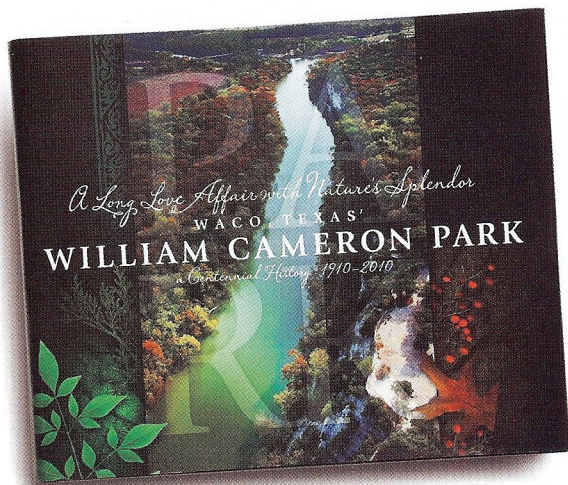


Park place

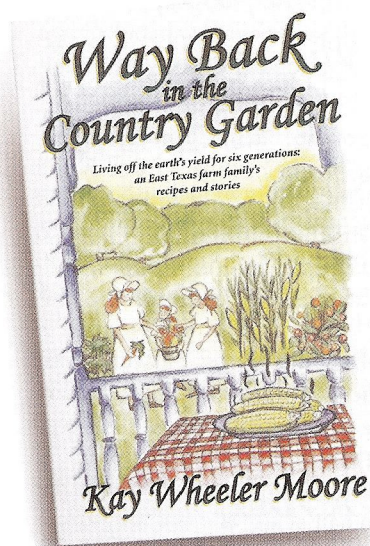
Celebrating a hundred years of Waco's Cameron Park



William Cameron Park: A Centennial History

By Mark Firmin
Big Bear Press
Waco, Texas

ISBN: 978-1-60258-289-7
200 pages, \$34.95
baylorpress.com



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Way Back in the Country Garden

By Kay Wheeler Moore
Hannibal Books
Garland, Texas
hannibalbooks.com

DURING THE FOUR (or more) years they spend in Waco, most Baylor students eventually find their way to Cameron Park—to take a run on the trails along the Brazos and Bosque rivers, play disc golf, or look over the edge of the infamous Lover's Leap.

With its numerous historic and contemporary photos and its rich historical detail, this

coffee-table book is as pleasurable

as a walk in the park. Written to commemorate Cameron Park's one-hundred-year birthday, the book, as the subtitle says, celebrates the park's "long love affair with nature's splendor."

The creation of the book was truly a collaborative effort, with numerous people from Baylor and the City of Waco working on the concept, research, photography, and design. The principle author is Mark Firmin '06, MA '09, who was a graduate student in Baylor's history department when Dr. T. Michael Parrish asked the students in his seminar on public history to help research a book on the park's upcoming centennial. Firmin got permission to make the project his master's thesis, and from there it developed into this book.

Firmin relied on resources at Baylor's Texas Collection and the Institute for Oral History to trace the history of Cameron Park, which began as an eighty-five-acre Proctor Springs property that was purchased for \$25,000 in 1910. During its storied history, the coveted tract, which borders the juncture of the Brazos and Bosque rivers, had played host to the Waco Indians and the Cherokees, a Texas Rangers outpost, and settlers making their way along the Chisholm Trail.

Firmin takes readers through the heyday of the park into its decline in the 1970s and 1980s, when it became known more for crime and drug-related incidents than for

its scenery. The last chapter covers the revitalization of Cameron Park during the last two decades.

Of course, as with any coffee-table book, the visual aids are what grab the reader's attention in *William Cameron Park*. The book features an extensive collection of maps, copies of letters and other documents, sepia-toned photographs, and lush color pictures. The very first picture, spread out over the two inside cover pages, is sure to stop readers in their tracks—it's an autumn scene of the river lined with trees in gold, red, and green foliage. The inside back cover is no less impressive with a view of a snow-covered wooden walkway through the park.

"Cameron Park has served as a microcosm of Waco, exhibiting a century-long cycle of development, decline, and renewal," Firmin writes at the end of the book. He concludes by encouraging Waco citizens to maintain and protect an important piece of the city's history. "Cameron Park will be whatever Wacoans want it to be so long as they are willing to preserve and improve it for future generations."

