



# THE KENT STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

FALL / WINTER  
2025 CATALOG



## Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we continue to move through our 60th anniversary this year, we at Kent State University Press have spent time reflecting on what it means to be a university press publisher. While works of scholarship aimed at readers within that particular field remain at the core of our publishing program, we have, over the years, expanded the idea of what a “university press book” is, and our fall list exemplifies this broader approach. Christopher P. Briem’s *Beyond Steel*, a thought-provoking examination of Pittsburgh’s economic past and present, and Rebecca Jumper Matheson’s *Artisans and Designers*, an intimate portrait of an influential couple in midcentury American fashion design, showcase how authors can make superior scholarship accessible to broader audiences.

Meanwhile, Terry Belew’s book of poetry, *The Deep Blue of Neptune*, invites readers to consider our inner lives as we navigate an uncertain and sometimes contradictory existence. At the core of each of the books in this season, however, there is a constant: university press books are those that broaden our understanding of the world around us, whether through scholarly examination or lyrical exploration. We invite you to browse our forthcoming and featured books and, through them, see the world a bit differently than you did before.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clara Totten".

Clara Totten  
Interim Director

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The Kent State University Press is a proud member of the Association of University Presses.

Kent State University Press books are printed on acid-free paper for archival longevity, and most use paper made from 60% recycled pulp, with 10% postconsumer waste. Most titles are available in both print and electronic editions.

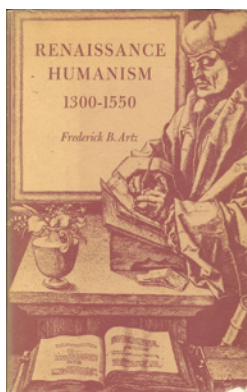
Cover: Photography by Ken Kobus / Ken Kobus Collection, 1980–2008, AIS.2006.18, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System



## Six Decades of Publishing What Matters

Officially established in 1965, the Kent State University Press has been recognized for publishing in a wide range of subject areas for both specialist and general audiences. Our first publication, *Renaissance Humanism, 1300–1550* by Frederick B. Artz (1966), established our robust list in literary criticism. Additionally, current areas of publication include regional and Rust Belt studies, sports history, fashion history, true crime, and US history, and many books and series have benefited from fruitful collaborations within and outside of Kent State University.

Over the past 60 years, these relationships have expanded and thrived. To give but a couple examples, our long-standing partnership with the Wick Poetry Center has led to numerous ongoing projects, such as the annual Stan and Tom Wick Poetry Prize, through which the winner's first full-length poetry collection is published by the University Press. Since 2017, we have also partnered with the Costume Society of America to publish works about fashion history, conservation, and more. These essential partnerships have helped amplify the distinct voices of our authors while showcasing key areas of distinction for the University. And as a member of the Association of University Presses, we're among a select group of university-sponsored presses whose outstanding

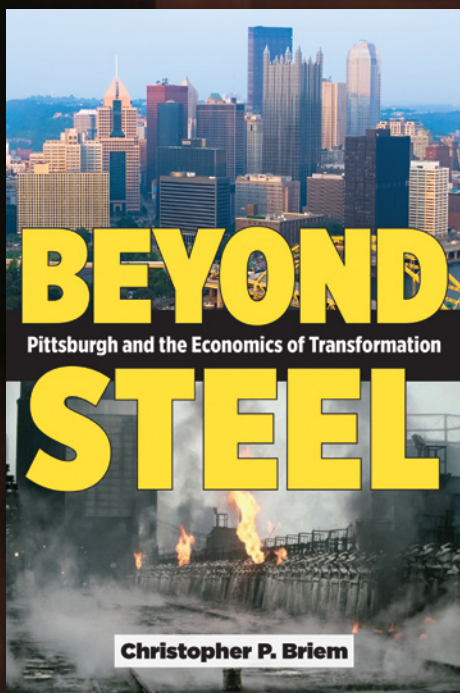


and place-based programs help make publishing more diverse and vital.

Each book we publish is crafted through the collective effort of our staff as it is shepherded through the publishing process: acquisitions, editorial, design and

production, and marketing. Many of our books have received awards and attention from leading outlets around the nation and the world, including PEN America and PBS NewsHour. In 2024, we began highlighting our achievements and sharing updates on our blog, *The Book Starts Here* ([KentStateBooks.wordpress.com](https://kentstatebooks.wordpress.com)).

