
New North Carolina Books

Alice R. Cotten, Compiler

Jill McCorkle. *July 7th*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: Algonquin Books, 1984. 387 pp. \$17.95.

Some librarians put their spare time to more interesting uses than others: Jill McCorkle wrote this spritely second novel during a stint as an acquisitions librarian in Melbourne, Florida.

July 7th focuses on the lives of townspeople in Marshboro, North Carolina, on that particular day. The plot stems from an amalgam of blind chance, although the consequences have far-reaching effects on the lives of the characters. Sam Swett, a disillusioned twenty-one-year-old on the run from New York City as well as from his southern parents, wakes from a bourbon-induced stupor to discover that he has witnessed a murder at the Quik Pik just off I-95. Harold Weeks is the second witness: he too suffers from a hangover and has been on the run from his wife, Juanita, ever since he caught her disporting herself in the room behind the Winn Dixie meat counter.

Other characters, whose variety springs naturally from southern stereotypes, brings the town to life; Juanita Weeks, a swinging electrologist who keeps herself fit for Harold's return by working out at the Nautilus; Harold's sister Kate and her husband, Ernie Stubbs, whose house in the Cape Fear Trace subdivision (formerly Piney Swamp) does not quite cancel out Ernie's upbringing on Injun Street; Corky Revels, a shy and lonely waitress at the Coffee Shop, who befriends the newest stranger in town, Sam; and Bob Bobbin, the policeman who decorates his apartment with red shag carpet and red and black velour wallpaper and who is only waiting to install matador lamps before he invites Corkey over for dinner.

McCorkle has a flair for believable characterizations, whether she deals with the elderly, such as Granter Weeks, whose goal is to reach another birthday while avoiding her son-in-law's efforts to install her in a highrise old folks' home, or with the poor, such as Fannie McNair, the black housekeeper for another family in Cape Fear Trace. Novelist Lee Smith comments, "Jill McCorkle has left the old stereotypes dead under the magnolias as she stakes out her own territory: the New South with its subdivisions and Winn Dixies and

country music, lovesick electrologists and dope-smoking cheerleaders and swinging town cops, its tricky new racial and social balances. It's scary the way she invades her characters, writing so close to them that the books seem to happen inside your head."

July 7th captures the humor and pathos of life in a small town which also happens to be southern. Characterizations are recognizable stereotypes, but their actions and reactions ring true. McCorkle deftly balances Sam Swett's craving for detachment and perspective with the need for involvement in life, with all of its pettiness, joys, and sorrows.

McCorkle was raised in Lumberton, North Carolina, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received her M.A. from Hollins College. She now lives in Chapel Hill. She has been awarded the Jesse Rehder and Andrew James Purdy Prizes for fiction, and her short fiction has been published in *Crescent Magazine* and *Seventeen*. In an unusual step highlighting McCorkle's promise as a novelist, Algonquin Books simultaneously published both *July 7th* and her first novel, *The Cheer Leader*. With these two novels, McCorkle, at age twenty-five, has her career well under way.

July 7th is recommended for most fiction collections.

Margaretta Yarborough, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

John R. Finger. *The Eastern Band of Cherokees, 1819-1900*. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1984. 253 pp. \$24.95 cloth, \$12.50, paper.

"Why another book on the Cherokees?" the author asks in his preface (p. xi). Surprisingly, there are no modern histories of the Eastern Band. Most of the accounts chronicle the early period of the tribe and the events that led up to its 1838 removal. Thereafter, scholarly attention has focused upon the Cherokee Nation and those who moved westward to the Indian Territory. This volume attempts to provide a history of how those who remained in the East "endured a pre-

carious and anomalous legal status" and how these people were "somehow able to retain their identity as Cherokees throughout their travail" (p. xi). A second volume is planned to cover the twentieth century.

