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## Book Review: "Hidden History: African American Cemeteries In Central Virginia" by Lynn Rainville

By: **Kelly McCallister**

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**51-6943** E359 2013-16721 CIP  
**Native memoirs from the War of 1812: Black Hawk and William Apess**, [ed.] by Carl Benn. Johns Hopkins, 2014. 184p bibl index afp ISBN 9781421412184, \$55.00; ISBN 9781421412191 pbk, \$29.95

This relatively brief volume takes a specialized look at two Native American memoirs from the 1830s—specifically, their passages regarding the War of 1812. The two principals are Black Hawk, a war chief of the Sauk, an independent Native nation allied with the British, and William Apess, a converted Christian Pequot minister fighting in the US army. Together, their stories make for a uniquely complementary take on one of the lesser-known but highly significant conflicts in US history. Because the memoirs of these two men do not focus solely on the War of 1812, editor Benn (Ryerson Univ., Canada) has provided the invaluable service of sifting through them and arranging the wartime passages into a comprehensible and coherent narrative. He provides explanatory and contextual annotations to clarify events and passages from the autobiographies. The volume includes paintings, drawings, and extensive endnotes (over 40 page's worth). Although it has a useful index as well as a detailed chronology, there are no actual entries, cross-references, lists of further reading, or other characteristics of a typical scholarly work. Nevertheless, this is a highly useful resource for any library's history collection. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ All levels/libraries.—*M. P. Tosko, University of Akron*

**51-6944** F820 2013-34058 CIP  
**Noel, Linda C. Debating American identity: southwestern statehood and Mexican immigration.** Arizona, 2014. 246p bibl index afp ISBN 9780816530458, \$55.00

Noel (Morgan State Univ.) provides some much-needed nuance to the story of 20th-century Mexican immigration to the US. Eschewing the traditional bipolarity of exclusionist versus assimilationist responses to the upswing in Mexican immigration during the early part of the century, Noel adds the categories of "pluralism" and "marginalization" as a part of the bevy of responses that Americans gave to newcomers from Mexico. Ultimately, Noel argues that "Mexican immigrants came to be defined as temporary immigrant workers rather than as permanent immigrants and potential Americans," making their presence more palatable to exclusionists and marginalizationists in particular. The book's one major limitation is its abrupt ending in 1935 with no summary conclusion, leaving readers to believe that the status of Mexican immigrants as temporary laborers during the bracero program era was all but predetermined by contemporary consensus among many Americans about the "temporary" status of Mexican immigrant workers. Nevertheless, Noel has made an interesting and original contribution to the history of Mexican immigration that will surely generate fruitful discussions among college undergraduates in classroom settings. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*T. P. Bowman, West Texas A&M University*

**51-6945** RC526 2013-25544 CIP  
**Osborn, Matthew Warner. Rum maniacs: alcoholic insanity in the early American Republic.** Chicago, 2014. 268p index afp ISBN 9780226099897, \$45.00

This important study explores the medicalization of alcohol abuse in the 19th-century US. Focusing largely on the experience of physicians and patients in Philadelphia, Osborn (Univ. of Missouri-Kansas City) examines the social and economic climates in which heavy drinking came to be seen as a medical condition. Efforts by church and state

officials failed to curb heavy drinking in Colonial America because spirits were so intricately linked with economic demands and social necessity. The medicalization of alcohol abuse changed the discourse on heavy drinking. That shift had to await the writings of Philadelphia physician and Revolutionary leader Benjamin Rush, who saw chronic drunkenness as a disease of the will and, more importantly, an impediment to the moral fiber and success of the emerging American republic. Osborn pays particular attention to the early medical discourse on delirium tremens, which caused physical debility and horrific hallucinations. Physicians linked delirium tremens to changing social and economic pressures. Successfully treating the disorder became central to the proficiency and respectability of the medical profession at this time. Osborn concludes by addressing the public fascination with delirium tremens and how it became a topic of popular entertainment. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ All levels/libraries.—*F. H. Smith, College of William and Mary*

