberbio.cgi?member=TNSR&site=ctc
http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/m-wfsection+article+articleid-658.html

William Gay: *The Long Home*
http://www.macadamcage.com/sitefiles/AuthorDetail_newasp?au_id=16

Howard Gillman: *The Votes That Counted: How the Court Decided the 2000 Presidential Election*
http://www.usc.edu/dept/polsci/gillman/HomeContactInfo.html

http://www.poets.org/poets/poets.cfm?prmID=176
http://www.umich.edu/~eng499/people/giovanni.html
http://project1.caryacademy.org/echoes/poet_Nikki_Giovanni/DefaultNikkiGiovanni.htm
http://voices.cla.umn.edu/newsite/authors/GIOVANNInikki.htm
http://pages.ivillage.com/crowyne/nikkibio.html

http://www.mtsu.edu/~mgmtmkt/faculty/market/tgraeff.htm

http://www.bsu.edu/csh/anthro/groover.htm

Hollis Hampton-Jones: *Vicious Spring*
http://www.penguin.co.uk/nf/Author/AuthorPage/0,,0_1000060553,00.html?sym=BIO

Daniel E. Harmon: *Andrew Jackson*
http://www.danieleltonharmon.com/dehbio.htm

Marion J. Hatchett: *A Companion to the New Harp of Columbia*
http://www.sewanee.edu/theology/Facultyfolder/Hatchett.html

Benita J. Howell and Susan Stonich: *Folklife Along the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River*
http://www.uweb.ucsb.edu/~cheryl_bk/cuac/speakers3.htm

Charles M. Hubbard: *Lincoln Reshapes the Presidency*
http://www.lincoln-institute.org/whoweare.html

David Hunter: *Trailer Trash from Tennessee: A Childhood Memoir*
Lucas Johnson: *Finding the Good*
http://www.thomasnelson.com/consumer/AuthorDetail.asp?CreatorID=2386

Linda Winstead Jones: *On Dean’s Watch*
http://ebooks.palmone.com/author/detail/9178

Cameron Judd: *The Border Men, The Canebrake Men, The Overmountain Men, and Shootout in Dodge City: Book One in the Carrigan Brothers Series*
http://oneweb.utc.edu/~tnwriter/authors/judd.cameron.html
http://ebooks.palmone.com/author/detail/2734

Daisy King: *Recipes from Miss Daisy’s, 25th anniversary ed*
http://lib.williamson-tn.org/Local%20Authors/K.htm#_King,,_Daisy

William Payne King: *Follow the Green Line: A Novel* and *"Fop": An American Detective*
http://www1.xlibris.com/bookstore/author.asp?authorid=8309

Patricia K. Kummer: *Tennessee*
http://www.scbwi-illinois.org/Kummer.html

Louis M. Kyriakoudes: *The Social Origins of the Urban South: Race, Gender, and Migration in Nashville and Middle Tennessee, 1890-1930*
http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-5781.html
http://www.usm.edu/history/faculty2.html

Bob Lantz: *Tennessee Rivers: A Paddler’s Guidebook*
http://www.tennesseestatecenter.com/1572332328_Tennessee_Rivers_About_the_Author.shtml

Jim Lewis: *The King Is Dead*

Andria Lisle: *Waking up in Memphis*
http://www.rocksbackpages.com/writers/lisle.html

Carolyn Livingston: *Charles Faulkner Bryan: His Life and Music*

Michael A. Lofaro: *Daniel Boone: An American Life*
http://web.utk.edu/~english/gf_lofaro.php

Judy Lowe: *Month-by-Month Gardening in Tennessee and Kentucky*

Nelson Lund: "*Equal Protection, My Ass!*: Bush v. Gore and Laurence Tribe’s Hall of Mirrors"
Brian Mansfield: *Ring of Fire: A Tribute to Johnny Cash*
http://www.nelsonministryservices.com/nms/bio.asp?cid=2292

Les Leverett: *Ring of Fire: A Tribute to Johnny Cash*

Richard Marius: *An Affair of Honor*
http://www.randomhouse.com/knopf/authors/marius/index.html

Jeanne McDonald: *Water Dreams*
http://oneweb.utc.edu/~tnwriter/authors/mcdonald.j.html

Carolyn McSparren: *House of Strangers*
http://www.eharlequin.com/cms/authors/authorDetail.jhtml;jsessionid=3FQWAA2IGFRERLAUEAKCAOQ?authorID=138&type=bio

Jon Meacham: *Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship*
http://www.randomhouse.com/randomhouse/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=0-8129-7282-1

Chad Montrie: *To Save the Land and People: A History of Opposition to Surface Coal Mining in Appalachia*
http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-7188.html

MariJo Moore: *The Diamond Doorknob*
http://www.amerinda.org/newsletter/0398/marijo.html

