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REVIEW: Court-Martial at Parris Island: The Ribbon Creek Incident

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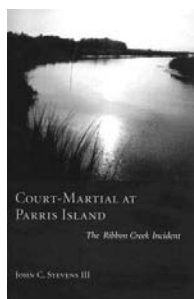
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of three years, the GQP held 76 Quilt History Days, where a core group of 90 volunteers were able to document and photograph more than 10,000 quilts. Georgians from all walks of life participated in the project, many of them sharing stories about the quilts and the quiltmakers. The book opens with an introduction outlining the methodology the GQP used to document the quilts. The next chapter provides a historical background, giving the reader a general overview of local and national events to show how they influenced quilting in the state. In the next few chapters, the editor and others delved deeper into specific topics mentioned in the historical background chapter. Beginning with early quilts, defined as quilts made prior to 1861, the book continues with essays discussing quilts made by Civil War survivors, the history and role of King Cotton and textiles in Georgia quilting, and African-American quilting. Also included is an essay on the quilts of Harriet Powers, a former slave whose quilts are now in the Smithsonian Museum of American History and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Though many quilts were made as gifts or for special occasions, some were created out of need and were used daily. These quilts were made using whatever was available, even feed, cotton and flour sacks. An essay on Georgia Quilting guilds serves as a great resource for anyone interested in joining one, and, lastly, an essay on the Olympic Gift Quilts illustrates how the project, which began as a simple idea, became an international celebration and recognition of Georgia quilting. Rich and vibrant illustrations fill the pages of this well-written, well-researched book. Appendices providing a statistical summary of the documented quilts and a listing of the Quilt History Days are included. *Georgia Quilts* not only serves as a history of Georgia quilts, it also presents an all-inclusive examination of the lives of the quiltmakers. Quilters, historians and genealogists alike will enjoy this book. Recommended for all libraries. ▶▶

— Reviewed by **Tamika Maddox Strong**
DeKalb County Public Library

Court-Martial at Parris Island: The Ribbon Creek Incident by John C. Stevens III (The University of South Carolina Press, 2007; ISBN 978-1-57003-703-0, \$19.95).



Traditional Marine Corps discipline turned to tragedy in the swamps of Parris Island, South Carolina, on the night of April 8, 1956, when Staff Sergeant Matthew McKeon led Platoon 71 into the receding tidal waters of Ribbon Creek on a disciplinary exercise. In darkness and chaos, six Marine recruits were drowned in minutes, and the attention of the nation

weighed heavily upon McKeon and the tough training practices of the Marine Corps. The legal and political wrangling during McKeon's court-martial, combined with unprecedented media exposure, rocked the historic foundations of the Marine Corps and forced changes in methods used to train U.S. Marines. The final verdict devastated McKeon's military career. Comprehensively researched and clearly documented, Stevens offers an authoritative and objective perspective on the events of that tragic night, weaving personal testimonies from survivors of Platoon 71 with official military and legal records. Writing as a former trial court judge and 1957 Parris Island recruit, the author provides valuable legal and military experience to assist the reader in understanding the details surrounding the events of the Ribbon Creek tragedy and ensuing trial. This very readable chronicle of a significant event in the history of the Marine Corps recounts in detail the fast-paced legal maneuvering during the court-martial, including excerpts from official court transcripts. Engaging and focused in style, Stevens enhances the details of the unfolding legal proceedings with a candid portrayal of the individual personalities involved. Perhaps one of this work's greatest merits is that the author does not endeavor to guide the reader to a specific conclusion. Facts are presented and various perspectives are considered, but ultimately the reader is left to ponder the events, the judgment and the consequences. The narrative is supplemented with captioned black and white photographs and maps, a bibliography and an index. Recommended for academic and public libraries. ▶▶

— Reviewed by **Geoffrey P. Timms**
Jack Tarver Library, Mercer University

Haunted Savannah: The Official Guidebook to Savannah Haunted History Tour 2007 by James Caskey (Bonaventure Books, 2006, ISBN 0-9724224-2-0, \$13.95).



Savannah is one of those coastal Southern towns with its fair share of ghostly tales. In this guidebook, an accompaniment to the haunted history tours of Savannah, the author presents histories of reportedly haunted locations. Conjectures as to the cause of the activity and personal recollections of those who have witnessed Savannah's seeming overabundance of paranormal phenomena for themselves are presented for many locations. These locations include old homes, businesses and hotels, along with graveyards and town squares. Tales dating back to Savannah's early English settlers, slave labor, Civil and Revolutionary war experiences, and duels pepper this