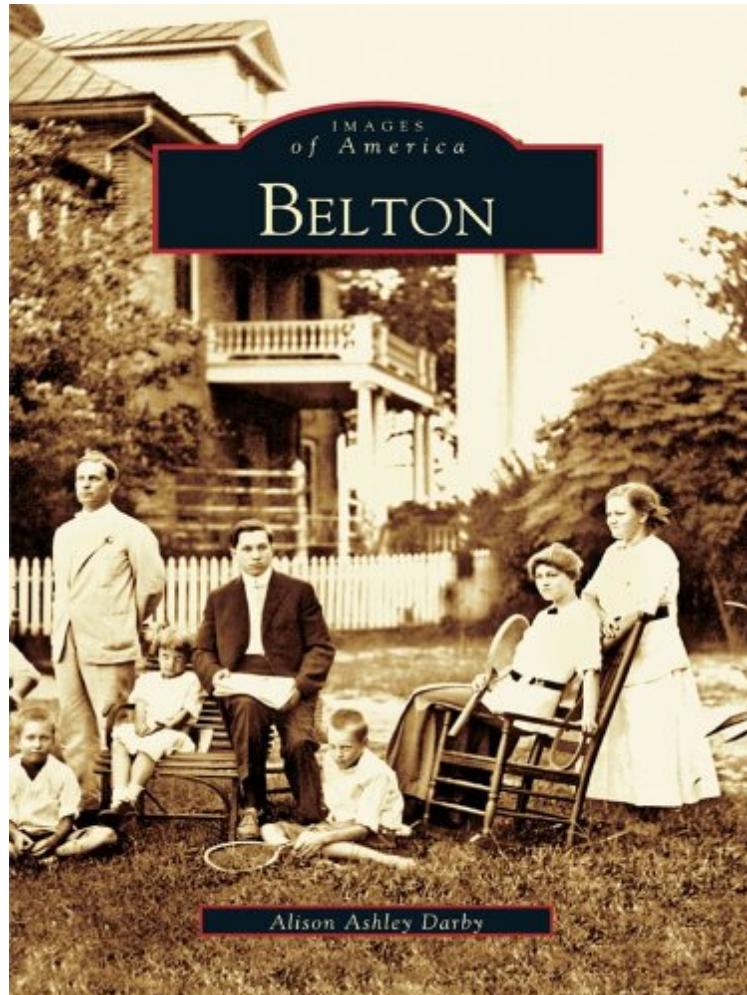


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Belton (Images of America)

Alison Ashley Darby

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Alison Ashley Darby : Belton (Images of America) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Belton (Images of America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. These books tell me a lot about my mom and ...By LinnieThese books tell me a lot about my mom and dad's home town and where they grew up. Really interesting when I read it with my mom who is 91.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Profile of Small Town AmericaBy Bonnie NeelyIMAGES OF AMERICA: BELTON, SC By Alison Ashley Darby is part of a fascinating series which documents the history of towns throughout the country. Belton, SC, is a small, rural town. This excellent visual history was collected and written by a local historian whose skills at unearthing interesting details make it a very enjoyable read , especially for local residents and visitors and even for those who have never heard of Belton! For today's readers it is difficult to imagine the influence of a train station on the development of a town. This book helps us appreciate how the rail had an enormous impact on the growth of towns in the last century. The book has hundreds of photos of

"then and now," collected from citizens, town records and newspapers, and many sources the author discovered in her quest for this delightful little piece of Americana. A good read to learn about yesteryear in rural America. A perfect gift for any visitor or resident of the area.

Belton, South Carolina, is indeed a child of the railroad. By 1853, the fledgling town had begun developing at the junction of the Columbia and Greenville Railroad and its spur line to Anderson. Josephine Brown, daughter of Dr. George Reece Brown who owned most of the land around the railroad, named the community after Judge John Belton O'Neill, president of the CG Railroad Company. By the turn of the century, Capt. Ellison A. Smyth began the Belton Cotton Mill, which quickly became the largest cotton mill in the Palmetto State. Images of America: Belton captures the city's growth from a railroad depot and mill town to today's wealthy suburb of Anderson and home to the South Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame and the Palmetto Championships, the state's junior qualifying tennis tournament. The community's vitality is depicted through historic images of the standpipe, a water tower built in 1909 that symbolizes Belton today; the depot and railroad scenes; church life; town progress; schools; community events and celebrations; and prominent residents.

About the Author A teacher and writer for nearly two decades, author Alison Ashley Darby delighted in talking with native Beltonians about their beloved town, gathering the photographs for the volume, and unlocking their mysteries. She has worked with various civic organizations in Belton and nearby Anderson, including the Belton Area Museum.