

SPARE RUMINATIONS OF
GOD, FAMILY AND
COUNTRY



DAVID CLAIRE JENNINGS

Spare Ruminations of God, Family and Country

Copyright © 2023 David Claire Jennings

All rights reserved. In accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher is unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property.

Published by Southern Heart Publishing Co.

Author's website: www.davidclairejennings.com

Also by David Claire Jennings:

After Bondage and War (2015)

Hanna's Promise: A Story of Grace and Hope (2016)

The American: A Man's Life (2016)

Slaves, Saints and Soldiers (2017)

Collected Essays on Americanism, 3rd edition (2017)

Collected Stories of My Family (2016)

American Stories: Sources of our Greatness (2019)

The Scots, Ulster Scots and Irish (2019)

The Men Who Gathered Together: An early history of SURC (2021)

My Soul, Oh My Soul, 2nd edition (2019)

Dreams of My Father: An American Life (2021)

The Goodness of Alzheimer's, 2nd edition (2017)

The Mountain Road Camp: A pictorial story (2021)

Artillery of the Civil War – content by Wikipedia (2021)

The Couple – Now and Then, a stage play (2017)

All That You Are – music and lyrics (2019)

Love and Glory – music (2019)

Dedication

To the Memory of Joan Austin

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
--------------	---

Better Angels	3
Crossing Over	5
Darwinism	9
Mom	13
Our Place in the Field	17
A Father's Advice	19
Free State of Jones	23
The Gun My Father Built	27
A New Modest Proposal	29
Americanism – a Brief History	31
The West	35
The Value of Western Civilization	37
The Death of American Tradition	39
Why We Are	43
Freedom in David Wexley's Eyes	45
A Paragraph from Shelby Foote	51
Jeb's Charm	53
Joshua L. Chamberlain	55
Lincoln's and Davis' Troubles	59

The Hatfields and the McCoys and Reasons for Fighting	65
What it Means to be Irish	71
A Review of Hillbilly Elegy	75
Professor Burriss v. Professor Nielson	77
An Open Letter to Michelle Obama	79
The 1619 Project	81
The Civil Rights Movement	89
Reflection and Hope	91
Why we love our country	93
The Rayleigh Competition	95
The Art of Engineering	99
Culture of the 60's	101
The Street Musician	103
What I Did for Love	107
<hr/>	
Conclusion	109

Introduction

The dictionary definition of rumination(s) is:

noun

1. the act of pondering or musing on something: *Understanding little of what was happening, I was semi-consciously storing away experiences, impressions, and ideas for later rumination.*
2. something written or spoken that expresses such pondering or musing: *Her blogs contain notes of spirituality, ruminations on the meaning of experience, and glimpses of her multifaceted life.*
3. the act or process of chewing the cud, as cows, deer, and some other animals do: *Rumination helps cows efficiently turn grass, corn, and other feed into nutrient-dense milk.*

In my 70's my writing was prolific. My compulsion to write was supported by my muse, Joan Austin. We formed Southern Heart Publishing as our brand; publishing both commercially and privately.

I wrote novels, histories, biographies, essays, a stage play and even a couple songs (one with and one without lyrics) always conscious of developing a style that was mine and mine alone. In that regard, I believe I was successful in painting lyrical, sometimes poetic, heart felt work. Whether this is true or not God knows for sure.

Now that I am 80 with physical abilities limited and my mental acuity on the wane, but to my delight like an unexpected song, I found some of my writing in my archives that had never been published. This encouraged me to write some new articles. These are the things that are in this book – my final thoughts if you will – for God, family and country.

end of sample