As we reflect on the past 60 years, we remain committed to our vision: to collaborate with stakeholders and share compelling stories and scholarship that have enduring significance—books that matter.



RUST BELT STUDIES / REGIONAL HISTORY

February 2026, c. 320 pages, 6½ x 9¼

Paperback \$27.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-502-2



# Beyond Steel

*Pittsburgh and the  
Economics of Transformation*

**Christopher P. Briem**

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## Learning from one Rust Belt city's postindustrial transition

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While Pittsburgh is sometimes held up as a successful example of urban reinvention in the era after heavy industry (think “eds and meds”), its transition away from steel has in fact been uneven and contested. Christopher P. Briem grew up in the city’s Bloomfield and South Side neighborhoods watching that process. Now a regional economist at the University of Pittsburgh, he has spent many years working in multiple registers to document economic change—through his academic research, as a public authority consulted nationally when Pittsburgh is in the news, and as a spirited participant in popular debates about what is still called the Steel City.

*Beyond Steel* collects Briem’s encyclopedic knowledge of the city during and after its steelmaking heyday. Briem tells stories about the boundary between resilience and obstinacy, particularly as manifested in the ultimately unsuccessful pursuit of economic development through smokestack chasing. “Long before the 1980s arrived,” he writes, “future prospects for Greater Pittsburgh had decoupled from the prospects of the American steel industry, a reality that to this day remains difficult to accept for a region so long identified with the seemingly monolithic industry.” At once optimistic and cautious, *Beyond Steel* should help inform debates about how communities across the Rust Belt navigate issues of dynamism, heritage, and deindustrialization.



“Pittsburgh stands as the base case for economic revival and reinvention. In this deeply researched and compellingly told work, Christopher P. Briem takes us inside the forces that shaped the city’s rise as an industrial powerhouse, its devastating decline, and its captivating ongoing comeback. A must-read for all who care about the future of the Rust Belt, America, and postindustrial regions around the world.”

—**RICHARD FLORIDA**, author of *The Rise of the Creative Class*

“An essential work in US economic and industrial history.”

—**DAVID L. PASSMORE**, Distinguished Professor  
Emeritus, Penn State University

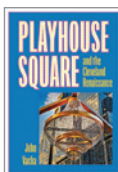
**CHRISTOPHER P. BRIEM** is a regional economist in the Urban & Regional Analysis Program at the University of Pittsburgh’s University Center for Social and Urban Research. He has been widely quoted on Pittsburgh topics in regional and national outlets (including *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*), and his research has been published in *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Journal of Urban Regeneration and Renewal*, *Citiscap: A Journal of Policy Development and Research*, and elsewhere.

#### Related Interest ▼



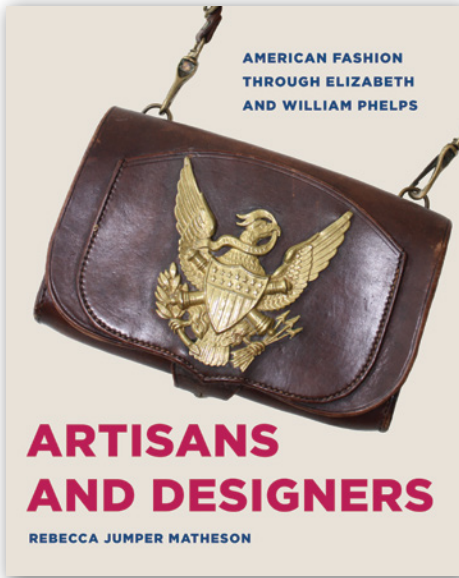
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Edited by Jon K. Lauck  
and Gleaves Whitney  
Paperback \$34.95t  
ISBN 978-1-60635-496-4



#### **Playhouse Square and the Cleveland Renaissance**

John Vacha  
Paperback \$27.95t  
ISBN 978-1-60635-474-2



**COSTUME SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

**FASHION HISTORY / COSTUME STUDIES**

November 2025, c. 232 pages, 8 x 10

Paperback \$29.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-501-5



**REBECCA JUMPER MATHESON** is a fashion historian. She is the author of *The Sunbonnet: An American Icon in Texas* and *Young Originals: Emily Wilkens and the Teen Sophisticate*, among other publications. She is an instructor at the Fashion Institute of Technology, in the Fashion and Textile Studies MA program.

