



"With brief, often humorous stories the author paints a vivid picture of his development from a Southern boy more concerned with fishing and football into an applied nuclear physicist. His stories from youth, insider's view of academia and firsthand account of a life in physics should interest a wide audience." -- Kirkus Reviews

The first part of this fascinating book chronicles the Stacy family from the early settling of Georgia in the Midway Church community in the 18th century, their migration to southwest Georgia in the 19th century to escape the devastation left behind by Sherman's army, through the author's unusual experiences as a youth in the vanished world of the small-town South of the mid-20th century. His serendipitous path from southwest Georgia through Georgia Tech and the Marine Corps to the world of applied nuclear science is amusingly described.

The second part of the book is a personal scientific memoir of the author's advanced education at Georgia Tech and MIT as an applied nuclear physicist and his 50 years of internationally recognized research, design and teaching about nuclear reactors and nuclear fusion. This memoir provides unique insights into the history of physics and into the world of applied nuclear physics laboratories and major research universities, as well as an account of the author's personal life, family, friendships, travels and reading.

Weston (Bill) Stacey is the Callaway Regents' Professor of Nuclear Engineering at Georgia Tech and lives in Atlanta with his wife Penelope, daughter Lucia and dog Wilfred. He has two other children, Helen and Weston, and seven grandchildren.

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