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TITLE: The Blasphemy Trial of Charles B. Reynolds: Morristown, New Jersey, May 19-20, 1887

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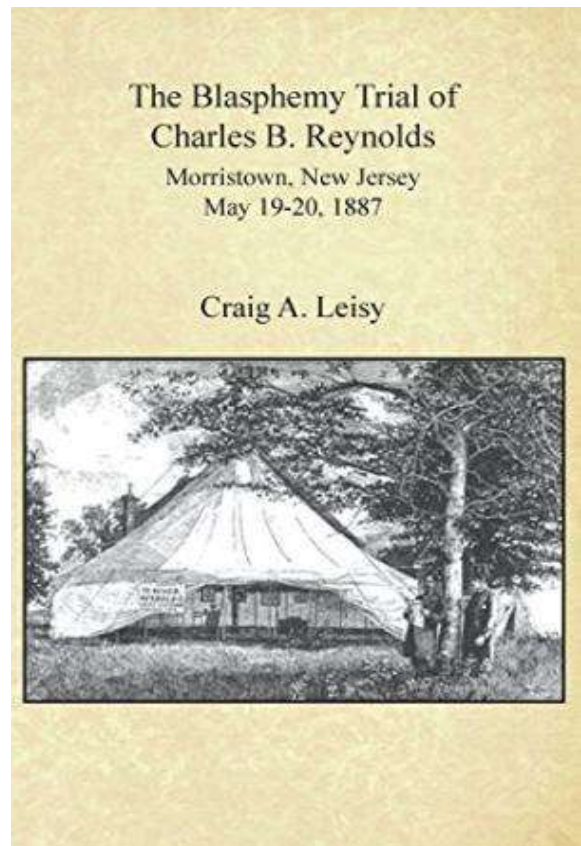
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OVERVIEW

This is an account of the blasphemy trial of Charles B. Reynolds, a travelling freethought lecturer, in Morristown, New Jersey. Even though the trial occurred in 1887, the story is as fresh as today's headlines. The trial explored the fundamental conflicts in society between secularists and religionists. It was the only blasphemy trial in New Jersey state history. The New Jersey



blasphemy trial was a prelude to the Monkey Trial of 1925 with the famous defense attorney Clarence Darrow. Darrow was a great admirer of Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll who served as the defense attorney in the New Jersey blasphemy trial. Both men were outspoken agnostics and both sought to place religion on trial in place of their clients. The popular play, *Inherit the Wind* (1955) by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, was inspired by the events in the Monkey Trial.

This trial pitted the First Amendment guarantee of free speech against the right of religious freedom. The attorney for the defendant, Col. Robert G. Ingersoll, was famous as an orator and an outspoken freethought proponent. Even though local sentiment was overwhelmingly against his client, the townspeople greatly respected and admired the Civil War veteran. The defendant, Charles B. Reynolds, was a freethought lecturer traveling from town to town preaching the separation between church and state. Ironically, Reynolds was a former First Day Adventist minister who lost his religion and Ingersoll was the son of a minister. Society in America, both before and after the Civil War, was very unsettled. For example, some religions had divided (Southern Methodist, Southern Baptist) over the issue of slavery and even the state of Virginia had split (West Virginia). The carnage from the bloody battles of the Civil War caused many to lose their religious beliefs and some joined secular movements like the American Secular Union and the National Liberal League. There were chapters in many cities and towns throughout America. Both Reynolds and Ingersoll were part of the leadership of the American Secular Union.

This book combines a biography of Charles R. Reynolds with a history of the American freethought (secular) movement of the nineteenth century then culminates with a detailed account of the proceedings of the blasphemy trial. The book is unique in that the story is told using the actual words of the participants taken from newspaper accounts and especially *The Truth Seeker* and other freethought periodicals. There is no other book-length, comprehensive account of Reynolds and his trial. The book concludes with a big picture assessment of the significance of the blasphemy trial on society in America.

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MARKET

This book will be of interest to the general reader as well as readers with an interest in American history, secularism, controversial trials and the conflict between church and state. The story is educational as well as entertaining and would probably be suitable for secondary school and college students as well as adults.

I have a web site (www.craigleisy.com) and a blog (www.craigleisy.blog) but both are under development at this time.

