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Apparently, slumber parties in the mid-South 1970s were plied with a strange ritual. At midnight attendees would gather before a mirror and chant “I don’t believe in the Bell Witch” three times to see if the legendary spook would appear alongside their own reflections—a practice that echoes the “Bloody Mary” pattern following the execution of Mary Queen of Scots centuries ago. But that small circuit of preteen gatherings was neither the beginning nor the end of the Bell Witch’s travels. Indeed, the legend of the haint who terrorized the Bell family of Adams, Tennessee, is one of the best-known pieces of folklore in American storytelling—featured around the globe in popular-culture references as varied as a 1930s radio skit and a 1980s song from a Danish heavy metal band. Legend has it that “Old Kate” was investigated even by the likes of future president Andrew Jackson, who was reported to have said, “I would rather fight the British ten times over than to ever face the Bell Witch again.”

While dozens of books and articles have thoroughly analyzed this intriguing tale, this book breaks new ground by exploring the oral traditions associated with the poltergeist and demonstrating her regional, national, and even international sweep. Author Rick Gregory details the ways the narrative mirrors other legends with similar themes and examines the modern proliferation of the story via contemporary digital media. 

*The Bell Witch in Myth and Memory* ultimately explores what people believe and why they believe what they cannot explicitly prove—and, more particularly, why for two hundred years so many have sworn by the reality of the Bell Witch. In this highly engaging study, Rick Gregory not only sheds light on Tennessee’s vibrant oral history tradition but also provides insight into the enduring, worldwide phenomenon that is folklore.

**RICK GREGORY** received MA and PhD degrees in history from Vanderbilt University. He is a local historian and lives in Adams, Tennessee, the home of the Bell Witch Legend.
Having skyrocketed from six to fourteen teams between 1966 and 1970, leaders of the National Hockey League had planned to wait a few more years before expanding any further. But as its rivalry with the World Hockey Association intensified, competition for markets rose, and the race for continued expansion became too urgent to ignore. Not to be outdone, the NHL introduced two new teams in 1971: one in Long Island, New York, and one in Atlanta, Georgia.

For its own part, Atlanta had been watching as White residents left the city for the suburbs over the course of the 1960s. As the turn of the decade approached, city leadership was searching for ways to mitigate white flight and bring residents of the surrounding suburbs back to the city center. So when a stereotypically White sport came to the Deep South in 1971 in the form of the Atlanta Flames, ownership saw a new opportunity to appeal to White audiences. But the challenge would be selling a game that was foreign to most of Atlanta’s longtime sports fans.

Filling a significant gap in scholarly literature concerning race and hockey within US history, White Ice: Race and the Making of Atlanta Hockey is a response to two simple questions: How did a cold-climate sport like hockey end up in a majority Black city in the Deep South? And why did it come when it did? Over seven chronological chapters, Thomas Aiello unpacks the history, culture, and context surrounding these questions, teasing out what the story of the Atlanta Flames can teach us about the NHL, Atlanta, race, and the business of professional sports expansion.

THOMAS AIELLO is a professor of history at Valdosta State University in Georgia. He is the author or editor of nineteen books, including Dixieball: Race and Professional Basketball in the Deep South, 1947-1979.
The history of the NBA’s expansion Grizzlies and the way the franchise made its way from western Canada to the mid-southern United States is one of importance for all true NBA fans as well as for historians of the game. This is way more than X’s and O’s; it’s a look at the economic, political, and social forces that make the NBA work and, by extension, the forces that make free enterprise itself work.”
—Rick Telander, senior sports columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times and a member of the National Sports Media Association Hall of Fame

The Grizzlies Migrate to Memphis
From Vancouver Failure to Southern Success

ŁUKASZ MUNIOWSKI

Following the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona and the success and celebrity of the Dream Team, the NBA became a global sensation. Around the same time, and despite ardent warnings from his parents, Arthur Griffiths purchased an NBA team that would become the expansion Vancouver Grizzlies. Who better to restore the Dream City, he thought, than the NBA?

