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# New North Carolina Books

Alice R. Cotten, Compiler

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Reynolds Price. *Vital Provisions*. New York: Atheneum, 1982. 95 pp. \$7.95 paper.

*Vital Provisions* is a modern poetic sequence in three distinct parts. Reynolds Price states in an introductory note that the fifty poems, written between 1961 and 1982, were grouped "in a sequence that means to clarify their relations with one another and with the lives from which they proceed." Indeed, the separation into groups dealing with human questions, Christian mysteries, and intimations of the power of human relationships succeeds admirably in its arrangement.

Where Reynolds Price begins to probe the mysteries of the human condition in such novels as *A Long and Happy Life* (1962) and must use the conventions of narrative, character development, and significance of plot, he continues in an extremely condensed manner in these poems. A longish poem in the first section, "The Dream of Lee," illustrated the author's imaginary relationship with General Robert E. Lee as he escorts the long-dead General to a lecture at Duke University. General Lee surprises the author by reciting a poem "composed / Two days ago for my friend Mr. Price." When the General recites simply one line, "A country emptied by the fear of war," the fullness of Price's awe and humility is vividly sensed.

Reynolds Price also succeeds in the first part of the sequence with translations or adaptations of two poems by Catullus, one of Rilke, and an admirable adaptation of "The Seafarer," an Anglo-Saxon poem of the ninth century which Ezra Pound had also included in his *Ripostes* of 1912. These poems show the wide range of Price's classical appreciations and point toward the spiritual longings explored in the middle section of *Vital Provisions*.

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Alice Cotten became Book Review Editor for NCL with the Spring 1983 issue. Maury York, the previous Book Review Editor, did an excellent job for NCL, and we appreciate his hard work. Maury, who will be guest editor for the fall issue, devoted to archives and libraries, is presently at Joyner Library, ECU.

The poems in this section are meditations on nine mysteries of the Christian account of the life of Jesus, and they frequently focus upon characters in the four Gospels who were incidental to the main story. One striking example is "Naked Boy," an account of the daily strivings of the young man mentioned in the passion story of Mark who fled away naked when seized by the authorities holding Jesus prisoner. Price expands the Gospel account by giving a romantic picture of Jesus visiting the young man's home earlier in the day and helping to build a hen house. The contrast is made between the sacrifice for the sins of the world and the earthly desire for safety when it is Jesus who simply commands the young man, "Leave!"

Similarly, the angel Gabriel has difficulty in giving the news to Mary. Gabriel "strains to know what need could draw / The Heart of Light to settle on this / Dun child, clay-brown." Clearly, the heroic attitudes of the theological thrust of the Gospel of Mark are very much in Price's message, owing in large part perhaps to his efforts in the 1978 translation of parts of it, *A Palpable God*. Throughout *Vital Provisions*, an earthly straightforwardness similar to the movement of the lives of the southern characters in Price's novels plainly celebrates the roughness of the human condition and the unseen power of God in the moments of touching and fear.

The final section of *Vital Provisions* contains a wider range of poems. There are three "Pictures of the Dead": reminiscences of Robert Frost, W. H. Auden and Robert Lowell from personal experience. Several more poems speak more obliquely of Price's interior experience, but none possess the grandeur of the final poem in the sequence, "The Annual Heron." In this encounter with the gray water-bird at the edge of a pond near Price's home, the poet is forced to confront his own mortal comings and goings. The heron "stands, eleven months later / In the shallows at my end, facing / Me plainly. What am I meant / To do with my first exposure / To resurrection, at year's dead end, / Before my breakfast?"

*Vital Provisions* is a profound sequence of explorations of human and spiritual struggle, composed in an unshackled, at times colloquial style, and which provides keen spiritual insight to the careful reader. Highly recommended for secondary school, college, and adult collections.

Lee Gragg, Queens College

John L. Bell, Jr. *Hard Times: Beginnings of the Great Depression in North Carolina 1929-1933*. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1982. 87 pp. \$3.00 paper plus \$1.00 postage — total \$4.00.

