

Rebecca Dial Publishes Her Autobiography

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Last year Miss Rebecca Dial published "True To His Colors. A Story of South Carolina's Senator Nathaniel Barksdale Dial," the biography of her father.

This year she has published "My Stream Without a Name," an autobiography.

Autographed copies of "My Stream Without a Name" may be obtained from the author at 2852 Woodlawn Avenue, Fall Church, Va. 22042. The cost is \$5.95.

Following is a review of the autobiography by Adger Brown, who until recently was editor of cultural affairs for The State. The review appeared in The State.

Miss Dial's Book: A Lesson in Faith My Stream Without a Name

An Autobiography by Rebecca Dial. Published by the author, 137 pp., \$5.95.

Reviewed by Adger Brown

Rebecca Dial, daughter of the late South Carolina Senator Nathaniel Barksdale Dial, is the author of numerous plays, television programs and occasional writings.

In her latest work, Miss Dial turns to informal "autobiography," although the term must be loosely regarded, since the content of this book focuses only upon a relatively short section of her life.

An "old-maid school teacher" nearing retirement, Miss Dial acquired a house in a Northern Virginia suburb, which she proposed to turn into a retreat where those who wished might come and "invite their souls."

Warned against such a hazardous undertaking, the indomitable Miss Dial persisted, however, and entered the fray against obstacles ranging from wild brambles and poison ivy to jack-leg repairmen and lawyers and groups which threatened to run a road through her property and to deprive her of the little stream that ran through it.

"My Stream Without a Name" is a triumphant demonstration of how the minutiae of existence give meaning and direction to one's life, and of how the overcoming of continuing frustrations can be accomplished by persistence, faith and a sense of humor.

While Miss Dial's dream of establishing a haven for meditation was discolored at times by the advent of paying guests who numbered among them alcoholics, a dope pusher and other unsavory characters, she is not a woman to bow before such onslaughts. She entered boldly into battles of all kinds to protect and maintain her pied a terre, emerging victorious.

Miss Dial's writing has the warmth of the gift amateur rather than the slickness of a professional. Reading this book is much like paying a lovely visit to this intrepid lady, now 82, who is herself a "celebration" of faith and perseverance.