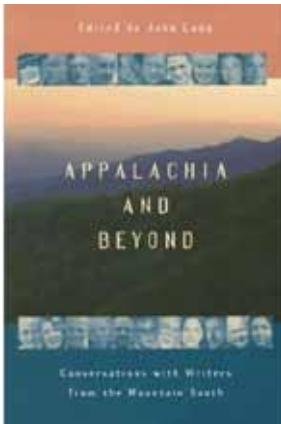
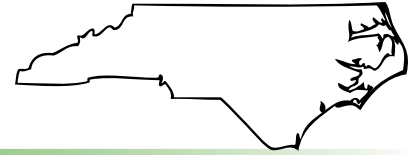


North Carolina Books

Nicholas Graham, compiler



John Lang, ed.

■ **Appalachia and Beyond: Conversations with Writers from the Mountain South**

Globalization has altered our experiences of both space and time. The power of place, far from being obliterated by these changes, continues to inspire and nurture creative expression. The twenty-one interviews contained in *Appalachia and Beyond* speak to the power of the Appalachian Mountain region as one such place. These interviews took place at the annual literary festival of Emory and Henry College in southwestern Virginia from 1983-2003. They first appeared in the college's literary

journal, *Iron Mountain Review*. Each interview opens with an introduction containing an author photograph, brief biographical sketch, synopsis of major works, and bibliography of published books. Writers of poetry, children's books, fiction, essays, history, and literary criticism share their inspirations and influences in often candid and thought-provoking ways. The experiences of these Appalachian writers go well beyond the mountain South, spanning a variety of geographic and artistic terrain. Mary Lee Settle began her writing career working in the British theater. Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Charles Wright discusses Italian poet Eugenio Montale's views on the relationship of prose to poetry. Many interviews also contain humorous anecdotes such as James Still's time at the Yaddo writer's colony with Elizabeth Bishop and Katherine Anne Porter, the latter of whom he found to be a poor loser after beating her at a match of ping-pong.

Biographical notes for the interviewers are listed in a closing section. The index is adequate, but does miss several individuals and subjects mentioned in these conversations, such as references to Billy Collins or the Agrarian literary movement. This collection of interviews offers valuable insight into the world of Appalachian literature from the writer's perspective. *Appalachia and Beyond* will be a valued addition to most academic libraries and should be considered for acquisition by public libraries with North Carolina collections.

Ernie J. Cox

St. Timothy's School, Raleigh, N.C.

Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2006.
362pp. \$24.95.
ISBN 10: 1-57233-535-1.
ISBN 13: 978-57233-535-6.

journal, *Iron Mountain Review*. Authors represented here with roots or connections to North Carolina include John Ehle, Wilma Dykeman, Michael McFee, Fred Chappell, Jim Wayne Miller, Robert Morgan, and the current poet laureate of the state, Kathryn Stripling Byer. John Lang, editor of the *Iron Mountain Review* and author of *Understanding Fred Chappell* (University of South Carolina Press, 2001), introduces the interviews with a concise and informative history of Appalachian literature which includes references to many anthologies and critical studies for those interested in additional reading. This introduction helps to locate individual authors within the larger landscape of Appalachian literature.



Carole Boston Weatherford

■ **The Carolina Parakeet: America's Lost Parrot in Art and Memory**

In this slim volume, Carole Boston Weatherford attempts to introduce modern readers to the now extinct Carolina Parakeet, once the only parrot indigenous to North America.

The author claims that this nonfiction work "is the sobering tale of how a young nation loved, laid waste and lost its only parrot." According to the anecdotal accounts of early settlers and pioneers, this species once filled the skies of the eastern United States.

