

Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

On January 5, 1862, twenty-year-old George Job Huntley wrote his friends and relations back home: "I have not read nary letter from home since I come to camp. I have been dreaming a good deal about home for several nights and would like to hear from you all."

George Job Huntley of Rutherford County and and Montgomery County's Burwell Thomas Cotton were former school teachers in their early twenties when they joined North Carolina's 34th regiment; neither man lived to become a veteran. As a part of Stonewall Jackson's "Light Division," the 34th served in every major battle fought by the Army of Northern Virginia, from the Seven Days Battles to Appomatox Court House. In their letters home, these two men reveal the excitements, boredom, fears, and general misery of camp life and battle-

field. Cotton, commenting on the battle at Chancellorsville, wrote, "It was the most horrible sight I ever beheld. The battle field was burned over & the dead & wounded were burned badly." Huntley told those back home that "the death of a man here is nothing more than the death of a hog, or at any rate not much more." Huntley, who thought Goldsborough was the "nicest place I ever saw in my life," began writing home requesting summer clothes on March 20, 1862. He finally received them, covered in honey that had leaked out of another container in the package, on July 23, 1862. The letters do reveal a few lighter moments. Cotton, who received his new set of drawers in December 1863 (and hoped that they would "last longer than the war"), told his sister in a March 1864 letter that he was "very sore having been engaged in snow-balling for two days." He assured her "it was fine sport but I think I have pretty well paid for my part."

Michael W. Taylor's compilation of these letters home contains a brief history of the 34th, a good index, twenty-five photographs (twenty were of men mentioned in the letters), and six battle maps. His footnoted annotations consist primarily of individuals' service records gleaned from standard sources such as Clark's *N.C. Regiments*. Succinct notes in the text provide a valuable historical framework for the letters—the explanatory notes never overwhelm the correspondence. A more thorough discussion of the original letters themselves, however, would have proved helpful. Future researchers will be left to wonder if they were a part of larger sets of family papers or, for that matter, where they currently reside.

In his last letter written on June 17, 1864, Burwell Thomas Cotton told his sister, "I fear the end of the war is a long way off." It wasn't for him; he fell six days later. Just as George Job Huntley had expectantly awaited news from home during his first months of service, readers will quickly flip to each letter, waiting to hear from the young lieutenants.

Works such as these give a voice to history.

— Thomas Kevin B. Cherry, Rowan Public Library

Michael W. Taylor.
***The Cry is War, War, War:
 The Civil War Correspondence
 of Lts. Burwell Thomas Cotton
 and George Job Huntley,
 34th Regiment
 North Carolina Troops.***

Dayton, Ohio: Morningside, 1994.
 194 pp. \$30.00 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling.
 ISBN 0-89029-321-X.

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his little book contains nineteen short stories, averaging four to five pages in length, culled from the history of the Cape Fear region. Unfortunately readers expecting the bizarre, as promised in the title, are likely to be disappointed. Mr. Hairr is a faithful reporter of local traditions that surely are common in many areas, including a river rafter who fell in the water, a patriot who fell afoul of Lord Cornwallis, a construction worker entombed in the poured concrete of a bridge pier, and not one but two operations that were successful but for the fact that the patient died. Even those tales that could make some claim to bizarreness, like "The Murder of a Tory Captain" or "When Flesh and Blood Rained Down," suffer in the telling. Hairr is not a storyteller, and his conscientious, unembellished presentation of the few facts available on these cases adds up to curious anecdotes of local interest, but not blood-chilling stories with wide appeal.

Recommended for comprehensive North Carolina history collections.

— Samantha Hunt, New Hanover County Public Library

John Hairr.
***Bizarre Tales
of the Cape Fear Country.***

Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina: Triangle Books,
1995. 88 pp. \$9.95. ISBN 1-884570-17-8.

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ay (short for Jacqueline) Winbourne, Barbara Wright's feisty heroine, is too old for her years. She and her father Jack raised each other after her mother died of a ruptured blood vessel in the brain when Jay was five. Jack Winbourne ought to be writing plays, but, lacking confidence in his writing, he trades penny stocks instead. He devotes intense study to developing trading systems that he then lacks the confidence to follow, and loses money steadily. While still in high school, Jay has become skilled at juggling creditors and maneuvering around her father's mood swings. When he confesses that he has lost her college fund trying to recoup other losses, however, she breaks away and moves from their home in Colorado to New York City to try life on her own.

Barbara Wright.
Easy Money.

Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 1995.
390 pp. \$18.95. ISBN 0-945575-63-7.

In the course of exploring the city, Jay falls for Russ, a jazz pianist fourteen years her senior with a history of serious drug abuse, and takes him as her first lover. She is lucky enough to find work as a secretary for Yang Byung-suk, a highly cultured Korean novelist, blind from birth, who is writing his autobiography. Jay was an indifferent student in high school, but Mr. Yang's wide-ranging interests and scholarly discipline prove to be a good stand-in for the college education she is missing, and provide a strong contrast to Russ's and

Jack's wasted talents.

