

ACC Basketball: The Story of the Rivalries, Traditions, and Scandals of the First Two Decades of the Atlantic Coast Conference

By J. Samuel Walker. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011. 395 pp. \$30.00. ISBN 978-0-8078-3503-6.

The Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) was created in 1953 by eight schools as an answer to several years of scandals concerning grade fixing, recruiting violations, and less-than-exemplary academic standards that had plagued college sports up until that time. Comprised of the universities of Maryland, Wake Forest, Duke, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Clemson, and South Carolina, the ACC went on to create a strong legacy in college basketball.

ACC Basketball: The Story of Rivalries, Traditions, and Scandals of the First Two Decades of the Atlantic Coast Conference, by J. Samuel Walker, covers the years 1953-1972. These years coincide with major changes not only in athletics, but in society as well. Walker gives us the stories behind some of the game's most interesting coaches and players, but he also weaves a narrative of a conference struggling with two important challenges: balancing academic integrity with the role of college athletics and, in the 1960s, integrating its basketball teams. He covers all this while also giving attention to the many rivalries that have grown through the years between the early conference members.

One of the biggest issues the league faced was the integration of African American student athletes. Unfortunately, the conference was very slow in this effort. December 1, 1965, marked the day the first African American, Billy Jones from the University of Maryland, played basketball for an ACC school. This was not the latest date for an African American to suit up in any athletic conference (other conferences were slower); however, it was several years beyond integration efforts that had occurred in other collegiate sports and well beyond the integration of most major sports.

While scandals were not eradicated completely through the creation of a new conference, the ACC's first twenty years included an attempt to create a new, higher standard in college athletics. Walker gives us great insight into one of the ACC's most controversial academic rules: the 800 rule, requiring student athletes to score at least an 800 on the SAT. This rule ultimately resulted in the departure of the University of South Carolina in the early 1970s as a protest against the conference's enforcement of the 800 rule after the NCAA had established a lower standard that was used by other conferences.

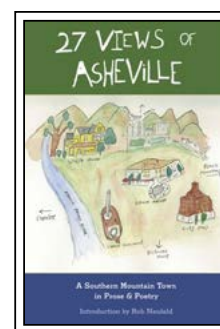
J. Samuel Walker, who previously wrote *Prompt and Utter Destruction: Truman and the Use of Atomic Bombs against Japan* and *The Road to Yucca Mountain: The Development of Radioactive Waste Policy in the United States*, applies his skills as a historian towards a topic that is very near to his heart. Walker became a fan of ACC basketball as a graduate student in 1969 at the University of Maryland, and he also followed the University of Virginia when his brother Wally enrolled there on a basketball scholarship in 1972.

There have been several books written about the ACC, but many devote much of their prose to the intense rivalry of two of college basketball's most successful schools: the University of North Carolina at Chapel

Hill and its close neighbor, Duke University. Left in the shadows are several schools with equally intense rivalries and entertaining stories to tell. Walker, however, uses his forum to give us a complete picture of the entire conference, taking us through each school's successes and failures. Here's hoping he continues his research and shares more stories of the ACC.

There is a very thorough bibliography and index, and this book should delight fans of the ACC and college basketball in general. It is recommended for all libraries.

*Calvin Craig
Gaston College*



27 Views of Asheville: A Southern Mountain Town in Prose & Poetry

Introduction by Rob Neufeld
Hillsborough: Eno Publishers, 2012. 204 pp. \$15.95.
ISBN 978-0-9832475-1-7.

27 Views of Asheville is the third in a series of "27 Views" by Eno Publishers, following works on Chapel Hill and Hillsborough. It provides the reader with vignettes on Asheville's past and present in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Asheville is a multifaceted town, and the authors touch on many aspects of the city's personality.

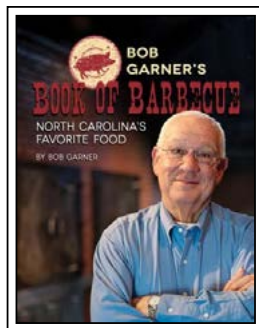
The historical sketches contain stories that will be nostalgic for Asheville residents and entertaining for readers who aren't familiar

with the city's lore. Gail Godwin recounts an experience shared by many Asheville children of a certain age: "My grandmother bends down and murmurs, 'That's old _____.' Tom Wolfe wrote about him in his book, and not too nicely." Dale Neal discusses Thomas Wolfe, the Asheville of Wolfe's era, and the influence he still exerts on North Carolina authors. In "City of the Dead," Nan Chase, another author influenced by Wolfe, describes his final resting place, Riverside Cemetery.

