



Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

Ida Phillips Lynch. ***North Carolina Afield:  
A Guide to Nature Conservancy  
Projects in North Carolina.***

Winston-Salem: John F. Blair Publishers, 2003.  
178 pp. \$14.95. ISBN 0-9675-0261-6.

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If you live in North Carolina and enjoy birding, hiking, paddling, or even driving the back roads, *North Carolina Afield* is a must read. Ida Phillips Lynch is the former director of communications for The Nature Conservancy's North Carolina chapter and a freelance writer and editor whose works have been published in *Wildlife in North Carolina*, *Nature Conservancy*, and *New Age*. In this recently published guidebook, Lynch provides readers with a vivid account of some of North Carolina's wildest places, spanning our state from Murphy to Manteo.

*North Carolina Afield* offers both fascinating and detailed facts about 92 of the most ecologically significant projects of the North Carolina Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. Not all of the protected sites or the Conservancy's projects are covered in the book. Instead, it focuses on those areas that are most accessible to outdoor adventurers. Preserves that are considered fragile and easily disturbed have been omitted. All of the natural areas described in this book are open to the public and currently managed as national wildlife refuges, game lands, national forests, and Nature Conservancy preserves.

Beautiful color photographs by noteworthy nature photographers appear with each profile and readers will find the book's format easy to follow. It is divided into four color-coded sections that represent the state's distinct geographical regions: the Southern Appalachian Mountains, the Piedmont, the Southern Coastal Plain, and the Northern Coastal Plain. Each of the entries provides an introduction to the area's unique ecology, including habitats, flora, and fauna. The Conservation Highlights section outlines the Nature Conservancy's conservation activities in the area while the Trip Planner section suggests ideas for hiking and paddling trips, and lists current owner/access with contact information including Web sites and phone numbers. The four main sections provide a map of the area discussed and all of the entries contain an easy to understand key to visitation information (hiking, birding, fee, restrooms, exhibits, camping, etc.).

This comprehensive nature guide will prove an invaluable resource for anyone planning an outdoor expedition in North Carolina. Additionally, the fascinating and timely topic will appeal to armchair travelers and its table of contents, extensive index, and further reading suggestions make it a useful reference source for most medium to large public and academic libraries. After all, where else would you discover where the greatest concentration of salamander species in North America is located? Hurry and get a copy before your next outdoor excursion. You won't be disappointed.

—Marsha W. Proctor  
Cape Fear Community College Learning Resource Center

Melton A. McLauren. *The North Carolina State Fair, The First 150 Years.*

Raleigh: N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, and N.C. State Fair Division, 2003. 220 pp. \$25.00. ISBN 0-86526-307-8.

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The North Carolina State Fair was begun on October 18, 1853. It was sponsored by the North Carolina State Agriculture Society, which hoped the fair would provide an educational event for many farmers who had little education. Despite financial hardships and some years without a fair, it has continued to grow and provided education, fun, and a place to honor North Carolinians.

This easy-to-read history contains many pictures that highlight the state fair's history and many important backers. North Carolinians of great wealth and position led the Agriculture Society, and the fair expanded with increases in exhibits and attendance. The fair came under control of the state Department of Agriculture in 1928.

J. Sibley "Doc" Dorton led the fair as manager from 1937 until 1961 and increased attendance, exhibits, and revenues. His vision was to have an arena that could be used year round. After Dorton's death, Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham led the fair for many years.

The author describes the many shows and kinds that were featured at the fair throughout the years, and how the midway evolved to include games of chance. George Hamid brought many shows to the fair. He began his career by learning acrobatic tumbling acts and performing in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Shows.

Good food also became a major draw for people to the fair. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and funnel cakes are all favorite fair foods. All kinds of bands performed, providing another popular draw. One section of the book describes the social aspects of fairgoers. Another explains the different kinds of animals and activities that were presented at each fair.

Serious students of North Carolina history will find extensive information in this book. Others may enjoy the many pictures of the people, places, and events of the State Fair. This book would complement a North Carolina History Collection in any public or academic library.

