
New North Carolina Books

Alice R. Cotten, Compiler

Vernon H. Crow. *Storm in the Mountains: Thomas' Confederate Legion of Cherokee Indians and Mountaineers*. Cherokee: Press of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, 1982. 275 pp. \$14.95.

Until recently, the strange and chaotic nature of the Civil War in western North Carolina has been largely overlooked by historians. But two books published in 1982 have done much to fill that gap. One is Phillip Shaw Paludan's *Victims: A True Story of the Civil War* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1982), a fascinating account of the massacre of thirteen Madison County men and boys suspected of Unionist activity by local Confederate soldiers. The other is Vernon H. Crow's *Storm in the Mountains*, which examines the military struggle in the region by tracing the course of Thomas' Legion, one of the Confederate Army's most unusual fighting units.

William Holland Thomas was a prominent businessman and legislator from Haywood (and later Cherokee) County, but he was most noted as the government agent for those Cherokee Indians who remained in the Smokies after the 1838 removal of most of the tribe to Oklahoma. To him the mountains of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee were "the heart of the South," and with the outbreak of war in 1861, he saw the defense of this region as the key to keeping the federal armies of the western and eastern theaters divided. To guard "the back door of Virginia" from Union invaders, he organized his own legion (a unit of infantry, artillery, and cavalry, all serving under a single commander). Consisting of mountaineers from the southwestern corner of the state and Indians recruited by their "white chief," the legion was unique not only in its makeup. It also had the distinction of being the only such unit to remain intact throughout the war, and it was the last to lay down its arms, surrendering only after a daring skirmish against federal troops near Waynesville a month after Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox.

This was only the final of a variety of military encounters in which all or part of the legion participated. Thomas's men fought against the for-

midable combination of federal troops and pro-Union residents in East Tennessee and suffered heavy losses in the Shenandoah Valley campaign under General Jubal Early in 1864. In North Carolina's mountain counties, they served as much as a police force which had to deal with bushwhackers, deserters, mob violence, and criminal activity as they did as a military force which tried to defend the area against destructive Union raids led by Colonel George W. Kirk and General George Stoneman. Thomas himself was forced to spend much of the war in Raleigh and Richmond, convincing Confederate authorities to overturn his court martial for accepting deserters into his command rather than arresting them, and to allow his legion to remain intact and close to home.

Vernon Crow, a California businessman, spent over ten years researching his subject, and the thoroughness of his narrative and its documentation is impressive. But despite the detail with which he has reconstructed the military exploits of the legion and its leaders, he has provided only the bare bones of some of the more intriguing aspects of their experience. Despite constant references to the very "uncivil" war waged in western North Carolina, Crow never really analyzes the reasons behind the divisiveness and resentment that caused such internal tensions there. Many questions regarding the nature of the Indians' role are also left unanswered. How did they fight? How did they interact with the white soldiers and civilians with whom the war threw them into close contact? And perhaps most important, why did they fight for the Confederacy for as long as they did? Other than noting their personal loyalty to Thomas and his futile efforts to curb their urge to take Yankee scalps, Crow makes little effort to explore their motives or their methods in waging a war that was not their own.

Still, *Storm in the Mountains* is a significant and very readable contribution to Confederate military history and to the history of western North Carolina. The narrative is greatly enhanced by a generous selection of photographs and

charts and extensive appendixes of company rosters. Particularly worthy of note are the useful and attractive maps designed by artist William B. Secrest. As a scholarly work with much to interest more general readers as well, the book would be a valuable addition to high school, college, and public libraries across North Carolina and should be an essential one to libraries in the western part of the state.

John C. Inscow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Heather Ross Miller. *Adam's First Wife*. Davidson, North Carolina, Briarpatch Press, 1983. 24 pp. \$2.00 paper.

Heather Ross Miller is one of North Carolina's most distinguished contemporary writers of poetry and fiction. For her first novel, *The Edge of the Woods* (1964), she received the National Association of Independent Schools Award. Another novel, *Tenants of the House* (1966), won the Sir Walter Raleigh Prize for Fiction. And her first collection of poetry, *The Wind Southerly* (1968), gained her the Oscar Arnold Young Cup. She spent a year (1979-80) in England as a participant in the United States-United Kingdom Exchange Fellowship Program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. In 1983 she received the North Carolina Award for literature.