Melvin E. Page: *Colonialism: An International, Social, Cultural, and Political Encyclopedia*
http://www.etsu.edu/cas/history/fac.htm

William Pepper: *An Act of State: The Execution of Martin Luther King*
http://www.versobooks.com/books/nopqrs/nopq-titles/pepper_w_act_state.shtml

Jeanne Ray: *Eat Cake: A Novel*
http://www.bookbrowse.com/dyn_author/authorID/646.htm
http://www.randomhouse.com/crown/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=060961004X#bio

http://www.southernscribe.com/reviews/folklore/serpents_mardi_gras.htm

Jack Rentfro: *Cumberland Avenue Revisited: Four Decades of Music from Knoxville, Tennessee*
http://www.knoxvillewritersguild.org/rentfro.htm

Laura Purdie Salas: *The Wilderness Road, 1775*
http://ourcreativespace.com/laurasalas/
John A. Simpson: *Edith D. Pope and Her Nashville Friends: Guardians of the Lost Cause in the Confederate Veteran*
http://160.36.212.141/FMPro?-db=seascat-&-format=s01detail.htm-&-lay=web&recordno=C07013-&-find=

Carl Edward Skeen: *1816: America Rising*

P. Allen Smith: *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home*
http://www.pallensmith.com/features/allen/index.html

Matt Spruill: *Storming the Heights: A Guide to the Battle of Chattanooga*

George Edward Stanley: *Andrew Jackson, Young Patriot*
http://www.cameron.edu/~georges/

Michael Streissguth: *Ring of Fire: The Johnny Cash Reader*
http://www.perseusbooksgroup.com/dacapo/author_detail.jsp?id=270272

Michal Strutin: *History Hikes of the Smokies*
http://www.michalstrutin.com/bio.htm

Clifford B. Sulham: *Herckamer and the House That Was(n’t) There*
http://www.scifan.com/writers/ss/SulhamBClifford.asp

Samantha Jayne Sulham: *Herckamer and the House That Was(n’t) There*
http://www.scifan.com/writers/ss/SulhamJSamantha.asp

Walter Sullivan: *Sojourn of a Stranger*
http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/speccol/sullivanw_bio.shtml

Don Sundquist: *The Courage to Make a Difference: The Sundquist Years, 1995-2003*
http://explanation-guide.info/meaning/Don-Sundquist.html
http://www.tbr.state.tn.us/board_members/Governor_Don_Sundquist.htm

Marjorie Julian Spruill: *Mississippi Women: Their Histories, Their Lives*
http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/features/feature37/era_ms.html (near bottom of page)

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Phyllis Tickle: *The Shaping of a Life: A Spiritual Landscape and What the Heart Already Knows: Winter’s Sacred Days*
http://oneweb.utc.edu/~tnwriter/authors/tickle.phyllis.html
http://www.phyllistickle.com/aboutauthor.html
http://www.explorefaith.org/bio.tickle.html

Barbara Toner: *Cracking America*
http://www.randomhouse.co.uk/catalog/author.htm?authorID=2347
http://www.barbaratoner.com/
Thomas Noel Turner & James Rice: *Country Music Night Before Christmas*
http://www.pelicanpub.com/Bio.asp?artist=James%20Rice

Dave Urbanski: *The Man Comes Around: the Spiritual Journey of Johnny Cash*
http://chbookshop.co.uk/product.asp?id=2381569

Paul J. Vanderwood: *Night Riders of Reelfoot Lake*
http://www.wisc.edu/wisconsinpress/books/1010.htm

Marcos McPeek Villatoro: *Minos: A Romilla Chacón Mystery*
http://www.marcosvillatoro.com/biography.htm
http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/iswfest/html/instructor/Villatoro.html

Robert Penn Warren: *Flood: A Romance of Our Time*
http://www.robertpennwarren.com/biography.htm
http://www.enotes.com/all-kings/20369
http://www.enotes.com/blackberry-winter/22573

Christopher J. Wheatley & Kevin Joseph Donovan: *Irish Drama of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*
http://www.mtsu.edu/~english2/Profiles/kdonovan.html

Marianne Wiggins: *Evidence of Things Unseen: A Novel*
http://www.readinggroupguides.com/guides/almost_heaven-author.asp
http://www.nationalbook.org/nba2003_mwiggins.html#bio
http://www.barnesandnoble.com/writers/writerdetails.asp?cid=1183753

Carolyn Nur Winstrand: *Ida B. 'n the Lynching Tree: A Record of Race History Dramatized for the Stage*
http://www1.xlibris.com/bookstore/author.asp?authorid=6743

http://www.vanderbilt.edu/vupress/wolfe2.htm
http://www.palmdigitalmedia.com/author/detail/5888

Richard Yancey: *A Burning in Homeland*
http://www.authortracker.com/author.asp?a=authorid&b=26442

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