The author has a B.S. and M.A. from East Carolina University and a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. He is the author of seven books and numerous articles on the American South. He is also Professor Emeritus of History at UNC-Wilmington and has taught for 25 years. Paul Blankinship selected the illustrative matter.

—Maureen Fiorello  
Onslow County Public Library

Jeffrey J. Crow, Paul D. Escott, Flora J. Hatley.

*A History of African Americans in North Carolina.*

Raleigh: Office of Archives and History, N. C. Dept. of Cultural Resources, rev. ed. 2002. 266 pp. \$15.00 + \$4.00 shipping. ISBN 0-86526-301-9.

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All libraries interested in North Carolina materials will appreciate having a revised edition of this useful history. It contains a new chapter, "The Rise of African American Political Power," covering the period from the 1970s to the turn of the century in competent prose and helpful detail. Two other new features are an appendix of African Americans in state and federal governmental posts, 1969-2001, and a chronology of the Congressional redistricting 1991-2001. Otherwise, the initial text does not appear to have been amended. Nonetheless, this is an important resource for schools and libraries. It is illustrated and indexed, with a bibliography.

—Patrick Valentine  
Wilson County Public Library

Mary Coker Joslin. *Essays on William Chambers Coker, Passionate Botanist.*

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library, Botanical Garden Foundation, 2003. 197 pp. \$30.00. ISBN 0-9721-6000-0. Available from the North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation, (919) 962-0522.

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Luckily for North Carolina, William Chambers Coker did not enjoy life as a banker. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1894, Coker set aside his lifelong fascination with the natural world to embark on a practical banking career. Although successful, he soon realized that his future lay with fungi and water molds in the world of botany. Coker's decision to follow his instincts led to an astonishing career that benefited academia, the scientific community, and the public good.

In 1902 Coker became the first professor of botany at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He taught until 1944 and remained active as research professor emeritus until his death in 1953. His achievements are staggering: he founded the university's arboretum, acquired and managed its world-renowned herbarium, championed the esteemed Highlands Biological Station, published 137 books and articles, and conducted groundbreaking research in mycology and botany.

This volume coincides with the centennial celebration of the Coker Arboretum, and its nine essays offer a worthy commemoration. Not a conventional narrative biography, the essays instead offer an introduction to Dr. Coker through key events, turning points and triumphs; reminiscences of family, friends and colleagues; and excerpts from correspondence and archival sources. Those hungry for melodrama (the tale of a brilliant scientist with skeletons in the closet, perhaps, or a juicy fatal flaw) will be disappointed. All others should appreciate this pleasing portrait of an extraordinary scholar and charming gentleman.

William Chambers Coker's influence was hardly limited to the grand or the monumental. Indeed, one of his favorite activities was landscape design for community projects throughout North Carolina. In planning the grounds for one public school he made sure to include a playground but "recommended that nut trees and conifers not be planted ... as children would be tempted to throw nuts and cones at passing cars."

This anecdote illustrates the engaging blend of warmth and scholarship that gives the collection its voice. Author Mary Coker Joslin is a niece of Coker's, and while her fondness for her uncle is evident, her judgment and scholarly acumen are above reproach. She is the author of two books on medieval manuscripts, *The Heard Word* (1986) and *The Egerton Genesis* (2001). Exquisite drawings by Sandra Brooks-Mathers accompany the essays, as well as color and black and white photographs, appendices, detailed notes, and a selected bibliography. The result is a portrait of an internationally distinguished scholar, an esteemed Carolinian, and a passionate botanist.

Recommended for academic and public libraries.

— Susannah Benedetti  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Amy Rogers. *Hungry for Home: Stories of Food from Across the Carolinas.*

Charlotte: Novello Festival Press, 2003. 418 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 0-9708972-8-6.

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Combining stories and favorite recipes, this book combines two Southern favorites. With over 200 recipes from across the Carolinas, the author has succeeded in blending traditional Southern recipes and ones from around the world with stories that tell the tale of each recipe.

