UPCOMING EVENTS

Dr. David A. Burke
October 16, 2014

Dr. Dewey Weiss Kramer
November 11, 2014

DR. DAVID A. BURKE AND DR. DEWEY WEISS KRAMER

In Atomic Testing in Mississippi (LSU Press, 2012), Dr. David Allen Burke illuminates the nearly forgotten history of America’s only nuclear detonations east of the Mississippi River. The atomic tests, conducted in the mid-1960s nearly 3,000 feet below ground in Mississippi’s Tatum Salt Dome, posed a potential risk for those living within 150 miles of the site, which included residents of Hattiesburg, Jackson, Gulfport, Biloxi, Mobile, and New Orleans. A Spring Hill College graduate (94), Dr. Burke holds a Ph.D. from Auburn University in the History of Technology.

Dr. Kramer earned a B.A. from Vassar in German and Music, and an M.A. and Ph.D in Germanic Languages and Literature from the University of Texas-Austin.

She has taught and written on German literature, Benedictine and Cistercian monasticism, Thomas Merton, and medieval women religious, especially 14th and 15th century Christian mystic Julian of Norwich and Hildegard of Bingen, a 12th century poet, artist, physician, and visionary.

In 1984, she was invited to form an instrumental ensemble for the first U.S. production of Bingen’s musical drama, Ordo virtutum. By discussing one poem, song, and illumination of Bingen’s, she’ll demonstrate how Bingen’s 12th century views address today’s issues and provide inspiration for modern-day living.
Feb. 5, 1869: News of a fire at Spring Hill College, located six miles from Mobile, Alabama, was disseminated. New York Associated Press Dispatches.

Feb. 6, 1869: “The students barely escaped with their lives losing their clothes and other valuables. The library, furniture, and museum all lost. No one injured. Loss is $100,000. Insured is $35,000.” The Daily Atlanta Intelligencer & Charleston Daily News.

Feb. 9, 1869: “The (Spring Hill College) laboratory, one of the most extensive and complete in America, a cabinet of geology worth $10,000, a similar cabinet of botany, a vast collection of curiosities, a library of 12,000 volumes worth $50,000, the philosophic apparatus, the fruits of forty years of labor and collecting, along with relics of gems, ivory and precious stones, rare paintings, and the wardrobes of students and professors, all were destroyed.* The lost is irreparable, and will be learned with regret throughout the whole country by hundreds of men—some of them now in the ‘sere and yellow leaf,’ who were educated there.” The Memphis Daily.* These lost treasures were primarily the work of Father Andrew Cornette, S.J. 1819-1872.

Feb. 12, 1869: “There are upwards [of] one-hundred men in the metropolis (New Orleans) who have attended Spring Hill College and who preserve their love of their Alma Mater. Nine-tenths of them, strange to say, are lawyers, and among them are some of the first members of the New Orleans bar. The suggestion is to hold a meeting of Spring Hill students, the object of which is to adopt measures for the relief of the college.” New Orleans Crescent.

Feb. 13, 1869: “The College of Spring Hill near Mobile, Alabama, which was under the director of the Rev. Fathers of the Society of Jesus, has been destroyed by fire. The parents and guardians of the students are respectfully informed that the directors and professors of said college are transferred to St. Charles College at Grand Coteau, La., where they are ready to receive the students entrusted to them and resume the course of studies.” The Opelousas Courier.

Feb. 14, 1869: “There was a meeting at Mobile, Thursday evening, to devise a means to rebuild Spring Hill College, at once. Henry St. Paul presided and Wm. Le Baron was secretary. Addresses were made by the chairman Father Gautrelet and Judge Delchamps secretary. A committee to solicit subscriptions was appointed. It consisted of the following gentlemen: Right Rev. Bishop Quinlan, honorary president; Joseph E. Murrell, G. M. Parker, John McDonald, P.H. Pepper, Thomas M. LeBaron, Jas H. Caldwell, R.F. Yniestre, John Lyons, and Charles Friecke (contractor-builder).” New Orleans Crescent.

Feb. 27, 1869: St Charles College, Grand Coteau—We are happy to be able to announce that this excellent institution has been reopened and now on the high road to prosperity. Six-two students from Spring Hill College (which was recently destroyed by fire) arrived on the 19th by the Steamer “Annie Wagley” accompanied by the President (Spring Hill College) Rev. Mr. Curioz and were immediately conveyed to the St. Charles College. The youths are all, or nearly all, from Alabama.* Many students from different sections of our State of Louisiana are daily arriving at the college, and we have no doubt there will soon be over a hundred students.

* (Session closed August 25, 1869) Opelousas Courier.

Feb. 28, 1869: “A meeting of former Spring Hill students . . . at noon at 145 Royal Street. A full attendance is requested.” New Orleans Crescent.

March 11, 1869: Two fundraising ads to benefit the rebuilding of Spring Hill College were published in the New Orleans Crescent:

March 17, 1869: New Opera House, Bourbon Street, Giuseppe Verdi’s 1847 four act opera, Jerusalem.

March 19, 1869: The Jesuits’ Immaculate Conception Church on Baronne Street, a grand sacred concert with an orchestra of 45 musicians.
John William Davis welcomed the gathering at Stewartfield, and said “I’m a very nice man.” As the evening progressed it became clear how right he was. Mr. Williams is a very nice man. Throughout his 40-year career as military and civilian intelligence officer, he met and was inspired by a number of people from various backgrounds.

The inspirations started early, however. A school librarian introduced him to the world of books beyond those listing baseball scores. A high school teacher told him he had a special aptitude for foreign languages. These changed his life; so, too, did his encounters with WWII survivors and Cold War colleagues and foes.

*Rainy Day Stories* tells the stories of brave people, and grapples with larger issues of good and evil, and, most importantly, what we can learn from the brave and the deceitful about good and evil. It’s a thoughtful book, giving praise where due and re-claiming, in a personal way, the positive values of American culture.

These reflections, poems, and essays, published in 2012, applaud everyday Joes who deter soldiers from following their worst instincts, remind us that survivors deserve our remembrances, and that Veterans Day should commend not just veterans, but their families as well.

*Rainy Day Stories* is available at [www.redbikepublishing.com](http://www.redbikepublishing.com) and from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

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