AUTHOR

I have written six other books – five are available by print-on-demand from Amazon and other internet booksellers. My latest book is with a traditional publisher and has been recently sent out to reviewers. The books are very diverse: history, biography, history of philosophy, poetry and an economic history. I have also started work on a novel.

Year	Title	ISBN	Publisher
2018	<i>Uber, De Facto Economic Deregulation and Competitive Market Failure: An Economic History of the Taxicab and Rideshare Industries in Seattle</i> , 524 pp. (Genre: history, economics, current affairs)		
2017	<i>On Trial for Blasphemy: The State of New Jersey v. Charles B. Reynolds</i> , 67 pp. (Genre: theatrical/screen play, history)	978-60571-384-7 \$13.95 Soft cover	Shires Press 4869 Main Street P.O. Box 2200 Manchester Center, VT 05255 www.northshire.com
2017	<i>Sergeant Phillip McHugh, U.S. Cavalry: Indian Fighter</i> , 165 pp. (Genre: biography)	978-1-60571-354-0 \$27.95 Soft cover	Shires Press 4869 Main Street P.O. Box 2200 Manchester Center, VT 05255 www.northshire.com
2016	<i>Rain's only wet if you're in it</i> , 117 pp. (Genre: poetry collection, literary essays)	978-1-60571-321-2 \$15.95 Soft cover 978-1-60571-375-5 \$39.95 Hard bound	Shires Press 4869 Main Street P.O. Box 2200 Manchester Center, VT 05255 www.northshire.com
2015	<i>The Influence of Epicurean Thought on the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam</i> 265 pp. (Genre: history of philosophy, biography)	978-1-60571-277-2 \$19.95 Soft cover	Shires Press 4869 Main Street P.O. Box 2200 Manchester Center, VT 05255 www.northshire.com
2012	<i>The Origins of the Conflict between Science and Religion in Ancient Greece</i> , 159 pp. (Genre: history of philosophy, history of science)	978-1-60571-132-4 \$24.95 Soft cover	Shires Press 4869 Main Street P.O. Box 2200 Manchester Center, VT 05255 www.northshire.com
2011	<i>The Blasphemy Trial of Charles B. Reynolds: Morristown, New Jersey, May 19-20, 1887</i> , 107 pp. (Genre: history, biography)	978-1-60571-115-7 \$19.95 Soft cover	Shires Press 4869 Main Street P.O. Box 2200 Manchester Center, VT 05255 www.northshire.com

I was a service dependent. My father was an aviator in the U. S. Coast Guard for 23 years and a veteran of WWII and my mother was a nurse in the U.S. Navy during WWII. We were stationed on Kodiak, Alaska (when Alaska was still a U.S. Territory) and Guam, Mariana Islands (U.S. possession) as well as Florida, New York, California and Louisiana. I graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT (1972) and completed a 23-year career in the U.S. Coast Guard: deck watch officer on a 180-foot seagoing buoy tender in Homer, AK (1972-1974); commanding officer of a Loran A Station on Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands (U.N. Trust Territory) (1974-1975); commercial vessel safety inspector at Seattle, WA (1975-1978); commercial vessel safety inspector at Morgan City, LA (offshore oil industry) (1978-1981); instructor in the department of economics and management at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT (1981-1984); graduate student in Institute for Marine Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA (1984-1985); chief of commercial vessel safety inspection department in Seattle, WA (1985-1989); branch chief of training for marine safety program at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C. (1989-1993); regional manager (Gulf of Mexico) National Pollution Fund Center, Arlington, VA (1993-1995). I earned two postgraduate degrees: Master of Business Administration (MBA) at University of Puget Sound (1978) and Master of Marine Affairs (MMA) at the University of Washington (1988). I retired from the U.S. Coast Guard in 1995.

My second career was as a manager in charge of the Consumer Affairs Unit for the City of Seattle where I was responsible for regulating: the taxicab industry, limousine industry, transportation network company (TNC) industry (e.g., Uber, Lyft), the towing industry and weights and measures. I was a board member of the International Association of Transportation Regulators and a member of the National Conference on Weights and Measures. I presented professional papers at both. I retired from the City of Seattle after 22 years in 2017.

Currently, I am dedicating most of my time to writing. I just completed *Uber, De Facto Deregulation and Competitive Market Failure: An Economic History of the Taxicab and Rideshare Industries in Seattle*, 524 pp. (2018) and it is under review by a major publisher. I have started work on a novel. I am married and have two grown children.

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