Rogers is a journalist, food essayist for public radio, and founding editor of Novello Festival Press, an imprint of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Her books include *Red Pepper Fudge* and *Blue Ribbon Biscuits*, and she is a contributor to *Cornbread Nation 1* and *The North Carolina*

*Century: Tar Heels Who Made a Difference, 1900-2000*. Her selection of contributors for this book include favorite Carolina storytellers, including Jerry Bledsoe, Frye Gaillard, Josephine Humphreys, Robert Inman, Jill McCorkle, Dori Sanders, Lee Smith, and James Taylor along with a host of native and new North Carolinians from other countries "whose hunger leads them to seek a better life."

With this delectable combination, it is difficult to decide whether to start reading the recipe or the story first since each creates a complete chapter combining food for the body and soul. Recipes are organized from "Appetizers, Soups, and Salads" to "Main Dishes" on to "Sweet Treats: Desserts." A chapter is dedicated to "Celebrations," including Chanukah (Y'all), Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Kwanzaa. The book ends with "Extras: Beverages, Sauces, and Condiments" with special treats like Golden Glo Pickles and a vignette by Dori Sanders. Although the recipes vary widely in origin, the ingredients are all easy to find and commonly used. From Jill McCorkle's Fried Apple Pies to the intriguing Killed Lettuce and Onions, the recipes reflect the flavor of down-home cooking as well as the more exotic and daring.

Reading Lee Smith's recipe, "Lady Food," from her mother's recipe box, Smith provides a delicious recipe for crabmeat casserole as well her story about her first idea of an elegant meal from her mother's bridge club. She relays that recipes tell us about ourselves — our culture, values, and how we live.

"Lowcountry Cooking" is a song from the hit musical "King Mackerel & the Blues Are Running" by Bland Simpson and Jim Wann. The song includes a recipe for the seasonal delicacy she-crab soup and a fish muddle called pine bark stew. With simple lyrics and a magical chorus, the authors claim that some people have used the song to cook by.

Information about the many authors is included as well as an index to recipes and writers to complete this work. Recommended for all cookbook and Carolina collections.

—Joan Sherif

Northwestern Regional Library

Wayne Grimsley. **James B. Hunt:  
A North Carolina Progressive.**

Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company Publishers,  
2003. 283 pp. \$35.00. ISBN 0-7864-1607-6.

Professor Wayne Grimsley writes an engaging biography of Jim Hunt, the young and energetic four-term governor of North Carolina, and offers insiders insight into North Carolina politics during the tumultuous years of the 1960s and 1970s.

The author's father, Joe Grimsley, served as Jim Hunt's campaign manager for three elections, as well as secretary of two cabinet departments. In the book's preface Grimsley speaks of Hunt's influence on his own subsequent teaching career, and throughout 15 chapters the author illustrates political and family connections, including the relationship of the Scott and Hunt families. (For example, Kerr Scott and Jim Hunt's maternal uncle were college roommates at North Carolina State College.)

Grimsley begins with an overview of state governors and a brief history of North Carolina's progressive movement, and this historical background sets the tone for a book that places Hunt in context of the political zeitgeist of twentieth century North Carolina. The author explores the Carolina roots of both sides of Hunt's family, and the influence of his community-minded family in Rocky Ridge. There Hunt, grounded in hard work and moral behavior, began the drive to succeed in high school and FFA which continued through his academic career at North Carolina State University and UNC-Chapel Hill. There is even a brief description of Hunt's foray into international life, his

young family moving to Nepal while Hunt worked with the Ford Foundation.

In addition to Hunt's personal and professional beginnings, Grimsley examines the nature of North Carolina progressivism and apprises the reader of the state and regional political climate during Hunt's education and rise to power. The subsequent elections of Hunt to lieutenant governor and two terms as governor are described in detail, but the book ends with his reelection in 1980.

Several chapters discuss Hunt's first term as governor in detail. While sympathetic to his subject, Grimsley does address controversial views about race relations, women's rights, tobacco, and the desegregation of the University of North Carolina. The Wilmington Ten and Charlotte Three cases warrant their own chapter, as do the tobacco and desegregation controversies and the governor's political relationship with Howard Lee, the former mayor of Chapel Hill and North Carolina's first black cabinet secretary.