# Artisans and Designers

*American Fashion Through Elizabeth and William Phelps*

**Rebecca Jumper Matheson**

**One couple's journey to crafting a new design identity in midcentury America**

Long before the fashion industry formally addressed questions of sustainability and advocated for “slow fashion,” William and Elizabeth Phelps, a husband-and-wife design duo, were already working to create handcrafted leathersgoods and functional women’s sportswear that could be worn for decades. Active from the 1940s to the late 1960s, Phelps Associates quickly won acclaim and found commercial success, attracting a broad clientele and becoming known for quality, utility, and craftsmanship.

Using vintage metal insignia and hardware, often military surplus, the Phelpses designed bags and belts that answered the need for American-made luxury goods during and after World War II. In the postwar period, the Phelpses experimented with new methods of production and branched into ready-to-wear fashion. Meanwhile, the pair worked to revive artisan workshops, emphasized fostering positive work environments for their employees, and offered employment opportunities for injured veterans.

*Artisans and Designers* is the first in-depth analysis of the Phelpses’ partnership, their often-overlooked contributions to the fashion industry, and their forward-thinking business practices. Rebecca Jumper Matheson draws on their pieces to connect their work to larger conversations about sustainable fashion, consumerism, industrialization practices, and the intersection of art with American identity during and after World War II. The result is an engagingly written, richly illustrated account of a brand committed to creating classic pieces that have stood the test of time.

## Related Interest ▼



**Red, White, and Blue on the Runway: The 1968 White House Fashion Show and the Politics of American Style**

Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell

Paperback \$28.00t

ISBN 978-1-60635-432-2



**Dressing à la Turque: Ottoman Influence on French Fashion, 1670-1800**

Kendra Van Cleave

Hardback \$48.00s

ISBN 978-1-60635-459-9

# The Deep Blue of Neptune

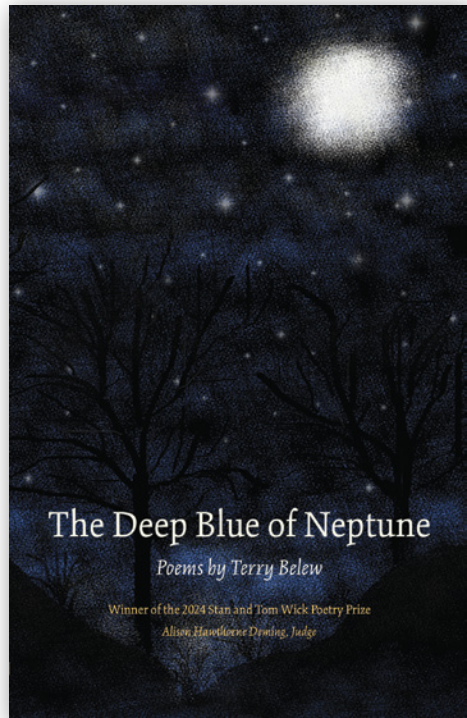
**Terry Belew**

**Alison Hawthorne Deming, Judge**

**Winner of the 2024 Stan and Tom Wick Poetry Prize**

*The Deep Blue of Neptune* is a striking, meditative collection of poems by Terry Belew, which reminds readers of the necessity of empathy in the midst of uncertain and unsettling times. Set against a rural backdrop, Belew's poems reside in the everyday—driving on gravel backroads, roaming the aisles of Walmart, and doomscrolling on a smart phone—to highlight the contradictory qualities of existence.

Belew utilizes a variety of forms, familiar and invented, including free verse, sonnets, sestinas, and “wish lists,” to explore his speakers’ inner lives. Often haunted by violence, from car crashes to gunshots, these poems are a reflection of how people must navigate the bleak landscape of the digital age. *The Deep Blue of Neptune* is a masterfully crafted debut, blending lyricism with wry humor to address the complexities of our relationships with other people, with nature, and with ourselves.



