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Robert A. Waller discusses issues of ‘Relief, Recreation, Racism’

Book investigates activities of Civilian Conservation Corps in creation of South Carolina state park system

THE VILLAGES, Fla. – Robert A. Waller believes that in the literature dealing with the Civilian Conservation Corps, South Carolina does not figure prominently in most histories of the Great Depression story. He wants this neglect be corrected. Hence, he penned “Relief, Recreation, Racism” ([published by Xlibris](#)), a book that examines the impact of the relief efforts during the Great Depression, the extension of recreational opportunities, and the manifestations of racism.

The history book investigates the activities of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the creation of the South Carolina state park system in the years 1933-1942. It discusses what happened in South Carolina with respect to the issues of relief, recreation and racism that parallels to what occurred across the nation.

“My primary purpose in writing this book is to assist teachers and librarians and their upper level elementary and high school students in understanding this crucial but understudied era in South Carolina’s history,” Waller explains. “These readers and a more general South Carolina audience could identify with a nearby place or make a family connection.”

An excerpt from the book:

...the South Carolina Civilian Conservation Corps inspired an era of hopefulness on the part of Blacks and Whites with regard to relief efforts, recreational needs, and race relations. The question arises whether another CCC-like program could/would address the nation’s current ills.

“Relief, Recreation, Racism”

By Robert A. Waller

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About the Author

Robert A. Waller is a professor emeritus of American history with service at the University of Illinois, Urbana (1963-1981), Clemson University in South Carolina (1981-2000) and locally The Villages College (2003-2015).

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