This work is intended to provide a brief introduction to the impact of the Great Depression on North Carolina. Dr. Bell, professor of history and associate dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Western Carolina University, has concentrated on explaining what happened to the people and institutions of North Carolina during the Depression, rather than attempting to explain why it happened. In nine short chapters he discusses agriculture, banking, industry, labor unrest, unemployment relief, government finances, transportation, education, and blacks. In a pamphlet of 87 pages, no one could be expected to discuss thoroughly each of the above topics, but Dr. Bell has succinctly covered the main points. The layman interested in the Depression could profit from reading this pamphlet, though it will be of little use to scholars. It could also serve as a supplemental text in a course on North Carolina history. *Hard Times* is primarily an institutional history; one does not get much of a feel for the impact of the Depression on the common people.

A number of errors and inconsistencies occasionally mar the text. Bank resources in 1933 totaled \$351 million, not \$357 million as recorded on p. 13. In the preface Dr. Bell states that "in 1931 ... scheduled airlines also made their debut in the state." On p. 55, we read that "scheduled airlines began operation in 1930," and on p. 59 we find that "Raleigh got its first regular air service in September, 1929." Some of Dr. Bell's facts contradict what can be found in other works on the same period. For example, on p. 10, it is stated that over one thousand farmers met at North Carolina State College in December, 1929, to establish a tobacco cooperative. Anthony J. Badger, in his *Prosperity Road: the New Deal, Tobacco, and North Carolina*, says, on p. 28, that only five hundred

growers attended this meeting. Badger's source is the *Raleigh News and Observer*, December 18, 1929. Bell cites no source for his figure, as his work contains no footnotes, an unfortunate decision on the part of the editor. There are also other discrepancies between Badger and Bell. The author follows current trends in including a separate chapter on blacks; but the other large minority group in North Carolina, the Indian, is not even mentioned in the text, much less treated in a separate chapter. These errors and inconsistencies, however, do not detract greatly from the overall work.

There are a number of illustrations accompanying the text. Most of them are of famous North Carolinians. One looks in vain for more pictures illustrating the impact of the Depression on the people of North Carolina. One also wonders why the picture on the cover is of striking industrial workers, since North Carolina was mainly an agricultural state.

This reviewer does have a personal pique with the editor. In her foreword, she states that "parallels and differences in the economic situation in North Carolina in the early thirties and the early eighties will be noted and readers will be fascinated as they compare the two eras." The only conclusion this reviewer can draw is that the editor believes we are in the midst of another economic depression, thus displaying her Democratic prejudices. To his credit, Dr. Bell makes no attempt to compare the two eras.

Peter R. Neal, Durham Public Library

Jerry Bledsoe. *Where's Mark Twain When We Really Need Him?* Greensboro: Grape Hill Press, 1982. 183 pp. \$9.95. (P.O. Box 1402, Greensboro, NC 27402)

*Where's Mark Twain When We Really Need Him?* is a collection of humorous accounts of nostalgia, personal neuroses, and adventurous antics originating both at home and in the marketplace. Each episode has appeared—in one form or another—in Bledsoe's column in the *Greensboro Daily News* or the *Charlotte Observer*. Jerry Bledsoe, who grew up in Piedmont North Carolina, writes of people, places, and situations which are distinctively Carolinian.

This work is the author's fourth book. It follows closely the traditions of a previous book, *Just Folks*. Bledsoe's other two books are *The World's Number One*, *Flat Out*, *All-Time Great Stock Car Racing Book* and *You Can't Live On Radishes*. His works have appeared in

numerous publications including *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, and *Esquire*.

As a daily columnist, currently with the *Greensboro Daily News*, Bledsoe has many opportunities to travel across the Carolinas, where he meets and observes people who readily become characters in his stories, many of which are slight exaggerations of the truth. After all, admits the columnist, "the true story may not be so humorous until it has been stretched to the limit." The ability to take about an ounce of truth and stretch it into a pound's worth of laughter is a Bledsoe mark of genius. This may, however, prove a challenge for the naive reader who is sometimes unable to distinguish truth from pun.

Possibly the least forgivable story in the book, as far as Elvis Presley fans are concerned, grew out of the author's desire to "put an end to all those awful stories" about the singer. This tale is a colorful account of Bledsoe's alleged friendship with Presley, which began during their army days and continued due to a mutual love for collards and other such southern traditions.

Bledsoe's reason for penning this and other such absurdities? "If I can bring a smile into this troubled world, then I can feel my life is worthwhile." This he cleverly accomplishes in *Where's Mark Twain . . .*. The accompanying illustrations by Harry Blair add humor to each incident.

This book is highly recommended for high school, public, or any other library which collects works by North Carolina authors.