**WICK FIRST BOOK  
POETRY**

September 2025, 74 pages, 5½ x 8½  
Paperback \$18.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-498-8



**TERRY BELEW** lives in rural Missouri with his wife and two sons. He earned an MFA from the University of Nebraska-Omaha and an MA from Missouri State University. His work has appeared in recent issues of *Southern Humanities Review*, *Meridian*, *Tar River Poetry*, *The Pinch*, and *Storm Cellar*, among many others.

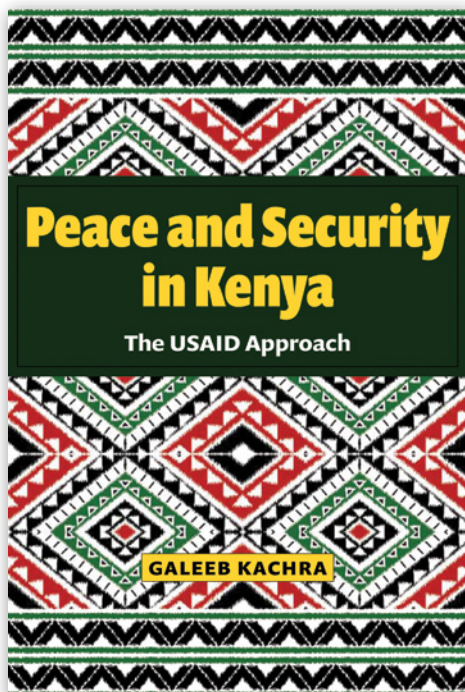
**Related Interest ▼**



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Ellene Glenn Moore  
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#### PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES

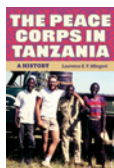
September 2025, 280 pages, 6 x 9

Paperback \$39.95s, ISBN 978-1-60635-497-1



**GALEEB KACHRA** spent a decade with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), including six years as the Deputy Country Representative in USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives in Kenya. He has previously published an anthology, *How I Changed the World in My Own Unique Ways*, and *I Also Can't Breathe: But This Jury Hangs*.

#### Related Interest ▼



##### **The Peace Corps in Tanzania:**

##### **A History**

Lawrence E. Y. Mbogoni

Paperback \$39.95s

ISBN 978-1-60635-488-9



##### **Buried in the Sands of the Ogaden: The United States, the Horn of Africa, and the Demise of Détente**

Louise P. Woodroffe

Hardback \$55.00s

ISBN 978-1-60635-184-0

# Peace and Security in Kenya

## *The USAID Approach*

**Galeeb Kachra**

### How USAID's work in Kenya can inform broader foreign policy

In *Peace and Security in Kenya: The USAID Approach*, Galeeb Kachra examines the involvement of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in Kenya following the postelection violence in late 2007 and early 2008 that left the country on the brink of civil war. Through USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives, Kachra oversaw the Kenya Transition Initiative, which helped Kenyans establish a renewed judiciary, implement a new constitution, and grapple with long-standing land issues. As a country central to American foreign policy in Africa, Kachra argues, efforts to foster peace, reconciliation, and democratic political reform there had real benefits to US security objectives.

In examining USAID's role in a critical period in Kenyan history and drawing on his firsthand experiences, Kachra contends that "peace and security," a phrase commonly used throughout American government documents and foreign policy strategies, is ill-defined and does not account for how overseas development interventions contribute to American national security objectives. Arguing against compartmentalization and narrow understandings of what constitutes peace and security work, Kachra instead urges specialists and policymakers to adopt a broader, more holistic approach when considering strategic objectives. An insightful examination by a career development expert, *Peace and Security in Kenya* offers a fresh approach at a significant time in global affairs.



# The Complete Funky Winkerbean

Volume 15, 2014-2016

Tom Batiuk

Foreword by Brian M. Kane

Tom Batiuk showcases his roots as the Funkyverse expands

In this latest volume, Tom Batiuk continues to explore the roots of comic books and newspaper comic strips and provides unique insight into the evolution of his own creative process. Beginning five years after the strip's most recent time-jump, the *Funky* gang are now in their late forties and raising teenagers of their own. Batiuk continues the *Starbuck Jones* storyline from the previous volume, as Holly searches for the final five issues of the comic book to send to Cory in Afghanistan. Elsewhere, there is a memorable class reunion, the character of Mason Jarr is introduced, and the cast decamps to Hollywood as *Lisa's Story* is about to be adapted into a movie.