This is the author's first book, and began life as a dissertation for his doctoral degree in American History from Mississippi State University. Although Grimsley did not have access to Hunt's private papers, he did interview James Hunt and make use of his public papers. Both allies and former foes of Hunt were also interviewed. Chapter notes, a bibliography, and an index are included, as well as numerous photographs of Hunt and his family. Recommended for academic, public, and special libraries collecting North Carolina history or political science.

—Bonnie Spiers  
State Library of North Carolina

Timothy Silver. *Mount Mitchell and the Black Mountains: An Environmental History of the Highest Peaks in Eastern America.*

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003. 322 pp. \$19.95 paperback. ISBN 0-8078-5423-9.

*W*hat is killing the trees in the Black Mountains? Is Mt. Mitchell named after the wrong man? Is mankind's perception of nature the guiding force of his interaction with it? How have so many well-intentioned conservation efforts gone so terribly wrong? What can be done to preserve the forests and wildlife of the mountains—or is it too late?

Timothy Silver addresses these and other intriguing questions in his well-researched and immensely readable history of the interrelationships

of people and nature in the Black Mountains. As Silver explains in the preface, the environmental historian attempts to explore relationships between people and nature—how humans have affected the natural world and, in turn, been affected by it. With great success, Silver presents here a history of the Black Mountains in which “nature shares equal time with people.”

The first chapter details the formation of the Black Mountains and the development of the dense forests that gave the mountains their name. The remaining chapters focus on different aspects of man's involvement with the mountains, concentrating on the last 100 years. The concluding chapter contains a call for continued efforts to preserve and protect this valuable North Carolina treasure, by acting in concert with nature rather than attempting to control it.

Each chapter is interspersed with Silver's own reflections and observations, recorded during his travels through the mountains. These take the reader season by season through a year in the Black Mountains. The immediacy of this personal narrative adds to the reader's realization of the long-term and often devastating effects of mankind's presence in the mountains. From the first hunters and gatherers to the Spanish conquistadors seeking gold, to the foresters, miners, conservationists, and tourists — the history of the Black Mountains has been one of jealousy, exploi-

tation, greed, lust for power and wealth, ignorance of the complexities of nature, and, fortunately, some successful efforts at conservation.

Timothy Silver develops well his thesis that human perceptions of nature dictated most of their activities in this region and that events on the Black Mountain range reflect broader trends in the United States. The author is professor of history at Appalachian State University. His previous publications include *A New Face on the Countryside: Indians, Colonists, and Slaves in South Atlantic Forests, 1500-1800*.

Numerous illustrations, photographs, and maps nicely complement the text. Endnotes and an extensive index are also included. This book is recommended for all public and university libraries.

—Barbara A. Gushrowski  
University of North Carolina Pembroke

Taylor, Joyce. *Mariner's Menu:  
30 Years of Fresh Seafood Ideas.*

Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Sea Grant; Distributed by  
the University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill,  
NC, 2003. 286 pp. \$25.00 ISBN 0-8078-5513-8.

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This loose-leaf volume is a delightful addition to our state's rich coastal history. Not simply a cookbook, *Mariner's Menu* chronicles the efforts of a group of women whose aims have been education about and enhancement of the role of North Carolina seafood in our daily lives.

The "Nutrition Leaders" spotlighted in this book have wonderful stories to tell. Working with the North Carolina State University Sea Grant Program, with former schoolteacher and seafood expert Joyce Taylor as their guide, these local women partici-

pated in a project whereby "good cooks could test seafood-related research and translate it to the public." The participants were drawn from home extension clubs in the region. Nutrition Leaders tested numerous recipes and cooking methods, with the ultimate goal of promoting a variety of North Carolina seafood. Additional goals included finding ways to reduce waste when working with seafood, showcasing cooking methods beyond traditional frying, and documenting safe handling techniques.

The promotion of seafood as a healthy food is clearly a mission of this book. The steps outlined for handling fish and shellfish are clear, accurate, and easy to follow. The diagrams for cleaning fresh catch are straightforward.