Finger begins with a brief account of the origins of the Cherokees and, in particular, the origins of those who successfully resisted removal to the West. He demonstrates that these were the more conservative and less acculturated Indians who lived outside the Cherokee Nation in Western North Carolina. The author deals with the Tsali legend and convincingly argues that the Qualla Cherokees were not fugitives who avoided removal through the martyrdom of Tsali but traditionalists who were citizens of the United States under an 1819 treaty.

The following chapters chronicle the Eastern Band's constant struggle to ensure their right of permanent residency. The Cherokees wanted land and the legal status of citizens in order to preserve their traditional ways. But, to persuade state and federal governments that they deserved citizenship, they found it necessary to emphasize their acculturation and progress. For most of the nineteenth century the tribe was troubled by the tension between tradition and progress, a tension reflected in growing tribal factionalism, a tension resolved by Cherokees accommodating their ways to white expectations and adapting white institutions to their needs.

Throughout, attention is devoted to the role of William Holland Thomas, a white merchant who was adopted into the tribe and who for forty years served as their legal counsel, lobbyist, and tribal leader. Because Indians were disabled from owning land by an 1835 North Carolina law, Thomas spent much of his life acquiring property in western North Carolina for an Indian homeland. The author has clarified some of the confusions of Thomas's land dealings, the various suits and frauds involving the Eastern Band, and other threats to the Cherokee's land possession.

By 1900 the Eastern Band had been recognized by the federal government and had established its own tribal government. It had survived the devastation of civil war and epidemic. And it had resisted incursions onto its land and into its cultural heritage. The land and its resources, however, now accessible to the railroad, were attracting the attention of both lumbermen and conservationists. The Indians were taking tentative steps toward modernity while retaining the core of their traditions.

Finger does an admirable job of using archival and Bureau of Indian Affairs records to

untangle the confused relations of the Cherokees with the federal and state governments. He also ably explicates the complicated affairs of William Holland Thomas. If he is less convincing in his cultural arguments, it may be because his sources, as he himself points out, are documents produced mostly by whites. But Finger has produced a readable volume that is likely to become the standard work on the subject. With an index and extensive bibliography, it is suitable for both informed laypersons and scholars. It should be acquired by most public and academic libraries.

Eric J. Olson, Appalachian State University

Tony P. Wrenn. *Wilmington, North Carolina: An Architectural And Historical Portrait*. Photographs by William Edmund Barrett. Charlottesville, Virginia: Published for the Junior League of Wilmington, NC, by the University Press of Virginia, 1984. 341 pp. \$27.50.

Although this book is primarily an architectural history of Wilmington's historic district and the surrounding area, Tony Wrenn does more than simply describe buildings and monuments. He also includes details of local history that relate to the structures. Consequently, Wrenn's audience includes those readers interested in local as well as architectural history. The book is very useful as a reference source and as a guidebook to take on a walking tour of the city. Since it has lots of photographs, many people especially interested in Wilmington will find this volume attractive as a coffee table book.

Wrenn begins with a short history of Wilmington, then describes the architecturally significant buildings of the downtown area. His spatial arrangement is street-by-street, beginning at the Cape Fear River and moving eastward to Ninth Street, then from Red Cross Street on the north to Surry Street on the south. This section is followed by the "Street Car Suburbs," an area of mansions and working class dwellings developed during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The final section describes nineteenth century cemeteries and early twentieth century parks.

Wrenn includes only structures standing at the completion of his study. When several buildings of a particular architectural style are extant, Wrenn chose a representative sample. Wilmington's black history is included in the study. For example, Wrenn's discussion of Pine Forest Cemetery, founded as a black burial ground, is especially interesting for its information about the

people buried there. Nevertheless, the space devoted to black architectural history is less than that devoted to white architectural history because fewer structures unique to black history are still standing. Indeed, Wrenn makes no claim to being comprehensive; in fact, he urges others to continue this project of documenting Wilmington's architectural history.