However, contact with humans soon proved the beginning of its demise. Deforestation led to loss of habitat while the close proximity to domestic poultry or livestock introduced disease. The collection of these birds by ornithologists for study and research and of their eggs by oologists for sport or entertainment seriously depleted their numbers. In addition, the Carolina Parakeet was one of the birds whose numbers suffered because of the fad of using live or dead birds as well as their colorful plumes in fashionable clothing and hats. Many Carolina Parakeets, furthermore, were captured and kept as pets for human companionship; however, these captured birds often did not reproduce successfully. Thus, it is easy to see how the total annihilation of this bird species was reached sometime during the early twentieth century.

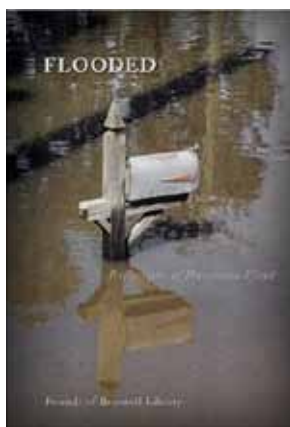
Minneapolis: Avian Publications, 2005.
75 p. \$14.95.
0-910335-01-X.

Weatherford's sentimental book is written in six short chapters and includes many black and white illustrations and photographs. With some much-needed editing, this book can easily be shortened to an essay or a short chapter. The lack of color illustrations is a disappointment, especially since the parrot is so vividly described as being a tropical blend of greens, yellows, and reds. This work may appeal to bird lovers or anyone with an interest in natural history since it introduces a topic with which many readers may not be familiar. However, all buyers should be aware that pictures or illustrations take up most of the pages. The author does include a bibliography, a map of the Carolina Parakeet's former range, and a partial listing of museums that exhibit this species. Weatherford, who holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro as well as a second graduate degree in publication design from the University of Baltimore,

has received several literary honors, including being a North Carolina Children's Book Award finalist for *Freedom on the Menu* and a receiving the North Carolina Juvenile Literature Award for *Remember the Bridge: Poems of a People*.

This is an optional purchase for most public, academic, or high school libraries.

Elizabeth Baker
Sampson-Clinton Public Library System



Chapel Hill: Chapel Hill Press, Inc., 2004.
375pp. \$30.00. ISBN 1-880849-98-4.

Martha F. Johnson, Rosa M. Leonard, Katherine N. Lucas, Alice S. Thorp, Linda G. Williams, and Ann D. Williamson, eds.
Friends of Braswell Memorial Library, comps.

■ **Flooded: Reflections of Hurricane Floyd**

On September 15, 1999, Hurricane Floyd stormed through eastern North Carolina, leaving in its wake a trail of destruction unlike anything the people in the area had ever experienced. In addition to the usual hurricane wind damage, the city of Rocky Mount and Nash and Edgecombe counties suffered from torrential rains and subsequent flooding. Despite experiencing devastating personal losses, many of the people in the affected areas reached out to their

neighbors, determined to rebuild their lives and communities, and demonstrated an enduring human spirit that could not be destroyed by Hurricane Floyd. *Flooded: Reflections of Hurricane Floyd* is an eye-opening account of the experiences and stories of those who survived one of the most damaging hurricanes in North Carolina history.

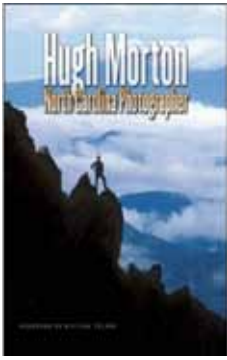
Flooded: Reflections of Hurricane Floyd consists of stories and interviews with those who experienced the disaster firsthand. These accounts were compiled by the Friends of Braswell Memorial Library with the help of a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council. The book seeks to share the experiences of those affected through stories and pictures. It is divided into five sections: "Trapped," "Rescued," "A Community Comes Together," "The City Responds," and "Impact and Recovery." In each part, there are between three and twenty stories, for a total of sixty-eight entries in the book. Each entry is told in first person with the name of the author (and interviewer, if necessary). The entries represent several different perspectives, including those of victims, rescuers, and community leaders. By the end of the book, the people in the stories become familiar and each individual is intertwined as part

of a community. Each entry is followed by more information about the author such as their job responsibilities and place of residence at the time of the flood.