Dianne Catlett, East Carolina University

***Four North Carolina Women Poets: Kate Blackburn, Agnes McDonald, Shirley Moody, Mary Snotherly.*** Laurinburg, N.C.: St. Andrews Press, 1982. 84 pp. \$7.95 paper.

*Four North Carolina Women Poets* provides a chance to get better acquainted with the styles and thought of four Tar Heel writers. They have published poems previously in magazines and anthologies, but this book contains a larger sampling from each. Combined publication of their work rewards buyers and readers with a collection of harmonies and contrasts. Since their contributions are arranged alphabetically, Kate Blackburn's come first. She studied writing at the University of Iowa and now teaches journalism and philosophy. One of her accomplishments in these poems is a skillful use of tone. From a lively, bantering consideration of writing

"backyard poems," she ranges to a deadly chill in setting forth the ways of a corporate executive. Agnes McDonald, a teacher of creative writing at Atlantic Christian College, has studied with both James Dickey and Sam Ragan. Among her poems are several about poetry and the use of words; in one she points to the concreteness of some work where the reader "grasps the hand of words," but subtlety of expression and experience bring her elsewhere to note, "I think the lines are thin / between the things we separate / with words."

Appearing third among these poets is Shirley Moody, who shares her talent by teaching public school students. In her poems, she juxtaposes strikingly diverse elements. There are dream images with wondrous names like "animal flowers" that float above "rocks," "boulders," and "concrete," the frequently named substance of her acknowledged obsession with stone. The final body of poems is by Mary Snotherly, a former chairman of the North Carolina Poetry Society, who works at another trade altogether as an employee of Eastern Airlines. Among her contributions is "Matisse," a poem full of the painter's colors and Parisian milieu; about him she wonders, "What gave birth to his green dreams?" Some of her green dreams are among this book's best.

With each set of poems is a biographical paragraph and photo of the writer, all of them preceded by Edna Ann Loftus's introduction. St. Andrews Press has brought their contributions together in book form under a cover designed by Jim Linehan. His patchwork quilt motif warmly suggests what lies beneath: poems cut from the stuff of four individuals and worked thoughtfully in together. *Four North Carolina Women Poets* is a welcome addition for collections of North Carolina poetry and of women's writing.

Tucker Respass, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Edgar F. Folk and Bynum Shaw. ***W. W. Holden, A. Political Biography.*** Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1982. 285 pp. \$24.95.

This book, as the subtitle indicates, is a study of the political career and not the complete life of W. W. Holden. That may be just as well, however, since apart from his closely related journalistic and political careers little about Holden merits further consideration. This book, nevertheless, will interest many readers who make the study and understanding of North Carolina history their hobby. In it they



will find new views of Holden, who heretofore has often been regarded as something of a shady and shifting character, one who seemed to possess a vindictive spirit toward his native state. Now it is possible to gain another view of the man who was largely responsible for the election of the beloved Zebulon Vance as governor during the Civil War but who, himself, having failed earlier to be elected, accepted appointment to that same office by the president of the United States at the end of the war. The role of Holden as an influential newspaper editor before the war, but one who came to be thoroughly disliked by many by 1865, is well explained. Finally, he gained notoriety as the first American governor to be impeached and convicted, and thereafter he ended his days in an obscure federal post in Raleigh. As in other instances in our history during those troubled times, the role of Holden is being re-examined and new interpretations suggested. This political biography contains evidence that he was not so bad, but the question still must be decided by each reader (who may want further evidence). It is likely that yet another biography of Holden will appear soon.

Bynum Shaw is a lecturer in journalism at Wake Forest University. He assisted the late Edgar Estes Folk, who died in 1982, in revising his doctoral dissertation that was submitted to the George Peabody College for Teachers in 1934. While the study is both interesting and readable, it would be more acceptable if it had been more carefully revised. The bibliography would instill more confidence if it reflected current scholarship. Except for two trivial pieces that appeared in 1965 and 1973, it contains nothing published since 1930. Even the name used for the state's archival agency (Division of Archives and History) is the one in use in 1930. A 432-page dissertation on Holden, submitted in 1951 and prepared under the direction of the late Professor Fletcher M. Green, is not cited.

North Carolina sections of libraries in the state will want this book, of course, but readers should be aware that it certainly is not the final word on its subject.