Charles Frazier recalls a childhood roaming around downtown Asheville in the middle of the twentieth century, and Johnnie Grant describes that experience from the perspective of a black child wandering into the segregated downtown. Bruce Johnson details the city's architectural history, and Wayne Caldwell and Daniel Pierce cover the wars over urban development in the 1980s and '90s, with their effect on both architecture and communities. Pierce's "Hallowed Ground" describes the controversy over the closing of the Asheville Motor Speedway in 1999 to make way for riverside development. His account illuminates the culture wars that began, or rather renewed themselves, at the end of the twentieth century and continue into the twenty-first. Food and sustainable living are the topics in Rick McDaniel's "Farm to Asheville Table" and Thomas Raine Crowe's "A Mountain Garden."

There is a generous selection of fiction and poetry set in Asheville, excerpted from works by area authors. In his long poem "McCormick Field," Michael McFee recalls for readers the time that Babe Ruth came to town (and was reported to have died from an overdose of hotdogs). This is not a scholarly book with bibliographies or footnotes. It is, however, entertaining and richly anecdotal, and it is suitable for any library with holdings in North Carolina history or literature. Libraries that hold pictorial histories of Asheville will find this a good companion piece for those works.

Roberta Engleman
University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill (retired)



Bob Garner's Book of Barbecue: North Carolina's Favorite Food

By Bob Garner. Winston-Salem, NC:
John F. Blair Publisher, 2012. 323 pp. \$24.95.
ISBN 978-0-89587-574-7.

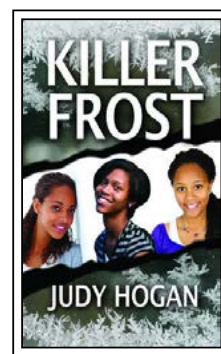
Bob Garner, the accidental "guru" of North Carolina barbecue, was the only one who could have written this book. *Bob Garner's Book of Barbecue: North Carolina's Favorite Food* reads very much like a series of stories told around a campfire, or barbecue pit. That Bob Garner "fell" into this career path was part accident and part fate. In the process of launching a career in journalism, Garner found himself doing regular feature spots at UNC-TV about barbecue. Those spots were exceedingly popular. As his reputation grew, he was invited to appear on various other television shows, including those with Paula Deen and Bobby Flay, and offered the chance to do projects of his own, like the UNC-TV special called *A North Carolina Pig Pickin'*. Coinciding with Garner's growing professional experience, his personal life increasingly involved the world of barbecue. One of his earliest encounters with his future father-in-law, when he expressed his interest in marrying the man's daughter, took place " smack in the middle of a pig parlor containing hundreds of malodorous, loudly squealing hogs." Pigs would thereafter play an important role in his life.

Garner is an author of multiple other books, including *North Carolina Barbecue: Flavored by Time*, from which some parts of this current book were pulled. In this latest book, Garner uses his gift of storytelling to walk the reader through a brief history of barbecue, focusing on North Carolina but not ignoring other states. He discusses barbecue techniques and the history of barbecue, and includes reviews of 101 North Carolina barbecue restaurants. Garner weighs in

on the debate over eastern vs. western (or "Lexington") styles of barbecue and bemoans the state's "barbecue schizophrenia," which he sees as a kind of "mischievous family tussle." Wherever one stands on the subject of North Carolina barbecue, Garner argues convincingly that the history of North Carolina and barbecue are intertwined. Barbecue lent itself as the name for one church and played a central role in creation of a second.

One effect of this overt storytelling approach is a feeling of winding one's way through the experience, sometimes revisiting topics previously explored, but coming at them from a different perspective. Bob Garner takes the reader on a walk through the world of barbecue to help dispel some of the myths surrounding it (like the very origin of the word "barbecue") and to help build support for the world that barbecue represents. The resulting book is one of broad appeal. It is a very approachable non-fiction book for adult readers, told through the prism of the author's own extensive experience. Public library collections, especially, will find this a valued addition to the collection, as will any academic collection supporting culinary or North Carolina history topics.