Recipes in this book are not complicated and provide good diversity both in technique and in flavors. There is an emphasis on the use of fresh herbs. Other ingredients called for are not hard to find.

Details about the different species found in North Carolina coastal waters are covered thoroughly. Information about farm-raised species is of interest as well.

The index is quite useful because it lists not only the names of recipes, but also has categories based on the type of fish or seafood. Cooking methods (such as baking, frying, stir-frying, etc.) and categories of dishes (appetizers, sandwiches, soups, etc.) are well covered.

Joyce Taylor is the author of several other publications about seafood, including a newsletter, books, pamphlets and posters published also by the N.C. Sea Grant program.

Though her roots are in the mountains, Taylor is known throughout the state as the "guru of seafood." She and her Nutrition Leaders provide us with a great resource on Tar Heel seafood. This book is suitable for any library collection that includes regional materials or cookbooks.

—Eleanor I. Cook  
Appalachian State University

Andre' Leon Talley.

***A.L.T.: A Memoir.***

New York: Villard, 2003. 256 pp. \$24.95.  
ISBN 0-375-50828-7.

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The character and careers of successful people are often shaped by many mentors. According to Andre' Leon Talley, editor-at-large for *Vogue* magazine, only two left their permanent stamp on his life: his maternal grandmother, Bennie Frances Davis, and the empress of fashion, Diana Vreeland. Although the two women could not have been more different—Davis spent her working life cleaning the men's dormitories at Duke University, while Vreeland served as the editor-in-chief at *Vogue* and as the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute—each possessed a sense of luxury that affected Talley greatly.

Talley begins his memoir with remembrances of his childhood in Durham, North Carolina, where his parents brought him to live with Davis. In these chapters we learn how Davis ran the household, how involved she was in her church community, and how she served as the matriarch to an extended family of Talley's aunts, uncles, and cousins. Yet it is here that we also understand how Davis brought touches of elegance into their everyday lives, such as through the weekly labor of washing and ironing their sheets and pillowcases until they were clean and crisp. Talley writes, "Sleep was never so fine as between those sheets, cooked, ironed, and arranged by loving hands."

In the latter half of the book, Talley glosses over his college and post-graduate days in order to lavish attention on his friendship with Vreeland, who he met while volunteering at the Costume Institute. While Vreeland worked as hard in her own profession as Davis did in hers—many people in the fashion industry owe their careers to her support and encouragement—her own brand of elegance tended towards the extravagant and the exotic. Talley underscores this by giving several examples, but the best of these is what Vreeland used in her bathroom to hold Q-Tips: an expensive Faberge' eggcup, given to her by Diana Ross.

Some readers may tire of the way in which Talley waxes rhapsodic about the greatest influences in his life, but on the whole, his memoir is enjoyable and engaging. Recommended for public libraries and academic libraries that also serve general readers.

—Nicole Robertson  
Gaston College, Lincoln Campus

James L. Hunt.

***Marion Butler and American Populism.***

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press,  
2003. 338 pp. Cloth, \$49.95. ISBN 0-8078-2770-3.

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The Populist movement is an important chapter in the political history of both the United States and North Carolina. In his exceedingly well-researched book, *Marion Butler and American Populism*, James L. Hunt presents a biography of a man integral to the Populist movement at the end of the 19th century. Begun in the late 1800s, the movement was driven by farmers worried about the effects of urbanization and galvanized by the success of the National Farmers' Alliance. Butler, the son of a prosperous North Carolina farming family, believed

strongly in the goals of the movement, which included some radical financial reforms for the time. The movement called for public control of the money supply to include the free coinage of silver, the establishment of sub-treasuries that would make loans to farmers, the abolishment of national banks, and a large increase in the amount of paper money in circulation in order to smash the power of monopolies and provide more economic support for agrarian interests.

The Populist movement gained some degree of success, including garnering a plurality in the North Carolina legislature and electing several men to the United States House and Senate (including Butler) and running Tom Watson as a candidate for Vice President with William Jennings Bryan. Much of this success was due to the political energy and ability of Marion Butler, who led both the North Carolina Alliance and the National Alliance, was a United States Senator, and chaired the national Populist Party

at its zenith.