Miller is a native of Badin, North Carolina, and a 1961 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she studied with poet Randall Jarrell. She has taught English and writing at Southeastern Community College in Elizabethtown, N.C., at Stanly Technical Institute in Albemarle, and at Pfeiffer College in Misenheimer. Currently she is finishing a year as poet-in-residence at the University of Arkansas.

Adam's First Wife, a collection of twelve poems, is Miller's latest book. Like many of her earlier works, these poems are laden with Biblical and mythological references and, consequently, are not immediately accessible to the reader. But reading them is worth the effort, because Miller is a consummate stylist; and her choice of images and allusions is not haphazard. Rereading them reveals, as it does with all good poetry, many levels of meaning and experience.

"Adam's First Wife" is also the title of the lead poem in this collection. It is about Lilith, who, according to medieval Jewish folklore, was the wife of Adam before the creation of Eve. In folklore, generally, she was a witch believed to menace children. In these poems Lilith seems to

emerge as the symbol of the pre-Biblical world, a now lost world where death was not a threat and redemption not a necessity.

In other poems here, Miller explores the theme of life and death. Life, she seems to say, is the process of death, which we cannot transcend and which our children repeat. In "Easter Stone" she writes, "I yearn at the empty stone,/ . . . / dreaming children to gleam gold beacons/ against my losing,/ darkening life." Throughout the poems, there are images of light and dark and of sleep and dreaming.

Perhaps the most striking poems in the collection are two which suggest the passing of a family matriarch, "Nell Leopard's Dying" and "Nell Leopard's Burying." In the first of these, Miller refers to Nell Leopard as "Adam's first wife," intimating that somehow Nell has transcended life and death. In the second poem she writes, "Nell Leopard will not be buried/ lying low along Rocky River./ Water rises./ She wants high ground,/ . . . / So, when God's rocks thrust fire,/ dryhard, you'll know Nell Leopard is risen,/ that high ground is no prison."

As the first title in the Briarpatch Chapbooks, *Adam's First Wife* continues an association with small press publishing in North Carolina which Miller began in the late sixties when her works appeared in *The Red Clay Reader*. This volume is certainly appropriate for college and university libraries though perhaps not as suitable for high school or public libraries.

Susan Ballinger, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Maud Thomas. *Away Down Home: A History of Robeson County, North Carolina*. N.p.: The author, 1982. 277 pp. \$22.95. (Order from Historic Robeson. P.O. Box 1123, Lumberton 28358)

The title of this book gives a clue to the tone that readers will discover within its covers. Maud Thomas, an amateur historian, utilizes a folksy, "down home" style as she weaves an impressive variety of primary and secondary sources with a rambling narrative about a county that has been neglected by historians. Although several flaws detract from the book's usefulness, *Away Down Home* contains a wealth of information spanning the period between the 1580s and World War II.

The book will please Robesonians who thirst for information about their county and its small towns. Thomas's painstaking research emerges in the footnotes that line the bottom of nearly every page. An extensive bibliography reveals the

author's reliance on manuscript material, public documents, newspapers, interviews, and scores of books, articles, and pamphlets. Thomas discusses theories concerning the origin of Robeson's Lumbee Indians, the significant role of Scottish immigrants, exploits of the infamous Henry Berry Lowry gang, and economic, political, social, and religious aspects of important eras. The reader discovers the existence of Dr. Hector McLean's Edenborough Medical College and numerous facts pertaining to "Scalpels, Scholars, Scriptures, and Scruples," which are collected in chapter sixteen.

Yet, several flaws detract from the book's usefulness and readability. Its poor organization is exacerbated by the lack of an index. More than a few typographical errors testify to careless editing. Long quotes and extensive lists of relatively unimportant details hamper the reader's progress. The absence of photographs contributes to the book's dullness.

The facts contained in *Away Down Home* will be helpful to patient patrons of libraries that maintain collections of North Caroliniana. Public and school libraries in the southeastern section of the state probably will find the book useful, too.