To give readers a better sense of how Hurricane Floyd affected the community, photographs are scattered throughout the book. Photographs of locations near those described in a certain story were placed within that section, but they did not necessarily depict the story author or locations described by the author. For example, a photo may show a street near an area the author describes or a photo may show not the author's house but instead another house in the author's community. There is no index and no bibliography; sources are cited with each entry; and methods of collection are featured in the preface and acknowledgements section.

Flooded: Reflections of Hurricane Floyd is recommended for all libraries. The personal stories provide a face to the individuals affected by the devastation of the hurricane. Some stories even contain information to help others learn from this disaster, and above all the stories demonstrate an enduring human spirit. Despite the serious nature of the subject matter, this book is an informational, enlightening, and uplifting work.

Suvanida Duangudom
Wake Technical Community College



Hugh Morton

■ Hugh Morton, North Carolina Photographer

Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2006. 158pp. \$30.00. ISBN 978-0-8078-3073-4.

Hugh Morton's final book of North Carolina photography, published shortly after his death in 2006, showcases some of his favorite pictures as well as rarely-seen images from his personal collection. The book is divided into two categories—"Scenes" and "People"—and is generally arranged by geographic location moving from west to east within the state. Morton's passion for North Carolina and its people is evident in the 162 photographs. This collection of photographs not only highlights Morton's gift for capturing remarkable images, it also provides evidence of his work as an environmentalist and activist for

preserving the state's public spaces and celebrating its natural history.

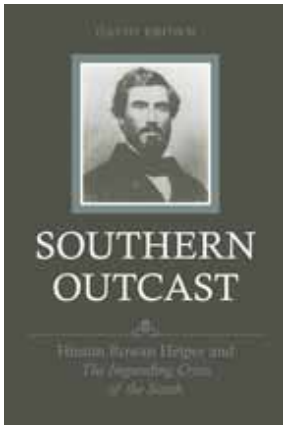
The first section of the book, "Scenes," documents the beauty and uniqueness of the North Carolina mountains and coast. This topography is further explored visually throughout the four seasons and from dawn to dusk. One of the many strengths of this section is the meticulous documentation of native (and sometimes rare) species of plants and fauna in the North Carolina mountains.

Most of the wildlife that Morton integrates in this section is either now extinct or seldom seen in the wild. The vast diversity of scenes and scenery represented through these photographs may leave the reader with a strong desire to discover more of the beautiful wildlife and natural environments in North Carolina.

The "People" section is the smaller of the two sections and contains a wide variety of notable local and national figures. The individuals that Morton chose to showcase in this book represent multiple disciplines including sports, education, entertainment, and politics. This section also contains some historic photographs of individuals at different times in their lives. Some of the well-known individuals in this section include Andy Griffith, John F. Kennedy, Mia Hamm, Johnny Cash, Frank Porter Graham, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Michael Jordan.

Morton's commitment to preserving the natural wonders of the state of North Carolina is visually represented in this gorgeous book of photographs. With a range of focus from the Mile High Swinging Bridge on Grandfather Mountain to the lighthouses on the Outer Banks, his photographs remind us of his strong devotion and service to North Carolina and its people.

Katie Nash
Elon University



David Brown

■ Southern Outcast: Hinton Rowan Helper and 'The Impending Crisis of the South'

While many people, and some historians, see the Old South and Reconstruction in black and white terms, David Brown's *Southern Outcast: Hinton Rowan Helper and 'The Impending Crisis of the South'* paints a more subtle portrait of North Carolina's most important Civil War era intellectual. Hinton Rowan Helper came from a small-farmer Piedmont background to arouse intense furor and help shape the result of the 1860 presidential election before returning to obscurity. He is mainly remembered as a Southern opponent of slavery and vocal proponent of white yeoman farmers, but Helper

