

Waak, Patricia. *My Bones are Red: A Spiritual Journey with a Triracial People in the Americas*. Mercer Univ. Press. 2005 ISBN: 9780865549173

In the late 1700s the roots of cowboy culture arose out of the Carolinas. These men and women were not the typical white ranchers that would be depicted in later stories and films. Instead they were a group of tri-racial isolates. While much is now being published about Melungeons, little has been written about the cowboy Redbones. The Redbones followed Reverend Joseph Willis to Louisiana in the early 1800s. He was the patriarch of the group and contributed his Baptist ministry to the spiritual composite that would make up their religious heritage. *My Bones Are Red* primarily tells the stories of the Perkins family. They would stay in Louisiana for at least four decades before crossing the border into Texas. For the first time this book tracks family members who would be sequentially classified by the U.S. census as black, free people of color, mulatto, Indian, and white over a period of one hundred years. Historical evidence suggests the Perkins family and the families they married into were a combination of Native American, African, and British. What started out as a quest to find the mother of her beloved grandfather, became for Patricia Waak a revelation about the diversity of her family. It became, in fact, a spiritual journey as she visited cemeteries, courthouses, and archives from Accomack County, Virginia, to Goliad, Texas. Filled with translations of old court cases, accounts from oral history, and the results of countless hours of research, she also invites us to participate in her own discovery through original poetry which introduces each chapter. Included are photographs, genealogical charts, maps, and copies of old documents. The journey to discover the story of one line of her family, becomes for the author a farewell to her mother and an honoring of the people who contributed to who she is today.

Waak, Patricia. *Memories of Africa: Coming Home. Poetry and Prose*. 2025. Independently Published. ISBN-13. 979-8298472258.

In 1985, the author began a series of journeys to Africa for work and adventure. During the trips she kept journals and wrote poetry. This book is compilation of some of the poetry and prose that came from her experiences in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Botswana, Zambia, Namibia and Madagascar. Almost all the writing is focused on the wildlife of these countries. Alongside is honoring the people who strive to find a balance between themselves and nature.

She has also written *Planet Awakening* (Audubon, 2000); *Sharing the Earth: Cross Cultural Experiences in Population, Wildlife and the Environment* (Audubon), and *Ah, Where the Light Shines Through* (2004).

Patricia Waak's international experience includes 5 years with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and 2 years with the U.S. Peace Corps in Brazil. During her USAID tenure, Pat was a Special Assistant to the Assistant Administrator for Population and Humanitarian Assistance and the Bureau for Development Support, and Associate and Deputy Director of the Office of Population. She also served as the Agency's liaison for the Global 2000 Study. She has served as a USAID consultant in Washington DC, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Nigeria; and Nepal. She has also served as Party Chairperson for the Colorado Democratic Party.