William S. Powell, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Diane Cobb Cashman. *Cape Fear Adventure: An Illustrated History of Wilmington*. 144 pp.

Gayle Hicks Fripp. *Greensboro: A Chosen Center*. [222] pp.

James Vickers. *Raleigh: City of Oaks*. 192 pp. Woodland Hills, California: Windsor Publications, 1982. \$22.95 each.

A good pictorial history reflects an author's creativity, attention to visual appeal, and care in research and writing. It contains many little-known, action-oriented photographs and other illustrations (the bigger, the better) that hold the reader's interest. Page layout and design attract the reader and stimulate him to discover what is on the next page. Text and illustrations are compatible. And, as in all histories, the work presents a balanced, objective view of the subject, based on use of a variety of sources. The three North Carolina-related titles in the Windsor History Series, although superior to pictorial histories published by the Donning Company, fail to meet all of these criteria.

The books have many similarities. They reveal the cooperation of local historical organizations that sponsored them, writers, photographers, and illustration researchers. In each the text is interspersed with black and white illustrations (approximately 250 in *Greensboro* and *Raleigh*, about 170 in *Cape Fear Adventure*) and followed by a series of 32 to 43 beautiful color plates, most of which depict current views of the city. "Partners in Progress," local businesses and other institutions that helped finance each book, are described and illustrated in a separate section. A list of patrons, a bibliography, and an index complete each volume.

Likewise, the books share several flaws. They contain many portraits but few views of events. The layout of each volume evidences little creativity, and in *Greensboro* and *Raleigh* the pages lack sufficient margins. In some respects the histories are unbalanced: *Greensboro* and *Cape Fear Adventure* largely ignore the role of blacks, and the latter volume recognizes little history of consequence during the last half century. The books contain misspellings and other slips that should have been corrected by the editors. The indexes, especially in the histories of *Greensboro* and *Wilmington*, weaken the books' usefulness. The writers fail to place their cities in the context of urban history.

Nevertheless, each history boasts strong points. The bibliographies in *Cape Fear Adventure* and *Greensboro* show that these books rely in part on primary sources. Further, they reflect their picture researchers' effort to select illustrations—including some heretofore unpublished views—from a variety of repositories and

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private collections. The Greensboro work contains an impressive number of large photographs. The writing style and color plates in Mr. Vickers's book are especially pleasing.

Although these volumes in the Windsor History Series contain basic information that might be helpful to users of high school and public libraries and collections of North Carolina, they leave a lot to be desired. Institutions with slim budgets should carefully consider the needs of their patrons before buying these books.

Maurice C. York, East Carolina University

David T. Morgan, ed. *The John Gray Blount Papers*, Volume IV, 1803-1833. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1982. 661 pp. \$28.00 plus \$1.50 postage—total \$29.50.

David T. Morgan, a professor of history at the University of Montevallo and author of one book and numerous articles about North Carolina, completes this final volume in a series published by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. Unlike his predecessors, Alice B. Keith (Volumes I and II) and William H. Masterson (Volume III), Morgan deals with a broad time period and is compelled to exclude more documents than they in making his selections. With thirty years of correspondence from which to choose, Morgan focuses mainly on letters concerning state, regional, and national matters and selects only a small sampling of correspondence dealing with strictly local concerns.

John Gray Blount (1752-1833) was a Washington, North Carolina, merchant who neither held high public office nor was as well-known as his brothers, William and Thomas, and his half-brother, Willie. However, John Gray Blount was directly or indirectly involved in many of the significant developments of his time—the westward movement, the War of 1812, the French spoliations issue, and the attempt by southerners to preserve the institution of slavery.

Being a privileged member of the southern gentry, Blount enjoyed the respect of men from all walks of society. Both local magistrates and United States senators sought his counsel and support, and letters from such political elites as Andrew Jackson, Nathaniel Macon, and Edward Livingston appear among his papers. In turn, Blount's political influence helped to secure lucrative government contracts for himself and his business associates and to

obtain military appointments for his three sons during the War of 1812.

In addition to political and military affairs, Blount also was deeply involved in land speculation. He kept land agents and his sons busy making constant rounds of Tennessee towns and courts buying, selling, swapping and generally protecting the family's land interests. Besides keeping up with extensive land holdings in Tennessee, eastern North Carolina and the mountains of western North Carolina, Blount, his family, and business partners operated stores in Washington and Tarboro, in rural Hyde County, and at Shell Castle Island in Carteret County. Thus, it is not surprising that Blount exercised great influence over the political and economic life of Tennessee and North Carolina.

