

surveys. Her reliance on the journal *Wallaces' Farmer* and its columnist Elizabeth Wherry seems excessive, however, and suggests the need to consider a wider range of farm periodicals. Jellison has also used very few individual manuscript collections of women's letters and diaries and has not relied much on oral histories of rural women's life experiences. Consulting these sources would have enhanced what is already a fine monograph and a most impressive addition to twentieth-century women's history and the history of rural life.

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Gatling: A Photographic Remembrance. By E. Frank Stephenson, Jr. (Murfreesboro, N.C.: Meherrin River Press, 1993. Pp. 130. Illustrations. Paperbound, \$25.00. Order from Meherrin River Press, 301 East Broad Street, Murfreesboro, NC 27855.)

"Photographic Remembrance" is an accurate description of E. Frank Stephenson's goal in the writing and layout of *Gatling*. In a brief narrative the author remembers his youth spent on and around the Gatling Plantation. He gives a historical sketch of the Gatling family, including its most famous member, Dr. Richard Jordan Gatling. One might have wished for a bit more detail about the circumstances surrounding the invention of the Gatling gun in Indianapolis.

The most striking features of this small book are its photographs and drawings. Taken as a whole, they tell a story all their own of another time and of an extraordinary family of inventors and visionaries. Stephenson has made every effort to document the sources and contents of the illustrations that he selected. Photographs related to Gatling's wedding (which took place in Indianapolis) and death are supplemented by moving eyewitness accounts.

Readers who are unfamiliar with Gatling's life will be surprised to see patent drawings for a variety of inventions besides the gun that bears his name. Among his more than fifty patents were a bicycle, tractor, motorized plow, and flush toilet. Stephenson is to be commended for reminding readers of this inventive genius who "conceived the idea of mitigating the horrors of war by a more deadly weapon than any one then in use" (p. 83). Perhaps this gentle reminder will spawn a much-deserved full biography of Richard Jordan Gatling.

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