Maurice C. York, Greenville

Joe M. Hatley and Linda B. Huffman, eds. *Letters of William F. Wagner, Confederate Soldier*. Wendell: Broadfoot's Bookmark, 1983. 103 pp. \$15.00. T.H. Pearce and Selby A. Daniels, eds. *Diary of Captain Henry A. Chambers*. Wendell: Broadfoot's Bookmark, 1983. 290 pp. \$25.00. (Rt. 3, Box 318, Wendell, NC 27591).

Broadfoot's Bookmark has long specialized in the publication of Civil War primary sources relating to North Carolina. Enthusiasts will welcome these two most recent volumes, which illustrate the rich diversity of material now being made available for the first time.

William F. Wagner, a Catawba County farmer, was typical of the "plain folk" of the Old South who made up the bulk of the Confederate army. He enlisted as a private in Company E of the 57th North Carolina in July 1862, and served with Lee's army in Virginia until his capture at Rappahannock Bridge in November 1863. The following January he died in the Union prison camp at Point Lookout, Maryland.

In addition to Wagner's own war letters, this collection includes several written by his wife and two of his brothers, who were also in Southern

service. Like most letters of this type, the ones presented here are chiefly valuable for their descriptions of camp life and for their insight into the mind of the common soldier. Neither a slaveholder nor an extreme patriot, Wagner fought principally out of a sense of duty, and his attitude toward the war was summed up in the statement: "God onley knowes I am that tired of the war that I dont hardley know what to doo any more but I have to Bare it all patientley and you have to doo the same Dear." Although his morale declined noticeably after the battle of Gettysburg, he refused to follow the example of many of his comrades by deserting: "Dear Wife you neede not be a fraid that I will run a way I stick as long as I can and trust in my God to save me through this war safe and sound."

As these quotations indicate, the family descendants who have edited this volume have retained the original spelling, grammar, and punctuation, including a variety of Germanic speech patterns which reflect the Wagners' heritage. Also included are clarifying footnotes, a bibliography of standard secondary sources, and an index.

Henry A. Chambers, a native of Iredell County, came from a social background which was vastly different from that of the humble Wagner. Scion of a wealthy, distinguished family, he was raised by his cousin and guardian, who owned a large plantation and 125 slaves. After withdrawing from Davidson College in 1861, he enlisted in Company C of the 4th North Carolina. Later, in December 1862, he was appointed Captain of Company C, 49th North Carolina, the unit which he led until the end of the war.

Chambers's diary, which begins in January 1862, and ends in April 1865, portrays a well-educated, observant, and intensely patriotic young officer. Characteristically, he prayed after receiving his commission for "higher and nobler motives of action and purposes of life that I may leave the low, sordid, selfish and mean and strive after the honorable, upright, just, noble, and generous . . ." His descriptions of military events include the battle of Fredericksburg, the Wilderness campaign, and the siege of Petersburg. Defeat at Appomattox called forth an impassioned outburst at the Yankees "who have burned our houses, desecrated our altars, plundered our wealth, waged unrelenting warfare upon the aged, the weak and helpless, [and worst of all] insulted and dishonored our lovely women!" Yet, like many former Confederates, Chambers found that time gradually healed these wounds: rereading the diary in 1923, he expressed surprise at

"such bitter and vituperative language."

The editors have provided an extensive introduction, a bibliography of primary and secondary sources, and several indexes to accompany the text. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation have been edited to conform to standard usage.

Both of these fine books are recommended for purchase by academic libraries or by any institution that maintains a strong Civil War collection.

Everard H. Smith, High Point

Marguerite McCall. *And Roofs Need Patching*. Edenton, NC, 1982. 136 pp. \$9.98. (Order from Edenton Historical Commission, P.O. Box 474, Edenton, NC 27932)

Marguerite McCall's *And Roofs Need Patching* is the culmination of twenty years of world travel, observation, and life experiences. From its beginning as an outline in Hawaii in 1962 to its publication in Edenton in 1982, this first novel must have been a labor of love.

The northeastern North Carolina town of Riverlo watches as Ellen Simpson, daughter of the local feed and seed store owner, falls in love with Japanese-American Kenechi Kashimoto, who has left his native Hawaii to study agriculture at North Carolina State University. As in most of the country, sentiments in Riverlo toward Japanese-Americans at the close of World War II were often hostile, and the marriage of Ken and Ellen seems to bring out the worst in many of Ellen's friends and relatives. Even Ellen's mother, bitter about the death of her son in combat, has become conditioned to hate all Japanese ("justifiable in her thinking, because one had killed her son"). Ellen, however, sees through the hypocrisy of churchgoers who are willing to accept someone of a different background and becomes more determined not to allow the prejudices of the town to dissuade her from marrying the man she loves. Meeting each difficulty with understanding and love, Ken and Ellen rely on their serenity and faith to carry them through the hard times. Ultimately, it is their kindness and unselfish giving which wins over even their harshest critics. It is only when tragedy shatters their perfectly planned life that Ellen's faith is shaken almost irretrievably.

There is a great hazard in writing a novel such as this, for all too easily characters can become unbelievably sweet and saintly and all realism can be lost. Rarely does an author

achieve such balance as does McCall in this well-written story. Ellen and Ken are people we could know, with true goodness shining through—thoroughly believable, even familiar. Minor characters are similarly well-drawn, so true-to-life that they might indeed have inhabited any small North Carolina town. McCall has a gift for bringing a story to life and for involving the reader deeply in the life of the story.

And Roofs Need Patching is a vitally honest, truly moving, and joyous account of a faith shared, strengthened, and finally renewed, all the sweeter for having nearly been lost. This book is a small treasure for North Carolina libraries.

Julie White Sanders, Randolph Public Library

Robert A. Dentler, D. Catherine Baltzell, and Daniel J. Sullivan. *University on Trial: The Case of the University of North Carolina*. Cambridge, Mass.: Abt Books, 1983. 192 pp. \$28.00.

The University of North Carolina (UNC) desegregation case was big. It lasted sixteen years and went through four courts. Over \$90 million per year and the education of 110,000 students was at stake. Legal fees ran into the millions. This is the case that is the subject of *University on Trial*.

For those unfamiliar with the case, a brief summary may be helpful. In 1968 the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) ruled that ten states, including North Carolina, operated segregated public college systems in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. HEW ordered those states to submit corrective plans. By 1979 North Carolina was the only state left without an acceptable plan, as a result of which HEW began proceedings to cut off \$90 million in annual federal aid to the system. In 1981 UNC and the federal Department of Education ended fourteen years of legal battles by agreeing on a mutually acceptable desegregation plan.

The authors of *University on Trial* are members of a consulting firm that was heavily involved in the case on the side of the federal government, against UNC. They feel that in the thirty years since the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, progress towards desegregating higher education in North Carolina has been insignificant. In their eyes the consent decree of 1981 was a sweetheart deal between UNC and Reagan appointees in the Department of Education which effectively denied the opposing side the opportunity to be heard in court. As a result,

the authors decided to put forth their case in this book.

University on Trial attempts to answer several major questions raised by the case. First, is UNC segregated? According to the evidence presented, the answer is yes. Second, have traditionally black institutions (TBI's) received proportionally less in resources from the state than traditionally white institutions (TWI's)? Again the answer is yes. Third, will the plan agreed on in the consent decree eliminate inequities in the system? Readers, who must now be the judges, will disagree on this last question. The consent decree emphasizes upgrading the quality of the TBI's and stepping up minority recruitment. The authors say this is not enough. They believe that there must be structural changes in funding, more faculty and administration integration, and elimination of duplicate programs that put TWI's and TBI's in direct competition. Time will tell whether the UNC plan will work. We do know that in December 1983, two-and-a-half years into plan implementation, UNC reported they were behind in their integration goals.

University on Trial is the most complete account of the UNC desegregation case to date. It is well organized, with a useful index and many statistical tables to support assertions made in the text. Academic and larger public libraries will find it a valuable source of information on the case. Readers must remember, however, that it was written by people who opposed UNC in court. As such, it only provides information from one side of the courtroom and cannot be considered a definitive work.

For those who think the UNC case is no longer part of current events, a few observations are in order. Since *University on Trial* was written, the consent decree has been appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. That appeal was denied in February 1984. Also, in a separate but similar case in July 1983, the Department of Education rejected desegregation plans for five states, including the community college system in North Carolina. Finally, progress under the consent decree is under continuing scrutiny by federal court and civil rights groups. As the authors write near the end of *University on Trial*, the case lives on!

Edward Waller, Duke University

As North Carolina and the United States celebrate America's quadricentennial, interest and attention is increasingly riveted on Roanoke Island and the small bands of explorers and colonists who inhabited this sound region of North Carolina between 1584 and 1587. During the coming years, the public will be reminded constantly of the English beginnings of our nation. Along with a ship replica, public events, pageants, and a multitude of other celebrations, America's Four Hundredth Anniversary Committee has sponsored a series of publications designed to increase awareness and interest in the Raleigh colonization effort.

In *Roanoke Island: The Beginning of English America*, David Stick has provided the reader with a stimulating, informative, and highly entertaining account of this first attempt at English colonization of North America. With a flowing narrative style that is a genuine pleasure to read, Mr. Stick places the Roanoke voyages in proper perspective by exploring the background of British colonization; the struggle between Elizabethan England and Spain for the New World domination; and the exploits of Sir Walter Raleigh as courtier, speculator, and colonizer. The primeval splendor of the Carolina coast becomes the lush backdrop for the colonization efforts of a people seemingly more concerned with pilfering Spanish wealth than with assuring a permanent English foothold in North America. The Amadas and Barlowe expedition of 1584, the Ralph Lane-Richard Grenville colony of 1585, and the John White effort of 1587 are all treated factually and in considerable depth. The responsibility for Indian hostilities is properly placed on the shoulders of the English colonists themselves due to their insensitivity and at times barbarous treatment of the "heathern savages." By the same token, at least part of the blame for John White's "Lost Colony" rests in the indifference and evolving business priorities of Walter Raleigh himself. The volume also provides keen insight into English preoccupation with the Spanish West Indies and the effects of privateering enterprises on the colonization efforts.

Mr. Stick is well known to the North Carolina reading public as the author of *Graveyard of the Atlantic*, *The Outer Banks of North Carolina, 1584-1958*, and *Dare County: A History*. He brings to this new publication an understanding of and appreciation for the Outer Banks of North Carolina that add dramatically to the clarity of the book. In *Roanoke Island*, Mr. Stick has crafted an excellent account of the Raleigh colonization adventure. This volume should have a strong appeal to the general public as well as to

David Stick. *Roanoke Island: The Beginnings of English America*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1983. 266pp. \$14.95 cloth, \$5.95 paper.

New North Carolina Books

the student of history. Some historians will object to the brevity of the bibliography and the lack of footnotes; but for a popular history, the format of textual source references is well suited to the purpose of the volume. Without question, *Roanoke Island* should be in all public libraries, and it is highly desirable for public school and college use. It obviously has merit as parallel reading for history students; instructors will have few complaints from students who undertake the book as assigned reading.

Donald R. Lennon, East Carolina University

Carole Marsh. *The Mystery of the Lost Colony*. Tryon, NC: Gallopade Publishing Group, 1983. 84 pp. \$4.95 paper.

Another in the Marsh series of History Mystery books, *The Mystery of the Lost Colony* places the young protagonists not in the mystery but in a contemporary one set along the Outer Banks. A strong point of the book is the opportunity the format gives to introduce readers to snippets of history and local lore about the Roanoke Island-Outer Banks area.

Jeremy Mydet, from Roanoke Island, and his friend Dennis, from Ocracoke, are all set to enjoy the four hundredth anniversary festivities when an ominous series of circumstances is set in motion. First, his grandfather's silver commemorative coins disappear, soon followed by a vanishing manuscript. Objects are not the only things affected by these happenings—Jeremy is very nearly drowned, and Dennis is briefly drugged and kidnapped. Is the antagonist mortal, or do the blood-stained tombstones and ghostly Nag's Head light suggest a more sinister source of the intrigue?

What this mystery offers in terms of adventure, however, is marred by several deficiencies. One, the lack of smooth transition often leaves the reader wondering whether he has missed something. For example, one chapter ends with poor Jeremy drowning, "breathing in great globules of the poison water of the past." The reader, too, is left gasping as the following chapter begins by skipping merrily through two seasons to the old Christmas celebration, with nary an explanation of how Jeremy survived.

Only the most cursory characterization is accomplished, even for the two young lads who carry this adventure; none of the characters is



Southeastern Microfilm, Inc.

