

# book | *news*

from North Carolina

**The University of North Carolina Press**

116 S. Boundary St. | Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514-3808

January 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GREAT BOOKS ON BLACK HISTORY DEFINE WHO WE ARE AND HOW FAR WE'VE TRAVELED**

[Chapel Hill, NC] The only collection of papers of an African American woman held in slavery; an oral history that validates the lives of contemporary black gay men in the South; a classic cookbook revised to reflect the contributions of African American plantation cooks; an examination of current culture wars over the way that slavery is remembered and taught; and a timely exploration of a renowned group of community organizers during the civil rights movement in the South are among the diverse offerings from the University of North Carolina Press that pay tribute to the rich experience of African American life.

## **REMARKABLE PEOPLE**

Although millions of African American women were held in bondage when slavery was legal in the United States, Harriet Jacobs (1813-97) is the only one known to have left papers testifying to her life. Her autobiography, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, holds a central place in American literature as the most important slave narrative by an African American woman.

With the publication of *The Harriet Jacobs Family Papers*, Pace University professor emerita Jean Fagan Yellin has distilled three decades of ground breaking scholarship on the life and career of Jacobs. Already hailed as a “masterwork” by *Library Journal*, *The Papers* collect approximately 300 documents by Jacobs, her activist brother, and her daughter into two volumes, accompanied by a searchable CD-ROM. These letters and papers written by, for, and about

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2-2-2 Black History Month Titles from the University of North Carolina Press

Jacobs and her family provide the thousands of readers of *Incidents*—from scholars to schoolchildren—access to the rich historical context of Jacobs's lifelong struggle against slavery, racism, and sexism.

Lois Brown's *Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins: Black Daughter of the Revolution* details the life of the pioneering playwright, journalist, novelist, feminist, and public intellectual in the context of her times. Hopkins (1859–1930) was a gracious and outspoken crusader for African American rights and the descendant of one of New England's most influential early families of color. Brown situates Hopkins squarely within a family, national, and international activist tradition that sought to end lynching, attain equal rights for African Americans, and develop the Pan-Africanist movement of the early twentieth century. Brown also details Hopkins's public dispute with Booker T. Washington that ultimately ended her journalism career.

In *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South*, E. Patrick Johnson tells the stories of more than 70 black gay men between the ages of 19 and 93. Giving voice to people who are seldom heard, Johnson subverts stereotypes about black gay life in the South. He shows how these men draw on a range of southern traits—politeness and religiosity, for example—both to meet partners and to fit into the larger, non-gay culture. *The Advocate* writes, “It's pretty rare to pick up a book, turn randomly to any page, and find such a powerful personal story that you have to close the book for a moment to take it in. But the oral histories featured in *Sweet Tea* . . . cast just that kind of spell.” The author is currently on tour with “Pouring Tea,” a one-man-show based on the interviews collected for *Sweet Tea*.

Megan K. Winchell's *Good Girls, Good Food, Good Fun: The Story of USO Hostesses during World War II* pays particular attention to the problems faced by African American hostesses and soldiers. While in theory USO clubs supported integration, in practice they fell far short of this goal, allowing local clubs to determine their own integration policies. African American women played a pivotal role opening clubs to young black hostesses. They struggled against USO recruitment policies, which stereotyped white, middle-class women as sexually respectable and women of color as sexually suspicious. Their efforts helped lay the foundation

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3-3-3 Black History Month Titles from the University of North Carolina Press

for the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

Collecting stories that are both deeply personal and powerfully political, *Telling Histories: Black Women Historians in the Ivory Tower*, edited by Deborah Gray White, compiles seventeen personal narratives by leading black women historians, illuminating how they entered and navigated higher education, a world often dominated by whites and men. In distinct voices and from different vantage points, the personal histories revealed here also tell the story of the struggle to establish the fields of African American and African American women's history.

**ARTS AND FOODWAYS**

The revised edition of *Hearthside Cooking: Early American Southern Cuisine Updated for Today's Hearth and Cookstove* is filled with valuable information on African American antebellum life. Readers will discover what slaves cooked for themselves, why slave cooks commanded higher market prices than other slaves, and how in their kitchens they wielded a measure of authority that was elsewhere denied them. Nancy Carter Crump is a culinary historian and founder of the Culinary Historians of Virginia. She lectures frequently at historic sites and other venues throughout the South.

In *African American Visual Arts: From Slavery to the Present*, Celeste-Marie Bernier traces the major developments in African American visual arts, from the ceramics and textiles of slave artisans to the paintings of well known modern artists like Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence. Paying particular attention to lesser-known artists, she provides a new understanding of the relationship between African American artists and the black experience.

**THE STRUGGLE FOR BLACK FREEDOM**

*Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory*, available for the first time in paperback, explores current culture controversies about how people remember their

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past. From the argument about the display of the Confederate flag over the state house in Columbia, South Carolina, to the dispute over Thomas Jefferson's relationship with his slave Sally Hemings, and the ongoing debates about reparations, these issues grow ever more urgent and difficult to resolve. Editors James Oliver Horton and Lois E. Horton have brought together some of the nation's most respected historians to address the unsettling but crucial debate about the significance of slavery and its meaning for racial reconciliation.

Another relevant new paperback, Wesley C. Hogan's *Many Minds, One Heart: SNCC's Dream for a New America*, offers a groundbreaking look at young community organizers. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee broke open the caste system in the American South between 1960 and 1965. Hogan explores how the organization fostered significant social change in such a short time. The *Washington Post* calls it "a poignant, detailed examination of how SNCC's efforts in the South gave Americans a chance to see ordinary citizens transforming their communities on an unprecedented scale."