**51-6946** HV875 2013-32125 CIP  
**Potter, Sarah. Everybody else: adoption and the politics of domestic diversity in postwar America.** Georgia, 2014. 254p bibl index afp ISBN 9780820344157, \$74.95; ISBN 9780820344164 pbk, \$29.95; ISBN 9780820346960 e-book, \$29.95

Social workers' interviews and applications for adoption and infant foster care stored in the files of the Children's Home and Aid of Chicago from the two decades after WW II reveal racial, gender, and class differences among applicants with regard to family values and the expectation of social mobility through education. These files also provide information on various strategies of survival and spatial accommodation used by applicants. The focus is not on adoption itself, but on what it reveals about ordinary people who, during the baby boom, were anxious to add children to their homes. Findings show that poor black Chicagoans who suffered from housing discrimination earned incomes by substituting foster care children for relatives and boarders. However, they emphasized education for both genders as essential to overcoming racial discrimination, while white working-class applicants were less likely to promote girls' education and directed their frustration at the lack of better job opportunities to nurturing their families. Middle-class housewives' boredom was already manifested in the 1940s, long before it was apparent in the 1960s. The book's main contribution is in its insight into the lives of black families and their social and political aspirations. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*N. Zmora, Hamline University*

**51-6947** F232 2013-17583 CIP  
**Rainville, Lynn. Hidden history: African American cemeteries in central Virginia.** Virginia, 2014. 194p bibl index afp ISBN 9780813935348, \$35.00; ISBN 9780813935355 e-book, \$35.00

"The gravestone is an invaluable source of information, but it is only one of a complex series of mortuary rituals that can reveal much about the culture of the dead," writes Rainville (Sweet Briar College). Like most scholars who study African American archaeology and history, Rainville successfully attempts to weave a story of undocumented populations through the materials they leave behind. In this case, the materials are the remains of the individuals themselves. The book is a very well-written guide on how to locate, examine, and understand the culture behind the burial practices of enslaved and free African Americans through their cemeteries. Chapters on burial markers, practices, and symbols are filled with anthropological references, yet the book is easily understandable for





amateur historians. In addition, Rainville provides small glimpses into the lives of African Americans through mortuary inscriptions, which make readers want to know more about the individuals. A very thorough regional study of a small but relevant population in central Virginia.

**Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ All levels/libraries.—*K. C. McCallister, Appalachian State University*

**51-6948** E185 2006-21173 CIP  
**Rhetoric, religion, and the civil rights movement, 1954-1965, v.2**, ed. by Davis W. Houck and David E. Dixon. Baylor, 2014. 499p index afp (Studies in rhetoric and religion, 15) ISBN 9781602589650 pbk, \$59.95

Sometimes you can't have too much of a good thing. So it is with this wonderful anthology, which continues the remarkable work of excavation, recovery, and transcription first started with the 1,002-page first volume of this work (CH, Jun'07, 44-5840). As with the previous volume, the introduction to the entire work is readable and delightful, the introductions to individual selections are richly informative, and the selections themselves allow readers to "hear" history in action—complete with pauses, metaphors both beautiful and painful, everyday common sense, and the occasional unconscious use of dated language that is well intended but just painful now. In a fascinating conclusion to their introduction, the editors note that for every use of religious language to empower the civil rights movement, the same reasoning and verses found their way into defenses of segregation. A volume compiling those speeches, sermons, and editorials would be remarkably valuable. For now, readers have these two tireless archival-rat editors and a university press willing to go for broke to thank for these two historic, indispensable volumes that every library should own. **Summing Up:** Essential. ★★★ All levels/libraries.—*P. Harvey, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs*

**51-6949** KF4749 2014-4662 MARC  
**Risen, Clay. The bill of the century: the epic battle for the Civil Rights Act.** Bloomsbury, 2014. 308p bibl index ISBN 9781608198245, \$28.00