*Marion Butler and American Populism* might be aptly termed a political biography, because it is less a record of Butler's life than a catalog of his political machinations and the rise and fall of the Populist Party. In addition to a history of Populism, the author provides a strong sense of what Butler was like as a person, a man who was very politically precocious, but who has been painted by many subsequent historians as merely a political opportunist. The reformation of Butler's reputation is one of Hunt's stated goals for the book and he does an admirable job. Hunt explains Butler's political evolution from his first days in order to dispel the image of Butler as an opportunist and show him as a Populist true believer.

James L. Hunt is an Associate Professor of Law at Mercer University and this is his first book. *Marion Butler and American Populism* is not for casual readers because of the emphasis on the minutiae of Populist politics. This book is best suited for academic libraries. Although it is difficult reading, the incredible amount of research done by Hunt is invaluable in understanding the nuts and bolts of the Populist movement. There is an extensive bibliography and chapter notes, an index, and illustrations.

Scott Rice  
Rowan Public Library

William L. Andrews, ed.

***North Carolina Slave Narratives: The  
Lives of Moses Roper, Lundsford Lane,  
Moses Grandy, and Thomas H. Jones.***

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press,  
2003. 278 pp. \$27.50. ISBN 0-8078-2821-1.

**T**hese slave narratives, all from the nineteenth century, are gripping stories that bring the past alive. All North Carolina college libraries and most public and high school libraries will want to have at least one copy for students and general readers. These autobiographies illustrate the realities of North Carolina life for whites and blacks, for slaves and the freeborn in towns as well as on plantations, on the coast as well as in areas far inland.

William L. Andrews gives a very good general introduction to the subject of black slave narratives and their place in literature and historiography, while Ian Frederick Finseth, Tampathia Evans, Andrea N. Williams, and David

A. Davis present competent if varying introductions to each narrative. Scholars no doubt would prefer fuller notes, but the explanatory materials are suitable for an undergraduate and general audience. This work follows Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and William L. Andrews, *Pioneers of the Black Atlantic: Five Slave Narratives from the Enlightenment, 1772-1815* (Washington, D.C.: Civitas, 1998), also available as an electronic file through NCLIVE), none of which biographies directly pertained to North Carolina. Those wishing more technical background should refer to Vincent Carretta and Philip Gould, eds., *Genius in Bondage: Literature of the Early Black Atlantic* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2001).

Slave life in North Carolina has often been portrayed as relatively mild compared to that in other states, particularly those to the south and southwest. But reading Moses Roper and the others will quickly dispel any genteel notion that slavery was not harsh, demanding, degrading, and capricious. Life appears very different from the pages of the more familiar published works of Iredell, Murphey, or Ruffin. While there are signs of individual Christian and white generosity, sex is scrupulously avoided. All four narrators, or their amanuenses, were careful not to antagonize their expected audiences of British and American abolitionists. Still, these *Narratives* are candid.

One wishes for more illustrations besides the reproduced frontispieces, and more and better maps, but perhaps such await a more general book on North Carolina slave history. UNC Press has done a fine job and kept the price very reasonable in a day of extraordinarily expensive and often dull academic publishing.

—Patrick Valentine  
Wilson County Public Library

Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern.

***A Guide to the Historic Architecture of  
Piedmont North Carolina.***

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.  
624 pp. Cloth, \$39.95. ISBN 0-8078-2272-X. Paper,  
\$22.50. ISBN 0-8078-5444-1.

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Reviewers have commented that this is a long-awaited book, and from many points of view it is like the third gift of the Magi. The authors have completed their three-volume journey across North Carolina, from the ocean to the mountains, producing a treasure of cultural and architectural history for all to enjoy. And what an excursion it has been! Beginning in the Coastal Plain with *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina* (1996), then jumping to the high elevations in *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (1999) with Jennifer F. Martin as a companion, the authors have finally completed their quest to pull together

all the facts and lore of a state containing an abundance of treasures easily overlooked without these valuable books.