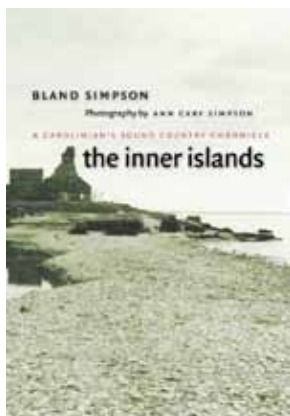
Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2006. 316pp. \$50.00. 0-8071-3178-4. Footnotes, bibliography, and index; no illustrations.

was also an advocate for free speech. The suppression of his *The Impending Crisis of the South* (1857) is a major example of the closing of the Southern mind in the decades after 1830. Oddly enough, the magisterial and massive (two volume) intellectual history of the antebellum South, *Conjectures of Order: Intellectual Life and the American South, 1810-1860* (UNC Press 2004) by Brown's fellow Briton, Michael O'Brien, hardly mentions Helper, or, indeed, many other North Carolinians.

A North Carolinian bred and born, Helper had already faced censorship in response to an earlier book about California, *The Land of Gold* (1855), but never expected the calumny and notoriety he received in his native region after he threw in his lot with the Republicans. In *The Impending Crisis of the South*, Helper bemoaned slavery not so much because of its effects on black people as its deleterious influence on whites, especially middle and lower class whites. After the war, perhaps partly in reaction to the South's reaction to his tome, he wrote a series of racist books extreme even by the standards of the day and then wandered off in a trans-America railroad scheme.

Brown, a lecturer at the University of Manchester and co-author of *Race in the American South: From Slavery to Civil Rights*, relies upon not just a close reading of Helper and numerous secondary works but also field research in North Carolina. In *Southern Outcast*, he resurrects a neglected but important polemicist. Libraries interested in Southern and North Carolina history will want this occasionally tedious but carefully drawn biography. Louisiana State University Press does its usual competent job although there are some mistakes in the index and the lack of pictures and maps is more than annoying.

Patrick M. Valentine
East Carolina University



Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.

232 pp. \$34.95

ISBN: 0-9-8078-3056-9.

Families worked closely with one another, creating communities of people who developed a keen sense of place.

Simpson has that sense of place himself. A lifelong North Carolinian, Simpson explored these islands over many years. In *The Inner Islands*, his informative, friendly text is accompanied by evocative photographs taken by his wife Ann Cary Simpson. This is Simpson's fifth book in a series about the environment and society of eastern North Carolina. It is a companion book to *Into the Sound Country: A Carolinian's Coastal Plain*, which describes

Bland Simpson

■ The Inner Islands: A North Carolinian's Sound Country Chronicle

When 17th-century English ships began to nose along the land west and south of North Carolina's Outer Banks, their sailors would have been struck by the mosaic of rivers, sounds, and islands that define the coast. Bland Simpson shines a narrative spotlight on these islands, describing their human and natural histories. Named by the families that settled them, and in some cases owned them, each island has its own unique identity. The economic histories of these islands are dominated by lumbering and milling, harvesting oysters, clams, and crabs, subsistence farming, and fishing.

the region from the Great Dismal Swamp at the Virginia/North Carolina border southward to Cape Fear. The social, economic, and environmental diversity of this two-hundred mile swath includes the inner islands. *The Inner Islands* puts the focus on these unique places.

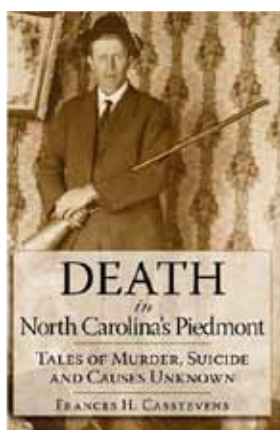
Simpson is finely attuned to the islands' stories. He is equally sensitive to their environments. Shoals and islands have been shaped by hurricanes and nor'easters. The islands' beaches and woods provide habitat for birds, wild ponies, foxes, turtles, and other wildlife. Simpson profiles some of the many people who have worked to preserve thousands of island acres in refuges, preserves, and parklands, from the shady corridors on Conine Island in the Roanoke River basin to the primeval Roan Island at the confluence of the Black and Cape Fear Rivers.

