Death and the American South

This rich collection of original essays illuminates the causes and consequences of the South’s defining experiences with death. Employing a wide range of perspectives while concentrating on discrete episodes in the region’s past, the authors explore topics from the seventeenth century to the present, from the death traps that emerged during colonization to the bloody backlash against emancipation and civil rights to recent canny efforts to commemorate – and capitalize on – the region’s deadly past. Some authors capture their subjects in the most intimate of moments: killing and dying, grieving and remembering, believing and despairing. Others uncover the intentional efforts of Southerners to publicly commemorate their losses through death rituals and memorialization campaigns. Together, these poignantly told southern stories reveal profound truths about the past of a region marked by death and unable – perhaps unwilling – to escape the ghosts of its history.

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Cambridge Studies on the American South

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Death and the American South

Edited by

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Contents

List of Illustrations ........................................ ix
List of Contributors ...................................... xi

Introduction: Death and the American South
Craig Thompson Friend and Lorri Glover .......................... 1

1 Mutilated Bodies, Living Specters: Scalpings and Beheadings in the Early South
Craig Thompson Friend ........................................ 15

2 The Usable Death: Evangelicals, Anglicans, and the Politics of Dying in the Late-Colonial Lowcountry
Peter N. Moore ............................................. 36

3 When “History Becomes Fable Instead of Fact”: The Deaths and Resurrections of Virginia’s Leading Revolutionaries
Lorri Glover .................................................. 58

4 American Mourning: Catastrophe, Public Grief, and the Making of Civic Identity in the Early National South
Jewel Spangler ............................................... 86

5 To Claim One’s Own: Death and the Body in the Daily Politics of Antebellum Slavery
Jamie Warren ............................................... 110

6 Nativists and Strangers: Yellow Fever and Immigrant Mortality in Antebellum Charleston, South Carolina
Jeff Strickland .............................................. 131

7 “Cumberer of the Earth”: Suffering and Suicide among the Faithful in the Civil War South
Diane Miller Sommerville ................................... 153
Contents

8 The “Translation” of Lundy Harris: Interpreting Death out of the Confusion of Sexuality, Violence, and Religion in the New South
   Donald G. Mathews
   181

9 “He’s Only Away”: Condolence Literature and the Emergence of a Modern South
   Kristine M. McCusker
   207

10 “A Monument to Judge Lynch”: Racial Violence, Symbolic Death, and Black Resistance in Jim Crow Mississippi
    Jason Morgan Ward
    229

11 Reframing the Indian Dead: Removal-Era Cherokee Graves and the Changing Landscape of Southern Memory
    Andrew Denson
    250

Index

275
## Illustrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Illustration</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Theodor de Bry, “How Outina's Men Treated the Slain of the Enemy” (1591).</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>William Blake, “Europe Supported by Africa and America” (1796).</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>“Washington in his last illness attended by Docrs. Craik and Brown” (1800).</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Thomas Jefferson, epitaph (c. March 1826).</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cover image from <em>A Distressing Calamity</em> (1812).</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Map of Charleston, South Carolina, epidemics between 1849 and 1858.</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>“They Can Not Join! But You Can! Join Today!!” recruitment flyer (1957).</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Statues of White Path and Fly Smith, Trail of Tears Commemorative Park.</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dedication in May 1962 of the Princess Otahki Memorial.</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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