Preceding the discussion of buildings is a general introduction to each street, and then each block, that typically describes the zoning of the area, the significant paving materials, the landscaping, and any extant street furniture. For each building or monument entry, Wrenn gives its name, construction date, architect, and builder. He then describes the architectural features of the structure and gives information pertaining to its original owner. Whenever appropriate, Wrenn mentions other notable owners or occupants of the building. He also records changes in the function of the building and business ownership and name changes. In these entries, Wrenn often quotes newspapers or other sources that give details of a particular building's history. Public buildings, such as churches or government structures, are given the lengthiest treatment, usually two to three pages. Residential buildings are each covered in less than a page. Over 180 black and white photographs and eight color plates accompany the text, thus providing illustrations for about half the entries. In the section on cemeteries and parks, Wrenn tells how each area was established and mentions markers significant either as art forms or for the people buried beneath them. Several of the gravestones mentioned are illustrated by photographs. The book concludes with two appendixes, one listing buildings in the National Register of Historic Places, the other listing early paving materials. There are also a note on sources and an index.

This volume is the result of dedicated research by several people. When he began the project in 1973, Wrenn was associated with the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, but he is now archivist at the American Institute of Architects in Washington, D.C. The Junior League of Wilmington sponsored this project, and members of the organization assisted with the building survey and searched deed books, newspapers, and other primary sources. Also working with Wrenn were several well-respected local historians associated with the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society.

The photographer, William Edmund Barrett, is a free lance architectural photographer in Centreville, Virginia. His photographs are excellent.

Each shot is taken from the angle best suited to show the details of the structure being discussed. They show imagination and skill.

On the endpapers of the volume are maps of the area, each with a key to the structures discussed. The typeface is large and clear. The paper and binding are of high quality, and the book will lie flat when opened. It is a durable and attractive volume that will be of most interest to those public and academic libraries whose clientele are interested in North Carolina history or architectural history.

Sue C. Hiatt, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Robert J. Cain, ed. *Colonial Records of North Carolina: Records Of The Executive Council, 1664-1734*. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1984. 763 pp. \$25.00 + \$1.50 postage.

This is the seventh volume in the new series of colonial records. The first contains the charters and constitutions of the colony between 1578 and 1698 while the next five consist of the Higher Court records from 1670 to 1730. Each of them, carefully and accurately edited and indexed, has made much new information about North Carolina available to historians and genealogists. In addition, the casual reader will spot interesting facts in all of them about such topics as clothing, debts, family relationships, household furnishings, Indians, jury service, land, Negroes, occupations, robbery, skins and furs, towns and trade, tools and equipment, wages, weapons, weights and measures, and a great deal more.

During the period covered by the latest volume, great changes took place in North Carolina. From the earliest settlement and creation of government well into the royal period, the executive council played a significant role; initially it was both advisory to the governor and legislative as a part of a unicameral assembly. Afterwards, however, it came to be regarded as an upper house. Members of the council also were often deputies of the Lords Proprietors and as such had a special role, yet when vacancies occurred the governor often filled them. Government in North Carolina, in other words, followed few rules. It developed and grew to meet local needs; directives from London were ignored with impunity.

In addition to dealing with the developing government, the volume also covers the period of the Tuscarora Indian War and the years when piracy flourished. Quakers were numerous and had political aspirations; attempts were being made at the same time to establish the Anglican

Church, and these two opposing religious groups were the cause of considerable dispute. The council also had occasion to consider and act upon the matter of new settlements such as those on the Neuse and Cape Fear Rivers.

The forty-five-page introduction to this volume is a splendid, close look at the history of the colony during a limited period of time. It sets the stage for the documents that follow, but it also relates them to other contemporary events. The editor has included new facts and interpretations that will surely find a place in general histories of the state in the future. The splendid, detailed index opens up a large variety of subjects and makes the volume a delight to the trivia buff as well as to the historian, the general reader, and the reference librarian. All will find facts and fancy to please.

