The Du Ponts Portrait Of A Dynasty Marc Duke

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a landmark investigation of the chemical industry s decades long campaign to hide the dangers of forever chemicals told through the story of a small town on the frontlines of an epic public health crisis in 2014 after losing several friends and relatives to cancer an unassuming insurance underwriter in hoosick falls new york began to suspect that the local water supply was polluted when he tested his tap water he discovered dangerous levels of forever chemicals this set off a chain of events that led to 100 million americans learning their drinking water was tainted although the discovery came as a shock to most the u s government and the manufacturers of these toxic chemicals used in everything from lipstick and cookware to children's clothing had known about their hazards for decades in they poisoned the world investigative journalist mariah blake tells the astonishing story of this cover up tracing its roots back to the manhattan project and through the postwar years as industry scientists discovered that these chemicals refused to break down and were saturating the blood of virtually every human being by the 1980s manufacturers were secretly testing their workers and finding links to birth defects cancer and other serious diseases at every step the industry s deceptions were aided by our government s appallingly lax regulatory system a system that has made us all guinea pigs in a vast uncontrolled chemistry experiment drawing on years of on the ground reporting and tens of thousands of documents blake interweaves the secret history of forever chemicals with the moving story of how a lone village took on the chemical giants and won from the beloved local doctor to the young mother who took her fight all the way to the nation s capital citizen activists in hoosick falls and beyond have ignited the most powerful grassroots environmental movement since silent spring humane and revelatory this book will provoke outrage and hopefully inspire the change we need to protect the health of every american for generations to come

a complement to genealogies in the library of congress t p of fifth v

award winning journalist gerard colby takes readers behind the scenes of one of america s most powerful and enduring corporations now with a new introduction by the author their name is everywhere america s wealthiest industrial family by far and a vast financial power the du ponts from their mansions in northern delaware s chateau country have long been leaders in the relentless drive to turn the united states into a plutocracy the du pont story in this country began in 1800 Éleuthère irénée du pont official keeper of the gunpowder of corrupt king louis xvi fled from revolutionary france to america two years later he founded the gunpowder company that called itself america's armorer and that president wilson's secretary of war called a species of outlaws for war profiteering du pont dynasty introduces many colorful characters including general henry du pont who profited from the civil war to build the gunpowder trust one of the first corporate monopolies alfred i du pont betrayed by his cousins and pushed out of the organization landing in social exile as the powerful count of florida the three brothers who expanded du pont s control to general motors fought autoworkers right to unionize and then launched a family tradition of waging campaigns to destroy fdr s new deal regulatory reforms governor pete du pont who ran for president and backed newt gingrich s 1994 republican revolution and irving s shapiro the architect of du pont s ongoing campaign to undermine effective environmental regulation from plans to force president roosevelt from office to munitions sales to warlords and the rising nazis to freon s damage to the planet s life protecting ozone layer to the manufacture of deadly gases and the covered up poisoning of du pont workers to the reputation the company earned for being the worst polluter of america's air and water the du pont reign has been dappled with scandal for centuries culled from years of painstaking research and interviews this fully documented book unfolds like a novel laying bare the bitter feuds power plays smokescreens and careless unaccountability that erupted in murder colby pulls back the curtain on a dynasty whose formidable influence continues to this day suppressed in myriad ways and the subject of the author's landmark federal lawsuit du pont dynasty is an essential history of the united states

on the day that archduke franz ferdinand heir to the austrian throne was assassinated tennesseans worried about the weather carole bucy writes indeed the war that began in europe in 1914 was unimaginably remote from tennessee until it wasn t drawing on a depth of research into a wide array of topics this vanguard collection of essays aims to conceptualize world war i through the lens of tennessee the book begins by situating life in tennessee within the greater context of the war in europe recounting america s growing involvement in the great war as the volume unfolds editor michael e birdwell and the contributors weave together soldier narratives politics and agribusiness african american history and present day recollections to paint a picture of tennessee s great war experience that is both informative and gripping an essential addition to the broader historiography of the american experience during world war i this collection of essays presents tennessee stories that are close to home in more than just geography and lineage by relating international conflict through the eyes of tennessee s own editor michael e birdwell and the contributing authors provide new opportunities for academics and general readers alike to engage with the great war from a unique and until now untold perspective

though they were not as charlotte claimed refugees from the french revolution augustus waldemar and charlotte victoire mentelle undoubtedly felt like exiles in their adopted hometown of lexington kentucky a settlement that was still a frontier town when they arrived in 1798 through the years

the cultured parisian couple often reinvented themselves out of necessity but their most famous venture was mentelle s for young ladies an intellectually rigorous school that attracted students from around the region and greatly influenced its most well known pupil mary todd lincoln drawing on newly translated materials and previously overlooked primary sources randolph paul runyon explores the life and times of the important but understudied pair in this intriguing dual biography he illustrates how the mentelles origins and education gave them access to the higher strata of bluegrass society even as their views on religion politics and culture kept them from feeling at home in america they were intimates of statesman henry clay and one of their daughters married into the clay family but like other immigrant families in the region they struggled to survive throughout runyon reveals the mentelles as eloquent chroniclers of crucial moments in ohio and kentucky history from the turn of the nineteenth century to the eve of the civil war they rankled at the baleful influence of conservative religion on the local college the influence of whiskey on the local population and the scandal of slavery in the land of liberty this study sheds new light on the lives of a remarkable pair who not only bore witness to key events in early american history but also had a singular impact on the lives of their friends their students and their community

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