NORTH CAROLINA



Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

he focus of New Deal scholarship in recent years has shifted from the Presidency and Congress to an examination of the implementation and consequences of New Deal programs in the states and localities. Douglas Abrams has now produced the first detailed book-length assessment of the New Deal in North Carolina. The book is also noteworthy for a chapter dealing with the impact of the Depression and New Deal on the state's African American community.

Making extensive use of the papers and correspondence of the Depression era governors and congressmen, agency reports from national and state archives, newspapers, and previously published research, the author documents the process by which the conservatives in North Carolina's agricultural and manufacturing establishment used their control of state government to undermine and limit federal programs which they perceived as a threat. These interest groups generally supported New Deal recovery efforts which were of immediate benefit to them, but frequently opposed wage and hour legislation, unionization, and job creation or relief efforts which threatened the supply

of cheap labor for industry and farm.

Abrams' introduction summarizes his conclusions. Writing of the administrations of Govenors Gardner, Ehringhaus, and Hoev, he states, "instead of relief, jobs, or regulation of business, they tenaciously fought for tight fiscal policies, implementation and preservation of the sales tax, and a climate favorable to business. A 'little New Deal' was never a serious possibility in the state. Conservatives with no interest in the welfare state were too strong."

Abrams' harsh judgment of the state's political elite will be regarded as excessive by some. In 1931 the state assumed responsibil-

ity for roads, prisons, and schools from the county governments, stabilized county and state finances, and coordinated local relief efforts. The sales tax was adopted in 1931 to finance this significant expansion of activity at the state level and to provide property tax relief for hundreds of thousands of farmers and homeowners. If this exhausted the local impetus for reform, it is also important to remember that "as a poor, rural state North Carolina had neither the money to fund an extensive welfare state nor the urban base to create strong support for the New Deal." And despite its "constraints," the major federal programs accomplished a great deal. Hundreds of thousands benefitted from relief, WPA, and CCC employment, and a slow recovery was sustained until the wartime production boom finally ended the Depression.

The bibliographic essay preceding the index is a useful guide to the resources available for the study of this period of the state's history.

Douglas Abrams is a graduate of Bob Jones University, North Carolina State University, and the University of Maryland and is Professor of History at Bob Jones University. He has given us an extremely valuable addition to North Carolina history and an essential purchase for all academic and large public library collections. School librarians might find more suitable the much less detailed work by Anthony J. Badger, entitled North Carolina and the New Deal, a 1981 publication of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.

— Paul King, Peace College

Douglas Carl Abrams.

### **Conservative Constraints:** North Carolina and the New Deal.

Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1992. 285 pp. \$39.95. ISBN 0-87805-559-2.



his cookbook and autobiography is the story of Rubye and Ed Bumgarner's experiences as innkeepers at Sunset Farms in the southern mountains of North Carolina. The farm had been in Ed's family for three generations. During the Depression, when they could not sell chickens for the cost of their feed, Rubye suggested that they try to eke out a living by selling the chickens cooked. Near their house, on the highway which led to the Smokey Mountains National Park, they put up a homemade sign advertising chicken dinners. Many tourists stopped to eat the chicken dinners and some asked to spend the night. Business grew, and the Bumgarners added cabins and enlarged the kitchen and dining space.

Interspersed with the story are recipes and cooking tips. Rubye's first meals were local foods, with recipes from her mother and other relatives for such traditional southern favorites as Fried Chicken, Cornbread Stuffing, Chicken and Dumplings, Hopping John, Fried Apples, Biscuits, Corn Bread, Wilted Lettuce, Coconut Pie, Crunch Top Sweet Potatoes, and Squash Casserole. Also included are mountain foods: Wild Greens, Violet

Rubye Alley Bumgarner.

### The Sunset Farms Cookbook.

Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 1991. 226 pp. \$14.95. ISBN 0-89587-085-1. Jam, Corn Cob Jelly, Branch Lettuce Salad, Dandelion Salad, Leather Britches (dried string beans), Kraut, Homemade Hominy, Fox Grape Wine, Stuffed Quail, Dove Pie, Bear Roast, Venison Hash, Ash Cake Bread, Liver Mush, and Corn Pone. As the Inn became famous, visitors who came from far away and employees with different backgrounds offered ideas for food and recipes. The menus became eclectic with the additions of such foods as Peanut Butter Soup, German Potage, Eggs en Cocotte with Asparagus Spears, Sweet Potato Flambee, Beef Rollups, Stuffed Mushrooms, Stuffed Flank Burgundy, Cheese Fondue,

Vinaigarette Low Calorie Dressing, and Anchovy Sauce.

