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Cover Illustration: Mr. Charles Cannon at dedication of Kellenberger Garden, Tryon Palace, New Bern, NC. Photo by Charles Clark, 1964, Conservation and Development. ConDev64-28B. "Courtesy of State Archives of North Carolina."

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letters. While his story is certainly about the environmental degradation of the basin, it is also about the legal relationship between Tennessee and Georgia, which serves as the crux of the legal argument for his signature Supreme Court case. The mining and processing facilities located in Tennessee produced the eponymous "Ducktown smoke" that refused to respect the arbitrary state lines and traveled across state borders to affect residents living in Georgia and North Carolina. This failure of the copper smelting smoke to remain in the state producing it brought about some of the most important legal decisions for the future environmental movement, decisions about who was responsible for policing industries that threatened the common good.

As useful as the book's contributions may be, there are a handful of faults. With its beginnings as a dissertation, the organization of the prose is occasionally difficult to follow. Maysilles frequently draws some compelling connections and certainly has a way with words; at times he is also repetitive and stretches his metaphors farther than necessary. However, these detractions from the book do not hinder its overall contributions. Ultimately, *Ducktown Smoke* is an important addition to the scholarship on Southern Appalachian industrialization, Appalachian and environmental history, and environmental law.

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Tiya Miles. *The House on Diamond Hill: a Cherokee Plantation Story*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2010. 336 pp., 18 illustrations, 1 table, 4 maps,

appendices, notes, index, and bibliography. \$ 32.50, cloth. ISBN: 9780807834183.

The much-studied antebellum South continues to be a rich source of material for historians as shown in the book, *The House on Diamond Hill* by Tiya Miles. The book revolves around a plantation in northern Georgia, founded and operated in the early 19th century on the principle of slave labor. In outward appearances, the sprawling plantation, the ramshackle slave quarters, and the customary luxurious mansion were similar to many others found in the region during that era. The difference driving the main themes of the book is that the master of the plantation was James Vann, a Cherokee Indian. Miles skillfully reveals diverse mixture of people that came together at and around the Vann plantation: American Indians, Africans, German-speaking Moravians, white settlers and officials of the newly formed United States. The book is about the blending of these races and cultures against a constant backdrop of change.

The story of the Cherokees as slaveholders is not often explored. The Cherokees found themselves caught in an awkward and painful transition from their traditional ways to a forced adaptation to the dominant white culture, which brought a completely new way of life. The Vann family, and especially James Vann, were especially successful in the new economic paradigm. Miles describes the Vann family history, sparing no detail of the often-sordid tale, and traces the decline of Cherokee independence as the Vann personal fortune inversely increased. James Vann, the founder and owner of the plantation, is the central figure of the book. Miles depicts Vann as ruthless in business and a brutal and cruel alcoholic. There are several chilling examples of how Vann treated the slaves on the plantation, as well as his own wives. The one positive trait is that Vann

remained loyal to his people as a whole. However, this single positive attribute pales in comparison with his negative qualities. Vann met a violent end and Miles continues the story with Vann's son, who maintained the plantation after the death of his father.

The emotional heart of the book involves the slaves on the plantation, many who spoke African languages and preserved, under terrible circumstances, elements of African culture. The blending and liveliness of African/Cherokee traditions and customs is one of the more interesting things about the book. Miles uses personal accounts to tell several heartrending stories about the lives of slaves. This is more familiar to readers of history than the information about the Cherokees; yet, the story of a people taken from their homeland, while clinging to it in spirit, never loses its poignancy.

One point made, but not belabored, is the idea of "American" values corrupting the Cherokee. Though somewhat controversial, Miles portrays the Vann family as no different from white slave holders, especially as the 19th century progressed. However, the tables soon turned. Often considered to be a civilized tribe in comparison to the nomadic western plains Indians, the Cherokee found themselves evicted from their ancient homelands, first piecemeal by a series of wars and unfair treaties, then wholesale by government order in the 1830s. The Vann family, an initially successful and seemingly powerful farming household, ironically found themselves in Oklahoma along with other less fortunate members of their tribe. The original Georgia plantation family home passed from owner to owner before being restored as a historic site.

The House on Diamond Hill starts slowly, with a lengthy introduction that explains sources and gives background, but becomes increasingly captivating as it

progresses. It is an academic work written in a scholarly tone backed by solid research. One of the constants in history is change, and this book succeeds in presenting the story of this turbulent time and the people who lived through it. Miles has produced an interesting book that makes a significant contribution to the study of the period.

HAROLD LEE WISE
Independent Scholar

Editor's postscript: Tya Miles's book has received the following Awards & Distinctions for *The House on Diamond Hill: a Cherokee Plantation Story*: 2011 Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin Prize, American Society for Ethnohistory; 2011 National Council on Public History Book Award; and the 2011 Lilla M. Hawes Award, Georgia Historical Society.

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Mark E. Neely, Jr. *Lincoln and the Triumph of the Nation: Constitutional Conflict in the American Civil War.* The Littlefield History of the Civil War Era, ed. Gary W. Gallagher and Michael Parrish. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011. 416 pp., notes, index, and bibliography. \$35.00, cloth. ISBN: 9780807835180.

Despite the voluminous literature on the conflict, "no one," Mark Neely tells us, "has ever written a constitutional history of the American Civil War," by which he means a one-volume treatment of both the U.S. and Confederate Constitutions (15). To be sure, Neely's new book, *Lincoln and the Triumph of the Nation*, does not quite fill the void. It is not comprehensive; he spends little time, for example, on the issues of freedom of speech or freedom of the press.