**TOM BATIUK** is a graduate of Kent State University. His celebrated *Funky Winkerbean* comic strip concluded its 50-year run on December 31, 2022. Its spin-off, *Crankshaft*, is still carried in almost 500 newspapers throughout the United States. Batiuk was a finalist in the cartooning category of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize awards for the series of daily comic strips that chronicled the death of longtime character Lisa Moore, which were collected in the *Lisa's Legacy Trilogy*. His *Funky Winkerbean* series and *Roses in December* were finalists for the 2016 Eisner Awards.



BLACK SQUIRREL BOOKS

COMICS / GRAPHIC NOVELS

November 2025, 520 pages, 9½ x 7½

Hardback \$45.00t, ISBN 978-1-60635-500-8

## Related Interest ▼



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Tom Batiuk

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### The Complete Funky Winkerbean Volume 13, 2008-2010

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### Lisa's Legacy Trilogy

Tom Batiuk

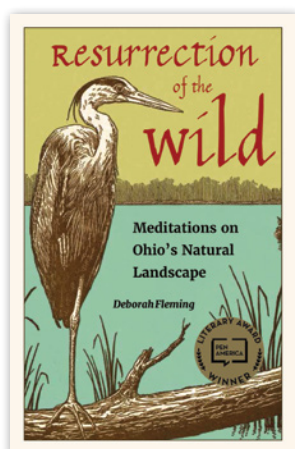
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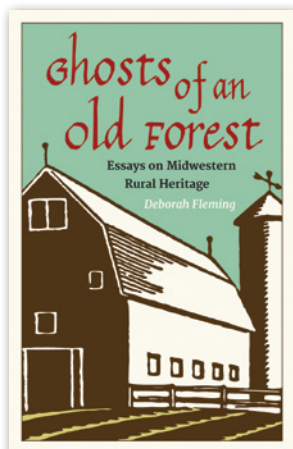


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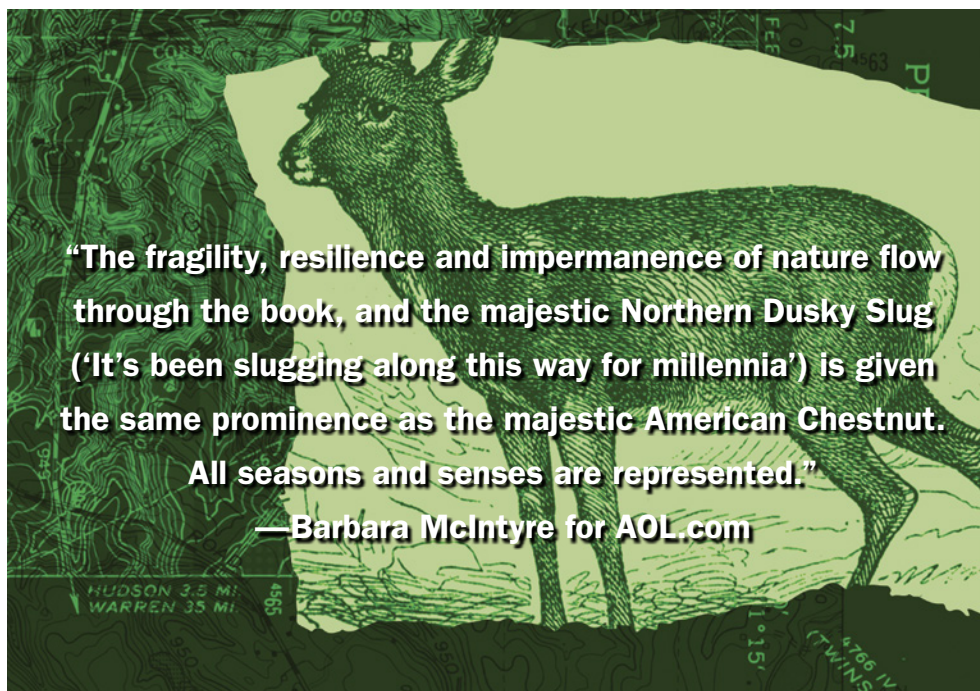