The household and garden hints section includes such advice as "try using a thread instead of a knife when a cake is to be cut hot" and "remember, to be a good cook, you need to know when to put it on and when to take it off". The book contains an extensive glossary of menu terms useful to travelers.

The book is fascinating to read. However, since the recipes are not arranged for easy access, the index is essential. It is in order by type of food, with entries under each in alphabetical order by title of recipe. A more extensive index with cross references would make the book easier to use in cooking.

This book is appropriate for any general library collection. It would have special interest for travelers who visit country inns, for readers in the history of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and for cooks who like to share recipes.

- Elizabeth I, Lanev

he reason given for publishing this title is to provide a single, encyclopedic reference source which will "play a part in a national reference to all of the states...an Encyclopedia of the Unlted (sic) States." Unfortunately, this typographical error overlooked in the foreword is the first indication of numerous problems which render this title unacceptable for addition to most library collections. In the section on state symbols (which cannot be found through use of the table of contents or index), the historical designation of the Carolina chickadee as the state bird is discussed, yet nowhere is it stated that the state bird is now the cardinal. A cursory examination of its dictionary of "incorporated populated places" shows that it omits Fairmont. Cross-references are incomplete: *The Columns* in Murfeesboro does not have a cross-reference or index entry. In the section on governors, James Martin's birthdate is omitted.

# The Encyclopedia of North Carolina.

New York: Somerset Publishers, Inc., 1992. 542 pp. \$79.00. ISBN 0-4030-990-56.

The historical section is the strongest part of the book, but it is incomplete — especially on events in the past fifty years. The chronology is uneven in coverage (Reagan visits Charlotte, Perrier Water recalled), the text has glaring typographical errors, and the entries could be more specific (the first "black" mayor was elected in Chapel Hill, but his name is not given). The chronology is inconsistent, omitting gubernatorial inaugurations in 1965 and 1973 and listing "strong economic growth" as the only significant event of record in

1972. No reference is made to the Lumbee Indians, who are trying to obtain federal recognition. Only one version of the story of how the nickname of Tarheels came about is included. Finally, the date from the act establishing the state flag is incorrectly given as April 12, 1775, rather than April 12, 1776 (see discussion of the significance of this date in the *North Carolina Manual*).

The foreword acknowledges information on North Carolina available from many sources, and sources like the *North Carolina Manual, Facts About the States*, the *North Carolina Gazeteer*, and William Powell's *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* and *North Carolina Through Four Centuries* are still the places to turn for answers to questions about North Carolina. Somerset Publishers has indicated they intend to correct problems, but until then, this title is not recommended.

- Teresa L. McManus, Mary Livermore Library, Pembroke State University

ivorce has an enormous impact on today's society. In North Carolina over thirty-four thousand couples divorced or went through an annulment in 1990, the last year for which figures are available. Clearly, there is a need for an easy-to-read self-help book in family law. The book should be free of legal mumbo jumbo, and should explain the steps for separation, divorce, custody, child support and maintenance (alimony), division of property, and more. Separation and Divorce in North Carolina is not that book.

The author, a graduate of Wake Forest School of Law and a practicing attorney in Greensboro, explains in the preface that she wrote the book to answer questions people repeatedly ask her. Her intent is admirable, and the book fills a gap, but not adequately. The book's question and answer format is user friendly. Questions are posed simply and concisely. Answers, however, are not concise, and at times the answer does not respond to the question. At other times the answer to one question is buried in another answer later in the chapter. The problem may be partly organizational. Since the author writes in a folksy, plain-talking style with many scenarios, the result is sometimes rambling.

Family law is complex. Each divorce is different, and the author could not provide concrete answers for every possible situation. At the very least, however, she should prepare her reader for working with the attorney she cautions her or him to consult. Nowhere, for example, does she suggest how to approach an initial interview with a lawyer, yet the client who arrives at an attorney's office with important marital and financial papers in hand can save time and money.

In contrast to the Nicholson book, several books on the market address the difficulties of marital and family break-up in an understandable style, free of legalese. *Family Law in Orange County* by Lisa Aldred, JD, is a short booklet available for \$3.00 from the Orange County Women's Center at 210 Henderson Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. It was published in 1990 under a grant from the United Way of Greater Orange County,

and addresses questions about domestic violence, separation, divorce, and child custody in North Carolina. The author walks the reader through each legal process, step by step. Although the information is oriented towards Triangle area resources, the booklet would be a valuable addition to any North Carolina public library legal collection.