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

Marguerite Schumann, ed. *Grand Old Ladies: North Carolina Architecture During the Victorian Era*. Introduction by Sterling Boyd. JoAnn Sieburg-Baker, head photographer. Charlotte: The East Woods Press, 1984. 128 pp. \$19.95.

Grand Old Ladies presents the first statewide, thematic approach to the architecture of North Carolina since *The Early Architecture of North Carolina; A Pictorial History*, by Frances Benjamin Johnston and Thomas Tileston Waterman, appeared in 1941 (and which has been long out of print). That volume was devoted solely to the study of the state's architecture of the antebellum period, so that *Grand Old Ladies* furnishes a much-needed pictorial survey of North Carolina's architectural heritage dating from the immediate post-Civil War period through the first decade of the twentieth century.

Fittingly, the North Carolina chapter of the Victorian Society of America sponsored the book's publication, with society member Marguerite Schumann serving as editor. Miss Schumann, Publications Officer at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is the author of *Tar Heel Sights, A Guide to North Carolina's Heritage*; *The Living Land, An Outdoor Guide to North Carolina*; walking guides to several North Carolina universities; and other historic and architectural works. The twenty-two page introduction, by Sterling Boyd, former head of programs at the North Carolina Museum of Art, is by no means a scholarly essay, but it gives the reader a concise interpretation of the state's architectural development during the Victorian era.

Of course, the greatest attraction of the book is the collection of photographs of the Victorian courthouses, churches, college buildings, stores, and predominantly, houses, the grand old ladies themselves with wrap-around skirts of gingerbread porches and peaked bonnets of turrets and towers with cast iron cresting and patterned roofs. The head photographer for the book, JoAnn Sieburg-Baker, is a free-lance architectural photographer with several awards to her credit. An excellent photographer, Ms. Sieburg-Baker provides a number of stunning pictures. Particularly notable are her depictions of the Daniel Branson Coltrane House in Concord; the Barracks in Tarboro; the interior of the Redmond-Shackleford House, also in Tarboro; and Eaton Place in Warrenton. In addition, the book features a number of photographs taken by the staff of the state Division of Archives and History. Scattered among the photographs are excerpts from the writings of North Carolina authors, with Doris Betts, Max Steele, and O. Henry among them, containing appropriate references to Victorian buildings, both real and fictional. The photographs represent buildings from one end of the state to the other, as well as the full range of Victorian styles from the simple board-and-batten St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Snow Hill to the overblown extravaganza of Biltmore House in Asheville.

Grand Old Ladies has two major drawbacks for the reader. One is the annoying division between the text, which contains the information on the buildings, and the photographs, which have captions giving only the name and location of the building; the reader must continually flip from the pictures to the text looking for more information. The other drawback is the lack of color photography, always an expensive asset to any volume. The beautiful color dust jacket allows for great disappointment when the reader opens the book to pages of black-and-white photographs. The distinguishing feature of Victorian architecture was the overwhelming desire to pit building form against form, and texture of material against texture, with all of it highlighted by a wide range of colors. As excellent as the black-and-white illustrations are, the lack of color prevents the reader's access to an important dimension of the architecture.

Nevertheless, *Grand Old Ladies* does present a comprehensive pictorial survey of the state's Victorian architecture and as such will be of interest to libraries and readers in every county of the state, although the lack of footnotes and bibliography prevents its use as a reference tool. For those interested in historic preservation, neigh-

borhood revitalization, and the economic and social development of North Carolina in the last half of the nineteenth century, *Grand Old Ladies* offers the best examples of the state's man-made heritage from an important and exuberant period of the state's history.

Marshall Bullock, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Belinda Hurmence, ed. *My Folks Don't Want Me to Talk about Slavery: Twenty-one Oral Histories of Former North Carolina Slaves*. Winston-Salem, N.C.: John F. Blair, 1984. 103 pp. \$14.95 cloth, \$5.95 paper.

