



South Georgia
History Project

The Wiregrass Telegraph

Promoting Educational Excellence in U. S. History!

**Treeless
Edition
Vol 1, #4**

New QCCs!!



By now you've all gotten a copy of the draft US history QCCs - our thanks to Andy Preston for the advance copy. Kathy Cox (a social studies teacher) has stated that these will go into effect in SY2004-2005; she's a very determined lady so you might start planning on that basis. Go to:

<http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/curriculum/instruction/qcc/index.asp> for full information on implementation, etc. Other social studies QCCs are on the way and the

changes will probably be as equally dramatic as those we've already seen.

How will this affect you?

Certainly, content knowledge of the subject areas outlined in the new QCCs must be of primary importance. Have you been teaching the Colombian Exposition - the World's Fair of 1893? What's an Exoduster? Try: http://www.nps.gov/untold/banners_and_backgrounds/exansionbanner/exoduster.htm for that answer.

SGHPs job is to help you make the very large adjustment in acquiring content knowledge and then presenting in a meaningful way. How can we help you do that? Some current ways:

1. The Valdosta cohort is in the Gilded Age class being taught by Dr Johnson. It's covering a period of history little known to

many of us and one that you'll need in the first grading period next year.

2. Many of you went to the Carter Center to investigate topics that will form the basis of instructional units.

What can we do to help you?

- We've made the decision to go ahead and purchase a professional library of 25-30 books for each of you to help with content knowledge. Our professors are working on compiling a list now.

- I've already made a PP presentation on Vietnam and will teach for you on request.

- But what else? Do we need down and dirty seminars on certain periods of history? What periods and what subjects?

- And may I mention - textbook adoption is just around the corner. You're the experts - what will you recommend?

It's time to share ideas!

Rate My Teacher - ever heard of it?

Bet your kids have! Go to:

<http://www.ratemyteachers.com>

ABC-Clio - A great resource

Everyone has a subscription to the ABC-Clio US history website at

<http://www.americanhistory.abc-clio.com/login.aspx>

Use your assigned password and login - if you don't know your password and login, contact me. Our usage statistics are very low so far - let me know if you need help on ABC-Clio.



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SGHP's Teaching History site is up.
Go to: <http://teach.valdosta.edu/teachinghistory/>
Chad Jones of Clinch County will be the first contributor to a new local history of the Okefenokee Swamp and teaching unit that will be available to everyone.
Do you want your local history made available? If so, give me your unit on a disk and I'll make sure it gets on the website.

Then and Now

101st Airborne Division Pathfinders

June 1944, before jumping into Normandy



Iraq, present day



Photo courtesy of Kevin Walls, son of a Pathfinder friend from Vietnam. The Pathfinders are elite teams that are inserted

behind enemy lines to provide guidance for aircraft that are dropping paratroops or conducting airstrikes. The Mohawk haircut is a tradition before going into battle.

Tobacco Road by Erskine Caldwell

(review by UGA Press)



Set during the Depression in the depleted farmlands surrounding Augusta, Georgia, *Tobacco Road* was first published in 1932 and has become the symbol of the hopelessness and despair of the Great Depression in the South. It is the story of the Lesters, a family of white sharecroppers so destitute that most of their creditors have given up on them. Debased by poverty to an elemental state of ignorance and selfishness, the Lesters are preoccupied by their hunger, sexual longings, and fear that they will someday descend to a lower rung on

the social ladder than the black families who live near them. The Tobacco Road of Erskine Caldwell is a real place and exists today as a stretch of road south of Augusta.



13 yr old sharecropper near Americus, GA 1937

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God's Little Acre - by Erskine Caldwell



God's Little Acre, first published in 1933, is the story of trouble-making and love-making between the friends and family

of Ty Ty Walden, a farmer, and Will Thompson, a cotton mill worker. Ty Ty tells his friend Pluto: "I set aside an acre of my farm for God twenty-seven years ago and every year I give the church all that comes off that acre of ground." But Ty Ty, having failed at farming and sinking into debt, now spends his time digging for gold on his land, while black sharecroppers try to raise a little cotton and a few hogs.



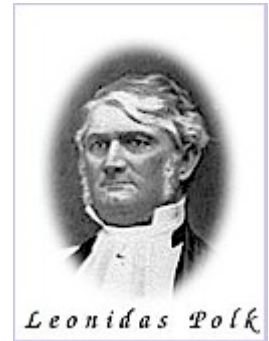
Asked what he raises on God's little acre, symbol of his hope and disappointment, Ty Ty admits: "Nothing but beggar-lice and cockle-burs. I just had to let God's little acre lie fallow."

For many years, *God's Little Acre* was the bestselling novel in history, surpassing even *Gone With The Wind*. It's set on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River from Augusta in an area known today as The Valley, a hardscrabble area of textile mills and poor sandy soil. Other than the novel, the area is probably best known as the home of country singer Patsy Cline and the legend of soul

music, James Brown. And yours truly, of course - it was a tough place to grow up.

Leonidas Polk, the Fighting Bishop of the Confederacy

General Leonidas Polk graduated from West Point in 1827, along with the future President of the Confederacy Jefferson Davis and fellow officer Albert Sidney Johnston. Called to pursue a religious



career, he resigned his commission in the army. Over the next thirty years that career would include missionary work and his appointment to the prestigious post of Bishop of Louisiana.

In June, 1864, while a Corps Commander in Johnston's Army of Tennessee, observing Federal movements from the crest of Pine Mountain, north of Marietta's Kennesaw Mt., an artillery shell passed through his body, cutting him in half. He was interred in Augusta's St Paul's Episcopal Church until the 1950's, when he was removed and re-interred in Christ Church Chapel on the campus of Tulane University, New Orleans, in his old parish.





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