Divorce and Money: Everything You Need to Know About Dividing Property by Violet Woodhouse et al. is another excellent choice for a public library legal collection. The book addresses the long-term financial consequences of divorce, and includes many charts, worksheets, and checklists to help readers evaluate net worth in order to divide assets and debts fairly. Nolo Press, the Berkeley, California publisher of Divorce and Money, is in the vanguard of the do-it-yourself law movement. Its inexpensive and readable publications guide people simply through the how, when, where, and why of the law. In addition, they publish new editions regularly, since in law, a title more than two years old is of questionable value. A title more than four or five years old should be weeded from the collection. Divorce and Money and other Nolo Press publications would be fine additions to a library collection. Call (510) 549-1976 for a catalog.

Marguerite Most, University of North Carolina Law Library

Mary K. Nicholson.

# Separation and Divorce in North Carolina:

Answers to the Most Commonly Asked Questions About Your Legal Rights.

Asheboro, NC: Down Home Press, 1992. 68 pp. ill. \$7.95. ISBN 1-878086-16-2.

illiam S. Price, Jr., Director of the Division of Archives and History, states in the foreword that this book is in part "a summation of [a] sustained effort begun in the 1970s." The purpose of this effort was "to focus special attention on the history of African Americans in North Carolina." The final product is a powerful testimony to the sincerity of that effort. Five centuries of African American life and development, triumphs and defeats, sorrows and joys are chronicled here for the reader.

The authors of this book have extensive collective experience in the area of African American research and publishing. Crow, administrator of the Historical Publications section, Division of Archives and History, and Escott, Reynolds Professor of History at Wake Forest University, both have published widely on related subjects. Hatley, currently teaching at North Carolina Central University, is a former Black History Coordinator at the Division of Archives and History. It is the richness of their expertise that

allowed them to compress the massive amount of research and information pulled from numerous sources into such a concise work.

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

A History of African Americans
in North Carolina.

Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1992. 237 pp. \$10.00. ISBN 0-86526-255-1. The conciseness of the work provides its primary strength. In less than 240 pages the authors deftly recount black colonial life and the descent of black status into slavery. They manage to inform readers of paradoxical positions of African Americans during the major wars in American history. They address and discuss traditional topics in African American history such as the relationship between slaves and masters, the contradictory roles of Christianity in black life, Southern whites' reactions to the Civil War and Reconstruction, life in the Jim Crow South, and black post-World War II fights for better social conditions. Yet they surprise the reader with many enlightening

revelations: that the legendary deep rift between house slaves and field slaves did not exist, that there was a great westward migration after 1877 (long before the more famous South/North migrations) that removed significant numbers of blacks from Eastern North Carolina, and that there was considerable infighting among black leaders.

The same brevity that makes this book appealing limits the work at times either by preventing the inclusion of all-important factors in discussions of topics or by disallowing the full development of introduced characters or thoughts. For example, the discussion of slave insurrections, revolts, and plots completely omits the Denmark Versey insurrection of 1822 which, along with Nat Turner's revolt and Grabiel Prosser's rebellion, was a defining moment in the institution of slavery. During the discussion of Reconstruction, the authors introduce an organization called the Union League, but they do not give enough information about it to help readers truly understand the organization's purpose and use. A final example is the discussion of John J. Parker's rejection as a candidate to the U.S. Supreme Court. The authors wrote that "Dr. A. M. Riveria of North Carolina Mutual...quietly provided the damning evidence," but the authors never say what that damning evidence was! The limitations of brevity are also revealed in the book's whirlwind tour of post-World War II black struggles.

The above items aside, this is a fine one-volume history of African American life. It

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North Carolina Libraries Spring 1993 — 49

brings together into a single book facts, figures, and other information that would take an individual an immeasurable amount of work to tie together and organize. Although concise, it is quite comprehensive and broad in scope, capturing the major events in black North Carolina history while aptly addressing the subtle nuances of that history. This book is a must for public, academic, and special libraries with North Carolina, Southern History, or African American History collections.

- Philip Cherry III, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County

otable North Carolina Women presents thirty-one short biographies of women associated with the state by birth or residence. Included are the usual: Dolly Madison, Ava Gardner, Frances Bavier, Virginia Dare, and Flora McDonald. The author has made a concerted effort to balance this group with contemporary

women of significant accomplishment such as Elizabeth Hanford Dole, who is currently President of the American Red Cross; Maya Angelou, a nationally respected poet; and Gertrude B. Elion, who received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1988. Photographs or reproductions of paintings are included, as is a short list of biographical sources for each woman. The index includes all personal references as well as place name references, so that readers can look up "Wilmington," for example, and find all the women who are associated with that city.