The current addition in the set focuses on the central district of North Carolina where mid-Atlantic settlers, German farmers, religious sectarians, small merchants, businessmen, and magnates shaped the Piedmont's "architectural, cultural, economic, and social history." The region is one of strong local traditions where regionalism is preserved by a rural and widely separated population, holding on to old ways despite the steady growth of big industry and construction of major railroads, factories, highways, and high-rise buildings. Those trends resulted in large areas of urban sprawl linked by never-ending traffic arteries across the undulating terrain. But a quick turn of the wheel leads off the ramps from traffic's flow on to rural roads that meander through farms and timberlands where ageless houses stand and small communities abound, their rows of stores and churches exhibiting a cohesion that is missing within the city limits.

The book is not just about the rural countryside and the architectural and historical treasures to be found by driving, biking, or hiking through the countryside. There are cities to explore such as the great capital of Raleigh with its impressive state house, schools, and residential districts; Durham and its great Gothic university quads and chapel hidden from the immense tobacco factories by forested acres; Chapel Hill, to many the cultural and educational cradle of the state; the four-city sweep of Burlington, Greensboro, High Point, and Winston-Salem where textiles, furniture, and banking support artistic and historical sites; and the "Queen City of the Piedmont," Charlotte, an urban hub that mingles futuristic fantasies of modern architecture with old commercial and residential districts—and miles of change-name streets that eventually lead to historic houses and a dynamic museum of art.

The wealth of historical and recent photographs enliven the pages of the book, from ancient log houses to stately homes, churches, schools, stores, office buildings, depots, and views of rural and urban activities. The abundance of maps is a treat for those who relish such documents—and a valuable aid for those who refuse to ask directions. In addition, the clear, concise, and vivid introduction to each of the sixteen counties discussed in the book helps the reader decide where to begin his own journey through the byways of history.

In a way, it is too bad the trilogy is done, for these volumes are soul-mates of those fabled WPA publications of the 1930s to the 1950s, and perhaps the authors need to spread their talents into other states. But what wonderful treasures lie before us when we now can open the pages of North Carolina, farm by farm, community by community, city by city, discovering our heritage by ourselves or in the company of friends.

Catherine W. Bishir, recently senior architectural historian with Preservation North Carolina, and Michael T. Southern, research historian with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, produced this remarkable series through the aegis of the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office of the Division of Archives and History. The guide is a part of the Richard Hampton Jenrette Series in Architecture and the Arts.

— Edward F. Turberg  
Restoration Consultant, Wilmington

Blonnie Bunn Wyche.

***The Anchor: P. Moore Proprietor.***

Wilmington: Banks Channel Books, 2003. 204 pp.  
\$12.00. ISBN1-8889199-05-2.

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The historic village of Brunswick on the Cape Fear River in North Carolina comes to life in Blonnie Bunn Wyche's *The Anchor: P. Moore Proprietor*. This historical novel is rich with details of life during pre-Revolutionary America. Phillip Moore, proprietor of the local tavern, *The Anchor*, gambles himself into a tremendous debt jeopardizing his business and family. His brother, Judge Maurice Moore, declares him legally incapable of managing his business and family affairs and places Phillip's daughter Polly as the new proprietor. Polly, 15 years old, assumes this great responsibility in addition to taking care of her pregnant mother, her two younger sisters, and the family's slaves and servants.

Unlike the majority of young ladies during this time, Polly finds herself managing *The Anchor* along with the family turpentine and sawmill operations. Her sisters, 6 and 11 years old, help with the day-to-day operations of the tavern, but Polly shoulders the burden of decision making for the business and family. When her baby brother is born, Polly is faced with another challenge as her mother rejects the baby based on the deaths of two previous baby boys. In order to save the baby from starvation, Polly exhibits tremendous resourcefulness and steadfastness by searching for a goat to provide milk for the choleric baby.