Expansion franchises went to Vancouver and Toronto—the Canadian cities of choice as the NBA grew its international brand. But while Toronto thrived under the rising star of Vince Carter, Vancouver floundered under serial mismanagement. Six seasons wasted, the Grizzlies relocated to Memphis, where they clawed their way to victories both on the court and in the hearts of the city’s eager fanbase. More than two decades later, the Memphis Grizzlies continue to win, claiming NBA records for defeating, as an eight-seed club, the one-seed San Antonio Spurs in the 2011 playoffs (only the fourth franchise to have done so) and for defeating, in 2021, the Oklahoma City Thunder 152–73, the largest margin of victory in NBA history.

So why did the NBA fail in Vancouver but thrive in Memphis? This is the question Łukasz Muniowski seeks to answer in The Grizzlies Migrate to Memphis: From Vancouver Failure to Southern Success. In his pursuit, he explores how the Vancouver Grizzlies came to be, the team’s evolution and eventual relocation to Memphis, the success the Grizzlies found there, and the differences between the two phases of this NBA franchise.

Rooted strongly in media coverage of the Grizzlies franchise in both Vancouver and Memphis, The Grizzlies Migrate to Memphis offers a thoughtful blend of storytelling and analysis that will interest scholars and NBA enthusiasts alike.

ŁUKASZ MUNIOWSKI is an assistant professor at Szczecin University in Poland. He is the author of four books on the history of the NBA, including most recently The Sixth Man: A History of the NBA’s Best Off the Bench.

“Sport and Popular Culture
Brian M. Ingrassia, Series Editor

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ŁUKASZ MUNIOWSKI

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Cherokee National Forest Hiking Guide
3rd Edition
Edited by William H. Skelton
with Roger Jenkins and Richard Harris

First published in 1992, Cherokee National Forest Hiking Guide has been a vital companion to thousands who have explored the 650,000-acre Cherokee National Forest. Now in its third edition, the guide has been expanded once again to cover numerous additional trails and the almost 20,000 acres of additional congressionally designated Wilderness in the decades since the second edition. Stretching across the Tennessee–North Carolina state line, the Cherokee National Forest includes much of the western slopes of the southern Appalachian Mountains, north and south of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The area encompasses a tremendous diversity of wildlife, vegetation, and scenic vistas of high mountain peaks and beautiful creeks, waterfalls, and valleys. Over 840 trail miles and 226 trails are described and mapped in the book. These trails and footpaths wind throughout this wildlife haven, inviting everyone who loves the outdoors—hikers, backpackers, hunters, anglers, and horseback riders—to explore its natural beauty. The Cherokee National Forest Hiking Guide provides maps and specific directions for all the forest’s current trails along with a wealth of general information on its present and past wildlife, vegetation, and geology, as well as a history of the forest’s human inhabitants—including the political battles that have been waged to protect it. This book remains the definitive guide to this expansive and alluring landscape sure to thrill outdoor enthusiasts for many generations to come.

William H. Skelton is a retired Knoxville attorney who served in the effort to protect congressionally designated wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest in the 1980s.

Roger Jenkins is a retired chemist and veteran hiker who was a significant voice in the fight to protect Cherokee National Forest Wilderness.

Richard Harris is a retired physician and leader in the maintenance of the Benton MacKaye Trail and other trails in the southern districts of the Cherokee National Forest.
Photographs courtesy of Roger Jenkins.
Higher Ground
A Century of the Visual Arts in East Tennessee

EDITED BY STEPHEN C. WICKS

PUBLISHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KNOXVILLE MUSEUM OF ART

Higher Ground: A Century of the Visual Arts in East Tennessee documents the Knoxville Museum of Art’s core collection of works by artists from or with close ties to East Tennessee from roughly the mid nineteenth to the late twentieth century. The book accompanies a permanent exhibition of the same name. Both book and exhibition make the case that the visual culture of Knoxville and its Appalachian environs is far more sophisticated, diverse, nuanced, and connected than most believe. KMA curator Stephen Wicks sets out the rationale behind Higher Ground and introduces the broad themes around which the book and exhibition are organized. Jack Neely, executive director of the Knoxville History Project, assembles a fascinating and richly detailed history of the visual arts in Knoxville. Dr. Robert Booker, an expert in local Black history, unearths a wealth of new information about Black artists in Knoxville, the hardships they endured, and their contributions to the story told by Higher Ground. And finally Dr. Susan Knowles surveys the history of the Tennessee marble industry, which is so closely intertwined with the region’s economic and cultural history.