Valerie Freeman
Johnson & Wales University –
Charlotte Campus



Killer Frost

By Judy Hogan. Wethersfield, CT: Mainly Murder Press, 2012. 237 pp. \$15.95. ISBN 978-0-9836823-8-7.

Penny Weaver has been recruited to teach English composition at St. Francis, an historically black college in Raleigh. She feels nervous and just a little rushed. She's replacing a professor fired for incompetence several

weeks into the semester and she'll have to push hard to cover her material in the remaining time. Plus, her students are among the most academically challenged; many of them left high school without adequate reading and writing skills for college. What happily married sixty-four-year-old Penny didn't expect was to find herself attracted to Oscar Farrell, the new chairman of the English Department. She certainly didn't anticipate being drawn into a murder case involving the provost and a professor accused of sexually harassing female students.

What follows is a traditional mystery with little graphic violence or language. It does not focus on forensics or police procedures. It centers on the relationships Penny develops, especially with the students in her class who initially regard her, a new and white faculty member, with uncertainty. Campus politics also figure prominently, as students organize to protest dormitory conditions. Meanwhile, Oscar Farrell clashes with the administration over what he views as the school's culture of corruption.

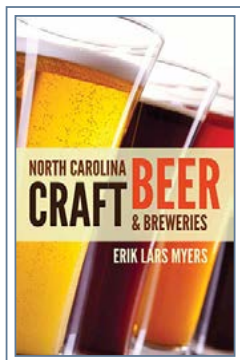
Her attraction to Professor Farrell complicates Penny's personal life, as does a subplot involving her daughter and grandchild. Penny is able to draw on the support of long-time friends in the area, including fellow faculty member Sammie Hargrave and Sammie's husband Derek, who just happens to be a law enforcement officer. Penny's connections at both the college and within the local community give her unique insight into the case, and are crucial to solving it.

St. Francis will remind readers of Raleigh's Saint Augustine's College and Shaw University. The campus setting may appeal to fans of the Simon Shaw series by Sarah Shaber, also set at a fictional Raleigh institution, Kenan College. The subplots involving friends and family will call to mind the Deborah Knott mysteries written by Margaret Maron. Recommended for libraries where demand for these and similar series is high and where local interest warrants.

Judy Hogan has resided in North Carolina since the 1970s. She started the Carolina Wren Press in 1976 and helped found the NC Writers' Network, serving as its president from 1984-87. She has taught creative writing since 1974, including two years at Saint Augustine's College, from

2004 to 2006. She is the author of several collections of poetry, the *PMZ Poor Woman's Cookbook*, and a nonfiction work, *Watering the Roots in a Democracy*. *Killer Frost* is her first published mystery.

Janet Lockhart
Wake County Public Libraries



North Carolina Craft Beer & Breweries

By Erik Lars Myers. Winston-Salem, N.C.: John F. Blair, 2012. 285 pp. \$16.95. ISBN 978-0-89587-571-6.

Perhaps it should come as no surprise, but North Carolina's beer lovers have the Germans to thank. In 1711 Christian Janzen, who had joined Baron Christoph von Graffenried in the Swiss and Palatine German settlement of New Bern, wrote to his European relatives requesting supplies for beer making. Janzen noted that "drink is very scarce here." There's no record of whether Janzen's relatives obliged, though by the late eighteenth century, North Carolinians were drinking beer.

And there was beer aplenty in 1980, when another German arrived in the Old North State. But Uli Bennewitz yearned not for Budweiser or Coors, but rather for the pilsners, dunkels and bocks of his homeland. As the manager of a 300,000-acre Hyde County farm, Bennewitz knew a little something about grand plans and business, so he joined with a local restaurateur to open a brewpub. There was one problem: state law prohibited beer from being sold directly to consumers at breweries. Not to be deterred, Bennewitz met with state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission officials to draft legislation permitting brewpubs. Six months later, on July 4, 1985, the North Carolina General Assembly made brewpubs legal. Thanks to

that legislation North Carolinians can select their libation from more than forty brewpubs and breweries scattered around the state.