Jennifer Ravi.

## Notable North Carolina Women.

Winston-Salem: Bandit Books, 1992. 156 pp. \$10.00. ISBN 1-878177-03-6.

> Though this book includes a number of women only marginally connected to North Carolina, it will be useful to school and public librarians reacting to classroom assignments. The information is presented in a straightforward and strictly factual style which may not make for inspirational reading, but which will

> be easily used by fourth through eighth graders writing reports. Purchase where needed. - Rebecca Sue Taylor, New Hanover County Public Library

> f we could all just step off the ferry to Ocracoke Island, walk up to Donald Davis's front door and say, "Tell us about Jack," many of us would do so. The next best thing would be attending one of the veteran storyteller's performances or listening to one of his tapes. Donald Davis's new book, Jack Always Seeks His Fortune, comes in fourth to all of the above, but it's a photo finish. This collection contains thirteen stories about Jack told in an easy, unhurried style; and although the storyteller's animated presence is missing, the tales have a life all their own.

Donald Davis.

# Jack Always Seeks His Fortune.

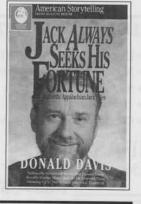
Little Rock, Ark.: August House Publishers, 1992. 220 pp. \$21.95. ISBN 0-87483-281-0 (cloth); \$11.95. ISBN 0-87483-280-2 (paper).

Donald Davis, author of two other August House collections of original and traditional stories (Listening for the Crack of Dawn and Barking at a Fox-Fur Coat) spent his childhood in the mountains of North Carolina. He grew up hearing his grandmother and other family members relate Jack's adventures, not in any formal way but as naturally as we might gossip about the neighbors down the block. The tales, remembered and retold in this collection, have a sense of that comfortable familiarity with Jack, and while they all deal in some way with finding or seeking a fortune, they also show Jack's many-sided humanity.

Jack is sometimes the fool, sometimes the wag, often lucky, and always full of mischief. In "The Time Jack Cured the Doctor," one of the funniest tales, he outwits a character who's grown too clever for his own good. "The Time Jack Fooled the Miller" has Jack undoing a braggart and a thief by tricking the man's wife into his own bed. In several stories Jack ends up marrying a king's daughter; but although he might move into the castle, he doesn't spend any time being a king. As we are told at the end of "The Time Jack Went Up in the Big Tree," there was no need to waste time being king since "everybody around where they lived already knew what they were doing." And so, it would seem, does Donald Davis.

Daniel Sobol, and a foreword and brief headnotes by the author. This book is appropriate for any library serving general readers.

Jack Always Seeks His Fortune includes a highly informative introduction by Joseph - Ann Sullivan, Sadie Saulter Elementary School, Greenville



Readers who enjoy *Jack Always Seeks His Fortune* will also want to dip into *More Best-Loved Stories Told at the National Storytelling Festival*. Storytellers David Holt, Gwenda Ledbetter, Alice McGill, Ray Hicks, Jackie Torrence, and Donald Davis represent North Carolina in this lively mix of fables, folktales, and personal narratives from many ethnic backgrounds. (1992; National Storytelling Press of the National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling, P.O. Box 309, Jonesborough, TN 37659; distributed to the book trade by August House Publishers, P.O. Box 3223, Little Rock, AK 72203; 223 pp; \$19.95, ISBN 1-879991-09-8 (cloth); \$11.95, ISBN 1-879991-08-X (paper).)

Three sources of special interest to genealogists and local history researchers were published by libraries and archives and related organizations in North Carolina last year.

The North Carolina Freedman's Savings & Trust Company Records, compiled by Bill Reaves, is a valuable source of information about African Americans in North Carolina immediately following the Civil War. The Freedman's Bank, as it was commonly known, had branches in New Bern, Wilmington, and Raleigh, and was active from 1865 to 1874. Information from bank account applications includes birthplace, residence, age, occupation, literacy, and family ties of customers. An index of surnames is included. (1992; the North Carolina Genealogical Society, c/o Margaret M. Hofmann, Box 446, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870; 588 pp.; \$31.80.)

