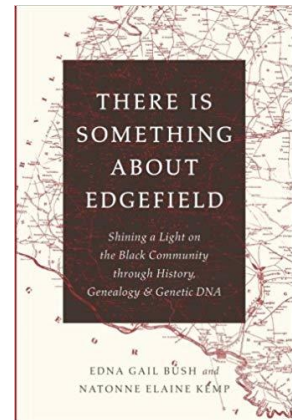


## Discussion Guide: *There Is Something About Edgefield*

By Edna Gail Bush and Natonne Elaine Kemp

1. In Chapter 1, Gail discusses researching the other half of Edgefield history. What did she learn about Black lives during the Reconstruction Era?
2. Despite that environment, what did Gail's great grandfather (Albert Bush) achieve? How unique was he?
3. What did genetic DNA testing reveal about Gail's paternal line?
4. In Chapter 2, Cousin Little Joe stated, "You know, Gail, you are the third and last Edna." What did Gail ultimately learn about her 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandmother Edna and what she had endured as an enslaved woman?
5. Gail learns that her maternal ancestors were used as breeders? What are the psychological ramifications of this practice, not just to those enslaved women but their children and later descendants?
6. In Chapter 3, what similar tragedy did Natonne and her paternal grandmother experience?
7. Natonne discovered that her 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather, Nathaniel Blair, was a tenant farmer. How is this position different from a sharecropper? How was Nathaniel Blair's post-Civil War life different from Gail's great grandfather, Albert Bush?
8. Nathaniel Blair, born about 1850, could read and write in 1920, but was illiterate per the 1910, 1900, 1880 and 1870 censuses. For a man born during slavery, Nathaniel's illiteracy in 1910 was not unique. How did he compare to his peers in South Carolina? What were the consequences to his livelihood and for supporting the health and well-being of his family?
9. In Chapter 4, Natonne quotes from Ida B. Wells' *A Red Record: Alleged Causes of Lynching*. Ms. Wells identified Edgefield as one of the places where "the countless massacres of defense-less Negroes, whose only crime was the attempt to exercise their right to vote" occurred. Chapter 4 includes conflicting testimonies from Black and White Edgefield residents about the 1876 election. Can you discern any negative consequences to the mental and/or physical health of Black Edgefield residents who, despite being the majority in the county, were repressed, threatened and lived in fear?



10. Black Americans are disproportionately poor compared to their White counterparts. This present disparity is rooted in the Black experience in America from slavery, to Reconstruction, Jim Crow and the Civil Rights Movement. When the slaves were freed, they did not receive 40 acres and a mule. Emancipated but without a means to support themselves, many formerly enslaved ended up working for their former slave owners. How do such historical disparities as outlined in the book play a direct role in the health outcomes within the community.

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