Janzen and Bennewitz are but two of the many characters Erik Lars Myers describes in this well-researched work on North Carolina beer and beer makers. At its most basic, *North Carolina Craft Beer & Breweries* is a guidebook to forty-five breweries and brewpubs that extend from Bryson City to Manteo. In vignettes of three to five pages, Myers details the stories and the people behind the founding of such breweries as Heinzelmännchen in Sylva or Mother Earth in Kinston. He also describes the brewery's equipment, the atmosphere of the pub (if there is one) and the business's future plans. (Note to reader: growth isn't always in the cards, nor should it be.) Each vignette is prefaced with a list of basic information, including Web and physical addresses, hours, and the names of the brewery's regular and seasonal beers.

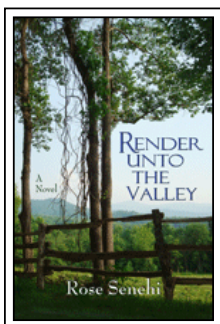
Thankfully, Myers sought to produce more than just a basic guidebook. *North Carolina Craft Beer & Breweries* opens with a history of beer and brewing in North Carolina, where Janzen (whom Myers does not name, but simply refers to as a "colonist") and Bennewitz share space with Thomas Holmes, who ran a public house in Salisbury in the early 1820s and the Watts Bill of 1903, which prohibited the sale and manufacture of alcohol outside incorporated towns. Myers also provides a "Timeline of North Carolina Beer." Besides serving as a chronology of significant dates in the state's brewing history, the timeline attests to the risky business that is small-time brewing in North Carolina. Breweries are listed as opening one year and then closing the next.

A brewer, first at home and now as the "founder and C.E.O." of Hillsborough's Mystery Brewing, Myers knows beer making and the beer business in North Carolina. He has shared that knowledge on his blog "Top Fermented" since 2009. But whereas his blog reaches out to home brewers and industry insiders, *North Carolina Craft Beer & Breweries* is written for new converts—those who might confuse a dubbel with a doppelbock. The book includes a "Primer on Beer Styles" and even takes a crack at defining craft beer. Interspersed throughout Myers' book are one-and two-page sidebars

on such topics as hop farming, beer festivals, and “Pop the Cap,” the 2005 campaign that resulted in the passage of a state law allowing for the brewing and sale of strong beer (up to fifteen percent alcohol by volume). Four appendices provide listings of beer stores, cideries and meaderies, contract brewers, and soon-to-open breweries. This last listing proving that the beer brewing scene in North Carolina is a rapidly-changing environment.

Myers acknowledges in the book’s preface that “it’s almost impossible to write a book about beer in North Carolina and keep it up to date.” But, considering that his book is the first on such a topic and that it’s rich with information, an investment in even a slightly out-of-date *North Carolina Craft Beer & Breweries* is a wise one for all libraries. After all, lovers of craft beer don’t just flock around college campuses.

John Blythe
University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill



Render Unto the Valley

By Rose Senehi. Chimney Rock, NC:
KIM Publications, 2012. 288 p. \$15.95.
ISBN 978-0-615-49995-6.

“How many times can you reinvent yourself? She got away with it once, but when her husband Joel died, so did Karen Godwell, leaving no one but the steely mountain girl she buried inside her the day she walked into the freshman dorm at North Carolina’s Salem College.”

When art curator Karen Godwell leaves New York City to return to her hometown of Fairview, North Carolina, she is forced to confront the demons of both

her past and her present. Supported by her precocious nine-year-old daughter Hali, she sets out to wrest control of her grandmother’s farm from her brother Travis. Travis is smart and good looking, and only Karen and her sister Amy know about his conniving and sadistic nature. As Karen and her sister fight to save their land, they learn that independence and loyalty, taken to extremes, can cause more damage than good. In the midst of this, Karen also realizes the importance of stories that link the past and the present with the future.

Two characters in particular serve as storytellers. Karen’s cousin Bruce Whitaker, the local historian, regales Hali with stories about their family and the region. Through Tom Gibbons, a local land conservator, the reader hears modern stories: the ones that pit farmers against developers and transplants against locals. Tom also serves as Karen’s romantic interest, a plot device which seems somewhat forced. Karen is recently widowed and considering how much she loved Joel, it seems unlikely that she would be actively seeking a serious romantic relationship so soon. Still, Tom’s character is well drawn, and his harried schedule is the basis for some of the book’s more humorous scenes.