"IN A BYGONE DAY, IN A PLACE not too different from one your family calls home," is the reflective opening phrase found in Kay Wheeler Moore's most recent book. This sentiment sets the tone for an outpouring of love, memories, and delicious family recipes found throughout the remainder of the pages. But *Country Garden* is not just a cookbook. It's a documentation of one family's history, a journal to

Spread the word

If you've recently had a book published, a CD released, or a video produced, send a copy for consideration c/o "Under Review," *Baylor Line*, One Bear Place #97116, Waco, TX 76798-7116.

pass down through the generations, and a beloved remembrance of six generations who paved the way for their children.

Tales of Moore's mother and two aunts, the "Three Red-Haired Miller girls," warm the heart with visions of a time when people walked out to their backyard and picked the evening's meal straight from the vine. "We had no idea we were poor," Frances mused from her wheelchair, "because we always had food from the garden," Moore writes, quoting her aunt. Like flipping through a family album—with black-and-white pictures of an old farm, fish-fries, and Thanksgiving dinners—Moore's book incorporates more than 120 recipes with accompanying anecdotes and photos. Scriptures are scattered through the pages as memories of stories, and stories of memories, are told.

Each tale is as modest as its accompanying recipe. Moore '71 describes "ladling [the preserves] into a wide-rimmed, cut-glass compote" on one page, and the following page provides an easy, traditional recipe for "tomato preserves": tomato, sugar, lemon, ginger—combine, cook, pour into jars.

Through the "lore of loved ones," Moore shares stories and teaches lessons at the same time. She shows how food can incite emotions and memories, making them tangible and "tasteable." It's not only how to make something, but where it comes from, and from whom.

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Strange Land

By Todd Hearon

Southern Illinois University Press

Carbondale, Illinois

siupress.com

IN A 2007 INTERVIEW, Todd Hearon said that he was struggling to "find a place in my poems for the ugly, the treacherous, the false, the banal." In this debut collection, Hearon proves that he has worked out a way to combine stark, ominous images in an exploration of the human craving for beauty and connection.

While most of the poems included in *Strange Land* were previously published in different poetry journals, together they present a unifying theme of a person moving through a wasteland as he searches for signs of meaningful life. The speakers include Adam, after his expulsion from Paradise, and Shelley, the Romantic-era poet who drowned. In the poem "Voyager," the speaker says, "We've set our sights on nothing left to lose / and made of loss itself a lullaby."

A 1990 Baylor graduate, Hearon earned a master's degree in Irish studies from Boston College and a PhD in editorial studies from Boston University, where he co-founded the Bridge Theatre Company. He is also an actor, director, playwright, and fiction writer.

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The Constantine Conspiracy

By Gary E. Parker

Revell

Grand Rapids, Michigan

revellbooks.com

THIS NOVEL BEGINS IN Rome in the year 313 A.D., and it never stops moving. From ancient times, we hop to modern day to follow main characters Rick Carson and Shannon Bridge as they travel from Montana to Detroit to Boston to Atlanta in their quest for . . . well, to tell more would be to give away the plot of this gripping thriller.

The author of fifteen novels, Gary E. Parker, PhD '84, dedicates the book to "the legion of witnesses . . . who have sacrificed, sometimes to the utmost, to assure that all of us, religious and irreligious, have the right to publicly proclaim what we believe." Hopefully, that tidbit doesn't give away too much!



Also of note

BaptistWay Press has released *The Letters of James and John: Real Faith*, an adult Bible study guide that features lessons written by **Perry Lassiter '56** and **Leigh Ann Tidwell Powers '98**. [baptistwaypress.org]

Michael Godfrey '77, PhD '05, wrote several of the lessons included in the teaching guide of *The Letters of James and John: Real Faith*. [baptistwaypress.org]

Zondervan Books has published *Golf's Sacred Journey*, written by Dr. **David Cook '80**. [zondervan.com]

Scott Philip Segrest '92 has authored *America and the Political Philosophy of Common Sense*, published by the University of Missouri Press. [press.umsystem.edu]

E. P. Garth '96 has written *Out of Touch*, the second in a series of Pat Cassidy-crime novels published by Garth Enterprises. [patcassidy.blogspot.com]