While Morgan chooses letters which discuss such national affairs as war, embargo, slave insurrection, Indian removal, and transportation revolution, he also includes documents of local interest, such as lists of slave names, accounts of the sickness and death of Thomas Blount, news of ship cargoes, and reports of the establishment of the Plymouth Turnpike Company. Within the footnotes of the book Morgan identifies over 700 items for clarification to the reader. In this editorial work he has provided something for every person interested in history—national, state, and local historians, antiquarians, and general readers wanting to learn more about the past.

Richard A. Shrader, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Nancy Rhyne. *Carolina Seashells*. Charlotte: East Woods Press, 1982. 95 pp. \$4.95 paper.

The best times to look, the best places on the Carolina coast to find shells, and tips on how to display collections are features of this pocket-sized guide for the summer vacationer. The author includes a chapter on strange creatures of the sea and brings to the attention of the reader short courses and programs on shells offered to the public by educational facilities in North and South Carolina. Mention is made of the three North Carolina Marine Resource Centers and the "Unusual Seafoods Festival" in Beaufort.

This guide claims to make easy the identifying of more than 200 shells most common in the Carolinas, but it would be difficult to

identify some of the shells from the black and white line drawings illustrating the book. Not every species is illustrated, and the illustrations for the bivalves are especially inadequate. The bivalve anatomical drawing does not include the siphon and *pallial* is misspelled. A very abbreviated glossary and the order of placement of some of the animals in the text may also cause problems for the user. A comparably priced pocket paperback, *Seashells of North America, a Guide to Field Identification*, by R. Tucker Abbott, published by Golden Press, 280 pages, with excellent color illustrations, would seem a better choice for anyone in the market for a field guide to seashells.

Lisa Wood, National Marine Fisheries Service, Beaufort, N.C.

Paul Branch, Jr. *The Siege of Fort Macon*. Morehead City: Herald Printing Co., 1982. 106 pp. \$5.00 paper plus \$.60 mailing—total \$5.60. (Order from Paul Branch, Jr., 209 Land's End Rd., Morehead City, NC, 28557.)

Fort Macon, located on North Carolina's Outer Banks, was a crucial part of the protection (or control, depending upon one's side) on the North Carolina coast during the Civil War. It protected Beaufort, one of the state's two deep-water harbors, needed by both sides. Paul Branch, Jr. tells the story of the fort from the beginning of the war through its occupation by Confederate forces, the siege, battle, and subsequent surrender to the Federals, and its current status as a state park.

The Confederates occupied the fort at the outset of the war and did as much as they could, considering the materials supplied them by the Army, to ready the fort for a battle. Major General Burnside, the Federal officer given the task of gaining control of the North Carolina coast, planned to achieve this by the capture of Hatteras Inlet, Roanoke Island, New Bern, Beaufort Harbor, and Fort Macon. When the General proceeded to take control of the fort, the Confederates refused to surrender, resulting in a siege of thirteen days.

The siege and the one day battle which followed it are recounted in exhaustive yet fascinating detail by the author. The men, both Confederate and Federal, are brought to life through the inclusion of such details as "The Bread Incident," which occurred when Colonel White, commander of the Confederate garrison, insisted that his men be issued baked bread instead of flour rations. The baked bread, unfortunately, turned out to be inedible, but White

continued to insist that the flour be baked into bread before distribution. When his men threatened to mutiny White did finally relent, but the incident was partially the cause of nine desertions shortly thereafter.

Fort Macon occupied a strategic location on the North Carolina coast. After Federal forces captured it, they were able to use the harbor as a coaling and repair station for ships of the Federal Navy, and it was used in their efforts to blockade Wilmington and the Cape Fear River. Fort Macon was an important factor in the eventual resolution of the Civil War in North Carolina.

The author recognizes strengths and weaknesses, mistakes and wise decisions, on both sides. The text is illustrated with maps, photographs, and sketches made at the time of the siege and battle, which enable the reader to picture clearly the events the author describes. Footnotes appear throughout the text and a bibliography follows.

The author was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1975. Currently a Park Ranger-Historian at Fort Macon State Park, he has contributed to the *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* and is currently working on a history of Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army.

*The Siege of Fort Macon* is interesting and well written and is recommended for high school, public, and academic libraries.