The Inner Islands includes an index and lists sources which readers may use to learn more about specific islands. Four maps show the islands' locations. Simpson's book is timely because of threats to the islands' integrity from development and global sea rise. Simpson's deep affection for these inner islands will entice readers to visit these singular places.

Recommended for public, academic, and secondary school libraries.

Mary Metzger

University of North Carolina at Charlotte



Charleston, S.C.: The History Press, 2006. 123pp. \$19.99.

ISBN 10 1-59629-196-6;

ISBN 13 978-1-59629-196-6.

Frances H. Casstevens

■ Death in North Carolina's Piedmont: Tales of Murder, Suicide and Causes Unknown

"We are a people fascinated by gruesome crimes, horrible murders and mysterious disappearances. If the crime is unsolved, our interest is even greater." --Introduction.

From Civil War crime to Tom Dula (Dooley) and the death of Z. Smith Reynolds, this collection includes ten regional tales of death which took place over the past 150 years. Casstevens has added new twists, uncovered new evidence, and raised questions about these crimes. Although many of these stories have been popularized in local lore, all are

based on actual crimes which took place primarily in the Yadkin, Wilkes, and Forsyth County areas of North Carolina. Casstevens points out that there is no statute of limitations on the crime of murder, but she admits that in many cases the murderers are probably dead and can no longer be convicted for their heinous crimes although the stories continue to fascinate us.

Some of the stories are told with touches of humor, such as that of the bandit Otto Wood who kept escaping from jail, frequently returning to his mother's home in Wilkes County where he was invariably recaptured, only to be shot and killed by law officers in Salisbury after his tenth and final escape. Others tell of family tragedies such as the Lawson Family murders where seven members of the family died and the father took his own life. This

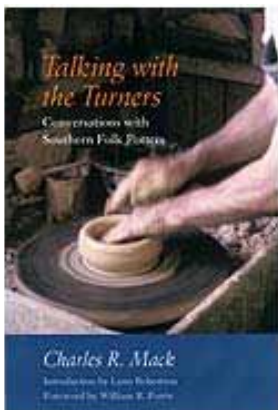
seemingly senseless crime appeared later to have been the result of the sixteen-year-old daughter's pregnancy by her father who had suffered an accidental head injury from which some claim he never fully recovered.

The common thread throughout all of these crimes was that they often left more questions unanswered than were ever resolved by the crime investigators or court cases, and many of those who paid for their crimes by hanging, such as Tom Dula and Peter DeGraff, went to their deaths still proclaiming their innocence. Casstevens, a historian and genealogist, has written three other works of local history about Yadkin County and six books on the Civil War, and is a former research assistant at Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University. The bibliography includes many primary sources which the author has used to shed new light on these old crimes, such as newspaper accounts, unpublished manuscripts and government records (census, deeds, death, marriage and court records) written at the time the crimes actually occurred. The appendix contains six crime poems and songs, including the version of the ballad of Tom Dooley popularized by the Kingston Trio in 1958 and the author's own poem, "The Murder of Will Kelly."

Secondary school, public, academic and research libraries should all seriously consider adding this highly readable and well-researched work to their North Carolina collections.

Carol Truett

Appalachian State University



Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 2006.
233 pp. \$45.00.
Includes audio CD.
ISBN 1-57003-600-4.

and tradition of generations of turners. North Carolina potters interviewed by Mack include Catawba Valley father-son potters Boyd R. and Boyd S. Hilton, and Kenneth Outen, whose family has been turning since the 1870s. All of these recordings have been distilled by Mack into *Talking With the Turners: Conversations with Southern Folk Potters*, a work that celebrates a vocation and an art form that remains vibrant in the South, despite the rise of mass production.

