

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

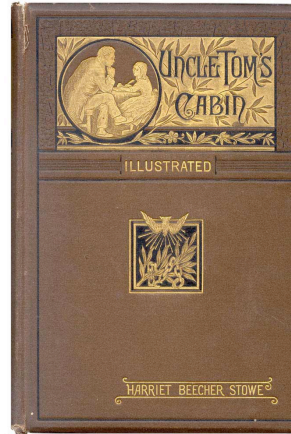
...VOLUME 8: NUMBER 3.....MARCH 2013...

A Classic?

Having recently read *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin, I continued my exploration of the Civil War era with an online viewing of the PBS series *The Abolitionists* where I encountered the story of Harriet Beecher Stowe, whose loss of her young son kindled a sympathetic fervor for the slaves of the American South. Browsing at the library, I came upon a copy of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and decided to see what truth there might be in Lincoln's apocryphal greeting of Mrs. Stowe -- "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war!"

Featured This Month

Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe
As literary critic Alfred Kazin said in the afterword to the Library's edition of this classic, most people feel they know *Uncle Tom's Cabin* from dramatic adaptations or even simply from the terms "Uncle Tom" or "Simon Legree." I had read *Uncle Tom's Cabin* as a teenager, but my recent re-reading struck no echoes; in fact, what I recalled best was a parody of the ice floe scene in an *Our Gang* comedy episode. Most of the action occurs in the subplot about the escape of the slave Eliza with husband and her son (across those ice floes) along the Underground Railroad to Canada rather than Uncle Tom's progress through the South from respected member of the slave community at his home plantation to confidant of the saintly little Eva, daughter of the wealthy Mr. St. Clare, and finally to a brutal end as the chattel of Simon Legree. In any case, the plot is not the point. Neither are the characters portrayed with real depth, and some observations and attitudes of the author are jarring and offensive to modern mores. What seem very real, however, are the conversations of the characters. One can imagine Stowe having heard these same words actually voiced. The speeches, like the events



of the plot, incarnate the great political argument of her day, which Stowe makes relentlessly for the abolition of slavery on moral and religious grounds. Even historians who doubt the Lincoln quote concede the influence this book had on the national debate. I took up this novel to try to understand why it was so popular then, given its depreciated status now. I would speculate that its emotional appeal to a culture imbued in the Christian teaching that abounds in these pages may account for the fact that, in modern parlance, Stowe's book went viral in 1852.

Uncle Tom's Cabin, while at times uncomfortable, is a time capsule of a vanished America, but its contents still illuminate the workings of American popular culture. And for anyone interested in Civil War history, it is a primary source document.

Introduction and review by Mary Anne Ciancia

Notes from the Library Board

Notice the empty space?

Please check your shelves for overdue library books!!

Extra paperbacks and VHS tapes from the HCL are now on sale at the Barbershop Cafe.

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New at the Library

Films on DVD

Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants ...The Crew
Cleopatra ... In Which We Serve ...The Italian Job
My Big Fat Greek Wedding ...Ninotchka
The Palm Beach Story ... Pinky ... Sophie's Choice
Water for Elephants ... The Day of the Jackal
The Dead ...The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid
Gone with the Wind .. To Kill a Mockingbird
Million Dollar Baby.. All About Eve ... Norma Rae
The Pianist ... Seraphim Falls ...The Wicker Man

Films on VHS

Any Given Sunday ... Extreme Measures
Maverick ... Remember the Titans
The Spitfire Grill

Fiction

The Wolf Gift by Anne Rice

Reference

History of New Mexico: Its Resources and People,
Volume 2 by George B. Anderson

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THE HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY
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Classics

For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway
Madame de Treymes, and Others by Edith Wharton
Roman Fever, and Other Stories by Edith Wharton

Mystery

A Question of Belief by Donna Leon
Quietly in Their Sleep by Donna Leon
Die a Stranger by Steve Hamilton
Bait by Kenneth Abel
The Affair by Lee Child
The Lock Artist by Steve Hamilton

Nonfiction

Let Me Be Free by David Lavender
New Mexico Rocks & Minerals by Frank Kimbler
Box of Light/Caja de Luz by Susan Gardner
The Other Rodeo by M E (Jr.) Gomez
Clay Hills and Mud Pies by Annie Mary Perez
My Stroke of Insight by Jill Bolte Taylor
Still Life Painting Techniques by Mary Suffudy
The Complete Sketching Book by John Hamilton

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, March 20

Hillsboro: 1:00 – 2:00 pm Kingston: 2:30-3:30 pm

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit
<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed
Tues. 3:30 - 5:30pm Wed. 1:00 – 4:00pm
Thurs: 3:30 - 5:30pm Fri: 10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–2:00pm