Raleigh • Charlotte • Greensboro

Equipment Sales and Service Contract Micrographic Services

Complete micrographics for libraries, including:

- Reader/Printers
- Step-and-repeat Microfiche service
- Security filming of shelf lists at your location

RALEIGH OFFICE:

4317 Pleasant Valley Rd.

919/787-4418

GREENSBORO OFFICE:

919/294-1249

CHARLOTTE OFFICE:

704/567-9749

ASHEVILLE OFFICE:

704/253-7293

Southeastern Microfilm is your Minolta equipment dealer
for North Carolina.

really brought to life, nor are motivations strongly explored.

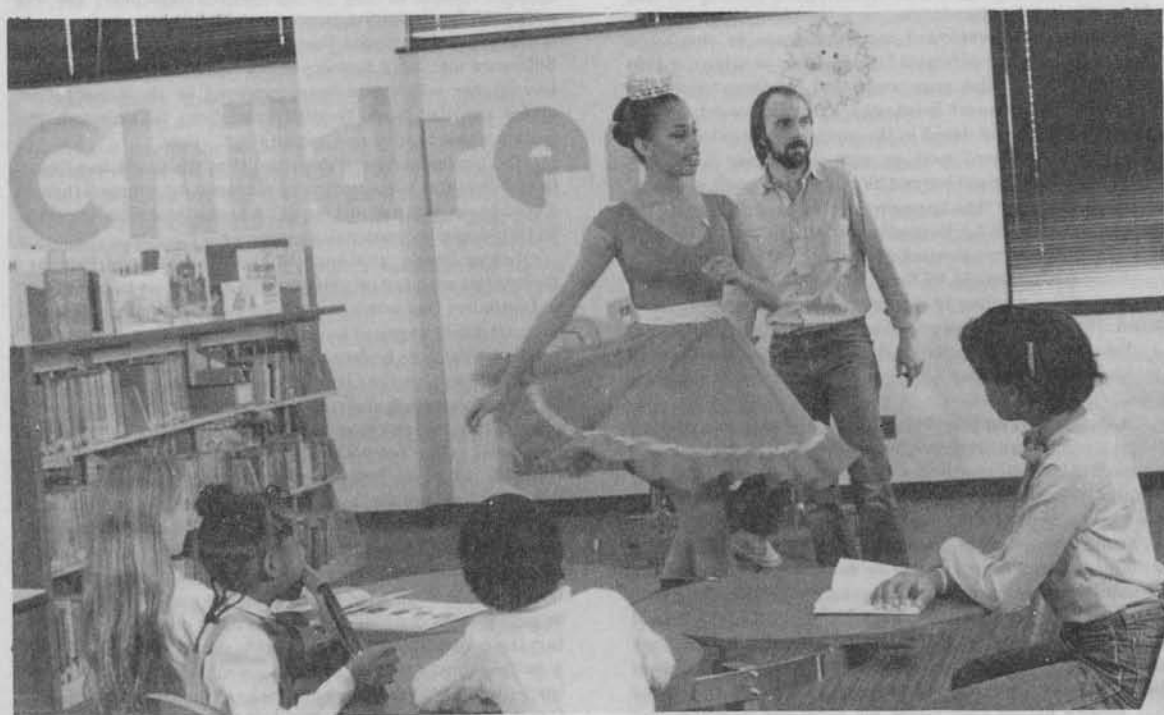
Another distraction is the frequency of typographical or printing errors, including a missing page.

While the quality of this book may not be what one would hope for, the paperback format, short chapters, appropriately somber black-and-white illustrations, and familiar setting should add to its appeal for upper elementary and middle school readers, from whom it is most suited. And if the tidbits about the Outer Banks induce further reading on the subject, perhaps Marsh will have accomplished her purpose, "to introduce the area and its role in America's heritage to children around the world."

Jane Wade, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

WHO CONTROLS THE PAST,
CONTROLS THE FUTURE.
SUPPORT BANNED BOOKS
WEEK. SEPTEMBER 8-15

1984



Deneen Graham, Miss North Carolina 1984, who stars in a public service announcement publicizing this year's statewide summer reading program, "North Carolina Celebrates: 1584-1984." The program is designed to coincide with the beginning of the three-year-long observance of America's four hundredth anniversary and is funded through Title I of the federal Library Services and Construction Act.