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REVIEW: Best of the South: New Songs from the South: Musical Stories by Sugar Hill Songwriters

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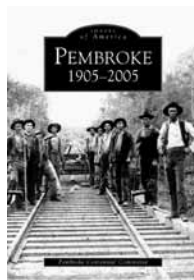
Women in Atlanta by Staci Catron-Sullivan and Susan Neill (Arcadia, 2005; ISBN 0-7385-1745-3, \$26.99).



Photographs selected from the Atlanta History Center's Kenan Research Center trace changes in Atlanta women's clothing, education, roles in the workplace, civil rights, social activities and political involvement from the mid-19th century through the early 1970s. Seven chapters organize the material according to varying time periods and themes; brief introductions place the photographs in context, outlining Atlanta's demographic, economic and social conditions and their impact on women during each era. Most Atlanta women in the 19th and early 20th centuries were working- or lower-class and therefore rarely photographed; noting this, the authors balance early portraits of well-to-do women with later photographs of students, social clubs, and laborers. Moving through time, mothers and daughters in fashionably trimmed hoop skirts give way to groups of college girls, store clerks, suffragettes, WAVES, and factory workers in Rosie-the-Riveter overalls. Notable women are briefly profiled, including PTA co-founder Selena Sloan Butler, prohibitionist Mary Harris Armour (the "Georgia Cyclone"), champion golfer Alexa Stirling, and Grace Towns Hamilton, the first African-American woman elected to the Georgia General Assembly. The emphasis is on women's expanding roles outside the home as educators and philanthropists and on advances in civil rights for women and African Americans. The book's appealing, well-produced graphics and clear text provide a concise overview of Southern women's history. Recommended for both academic and public libraries.

— Reviewed by **Maureen Puffer-Rothenberg**
Valdosta State University

Pembroke, 1905-2005 by the Pembroke Centennial Committee (Arcadia, 2005; ISBN 0-7385-1798-4, \$19.99).



Pembroke is located in rural South Georgia between Savannah and Statesboro (Bryan County). In 1889, this small town was flourishing with pride and growth. Mr. M.E Carter, its first resident and mayor, worked for the railroad and lived in a boxcar. To depict this rich history and to celebrate its centennial in 2004, the Pembroke Committee worked tirelessly to capture the memories of the town. The railroad was the heartbeat of the community, and the "little red caboose was used for many social functions. At the "Welcome Center," they used the fire station at noon to signify to everyone it was lunch time. People would gather and could actually set

their watches by the blowing of the siren... At the Bryan County High School lunches were served and cost 5 cents a day." Scattered throughout the book are many pictures of churches, schools, and businesses. A fascinating business was logging. As the demand for housing boomed, the demand for lumber became a necessity. Turpentine farms and distillers attracted a great number of settlers to the area. Pembroke residents consider themselves lucky to live there. Readers will enjoy a peek at the many activities as well as the people. Pembroke is a pleasant read with many pictures depicting the atmosphere then and now. Pembroke can easily fit into the web of Georgia's history in any public library or academic institution with a Southern culture collection.

— Reviewed by **Regina W. Cannon**
University of Georgia-Griffin

MUSIC

Best of the South: New Songs from the South: Musical Stories by Sugar Hill Songwriters (Sugar Hill Records, 2005; SUG-CD-0030, \$15.00).



Best of the South is a compilation of 17 songs by various musical artists in the stable of Sugar Hill Records. This CD is billed as a companion to the book *Best of the South: Volume II*, published by Algonquin Books. The tracks are from previously released material dating from 2001-2005. Each song represents a different aspect of Southern musical style or theme, from Dolly Parton's sweet ballad "Little Sparrow" to the Louisiana blues "All About You" by Sonny Landreth. Singer/songwriter Greg Trooper, who contributes two tracks, works from Nashville. Tim O'Brien of West Virginia melds Southern classical country, old time, and cowboy swing with Irish for a unique bluegrass sound. "Dear Sarah" by Scott Miller is based on Civil War era letters from his great-great-grandfather to his great-great-grandmother Sarah. Miller's "Ciderville Saturday Night" has an unusual tempo change and instrumental break. Terry Allen's "The Great Joe Bob (A Regional Tragedy)" just has to be heard to be appreciated. The Duhks, from Canada, contribute "Death Came A Knockin'," a song that illustrates a fusion of influences including Celtic, old time, blues, and folk with lyrics that might remind you of a tent revival sermon. Other artists include Allison Moorer, Guy Clark, the Gibson Brothers, and Grey DeLisle. The liner notes are minimal and there are no lyrics. The CD has excellent sound quality on a high-end component system, car stereo, and boom box. Recommended for public or academic libraries that collect Southern music and literature.

— Reviewed by **Jack Fisher**
Valdosta State University