Guide to the Manuscript Collections, J. Murrey Atkins Library, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, edited by Robin Brabham with Randy Penninger, is an important means of access to 187 processed and unprocessed collections containing an estimated 1,400,000 items including approximately 50,000 photographic images. The geographical focus of the collections is on Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, but they include significant holdings relating to civil rights at the state and national levels. This guide is a list of collections with brief descriptions, and an index keyed to the descriptions. The

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North Carolina Libraries Spring 1993 — 51

preface describes a more detailed index and inventories available for use at Atkins Library. (1992; Special Collections Unit, J. Murrey Atkins Library, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 28223; 64 pp.; free while copies last.)

Women's Voices in the Southern Oral History Program Collection, edited by Kathryn L. Nasstron, contains abstracts of over three hundred oral history interviews with southern women in the twentieth century, grouped by topics such as "Southern Politics," "Notable North Carolinians," "Rural Electrification," "Labor," and "Cane Creek." Entires include the number of tapes and the number of pages in the transcript if one has been prepared. Notes following each abstract mention other material available on the interviewee, and references to related manuscript collections in the Southern Historical Collection. An extensive index concludes the guide. (1992; Southern Oral History Program Collection and Manuscripts Department, CB# 3195, Hamilton Hall, UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3195; xv + 178 pp.; \$17.00.)

Three more books describe life in three of our state's major cities. Mary Norton Kratt updates her *Charlotte: Spirit of the New South*, originally published in 1980, with "many new stories and colorful photographs and early sketches." She has woven recent events such as Harvey Gantt's 1990 Senate race, the destruction of Hurricane Hugo, and the infamous Jim Bakker trial into her story, not just tacked on a new last chapter. (1992; John F. Blair, Publisher, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; 295 pp.; \$34.95; ISBN 0-89587-095-9.)

An amusing collection of anecdotes by Martin Lancaster describes *Raleigh: An Unorthodox History of North Carolina's Capital*. With no index and with chapter titles like "Hands Off Our Weak-Brained Women," this is strictly for browsing. Did you know the Raleigh Police Department had no filing system until 1950? (1992; Down Home Press, P.O. Box 4126, Asheboro, NC, 27204; 266 pp.; \$19.95; ISBN 1-878086-15-4.)

Finally, Hamilton C. Horton, Jr. has written a practical booklet on *Living in Winston-Salem: A Guide to the Heritage, Traditions, and Daily Life of a Southern Community*. Besides providing information on local business and industry, education, recreation, and cultural life, he reviews the city's neighborhoods, explains local Moravian customs, and advises newcomers on the manners that will be most acceptable to natives. A handy pocket guide with a refreshing personality, clearly written by a man who knows and loves his community. Index included. (1992; Winston-Salem Magazine, P.O. Box 10921, Winston-Salem, NC 27108; 97 pp.; \$7.95.)

Three books for the nature lover cover the state from coast to mountains. Elizabeth Leland's *The Vanishing Coast* is a pilgrimage up the coast of the Carolinas, from Daufuskie Island in South Carolina to Wanchese on North Carolina's Roanoke Island. Her essays on ways of life threatened by the erosion of nature and civilization are powerfully illustrated with black and white photographs. (1992; John F. Blair, Publisher, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston- Salem, NC 27103; 141 pp.; \$21.95; ISBN 0-89587-092-4.)

Birds of the Blue Ridge Mountains by Marcus B. Simpson, Jr., is a substantial birdwatching guide, organized primarily around the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina and Virginia. Illustrated with maps and drawings, it is full of detailed information about the habits of birds. It includes an annotated checklist of birds, a generous list of resources for maps and other information, lists of references and suggested readings, and indexes. (1992; The University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; 354 pp.; \$29.95, ISBN 0-8078-2018-0 (cloth); \$14.95, ISBN 0-8078-4363-6 (paper).)

Growing and Propagating Showy Native Woody Plants is a beautiful guide by Richard E. Bir, extension horticulture specialist at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center of North Carolina State University. The book is illustrated with maps, drawings, and color photographs, and would be useful for gardeners throughout most of the eastern United States. (1992; The University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; 192 pp.; \$29.95, ISBN 0-8078-2027-X (cloth); \$18.95, ISBN 0-8078-4366-0 (paper).)

Persons interested in reviewing for North Carolina Libraries are invited to contact Dorothy Hodder at New Hanover County Public Library, 201 Chestnut St., Wilmington, NC 28401, (919) 341-4389. Reviewers are not paid, but may keep the books they review.



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