Melody A. Moxley, Rowan Public Library

## Other Publications of Interest

It is a rare occurrence when one good state guidebook appears within a decade. It is amazing when two are published in successive years. North Carolina is fortunate to have both George Scheer III's *North Carolina: A Guide to the Old North State* [N.Y.: Burt Franklin & company, 1982] and Marguerite Schumann's *Tar Heel Sights: Guide to North Carolina's Heritage* [Charlotte: East Woods Press, 1983].

Scheer's book, one of three he did for Burt Franklin's "Compleat Traveler Series" is accurate, informative, and comprehensive. With the exception of the section on the Outer Banks (arrangement there is from north to south), Scheer arranged towns alphabetically under region, with no county division, making it a bit awkward to use for those accustomed to a more geographic arrangement. A decided plus is inclusion of telephone numbers when appropriate. An excellent introduction not only tells



how to use the book but tells whom to contact for further information on a variety of subjects. Two minor matters to consider for future editions: Smoky is misspelled in Great Smoky Mountains on the back cover (out-of-state publisher!), and the statement on p. 146 that the Pack Memorial Public Library in Asheville has the "largest collection of printed material by and about Thomas Wolfe in the world" will get some argument from the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina Library and from the Houghton Library at Harvard. But these are details; the book is very good overall, is well illustrated with recent photographs, and includes an index. It's paper, and the price is \$4.95. (Order from publisher, 235 East Forty-fourth Street, NY, NY 10017.)

Marguerite Schumann, Publications Officer for the University of North Carolina, has written several other guides similar in nature to *Tar Heel Sights*. Her latest, covering over 1000 historical and cultural sights is, in a word, splendid. Arrangement is by region (Coastal Plains, Piedmont, Mountains), then alphabetically by county; towns are arranged alphabetically under each county. Information includes exact location, description, significance, and hours. Noteworthy are Miss Schumann's descriptions of architecture and her notations of specially-designated structures. Also included are sixty-seven photographs, a glossary, a short bibliography, and an index. Order from East Woods Press, 429 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203. \$8.95 paper.

The Appalachian Mountain Club has published (1982) a book of interest to hikers and other outdoorsmen—and women. *North Carolina Hiking Trails* by Allen deHart, Director of Public Affairs at Louisburg College, is the first comprehensive guide to trails in the state. It covers nearly 600 trails in forests and parks owned by federal, state, and local governments, plus about 40 on privately-owned lands. Each description includes length of trail, degree of difficulty, location of trailhead, and some comments on what the hiker may see along the trail. Two separate maps are included, with

trailheads marked and numbered; information is supplied for ordering USGS and forest service maps. An appendix describes several hiking clubs and lists (including addresses & telephone numbers) dozens of national and state organizations and agencies concerned with the outdoors. An unexpected and useful addition is a list of about 70 trail supply stores in the state. A trail index rounds out the volume. This book will be in demand by hikers of the state, so if your library serves outdoorsmen, better get a copy or two. (Order from Appalachian Mountain Club, attention North Carolina Trails, 5 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108. \$9.95 paper.)

Public libraries and libraries with collections of black history, poetry, or North Carolina will want to get a copy of a facsimile of George Moses Horton's *Naked Genius*, published by the Chapel Hill Historical Society in 1982. Horton, known as the "colored bard of North Carolina," was born a slave in Northampton County about 1797, moved to Chatham County, and in his free time earned money by writing poetry for the students at the University of North Carolina. During the occupation of Chapel Hill by Sherman's army in 1865, a Federal captain took an interest in Horton and helped him publish *Naked Genius* in 1865 in Raleigh. It contains 132 patriotic poems, some describing Horton's native state after the war. The original copy from which this facsimile was made is at the Boston Athenaeum. The attractive paperbound book, printed by the Greensboro Printing company, also contains a very good introduction by Richard Walser, Horton's biographer. This is a worthy addition to the Chapel Hill Historical Society's growing list of publications associated with the town and its citizens. (Order from the Society at P.O. Box 503, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. \$6.00 paper, includes tax, plus \$.75 postage and handling—total \$6.75.)

**Note:** NCL reviews books about North Carolina of interest to North Carolina librarians. The Book Review Editor welcomes suggestions for new reviewers. If you are interested in becoming a book reviewer for NCL, please write the Book Review Editor at the address given inside the back cover.