Following the essays, the catalogue, with text by Wicks and lavishly illustrated with seventy-five full-page color plates, fixes around broad themes. “Grand Ambitions: Forging an Arts Community,” which encompasses the formation of a community of professional artists and their dialogue with contemporary currents of American art in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, is built around pioneering Impressionist Catherine Wiley who, with Hugh Tyler and Lloyd Branson, organized some of the first major art exhibitions in the South. “Shaping a Regional Identity: Mountain Vistas and Urban Life,” features artists who documented the hardscrabble reality of industrial Knoxville (and includes such great photographers as Henri Cartier-Bresson and Danny Lyon) as well as majestic mountain landscapes (by Charles Krutch, Rudolph Ingerle, and Ansel Adams) of the nearby Great Smoky Mountains. “Joseph and Beauford Delaney” celebrates the achievements of two prodigious Black artists who left their Knoxville hometown to achieve national and international prominence, with a particularly rich selection from Beauford’s Paris years of the 1950s and 1960s. “The Knoxville 7” focuses on a progressive group of disparate artists united by their common interest in cultivating Modernism in local soil in the 1950s and 1960s. A final section is dedicated to the work of Black artist Bessie Harvey, an East Tennessee visionary who rose from poverty to achieve national recognition late in the twentieth century.

My Dearest Lilla
Letters Home from Civil War General Jacob D. Cox

EDITED BY GENE SCHMIEL

Jacob D. Cox experienced more facets of the Civil War than most officers: by land and sea, in both Western and Eastern Theaters, among the inner political circles of Ohio and Washington, DC, in territories hostile and friendly, amidst legal conflicts both civilian and military, and in the last campaigns in Tennessee and North Carolina. The Union general capitalized on his experience by penning his two-volume *Military Reminiscences of the Civil War*, one of the war's finest memoirs and arguably the best by a nonprofessional soldier, as well as *Atlanta* and *The Battle of Franklin*, both definitive studies for nearly a century. In 2012, Gene Schmiel, Cox's biographer, learned of a cache in the Oberlin College archives of 213 letters Cox wrote to his wife, Helen, during the war. Schmiel recognized these documents as a ready resource for Cox as he wrote his histories, and many stand as first drafts of Cox's analyses of the military and sociopolitical events of the day.

Helen Finney Cox (her husband affectionately referred to her as “Lilla”) was a mother of six and the daughter of Oberlin College president Charles Finney. These intimate and insightful wartime letters show both the fondness Cox had for his spouse and his respect for her as an intellectual equal. To Helen, the stoic, introverted statesman revealed—as he did to no one else—his inner thoughts and concerns, presenting observant, lucid, and informative reports and analyses of the war, his changing life, and his ambitions. This collection illustrates the life of a Gilded Age Renaissance man as he made the transition from untested soldier to respected general and statesman.

GENE SCHMIEL has a PhD in history from The Ohio State University. He was an assistant professor at St. Francis University, Pennsylvania, and a Department of State foreign service officer. His books include *Citizen-General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era* and *Searching for Irvin McDowell: The Civil War’s Forgotten General*.

“Cox’s wartime letters to his wife effectively package his first-hand personal observations on a variety of military, socio-cultural, even a sort of travelogue which form a basis for Cox’s historical work.” —Benjamin Franklin Cooling, author of *To the Battles of Franklin and Nashville and Beyond: Stabilization and Reconstruction in Tennessee and Kentucky, 1864–1866*

ALSO OF INTEREST
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Voices of the Civil War
Michael P. Gray, Series Editor
The Folly and the Madness
The Civil War Letters of Captain Orlando S. Palmer, Fifteenth Arkansas Infantry

EDITED BY THOMAS W. CUTRER

With a closeness perhaps unique to siblings orphaned young, Orlando and Artimisia “Missie” Palmer exchanged intimate letters throughout their lives. These letters (interspersed with additional letters from Oliver Kennedy, the Palmers’ first cousin) offer a clear and entertaining window into the life and times of a junior Confederate officer serving in the Western Theater of the Civil War.