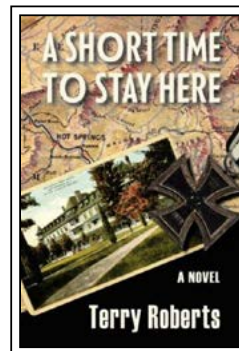
Senehi weaves real people, places, and historical events into her narrative. She has a gift for creating a sense of place similar to what Margaret Maron achieves in *Bootlegger’s Daughter* and her other Deborah Knott mysteries. Karen shares some character traits with Maron’s titular character, as well: they are both smart and driven, but their curiosity and stubbornness sometimes gets them into trouble.

The book is a suspenseful page turner, but it’s not a mystery. The reader is handed jigsaw puzzle pieces one or two at a time, and the backstory is released at an even pace that allows the picture to come together in a satisfying conclusion.

Render Unto the Valley describes the kind of family drama which anyone could imagine but no one wants to experience. This novel, Senehi’s sixth (and her third set in the Blue Ridge Mountains), is recommended for public libraries (especially those with an emphasis on North Carolina or southern fiction), academic libraries which carry collections of contemporary fiction, readers

who enjoy novels with a factual basis and a strong sense of place, and almost anyone who believes that you can go home again.

Arleen Fields
Methodist University



A Short Time to Stay Here

By Terry Roberts. Banner Elk, NC: Ingalls Publishing Group, 2012. 268 pp. \$17.95. ISBN 978-1-932158-99-1.

“Stephen Baird Robbins: hunter, hotel manager, drunk.” The Inspector General of the internment camp at the Mountain Park Hotel in Hot Springs, North Carolina, describes himself thus. This work of historical fiction is based on the little-known but true story of the 1917 imprisonment of over 2,700 German sailors stranded in the United States at the beginning of World War I. Many of the characters in this novel did in fact live in the area during the time which Robbins, the fictitious narrator, describes. This includes the folk singer Jane Gentry and Major Jack Rumbough, owner of the Mountain Park Hotel and his family mansion Rutland, which is now the tourist vacation destination known as the Mountain Magnolia Inn.

“The novel has to do with love and war; and because of the war, it has to do with life and death. On a cultural as well as personal level, it concerns both imprisonment and escape. ... These [are] very real, very paradoxical themes,” according to the author in an email to this reviewer. The book’s title, taken from a traditional ballad, appears suited to the work. Humans are only here for a very short time; love is often short lived; and the German soldiers were only in their hotel prison a short while.

Some special strengths of the novel include colorful characterization and vivid

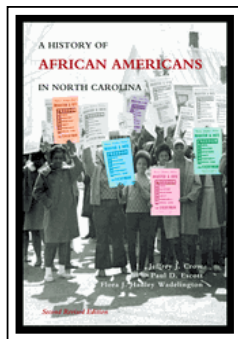
description of the time and setting, as well as the intrigue and mystery portrayed. When Robbins meets Anna Ulmann, a photographer from New York, on the train on the way to the funeral of his late mentor and employer, Major Rumbough, we sense the beginnings of a romantic involvement. Ulmann is seeking independence from her rich husband, a physician who sees no need for her to have a career of her own. (This character appears to be based on Doris Ulmann (1884-1934), a photojournalist.) Intrigue is introduced early on with a plot by German prisoners to kill German officers, and then later when Robbins' cousin Roy, the local sheriff and a mean-spirited womanizer, uses a German prisoner as bait to attempt to murder Stephen Robbins himself.

Author Terry Roberts' ancestors have lived and farmed in Madison County, the story's setting, since the 1700s and both his parents were born in nearby Anderson Cove. This is his first work of fiction although he has written literary criticism and works on the educational program Paideia. Currently Roberts is Director of the National Paideia Center; he holds degrees from three North Carolina universities, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The author's attractive Web site (www.ashorttimetostayhere.com) includes special features which make this novel amenable to teaching and group reading: discussion questions, an historical timeline, a link to photographs of German detainees and the miniature village they built (including a church and a Swiss Alps house), a reader's guide, and a link to an article that gives much of the history on which the story is based.

Violence, death, and sex are dealt with tastefully; the book could be read by mature young adults and older readers. *A Short Time to Stay Here* is recommended for North Carolina collections which specialize in historical fiction. It also would be useful for teaching the use of primary sources as a basis for fiction works, as well as the teaching of research methods. And one can easily see this book as a movie.

Carol Truett
Appalachian State University



A History of African Americans in North Carolina, 2nd rev. ed.