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**—Barbara McIntyre for AOL.com**

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*Exploring Cuyahoga Valley National Park through Poetry*

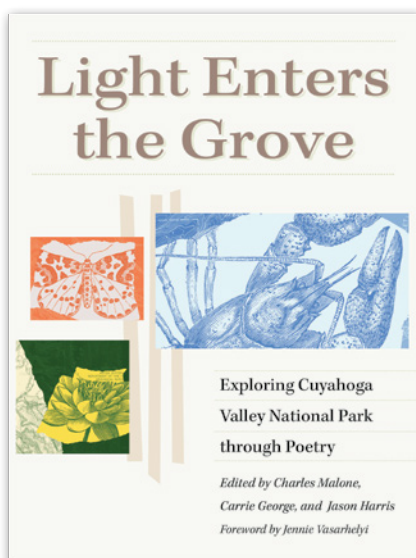
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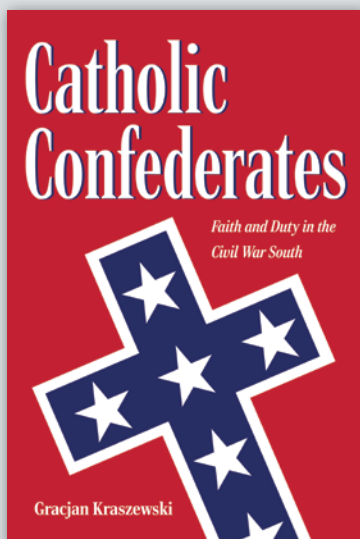
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## Catholic Confederates

*Faith and Duty in the Civil War South*

**Gracjan Kraszewski**

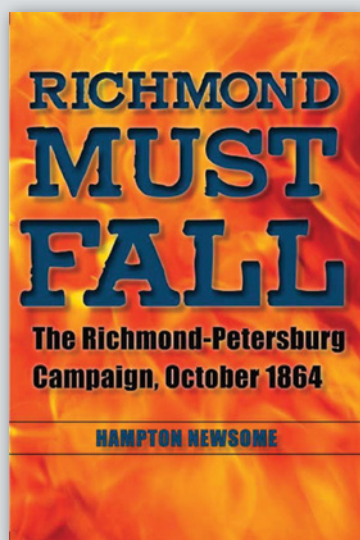
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—**AARON ASTOR**, author of *Rebels on the Border: Civil War, Emancipation, and Reconstruction in Kentucky and Missouri* and *The Civil War Along Tennessee’s Cumberland Plateau*

November 2024, 216 pages, 6 x 9

Paperback \$29.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-499-5



## Richmond Must Fall

*The Richmond-Petersburg Campaign, October 1864*

**Hampton Newsome**

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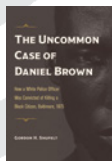
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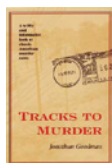


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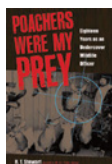
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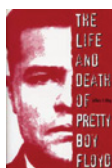
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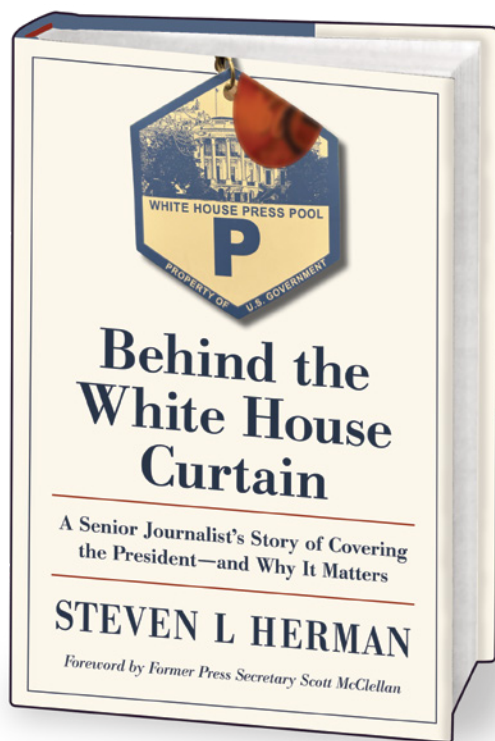
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