The other solid influence in Jay's life is her North Carolina grandmother, Leeta Mae, source of family history, quilts, love, recipes, and values. Jay's and Jack's visits home to the relatives they regard as hopelessly unsophisticated provide a great deal of the charm and humor of the book. Although Jay is not conscious of having much in common with her country Mimmaw, she has grown up to be much the same sort of nurturer, taking care first of Jack and then Russ. She lacks her grandmother's balance, however. Even though she remains relatively unchanged as Russ grows bitter about his musician's income and turns to serious drug dealing and using, she suffers a breakdown after they break up and he subsequently goes to prison. Her father, who has at long last taken himself in hand and resumed writing (with his mother as heroine), comes to New York and nurses her back to health.

Jay, a creative person drawn to creative people, expresses herself primarily through junk sculpture. As she observes her father, Russ, and Mr. Yang at work (or not), she learns a great deal about art as work worth doing. Barbara Wright has written a satisfying coming of age novel, skillfully tracing Jay's slow transition from a naive girl, constantly imposed on by others, to a young woman with a sense of what she wants to learn and accomplish for herself. The descriptions of North Carolina are particularly evocative.

Recommended for high school and public libraries.

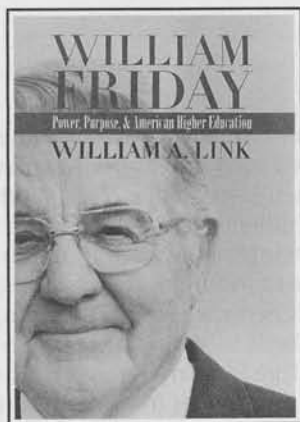
— Dorothy Hodder, New Hanover County Public Library

In the 1970s a national news reporter visiting North Carolina came to the conclusion that "This is Bill Friday country." That brief statement was indicative of the power and influence that William C. Friday, President of the University of North Carolina (UNC) from 1956 to 1986, wielded within his native state. A man of patience, dedication, and dogged persistence, Friday attained his influence by using his low-key personal communication skills to reach compromise and consensus with others rather than by riding roughshod over them.

William A. Link.

**William Friday:
Power, Purpose, and
American Higher Education.**

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press,
1995. 494 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 0-8078-2167-5.



During Friday's tenure, UNC weathered the infamous Speaker Ban Law, the emergence of the UNC system (including the controversy over the East Carolina University School of Medicine), the Vietnam War and campus activists' protests, and a protracted struggle with the federal government over integration policies. While dealing with these major challenges, Friday also worked on a national education panel under President Johnson and played a major role in bringing the National Center for the Humanities to the Research Triangle Park.

While this book contains many of the standard elements of a biography, William A. Link, a professor of history at UNC-Greensboro, has written about more than just the facts of Friday's life. This book is also a history of UNC and the UNC system as it changed during the thirty years of Friday's leadership. At the same time, it is an examination of the local, state, and national politics that swirled around Friday and UNC. It is at the intersection of these points that Professor Link's narrative rises to the level of high drama and captures the reader's attention. For example, by using meticulous scholarship, Link is able to create a "You Were There" feeling for the reader as he describes the intricate movements behind such events as the Speaker Ban Law or Governor Scott's 1969 proposal to send the National Guard onto the UNC-Chapel Hill campus.

This is an excellent work that all academic, community college, and public libraries will want to add to their collections. It presents a particularly balanced view of the era of Bill Friday's UNC presidency that is well written and documented. The volume has an extensive bibliography, a comprehensive index, and is illustrated with black-and-white photographs.

— John Welch, State Library of North Carolina

Other Publications of Interest

The second volume of *The Papers of Zebulon Baird Vance*, edited by Joe A. Mobley, is now available from the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. Its publication is notable not only because it covers 1863, Vance's first full year as Civil War Governor of North Carolina and a crucial year in the history of the Confederacy, but also because it has been in process for three decades under several different editors. (The first volume, edited by Frontis W. Johnston and covering the years 1843-1862, was released in 1963.) Major defeats at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, along with public dissent and unrest over conscription, desertion, inflation, shortages, tax in kind, impressment, speculation, Federal raids, and fear of insurrection, all added up to widespread disillusionment with the war in North Carolina during 1863. Vance's papers paint a vivid picture of a governor torn between his people's fears and hardships, and his own loyalty to the cause of Southern independence. Contains an index and calendars of documents included or omitted in this volume. (1995; Historical Publications Section, Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27601-2807; xxxix, 436 pp.; \$35.00, plus \$3.00 postage and handling; ISBN 0-86526-262-4.)

Another popular sport in North Carolina is described in Jerry Bledsoe's first published book, *The World's Number One, Flat-Out, All-Time Great Stock Car Racing Book*, just released with a new introduction in a 20th Anniversary Edition. Bledsoe explains how stock car racing got started and why, and explores the charisma that keeps drivers and fans coming back for more. (1995; Down Home Press, P.O. Box 4126, Asheboro, NC 27204; 335 pp.; paper, \$13.95 plus \$2.00 for shipping and \$.84 tax for NC residents; ISBN 1-878086-36-7.)

The fourth edition of Dr. Bertram Hawthorne Groene's guide, *Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor*, includes revised and updated information on important source books, state and national archives, and forms necessary to trace the military history of a Civil War veteran. It also offers information about the National Park Service Civil War Soldier's System, scheduled to premiere in 1996, that will offer parts of the army records of Union and Confederate soldiers on computer at National Park Service Civil War commemorative sites. (1995; John F. Blair, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; xii, 130 pp.; \$14.95; ISBN 0-89587-123-8.)

Daniel Barefoot of Lincolnton, North Carolina, spent fifteen years exploring the state's 301-mile-long coastline and writing the local history and stories he collected. At the end of his journey he had a single-spaced 1,147-page manuscript weighing fifteen pounds. John Blair, Publisher, took on this mammoth work and has transformed it into the latest additions to its popular *Touring the Backroads* series, *Touring the Backroads of North Carolina's Upper Coast* and *Touring the Backroads of North Carolina's Lower Coast*. Reminiscent of the WPA guides of the 1930s, these guides are rich in the history, legends, and ghost stories of the region's largest cities and most obscure country roads. They are broken down into marvelously detailed tours that travelers could cover in a long weekend, and are illustrated with black-and-white photographs and detail maps. Each has an appendix of addresses, a detailed bibliography, and an index. The writing is exceptional, avoiding the real estate gush and the monotonous listing of hours and prices of the run-of-the-mill travel guide. While locals will, of course, note minor mistakes, they will most likely say that Barefoot has done their corner of the coast justice. Few readers will pick these up without feeling the impulse to toss them into a bag and hit the road. (1995; John F. Blair, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; xiv, 365 pp. and xiv, 363 pp.; paper, each \$15.95; ISBN 0-89587-125-4 and 0-89587-126-2.)

In his introduction to *Country Roads of North Carolina*, Glenn Morris notes that "North Carolina has more country roads than you have time." This slim volume is a companion to exploring a very few of them, in nine areas scattered from the mountains to the Outer Banks. Morris's comfortable philosophy is "if you don't have to be somewhere, you can't get lost," but he provides detailed directions to exploring each area, with telephone numbers for local attractions at the ends of the sections. No maps are included, but beautiful pencil drawings by Cliff Winner make this a very attractive book. Indexed. (1994; Country Roads Press, P.O. Box 286, Lower Main Street, Castine, Maine 04421; xi, 157 pp.; paper, \$9.95; ISBN 1-56626-067-1.)

Scarcely a quarter of the year goes by without at least one new book about fishing in North Carolina, a topic of apparently unlimited interest. This time it's *Fly Fishing in North Carolina* by Buck Paysour, author of *Tar Heel Angler* and *Bass Fishing in North Carolina*. This folksy mixture of advice and anecdote includes lists of places to fish and order fishing tackle, books to read, addresses for more information, and an index. Senior fly fishermen will appreciate the large print format. (1995; Down Home Press, P.O. Box 4126, Asheboro, NC 27204; 288 pp.; paper, \$14.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and \$.89 tax for N.C. residents; ISBN 1-878086-38-3.)

Horseback Riding Trail Guide to North Carolina, by Martha Branon Holden, fills a real need for public libraries, especially in areas where this sport is popular. In addition to listing trails in North Carolina National Forests, Parks, and Seashores; State Parks, Forests, and Natural Areas; Game Lands; and Regional Trails, it also briefly lists local trails in Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The first section outlines basic trail guidelines, including rules, safety, and horse restraint, while the final sections detail first aid for horses and riders, and camp recipes. Includes maps and photographs, lists of sources of information and gear, bibliography, and index. (1994; Bandit Books, P.O. Box 11721, Winston-Salem, NC 27611-1721, available from John F. Blair, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; xiii, 258 pp.; paper, \$11.95; ISBN 1-878177-06-0.)

Loyal Jones and Billy Edd Wheeler have published their fourth collection, *More Laughter in Appalachia: Southern Mountain Humor*, packed with jokes, anecdotes, poems, riddles, songs, and other artifacts of Southern wit. (1995; August House Publishers, P.O. Box 3223, Little Rock, AR 72203; 218 pp.; paper, \$10.95; ISBN 0-87483-411-2.)