This is an outstanding study of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Moreover, it is an exceptional examination of how Congress worked 50 years ago. What makes *New York Times* op-ed editor Risen's account compelling is his depiction of a subtle process that depended on a cast of characters. First, it was in the House of Representatives where Democrats like Emanuel Celler and Republicans such as William McCullough conspired to override southern objections. Although Risen gives President Lyndon B. Johnson his due, he does not describe him as the indispensable force in passing the first major piece of civil rights legislation since the 14th amendment. In the Senate, the author highlights Everett Dirksen, Hubert Humphrey, and Mike Mansfield for their efforts. He even breaks scholarly ground by pointing out that Howard Smith's amendment expanding women's rights was not offered solely as a poison pill, but due to a lifetime of devotion to gender equality. Risen's account of John Kennedy's efforts are sparkling. A work of high academic quality written with a journalist's flair for telling a tale. Superb. **Summing Up:** Essential. ★★★ All levels/libraries.—*D. R. Turner, Davis and Elkins College*

**51-6950** HD211 2013-8466 CIP  
**Shelton, Tamara Venit. A squatter's republic: land and the politics of monopoly in California, 1850-1900.** California/Huntington Library, 2013. 277p bibl index afp (Western histories, 7) ISBN 9780873282550, \$45.00

The brevity of Shelton's first book—solidly researched, impeccably written, and filled with insights, some of them new—belies its importance. The author's analysis surpasses a too-modest title. The book is actually a rehearsal of the complex events that challenged the dream of a national free republic of enterprising independent owners of small farms. Although the setting is chiefly California between the Gold Rush and 1900, that state actually functions as a stage on which a much larger drama plays out. Shelton (Claremont McKenna College) focuses on an ongoing struggle between "squatters" on public lands in the gold fields and later on, town and farm sites. In fact, the two groups were much alike demographically and united in the goal of acquiring land. Litigation over Mexican land grants, the right of preemptive claims on unsurveyed public land, the impact of cheap Chinese labor, and the emergence of large, often rapacious railroads, banks, and other corporations all prompted recurring attempts to preserve the old dream. Reformers such as Henry George, Terence Powderly, Samuel Gompers, and others all advanced unsuccessful plans. Finally, recognition that large corporations conferred important benefits brought acceptance of a via media: regulation to preserve competition and opportunity through a generation of episodic business depressions. This volume may well win awards.

**Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ Most levels/libraries.—*D. Steeples, formerly, Mercer University*

**51-6951** F884 MARC  
**Stark, Peter. Astoria: John Jacob Astor and Thomas Jefferson's lost Pacific empire.** Ecco, 2014. 366p bibl index ISBN 9780062218292, \$27.99

Fur trade historians will learn nothing new from this book, and may be annoyed at some oversimplification. But it is not intended for them. The author is a self-described free-lance writer of adventure and exploration. In this work, he has taken Washington Irving's 1837 commissioned laudatory history of John Jacob Astor's early-19th-century prescient effort to establish a United States of America presence on the northwest coast and, with some additional research, made it a thoroughly enjoyable adventure story while remaining true to the broad history. Stark's account of both prongs of Astor's ill-fated efforts—a maritime journey and an overland expedition to reach the mouth of the Columbia River and establish a fur trading post—hold the reader's attention in a way that academic historians rarely achieve. Numerous extras, such as a cast of characters, eight pages of pictures, maps, a prologue, an epilogue, and a bibliography add to the work. Unfortunately, 29 pages of footnotes after the text are not as useful as they could be because they are not numbered, but refer only to pages. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ General, undergraduate, and public libraries.—*P. T. Sherrill, emeritus, University of Arkansas at Little Rock*

**51-6952** E757 MARC  
**Thompson, J. Lee. Never call retreat: Theodore Roosevelt and the Great War.** Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. 362p bibl index ISBN 9781137306524, \$35.00

Has any former president thrown himself more frenetically into the political whirligig than Theodore Roosevelt? In this exhaustively researched study, Thompson (Lamar Univ.) provides the most textured account of Roosevelt and WW I that scholars are ever likely to get. Convinced of Germany's infamy and the essential goodness of the British and French, TR campaigned relentlessly for US preparedness and early entry into the war, emphasizing that "justice" trumped peace. Practically from the conflict's onset in 1914, he lambasted President