By Jeffrey J. Crow, Paul D. Escott, and Flora J. Hatley
Wadlington. Raleigh: North Carolina Office of Archives and History, 2011. 292 pp. \$15.00. 978-0-86526-351-2.

This single-volume survey of black history in North Carolina is unassuming in nature, yet it takes its place among historical classics such as *Strength through Struggle* and provides context to works like *Blood Done Sign My Name* and *The Parchman Hour*. First published in 1992, *A History of African Americans in North Carolina* mapped the history of black North Carolinians from Colonial America to the 1990s. It has since been revised twice: once in 2002 to include a new chapter on the political influence of African Americans, and again in 2011 to include the 2008 presidential election and an updated index. This book is the finale to over two decades of research by the staff of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History and noted North Carolina historians. The canon of literature documenting the African American struggle for freedom and civil rights would not be complete without it.

The work is divided into ten chapters, each exploring a different era in North Carolina history. From the origins of slavery in the colonial era, to the controversy surrounding desegregation, and finally to the rise of black politicians, each chapter is broad and comprehensive. Ample photographs and illustrations illuminate the authors' narrative and enhance the reader's understanding of the material. Readers may also benefit from the appendices, which include lists of African American legislators in the General Assembly, 1868-1900, African Americans in major governmental posts from 1969-2011, and a chronology of congressional redistricting, 1991-2001.

Some may be disappointed by the book's deficiencies, the chief of which is the lack of

footnotes. Those wishing to delve further into a topic will find themselves stymied by the absence of notes. Small appeasement is offered in the form of a suggested readings list found in the back of the book. Readers may also be frustrated by the book's lack of depth. While each chapter is comprehensive, nonetheless each is a historical survey, rather than an in-depth exploration of a particular topic. The book also lacks a central, unified thesis, which may be off-putting to those readers expecting a more sophisticated research endeavor.

Despite these deficiencies, *A History of African Americans in North Carolina* remains a singularly helpful and informative text. It is recommended for all public and academic libraries, particularly those which have an emphasis on North Carolina or African American History. While this book is affordable, the second revised edition does not vary much from the first revised edition, so forgoing this latest incarnation is justified. It is well-written, very easy to understand, and clearly expresses the history of a people who for centuries suffered a "silent rage for freedom."

Jennifer Townes
Saint Augustine's College



Twelve Notables in Western North Carolina

By Jack J. Prather. Hendersonville: Future Now Publishing, 2012. 400 p. \$19.95. ISBN 978-1466276222.

Western North Carolina is known as a destination spot, a place of deep natural beauty combined with cheerful bohemianism, fierce independence of spirit, and profoundly inventive craftsmanship. Too often, though, the western third of the state is seen as a temporary stop, a place to recharge briefly and inhale cleaner air, visit

grand vistas, or patronize the varied artisans who cluster in the area, before returning to busy lives elsewhere. But, as this volume shows, the west can catch and hold people too, and both inspire and nurture their own native creativity, charity, and understanding.

The twelve “notables” in this volume represent a small but impressive sampling of some of the extraordinary individuals who have made western North Carolina their home. The book is a unique blend of oral history, photographic scrapbook, chronology, and testimonials. The chapters vary slightly from one individual to another, but each one generally includes highlights from the life of the person being profiled, photos of significant people or events, and appreciations from neighbors, friends, and even some celebrities. The bulk of each chapter, however, is given over to a transcription of a guided interview conducted by Jack Prather, which seeks to tease out events both great and small that have affected the life and the career of each interviewee. The format itself would seem too pedestrian to produce anything but the most prosaic results, but the author has chosen his subjects well, and his sympathetic technique—as well as the obvious friendship and interest he feels for his subjects—elicits details both harrowing and heroic.

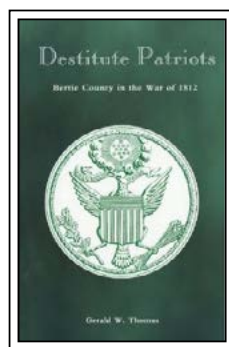
Prather’s eclecticism makes for rewarding reading, and covers a wide range of professions, disciplines, and life stories. The arts are, not surprisingly, richly represented, with profiles of David Holt (music), Glenis Redmond (poetry), Billie Ruth Sudduth (basket making), Julyan Davis (painting), and Richard Ritter (studio glass). Philanthropic and charitable endeavors, combined with or arising out of professional careers, are also represented, in the lives of Dr. Olson Huff (children’s medicine), Captain Ray West (Moldovan Children’s Fund), and the Reverend Dr. Dan Matthews (rector Emeritus, Trinity church). The remaining four profiles represent business (Joe Epley), law (Judge Harry Martin), education (Doug Orr), and emergency medicine (Dr. Matthew Hayes).