Though he initially felt Americans would see “the folly and the madness” of going to war, Orlando enlisted as a private in what would become Company H of the First (later Fifteenth) Arkansas Infantry, informing his sister that he had volunteered “not for position, not for a name, but from patriotic motivation.” However, he was ambitious enough to secure an appointment as Maj. Gen. William Joseph Hardee’s personal secretary; he then rose to become his regiment’s sergeant major, his company’s first lieutenant, and later captain and brigade adjutant. Soldier letters typically report only what can be observed at the company level, but Palmer’s high-ranking position offers a unique view of strategic rather than tactical operations.

Palmer’s letters are not all related to his military experience, though, and the narrative is enhanced by his nuanced reflections on courtship customs and personal relationships. For instance, Palmer frequently attempts to entertain Missie with witticisms and tales of his active romantic life: “We have so much to do,” he quips, “that we have no time to do anything save to visit the women. . . . I am in love with several dozen of them and am having a huge time generally.”

_The Folly and the Madness_ adds depth to the genre of Civil War correspondence and provides a window into the lives of ordinary southerners at an extraordinary time.

THOMAS W. CUTRER is the prolific author or editor of more than a dozen books on the American Civil War and the American Southwest. He is professor emeritus of history and American studies at Arizona State University.
While Vicksburg and Gettysburg tend to receive the most attention among Civil War battles, it is Port Hudson that holds the record for the longest-running siege in American history. During the summer of 1863, US soldiers fought in the infamous heat and damp of Louisiana for forty-eight grueling days, having severely underestimated the Confederates’ determination to win.

Previous accounts of these events have rested on the leaders, well-known figures, and familiar faces of the Civil War. Here, social historian Christopher Thrasher draws from a robust collection of archival sources to tell the story of the common people’s experience throughout the Port Hudson Campaign: the soldiers who fought, the civilians who persisted, and the men who persevered, for those long days.

With more than forty illustrations and maps depicting the battles of Port Hudson and the defenses of the place itself, The Miserable Little Conglomeration builds upon previous scholarship to present a social history of this campaign through the eyes of the people who lived, fought, and died within it.

Filling a long-empty gap within Civil War scholarship, Thrasher’s fresh approach to the Port Hudson campaign will be of interest to Civil War scholars, students of Louisiana history, and younger learners who are interested in the voices of American history.

CHRISTOPHER THRASHER is an instructor of history and political science at Fayetteville Technical Community College. He is the author of Fight Sports and American Masculinity: Salvation in Violence from 1607 to the Present and Suffering in the Army of Tennessee: A Social History of the Confederate Army of the Heartland from the Battles for Atlanta to the Retreat from Nashville, winner of the 2022 Douglas Southall Freeman award.
Clockwise from top left: Battle for Port Hudson, Library of Congress; Letter from J. Wes Brown, courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives; South view of Port Hudson, Library of Congress; USS Richmond, Library of Congress.
“Let our citizens organize and drill,” urged the editor of the Pittsburgh Gazette in September 1862 as rumors of a Confederate attack on the North grew louder. Bank president John Harper, chair of the city’s Committee of Home Defense, confirmed Pittsburgh was ready to repel any raid: “Our people . . . are warlike,” he averred. The Keystone State played an indispensable role in the Federal war effort, and Pittsburgh does not fit the common “brother-on-brother” historiographical theme, which emphasizes divided loyalties between Federal and Confederate supporters. This volume argues that overwhelmingly pro-Union fervor—which cut across class, ethnic, and gender lines—mobilized the city for the war effort.

From its establishment as a frontier village, Pittsburgh evolved on a cultural path divergent from that of both the Northeast and the towns developing farther west. The city entered the war with close economic ties to the East, West, and South, yet also stood apart from them—too small to assume the political positions of cities like New York or Philadelphia that represented greater ethnic and class conflict and much greater tension over secession—yet large enough to manifest the complex institutions and systems of an urban center.

This book represents a significant contribution to the scholarship of both the Civil War and the city of Pittsburgh, adding to the growing historiography of regional and community studies of the war. With abundant illustrations of local people and places, research on Pittsburgh’s geographic importance and extensive industrial output, this book also provides compelling details on Black citizens’ efforts to oppose slavery, ultimately through their service in the Union Army. Civil War Pittsburgh was unique: its distinctive geography, politics, and economy set the conditions for ordinary citizens to directly participate in the war in myriad ways that connected the experiences of the battlefield and the home front.