With experience as a fiction editor before becoming a librarian, Belinda Hurmence brought a critical eye to the perusal of young people's literature. What she did not see was enough good writing about the black experience for young blacks to read. So she began writing for them herself, first stories for *Humpty Dumpty* and *Jack and Jill*, then novels about black children (*Tough Tiffany*, *A Girl Named Boy*), and most recently, *Tancy*, for which she received the 1984 American Association of University Women Award for Juvenile Literature from the North Carolina chapter. With *My Folks Don't Want Me to Talk about Slavery*, Ms. Hurmence moves into editing oral history. The introduction sets forth her reasons for compiling it and describes the extent of her editing. It was her own reading of narratives collected in the 1930s by the Federal Writers Project that revealed to her how vividly these statements by elderly former slaves conveyed a sense of life in bondage. Aware of the continuing need to deal with an issue so significant in American history, she determined to make these powerful words more accessible for young people. She chose to focus the collection on North Carolinians' accounts and only on those of men and women who were ten years old or older when freed. From 176 North Carolina interviews, she picked 21. She regularized dialect spellings, cut hearsay, and omitted unnecessary repetitions, but she retained grammatical structures indicative of the original speakers.

Her introduction also contains a careful reminder about influences on the content of these oral histories. For example, she points out that the memory of times long past may not be as thoroughly accurate as they seemed to the speaker, that looking back from the midst of the Depression could make earlier times appear happier in contrast, and that a black former slave might say

what he thought a white interviewer wanted to hear. Young people, new to reading and thinking critically about oral history, are provided with the basic intellectual tools for discovering in it valuable evidence of human experience. Additionally, Ms. Hurmence presents a fresh viewpoint: these memories of slavery are also memories of the lives and work of America's black pioneers. Their condition of servitude cannot negate the contribution they made to building and sustaining the country's growth.

Familiar place names will enable many a North Carolina reader to envision these scenes of "slavery time" as set on neighboring terrain. As the narrators describe living in slavery, they repeat each other in the lament of many hard conditions, but variety of experience is equally apparent. Slave owners are often recalled with considerable affection, but the small kindnesses that earned such regard are disproportionate to the misery so widely inflicted by other masters and through Reconstruction hatred and its aftermath. W.L. Bost was surely not alone to observe, "I didn't know the Lord would let people live who were so cruel."

Many of these former slaves recall owners' methods of control; beatings were common but no more effective than the separation of slave families and the strict denial of education. Such patterns were maintained through 246 years of American history. Their debilitating effects on individuals and on efforts to establish new patterns when freedom was finally granted are strikingly evident in each account. These conditions meant that the struggle for freedom was supplanted by a struggle with freedom when even to name the cause was a risk. The book's title was taken from the words of Sarah Debro: "We's come a long way since them times. I's lived near about ninety years, and I's seen and heard much. My folks don't want me to talk about slavery, they's shamed niggers ever was slaves."

But Sarah did talk about it and so did Patsy Mitchener. She was owned by a Raleigh newspaperman. To her interviewer, she suggested that her master's record of the past, his paper, could be found in the museum, about which she added, "I reckons they keeps all way back yonder things in there just to remember by." Fortunately we also have her words to remember by. Belinda Hurmence has made them available to young people, black and white, who can find in them an important part of the history they share.

Tucker Respass, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Hubert A. Eaton, *"Every Man Should Try."* Wilmington, N.C.: Bonaparte Press, 1984. 360 pp. \$17.95 cloth, \$9.95 paper, plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. (P.O. Box 517, Wilmington, NC 28401).

Wilmington, North Carolina, the home of the Wilmington Ten and the frequently analyzed race riots of 1898, is also the home of Dr. Hubert Eaton, well known leader in the civil rights movement in North Carolina. In *"Every Man Should Try,"* Dr. Eaton has told the story of his life, highlighting the long and involved lawsuits he initiated to end racial discrimination in New Hanover County.