The work also includes a brief introduction to the geography and unique character of western North Carolina. It is self-published, and as such, the book could perhaps have used tighter editorial control, as misspellings appear periodically. Also, the book

betrays the author’s obvious admiration for his subjects through ubiquitous and sometimes overwhelming lists of honors, press cuttings, and encomia that he includes. Nevertheless, the compelling narrative of these twelve lives, combined with fascinating glimpses into our collective history, makes this book a worthy addition to any collection of North Caroliniana. Suitable for grades seven and up.

Steven Case

State Library of North Carolina



Destitute Patriots: Bertie County in the War of 1812

By Gerald W. Thomas. *Destitute Patriots: Bertie County in the War of 1812*. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 2012. 233 pp. \$15.00. ISBN 978-0-86526-412-0.

In 1812, government officials in Bertie County, North Carolina, paid close attention to the growing tensions between the United States government and Great Britain. Specifically, the practice of “impressment,” the forced removal of American sailors from their vessels and placement on British warships, was one contributing factor which led to the War of 1812. When hostilities did erupt officially in 1812, North Carolina officials expected men to sign up for military service. However, potential recruits in Bertie County did not see an urgent need to enlist since targets such as Wilmington or New Bern would be more susceptible to British attack. When a few Bertie County soldiers did join the United States Army and the North Carolina detached militia units, they encountered logistical problems such as a lack of adequate clothing, munitions, or ample food. During the war, Bertie County soldiers were not present at the major battles fought on the U.S.-Canadian border, but

they did encounter harsh conditions while encamped at the Norfolk, Virginia barracks in 1814. In the end, the servicemen were “destitute” because they were not paid by the federal or North Carolina government until 1816, two years after the conclusion of the War of 1812.

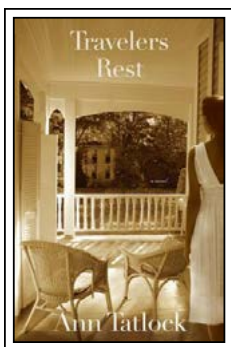
This book was written in order to commemorate the War of 1812 bicentennial. It is divided into five chapters: a “call to arms” by the North Carolina government once the war started on June 18, 1812; the perceived need for the defense of eastern North Carolina against potential attacks by British naval forces; the slow enlistment of eligible Bertie County male residents into the state militia units or U.S. Army; increased anxiety of state and local officials over the battle readiness of Bertie County or state militia regiments for possible attacks by British forces; and the plight of Bertie County soldiers who were stationed at the Norfolk barracks in 1814. Several illustrations are included, as well as maps and an extensive bibliography of both primary and secondary sources.

Gerald W. Thomas is originally from Bertie County, and spent several years as a congressional auditor. Besides *Destitute Patriots*, he has written or co-authored other published books, including *Divided Allegiances: Bertie County during the Civil War* (1996) and *Bertie in Blue: Experiences of Bertie County’s Union Servicemen during the Civil War* (1998). Additionally, he co-wrote an article (with Weymouth T. Johnson, Jr.) in the *North Carolina Historical Review* (April 1995) entitled, “Massacre at Plymouth: April 20, 1864.”

This book depicts the struggles of both the Bertie County and state militia regiments during the War of 1812. Because of its specific scope and subject matter, this work would be a perfect addition to any academic, public, or special library with a state or regional history collection.

David W. Young

University of North Carolina at Pembroke



Travelers Rest

By Ann Tatlock. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2012. 344 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 978-0-7642-0810-2.

In *Travelers Rest*, her ninth novel, North Carolina-based author Ann Tatlock reminds readers that hope can be found in the midst of the most difficult struggles.