ALLEN CHRISTOPHER YORK is assistant professor of history at Liberty University. He completed his PhD at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, following a distinguished military career.

“Using a variety of primary sources, including manuscripts, military records, and newspapers, York provides excellent detail on the nature of mobilization in Pittsburgh.”
—Stephen Rockenbach, author of War Upon Our Border: Two Ohio Valley Communities Navigate the Civil War
In January 1861, Virginia possessed the largest population of enslaved people within the United States. The institution of slavery permeated the state’s social, political, economic, and legal systems. While loyalty to the Union was strong in western Virginia as Civil War loomed, the state’s elected officials painted Abraham Lincoln and Republicans as abolitionists and reaffirmed Virginia’s commitment to slavery and white supremacy.

In this annotated volume of primary source documents from Secession Winter, Dwight T. Pitcaithley presents speeches by Virginians from the United States Congress, the Washington Peace Conference which had been called by Virginia’s general assembly, and the state’s secession convention to provide readers a glimpse into Virginia’s ultimate decision to secede from the Union. In his introductory analysis of the trial confronting Virginia’s leadership, Pitcaithley demonstrates that most elected officials wanted Virginia to remain in the Union—but only if Republicans agreed to protect slavery and guarantee its future. While secessionists rightly predicted that the incoming Lincoln administration would refuse to agree to these concessions, Unionists claimed that disunion would ultimately undermine slavery and lead to abolition regardless.

Virginia deliberated longer and proposed more constitutional solutions to avoid secession than any other state. Only after the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter and President Lincoln’s request for troops to suppress the “insurrection” did Virginia turn from saving the Union to leaving it.

Throughout Pitcaithley’s collection, one theme remains clear: that slavery and race—not issues over tariffs—provided the central theme in Virginia’s debates over secession.”

—Jonathan M. Atkins, author of Politics, Parties, and the Sectional Conflict in Tennessee, 1832–1861

Virginia Secedes
A Documentary History

EDITED BY DWIGHT T. PITCAITHLEY

In January 1861, Virginia possessed the largest population of enslaved people within the United States. The institution of slavery permeated the state’s social, political, economic, and legal systems. While loyalty to the Union was strong in western Virginia as Civil War loomed, the state’s elected officials painted Abraham Lincoln and Republicans as abolitionists and reaffirmed Virginia’s commitment to slavery and white supremacy.

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Throughout Pitcaithley’s collection, one theme remains clear: that slavery and race—not issues over tariffs—were driving Virginia’s debates over secession. Complete with a Secession Winter timeline, extensive bibliography, and questions for discussion, Virginia Secedes: A Documentary History is an invaluable resource for historians and students alike.

DWIGHT T. PITCAITHLEY worked for the National Park Service for thirty years, the final decade as its chief historian. Following his retirement in 2005, he taught history at New Mexico State University until 2019. He is the author/editor of The U.S. Constitution and Secession: A Documentary Anthology of Slavery and White Supremacy, Tennessee Secedes: A Documentary History, and Kentucky and the Secession Crisis: A Documentary History.
The Battles of Forts Henry and Donelson took place in February of 1862 and were early indicators of the success the US would have in the Civil War’s Western Theater. Due to Kentucky’s neutrality at the time, Brig. Gen. Daniel S. Donelson was instructed to find suitable sites for fortification along the Tennessee River but just inside the state boundaries of Tennessee. Forts Henry and Donelson were constructed in the summer of 1861 and were quickly identified by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant as strategic fortifications that, if conquered, would open the Federal Army’s path to Alabama and Mississippi. Fort Henry fell to Federal control on February 6, 1862, and Fort Donelson fell six days later. With the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers now open to Federal gunboats, Grant and his army would head southwest to Memphis and on to Vicksburg.

Decisions at Forts Henry and Donelson explores the critical decisions made by Confederate and Federal commanders during the battle and how these decisions shaped its outcome. Rather than offering a history of the battle, Hank Koopman hones in on a sequence of critical decisions made by commanders on both sides of the conflict to provide a blueprint of the Battles of Forts Henry and Donelson at their tactical core. Identifying and exploring the critical decisions in this way allows students of the battles to progress from a knowledge of what happened to a mature grasp of why events happened.

Complete with maps and a driving tour, Decisions at Forts Henry and Donelson is an indispensable primer, and readers looking for a concise introduction to these battles can tour this sacred ground—or read about it at their leisure—with key insights into the campaigns and a deeper understanding of the Civil War itself.

Decisions at Forts Henry and Donelson is the eighteenth in a series of books that will explore the critical decisions of major campaigns and battles of the Civil War.

HANK KOOPMAN was a dam safety engineer with the Colorado Division of Wildlife until his recent retirement.
Originally published in 1994, *Portrait of a Racist* is an astonishing biography of Byron De La Beckwith (1920–2001), who murdered Black civil rights leader Medgar Evers in June 1963. Written by Beckwith’s nephew by marriage, the book is based on dozens of exclusive personal interviews with Beckwith and people who knew him—as well as letters Beckwith wrote directly to the author. These unique sources provide as definitive a glimpse into the chilling psychological landscape of a man devoted to murderous intolerance as we will likely ever have. Although the slaying of Evers helped to galvanize the civil rights movement in the South, the killer evaded justice for three decades after the crime. Twice tried for murder in the 1960s—both times by all-male, all-White juries—Beckwith was finally convicted in a third trial in 1994.

Accompanied by new illustrations that have never been printed before, this new edition includes an afterword that recounts the author’s participation as a witness and his introduction of new evidence in the third trial. It also chronicles Beckwith’s last years of declining health behind bars, examines the rich scholarship on Evers and civil rights that has arisen since this book’s original appearance, and reflects on the catastrophic persistence of Beckwith’s ideology—Christian nationalism and white supremacy—in our own times.

REED MASSENGILL is a widely published writer and photographer. He is currently completing his first film-related book, entitled *Inspiration: Greta Garbo’s Seven Classic Film Collaborations with Director Clarence Brown.*
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Yankee Commandos
How William P. Sanders Led a Cavalry Squadron Deep into Confederate Territory
STUART D. BRANDES
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During the Potato Famine of the nineteenth century, about one million Irish people perished from starvation and disease, while more than two million fled the country in fear and desperation, with some 850,000 landing in New York City. After a difficult journey, many found themselves impoverished, taking dangerous jobs, and battling miserable living conditions in an unfamiliar urban landscape. These circumstances resulted in high rates of illness, injury, and death compared with other immigrant groups and native-born Americans.

In this profound study, Meredith B. Linn explores three kinds of afflictions—typhus fever, tuberculosis, and work-related injuries—that disproportionately affected Irish immigrants, tracing how existing medical ideas and technologies intersected with American prejudices to further conspire against this once culturally distinct group. Linn makes a compelling case for how Americans’ interpretations of the visible bodily changes wrought by typhus fever and injuries contributed to essentializing and dehumanizing biases against these new immigrants, while tuberculosis—with its symptoms of fatigue, pallor, and emaciation—enabled Americans to see individuals beyond stereotypes and to recognize the equal humanity of the Irish.

Drawing upon extensive archaeological records, folkloric sources, and historical documents, Linn presents what she terms a “visceral historical archaeology”—a perspective rooted in historical archaeology and medical anthropology—to illuminate the experiences of these immigrants. She investigates their health-related ideas and practices and reveals their efforts to heal themselves using popular remedies from Ireland and several new American commodities. Laden with heartrending stories from real working-class Irish and their American doctors, this richly illustrated book provides new perspectives about urban experience in the context of the Irish diaspora and invites contemplation about how illness, injury, and healing have affected the lives and reception of newcomers to the US.

Meredith B. Linn is assistant professor of historical archaeology at the Bard Graduate Center. She is coauthor, with Nan A. Rothschild and Diana diZerega Wall, of An Archaeological Investigation of the Seneca Village Site.
“On the day that Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne, was assassinated, Tennesseans worried about the weather,” Carole Bucy writes. Indeed, the war that began in Europe in 1914 was unimaginably remote from Tennessee—until it wasn’t.

Drawing on a depth of research into a wide array of topics, this vanguard collection of essays aims to conceptualize World War I through the lens of Tennessee. The book begins by situating life in Tennessee within the greater context of the war in Europe, recounting America’s growing involvement in the Great War. As the volume progresses, editor Michael E. Birdwell and the contributors weave together soldier narratives, with themes of politics and agribusiness, African American history, and war and memory to paint a picture of Tennessee’s Great War experience that is both informative and gripping.

An essential addition to the broader historiography of the American experience during World War I, this collection of essays presents Tennessee stories that are close to home in more than just geography and lineage. By relating international conflict through the eyes of Tennesseans, editor Michael E. Birdwell and the contributing authors provide new opportunities for academics and general readers alike to engage with the Great War from a unique and—until now—untold perspective.

MICHAEL E. BIRDWELL was a history professor at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville. He was the author of Celluloid Soldiers: The Warner Bros. Campaign against Nazism. Along with W. Calvin Dickinson, he was also the coeditor of Rural Life and Culture in the Upper Cumberland and People of the Upper Cumberland: Achievements and Contradictions. He passed away in 2022 after a long battle with cancer.
Memphis Hoops is a must-read for anyone interested in Memphis basketball or those looking to better understand the city’s racial divide in the wake of the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.”
—ADAM J. CRIBLEZ, JOURNAL OF SPORT HISTORY

Memphis Hoops
Race and Basketball in the Bluff City, 1968–1997
KEITH B. WOOD
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Through the Mountains gives us fresh perspectives on the natural and cultural history of the French Broad River watershed in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. As John Ross leads us through centuries of human habitation in the watershed, a clear theme emerges: the ongoing tension between economic development and environmental preservation, and the need for humankind to discover—or reclaim—sustainable ways of living within our natural world.”
—JIM STOKEY, SON OF WILMA DYKEMAN, AUTHOR OF THE FRENCH BROAD, PUBLISHED AS PART OF THE RIVERS OF AMERICA SERIES BY RINEHART IN 1955 AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE PRESS

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The Atlanta Daily Intelligencer covers the Civil War
STEPHEN DAVIS AND BILL HENDRICK
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From an accomplished Civil War historian and seasoned Atlanta journalist comes this immersive voyage into a wartime South you’ve never seen before. The Atlanta Intelligencer was the live local news of its day: where Atlantans got their information in real time, from the latest battlefield reports (and rumors) to sensational murder stories. Davis and Hendrick do a magnificent job of letting the newspaper speak for itself, all the while reminding you of the factual distance between what we think now and what people thought then. Fascinating and groundbreaking!”
—GORDON L. JONES, PH.D., SENIOR MILITARY HISTORIAN, ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER

The Atlanta Daily Intelligencer Covers the Civil War
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JENNÉ BLACKBURN

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Always an Athlete is a comprehensive study of the ways in which athletes climb what author Jenné Blackburn terms “The Mountain”—the journey from youth sports, through high school and college sports, to, finally, professional, and Olympic sports. This steady climb and success over a long period of time, however, sets up athletes for an inevitable fall off “The Cliff” upon their retirement from competition.

To help athletes in transition, Blackburn identifies “Three Pillars of the Cliff”—Mental Health, Physical Health, and Athlete Identity—and describes the issues that athletes have in each of these areas after they retire. After training, sacrificing, and devoting years, even decades, to a sport, athletes at every level will struggle within these three pillars. Blackburn believes that athletes must evolve from a competition mindset to a wellness mindset and match their new lifestyles in order to soften this transition into the real world. Fortunately, the “Inner Athlete” honed over many years of training and competition can show up as a “Parachute” as athletics recede and other priorities rise to the forefront of their new life.

Ultimately, Blackburn proposes cycling as a foundational and universal tool to help retired athletes resolve a lingering loss of identity, mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, and complications due to unchanged diet and exercise habits when they transition out of a performance-purposed existence. She advocates for fun community bike rides adjacent to sporting events and franchises—ultimately hoping to bring sports communities together around this critical yet overlooked topic for all athletes: life after competitive sports.

JENNÉ BLACKBURN is a graduate of Baylor University, where she competed on the women’s indoor volleyball team. She was awarded the Student Life Achievement Award, Baylor’s highest honor for a student, for her work pioneering programs in the sports department and other international initiatives. Her research interests include women’s empowerment and the intersection of sport and community development.
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