While Polly works each day in the tavern to meet the demands of business and family, she listens to discussions of political turmoil and discontentment with King George as the Stamp Act is imposed on the colonies. Polly finds herself politically and personally troubled with the events as she is faced with the effects that the British Stamp Act will have on the family business. She acquires a growing distaste for slavery and a realization that women deserve the same opportunities as men. She fears the thoughts of a revolution looming on the horizon as she witnesses the rise of armed rebellion against the Stamp Act. When the merchant ships coming to Brunswick cannot unload the supplies necessary for the family business to survive, Polly displays bravery and female heroism during tough times.

As the story ends, a romantic flair is added when Polly receives a letter of proposal for marriage from Daniel, a former indentured servant. Marriage would require her to move and leave her family. In spite of her love for Daniel, she decides to move the family to Wilmington to open a tavern because business and trade are shifting to that area. This decision proves that Polly has matured into an independent woman of character and great strength.

Wyche has skillfully woven the famous historical figures, lifestyle, and events of pre-Revolutionary war times into this marvelous novel. This heart-catching story has plenty of personal interest, adventure, humor, fear, and joy blended with a lovable character. The author has provided young adult readers a descriptive account of life during pre-Revolutionary North Carolina.

Blonnie Bunn Wyche lives in Wilmington, North Carolina, where she currently writes newsletters for two historical organizations and a children's newsletter for the *Wilmington Morning Star*. Wyche has won several awards for her short stories. Middle school students will find that this novel will enhance their studies of North Carolina history. This novel is highly recommended for school and public libraries.

— Linda M. Teel  
East Carolina University

Michael J. McCue. *Paris & Tryon:  
George C. Aid (1872-1938)  
and his Artistic Circles in France and  
North Carolina.*

Columbus, NC: Condar Press, 2003. 221 pp.  
\$65.00. ISBN 0-9726801-1-X.

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*Paris & Tryon* explores the life and art of a prototypical American artist of the early twentieth century — George Charles Aid. Aid was born in Quincy, Illinois, on August 26, 1872, and moved to St. Louis when he was about eight. His natural gift in drawing and the great cultural vitality of St. Louis encouraged him to set his foot on the competitive path of becoming a professional artist.

With a foreign study scholarship, Aid set off for Paris in spring of 1899. He attended the Julian Academy where he enjoyed working in the etching medium. The influence of great masters in Paris made his career as an artist successful. Two years after his marriage to Mary Orr, the couple moved to Gordighera, Italy — an appealing place for artists. His vigorous pursuit of the etching medium in Italy brought him fame and prizes.

His one-man show in St. Louis brought him and his wife back to America in 1914. He continued to exhibit his works in shows and won awards in America. The Aids settled down in the mountain village of Tryon in western North Carolina in late 1919. Besides running a 20-acre vineyard, George was active in art activities in Tryon. He developed a new medium called French Chalk, conducted a figure drawing class, exhibited his etchings at shows, and interacted with artists living in the Tryon area. He worked in Charlotte for two years before his death in May 12, 1938.

McCue examines and describes a broader circle of the artistic community in Europe and America through the study of Aid's circle — his friends, teachers, classmates, and even his rivals. Besides mentioning those European artists, McCue focuses on how American artists built their reputations abroad, and how they rebuilt their careers after they returned to the United States because of the catastrophe of World War I. Images of their art and descriptions of their lives offer readers a great chance to have a deep understanding of the careers of professional artists.

McCue also analyzes the trends of art in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century in Europe and the United States. McCue shows how George Aid started using the Impressionist style, then worked in Realism and picked up some Modernist trends, and finally came back to the late Impressionist style in the French chalk medium. Through the study of George Aid's artistic trends, McCue related how the Impressionists responded to the controversial swirling of Modernism at the turn of the century.

This book tells in detail the history of etching, the technique of this medium, and the revivals of etching both in Europe and America. The rich collection of etchings and paintings by George Aid in this book can help readers develop a deeper appreciation of the subject as well as of Aid's other art works.

McCue lived in Tryon for ten years. He also wrote *Tryon Artists 1892-1942*, and authored exhibition catalogues: *Homer Ellertson (1892-1935)* for Tryon Fine Arts Center in 2000, and *Lawrence Mazzanovich: Impressionist Paintings of Tryon* for the Asheville Art Museum in 2001.

— Annie (Anping) Wu  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington