

New North Carolina Books

by William C. Burris
Professor of Political Science
Guilford College

ROBERT F. DURDEN. *The Dukes of Durham, 1865-1929*. (Durham: Duke University Press, 1975). 295 pages. Photographs. \$9.75

Drawing upon rediscovered letterbooks of James Buchanan ("Buck") Duke and other sources in the Duke University Library, Robert F. Durden has unraveled the fascinating story of one of North Carolina's most famous families. Beginning with the family patriarch, Washington Duke, Durden traces the rise and fall of the Duke monopoly in the cigarette business. He then traces the story through the lives of J. B. and Benjamin Duke as the family branched out into textiles, electrical power, and major philanthropic enterprises.

Durden stresses the Duke family's long-standing patronage of Trinity College. Washington Duke was largely responsible for the move of the small Methodist college from rural Randolph County to Durham and for its conversion to a coeducational institution. Durden lays to rest the popular legend that the Dukes were interested in Trinity only because of their interest in changing its name to Duke University. In fact, the suggestion to rename the institution came from its president, not from the Duke family.

Durden's history is meticulously researched and tightly written. It is the most balanced, complete, accurate, and readable account of the Duke family and its influence on the life of North Carolina. It should be in every North Carolina library.

Damon D. Hickey

JAMES W. CLAY, DOUGLAS M. ORR, JR., and ALFRED W. STUART, Eds. *North Carolina Atlas: Portrait of a Changing South-eastern State*. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1975). \$17.95.

One of the most difficult scholarly enterprises is the preparation of an atlas. Current and relevant data must be obtained, presented in forms that are intelligible to the general reader, and interpreted in meaningful fashion. Rarely are these three chores accomplished in one book. This volume is a happy exception to the norm; it succeeds on all three fronts. It is a full portrait of the land and people of North Carolina.

The book comes to us mainly from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where the editors and many of the contributors are members of the faculty. It is organized into six separate but well integrated parts: 1) An *Introduction* which sets the stage and identifies the general thesis of the work, 2) *Human Settlement and Profile*, 3) *Physical Resources and Environmental Quality*, 4) *The Economy*, 5) *Services and Amenities*, and 6) *Retrospect and Prospect*. In the final part the editors comment on major trends in the state and discuss the need for planning to direct and control growth.

The basic objective of the book is to focus on long-range trends in North Carolina. In this sense, it is a study of change. It is chock-full of statistics, graphs, maps, and illustrations, and they are presented in a most attractive format. This atlas will be of immense value to anyone interested in the past, present, and future of North Carolina. All school libraries should add it to their collections.

CHRIS FLORANCE. *Carolina Home Gardener*. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1976). \$9.95.

Most people enjoy gardens; too few enjoy gardening. It is hard work, never-ending, frustrating, and can be expensive. It can be pleasant and immensely rewarding, however, if you know what you are doing. One way to find out is to read this excellent book. Written especially for the North Carolina gardener, it is vastly superior to most other books of this genre. Nothing is being sold; it is a highly personal account of what you must do to make your deserts bloom.

Chris Florance leaves no stone unturned. She tells you everything you need to know about gardening: techniques, tools, locations, soils, fertilizers, shrubs, trees, grasses, flowers, vegetables, the lot. Part Three, "A Year in My Garden" is my favorite section of the book. It is a month by month prescription of what the North Carolina gardener should do to have a beautiful garden.

If you are one of those unfortunate souls who lives in a house where the developer has taken away all the top soil, you will find the advice you need here. Ms. Florence has whipped that problem and she tells you how to do the same. The value of the book is increased by an excellent glossary of scientific names, a list of sources for gardening information, and a carefully prepared index. Even if you are not a gardener, you will find the book enjoyable. The excellent illustrations are by Kaye Florance and others.

PAUL McILVAINE. *The Dead Towns of Sunbury and Dorchester*. (Published by the Author. Route 3, Box 90, Hendersonville, NC) 1975.

There is always a strange sadness surrounding dead towns. This is especially true when the remains lie near or by the sea. One feels it at Jamestown in Virginia and in Old Brunswick in North Carolina.

A visit brings on moments of nostalgia for those early days when Europeans planted their first settlements on American soil.

This story of the dead towns of Sunbury, Georgia and Dorchester, South Carolina has the same effect. Paul McIlvaine, a resident of Hendersonville, has carefully studied the records of these towns and has produced an interesting and informative account of their settlement and decline. As tidewater towns, the history of these places is very similar to developments in North Carolina before and during the Revolution. The charts, maps, and illustrations are of special value. North Carolina readers should enjoy this book.

SARAH H. MCGEE. *God Called the Play*. (Charlotte: Charlotte Publishing, 1975).

The death of a child is one of life's greatest sorrows. Parents respond differently to such tragedies because there is no one single formula for finding relief and consolation from the grief and sense of loss. This little volume consists of several essays by the mother and expressions of concern and love from friends. The argument here is that the premature death of a child is part of the broad scheme of life and must be accepted as such. It is an expression of the necessities of the heart, and should be of interest and value to others who have lost a child but must go on with their lives.

LEGETTE BLYTHE. *When Was Jesus Born?* (Charlotte: Charlotte Publishing, 1974).

LEGETTE BLYTHE. *The Stableboy Who Stayed at Bethlehem*. (Charlotte: Charlotte Publishing, 1974).

These two slender volumes can be recommended for young readers. The first discusses the confusion about the exact date of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth and suggests that historical accuracy on this point is not the point. The second is a fantasy of the First Christmas. Both church libraries and school libraries should have them available.