Young schoolteacher Jane Morrow was planning a life with her fiancé, carpenter and National Guardsman Seth Ballantine. But while stationed with his unit in Iraq, Seth's spine was damaged by a sniper's bullet, leaving him without feeling in his arms and legs and with little hope of recovering their use. When Seth arrives at the Veterans Administration Medical Complex in Asheville, Jane is determined to support him in his rehabilitation and in charting a new course for their lives together. But Seth's injuries force him to question everything about his life, particularly his future with Jane. Jane remains committed to her fiancé, and when Seth breaks off their engagement, Jane is left adrift, questioning love and faith and turning to alcohol in order to forget her problems. As she continues to visit Seth in the VA hospital and tries to make sense of her situation, Jane crosses paths with retired doctor Truman Rockaway and blind lawyer Jon Paul Pearcy. Both men provide Jane with needed perspective and insight, and by the story's end all of their lives become further intertwined. The setting is contemporary, but a secondary storyline deals with repercussions from the racial turmoil of the 1960s and the question of forgiveness. Throughout the book the characters face serious struggles with faith, love, forgiveness, and grief, but this is ultimately a gentle and uplifting Christianity-infused story, tinged with some romantic elements.

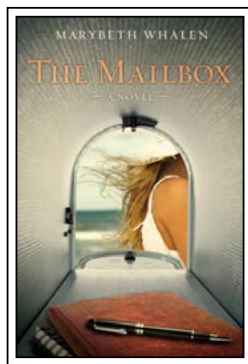
Readers of inspirational fiction may already be familiar with Tatlock's work

through her previous novels, including *Promises to Keep* and *The Returning*. With *Travelers Rest*, Tatlock sets a novel in the Carolinas for the first time, with several North and South Carolina locales featured prominently. The bulk of the story takes place in and around Asheville, and readers may recognize locations and institutions such as the Veterans Administration Medical Complex, Pritchard Park, the Basilica of St. Lawrence, and Grove Arcade. The book takes its title from one of its secondary settings, Travelers Rest, South Carolina, while Troy, North Carolina also plays a minor part.

While Tatlock does not proselytize, the story strongly espouses Christian ideals and will likely not be a suitable book for readers whose beliefs fall outside that spectrum. It is recommended for public libraries with readership interests in contemporary Christian fiction and it would certainly provide many avenues for discussion within a reading group.

Anna Craft

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro



The Mailbox: A Novel

By Marybeth Whalen. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2010. 303 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 978-0-7814-0369-6.

It is the summer of 1985 in Sunset Beach, North Carolina, when two teenagers, Campbell and Lindsey, meet and fall in love. Readers are introduced to them as the summer is ending and Campbell takes Lindsey to *the mailbox*. He tells her it's a special place and that it will always be *their* special place. He asks her to leave a note in the mailbox as her private message to the Kindred Spirit and says that they will always come back to the mailbox and share that special place. Then

the book jumps to 2004. We see Lindsey again; her marriage is falling apart and she and her two children are heading for Sunset Beach—her favorite place in the whole world. Lindsey is leaving behind her cheating husband, and she is also returning to Sunset Beach with memories of a long-ago summer romance and the hope that the magic in the mailbox will help her find happiness.

The Kindred Spirit mailbox is a landmark familiar to residents and visitors at Sunset Beach. It's in the dunes on Bird Island, a mile and a quarter past the last public beach access on Sunset Beach. Visitors to the mailbox find empty notebooks, pens, and pencils, and they fill the notebooks with their stories, words of wisdom, and prayers, leaving their writings for other visitors to find and for the Kindred Spirit. Whalen uses the mailbox to connect Campbell and Lindsey even as their lives take them in different directions. The book alternates between past and present as it weaves the tale of these two lives. Lindsey and Campbell lose one another, but Lindsey returns to Sunset Beach each summer, always leaving a letter for the Kindred Spirit. The story is told in her letters and in snippets of their lives, interleaving pieces from 2004 with pieces from the intervening years. The patchwork helps hold readers' interest as bit by bit we find out about Lindsey and Campbell and their lives.

The Mailbox is the first of three novels by North Carolina native Marybeth Whalen, who has also written nonfiction for a Christian audience. *She Makes It Look Easy*, a novel about motherhood and friendship came out in 2011. In *The Guest Book*, just published in July 2012, Whalen again sends her leading character to Sunset Beach to try to heal a broken heart. *The Mailbox* is like a Nicholas Sparks novel, but with Christian appeal. While it is somewhat predictable, it is a heartwarming beach read that will appeal to women interested in Christian love stories. *The Mailbox* is suitable for public libraries.

Katherine R. Winslow

North Carolina Wesleyan College