Mack, who has taught art history at the University of South Carolina since the 1970s and currently serves as both the Louise Scudder Professor of Liberal Arts and the William Joseph Todd Professor

Charles R. Mack

■ Talking With the Turners: Conversations with Southern Folk Potters

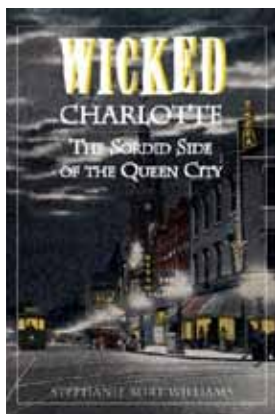
Charles R. Mack's passion for folk pottery drove him to spend the summer of 1981 crisscrossing the back roads of North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, and Mississippi. Along the way he made stops at rural pottery shops, gathering new pieces for his collection and conducting interviews with the potters themselves, gaining insight into a skill and vocation that had witnessed a shift from the production of utilitarian wares to the creation of collectible art pottery. In all, he recorded interviews with over forty artisans who embody the skills

of the Italian Renaissance, eschews a geographical organization for his work and instead chooses to separate interview excerpts thematically. These themes delve into all aspects of the potters' lives, covering their training and artistic technique, and providing revealing commentaries on the business side of running a pot shop and the future of the craft.

Excerpts from his meetings with these artists read like a conversation between old friends rather than a scripted interview. Throughout these discussions, Mack's affinity for the craft and the pride that the turners have in both their history and work shows through. The tone of the resulting text leads the readers to feel as if they were allowed an exclusive look inside the minds of these slip-stained craftsmen. This becomes especially true when one listens to the accompanying audio CD made up of selections from Mack's 1981 interviews. Not only does it allow the reader to put a voice with the names contained in the work, but it also makes apparent the skill with which he interviewed his subjects. The book includes over eighty photographs that show the artists, their workshops, and their differing styles.

Talking With the Turners: Conversations with Southern Folk Potters is suitable for all readers and is recommended for both public and academic libraries.

Matthew Reynolds
East Carolina University



Charleston: The History Press, 2006.
95pp. \$19.99
ISBN 1-59629-160-5.

seen its share of unsavory characters and events.

Stephanie B. Williams writes concisely about Charlotte's not-so-wonderful past. From the discovery of gold on John Reed's property to the trial of Rae Carruth for the murder of his pregnant girlfriend, she shows the seedy side of the New South city. Williams covers prostitution, murder, greed, illegal whiskey (moonshine), robbery, and the rise of NASCAR in this book. At times, the book jumps around, but the author hits the highlights

Stephanie Burt Williams

■ Wicked Charlotte: The Sordid Side of the Queen City

Sex, alcohol, and murder in Charlotte's past are just a few subjects of the book, *Wicked Charlotte: The Sordid Side of the Queen City*. When most people think of Charlotte, North Carolina, they think of banking and stock car racing. People see a city of the New South, one that only became a large bustling city within the last twenty-five years. Few people realize that Charlotte has been here since the Revolutionary War, adapting as needed to the world around it. From the time it was a simple crossroads until it grew into the banking center of the United States, Charlotte has

of many criminal activities that have been swept under the rug. Williams covers these events with a very neutral tone, just stating the facts.

Charlotte always projects an image of being very polished as a magnet for banking and the wealth that follows. Bank robberies such as the Loomis Fargo Theft and the 1967 Belk Robbery are rarely mentioned; in fact, I had never heard about the 1967 Belk Robbery. This book is a good start for readers looking to peel back the layers of Charlotte society. Williams is exposing parts of Charlotte's history that are not part of the common story of the city. In reading this book, I learned a lot about a city I thought did not have much of a history and, what it did have, was very boring.

Williams is a professor of Southern Literature at Belmont Abbey College and a fourth generation Charlottean with one other book: *Ghost Stories of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County: Remnants of the Past in a New South*.

This book is one I would recommend to libraries that have a local history / North Carolina collection.

Jana Sawyer Schlenker
Mooresville Public Library