

Friday digest

September 7, 2012

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New today from the *Century*:

- Rodney Clapp [laments the decline of plains communities](#): "If agriculture survives at all on the Great Plains, it will be very limited. What will take its place? Not many people, that's for sure." (subscription required)
- Kenneth Serbin [reviews Kitty Ferguson's biography of Stephen Hawking](#), "an important book for anyone interested in who and what we are—and where we're going." (subscription required)
- Steve Woolley on [the Gospel of Mark's alleged haste](#)
- Carol Howard Merritt talks to [Nyasha Junior](#)

In the news:

- [Black pastors move to counter new voter ID laws](#)