*Upbuilding Black Durham: Gender, Class, and Black Community Development in the Jim Crow South* follows Durham, North Carolina, from emancipation to the civil rights era, where migration, urbanization, and industrialization turned Durham into the "capital of black middle class." Using interviews, narratives, and family stories, Leslie Brown animates the history of this remarkable city as freedpeople and their descendants struggled among themselves and with whites to give meaning to black freedom.

*Land and Labor, 1865*, edited by Steven Hahn et al., is the latest volume in the series, *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861–1867*. Focusing on the transition from slavery to free labor during the tumultuous first months after the Civil War, *Land and Labor, 1865* features letters and testimony by former slaves, slaveholders, Freedmen's Bureau agents, and others. It highlights changes in the workplace and the intense political debate over blacks' newfound status as freedmen and the difficult process of reunification.

In *Not Alms But Opportunity: The Urban League and the Politics of Racial Uplift, 1910–1950*, Touré Reed explores class issues that shaped the racial uplift movement. Examining

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the Urban League's activities in New York and Chicago during the first half of the twentieth century, Reed finds that racial uplift reflected many of the biases against poor and rural blacks that pervaded contemporary social reform movements.

Although African American History Month is celebrated in February, the University of North Carolina Press has explored the lives and championed the accomplishments of African Americans for over seventy years. As the first publisher to develop an ongoing program of books by and about black Americans, the Press has been guided by the principal that the African American experience is the American experience.

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Additional information about University of North Carolina Press books can be found at <http://www.uncpress.unc.edu>. For toll-free orders or to request a catalog, please call 1-800-848-6224.

### Books Mentioned

The Harriet Jacobs Family Papers

Edited by Jean Fagan Yellin

Author hometown: New York, New York & Sarasota, Florida

ISBN: 978-0-8078-3131-1, \$125.00 cloth

Publication date: 11/1/2008

<http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-6019.html>

Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins: Black Daughter of the Revolution

by Lois Brown

Author hometown: South Hadley, Massachusetts

ISBN: 978-0-8078-3166-3, \$45.00 cloth

Publication date: 06/30/2008

<http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-7239.html>

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6-6-6 Black History Month Titles from the University of North Carolina Press

Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South

By E. Patrick Johnson

Author hometown: Chicago, Illinois

ISBN: 978-0-8078-3209-7, \$35.00 cloth

Publication date: 9/15/2008

<http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-7772.html>

Special web feature: <http://uncpress.unc.edu/SweetTea/index.html>

Good Girls, Good Food, Good Fun: The Story of USO Hostesses during World War II

By Meghan K. Winchell

Author hometown: Lincoln, Nebraska

ISBN: 978-0-8078-3237-0, \$30.00 cloth

Publication date: 12/7/2008

<http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-8251.html>

Telling Histories: Black Women Historians in the Ivory Tower

Edited by Deborah Gray White

Author hometown: Metuchen, New Jersey

ISBN: 978-0-8078-3201-1, \$59.95 cloth; 978-0-8078-5881-3, \$21.95 paper

Publication date: 05/02/2008

<http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-7658.html>

Hearthside Cooking: Early American Southern Cuisine Updated for Today's Hearth and Cookstove

By Nancy Carter Crump

Author hometown: Staunton, Virginia

ISBN: 978-0-8078-3246-2, \$30.00 cloth

Publication date: 11/8/2008

<http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-8315.html>

African American Visual Arts: From Slavery to the Present

By Celeste-Marie Bernier

Author hometown: Nottingham, England

ISBN: 978-0-8078-3256-1, \$65.00 cloth; 978-0-8078-5933-9, \$24.95 paper

Publication date: 1/1/2009

<http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-8848.html>

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7-7-7 Black History Month Titles from the University of North Carolina Press

Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory

By James Oliver Horton and Lois E. Horton

Author hometown: Reston, Virginia (June-January) and Honolulu, Hawaii (January-June)

ISBN: 978-0-8078-5916-2, \$19.95 paper

Publication date: 2/1/2009

<http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-8765.html>

Upbuilding Black Durham: Gender, Class, and Black Community Development  
in the Jim Crow South

by Leslie Brown

Author hometown: Williamstown, Massachusetts

ISBN: 978-0-8078-3138-0, \$65.00 cloth; 978-0-8078-5835-6, \$24.95 paper

Publication date: 09/15/2008

<http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-7687.html>

Many Minds, One Heart: SNCC's Dream for a New America

By Wesley C. Hogan

Author hometown: Richmond, Virginia

ISBN: 978-0-8078-5959-9, \$22.95 paper

Publication date: 2/1/2009

<http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-7433.html>

Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861–1867

Series 3, Volume 1: Land and Labor, 1865

Edited by Steven Hahn, Steve F. Miller, Susan E. O'Donovan, John C. Rodrigue,  
and Leslie S. Rowland

Author hometowns: College Park, Maryland; Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania; Cambridge,  
Massachusetts; and Easton, Massachusetts, respectively

ISBN: 978-0-8078-3147-2, \$85.00 cloth

Publication date: 11/1/2008

<http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-8296.html>

Not Alms But Opportunity: The Urban League and the Politics of Racial Uplift, 1910–1950

By Touré Reed

Author hometown: Bloomington, Illinois

ISBN: 978-0-8078-3223-3, \$59.95 cloth; 978-0-8078-5902-5, \$21.95 paper

Publication date: 9/1/2008

<http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-8284.html>

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