Eaton describes himself in 1947 as a thirty-one-year-old successful doctor surrounded by a loving family and comfortable home complete with private tennis court. He was shocked to discover the use of two Bibles, one for whites and the other for "coloreds" in a New Hanover courtroom. "Segregated Bibles! I was stunned. It was like TIA—a little stroke. My eyes fogged, my ears hummed and a quiver ran down my spine. I almost gasped."

Shortly thereafter Dr. Eaton and a colleague, Dr. R.C. Roane, decided to investigate the schools in New Hanover County to determine if the county was adhering to the separate but equal laws as set down in the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* Supreme Court ruling. With little cooperation from the New Hanover County School Board, a series of class action suits had to be initiated using Hubert Eaton, Jr., then seven years old, as plaintiff.

In 1954 when the Supreme Court overturned *Plessy v. Ferguson* in favor of ordering the desegregation of public schools, Dr. Eaton soon realized that New Hanover County would have to be prodded to comply with the new law. Despite numerous class action suits and vital support from the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, it was not until the 1971-72 school year that the New Hanover School Board complied with total integration. The New Hanover County public schools remained under court order stemming from Eaton's suits until 1983 and was the last school system in the state to ask for the court order to be lifted.

Other desegregation actions taken by Dr. Eaton deserve mention. He was associated with several lawsuits to end discrimination in the medical care provided in New Hanover County. In more peaceful efforts, he was successful in integrating the YMCA, the City Golf Course, the Wilmington Public Library, and Wilmington College (now UNC-W).

Of particular interest is his unique relationship with Althea Gibson. Dr. Eaton and a medical colleague undertook the education, coaching, and support of Ms. Gibson with the idea that she would break the color barrier in international tennis. She was the first black to win at Wimbledon, in 1957 and 1958.

Carefully saving the letters, papers, photographs, and newspaper clippings associated with his busy life, Dr. Eaton documents his memoirs well. Photographs taken in 1950 comparing New Hanover County's black and white schools are particularly moving. Appendixes reveal Eaton's interest in both the history and future of the black physician in North Carolina.

To say that *"Every Man Should Try"* is a significant contribution to the black history, contemporary history, and local history of North Carolina would be an understatement. Its easy readability also makes it a must for high school, public, and college libraries across the state.

Beverly Tetterton, New Hanover County Public Library

Jeffrey J. Crow and Flora J. Hatley, eds. *Black Americans In North Carolina And The South.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1984. 200 pp. \$19.95.

Readers interested in North Carolina history will perhaps be familiar with *The Southern Experience in the American Revolution* and *Writing North Carolina History*. These volumes, both edited by Jeffrey J. Crow and Larry E. Tise, were published by the University of North Carolina Press in 1978 and 1979 respectively. Like these earlier volumes, *Black Americans in North Carolina and the South* consists of essays presented originally at a symposium sponsored by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. The papers delivered at this more recent symposium, held in February 1981, have been edited by Jeffrey J. Crow, the division's historical publications administrator, and Flora J. Hatley, coordinator of the division's black history program.

Black Americans is a less substantial and less cohesive volume than the two published previously but is nevertheless a significant contribution to the state's historical literature. Its six essays include a historiographic survey, a methodological proposal, a demographic study of eighteenth-century North Carolina, and three essays relating to particular institutions or settings. Raymond Gavins, who teaches Afro-American history at Duke University, reviews the literature

of black history in North Carolina, interweaving comments on books, articles, and dissertations with information relating to the study of black history and the history of race relations in the state. This essay, with its twenty-three pages of notes, is a useful introduction to research on black North Carolinians up through 1981. In a much briefer essay Leland Ferguson, associate professor of anthropology at the University of South Carolina, calls for further archaeological study of black Americans, especially in the South. He offers examples of archaeological investigation and notes the kinds of information that can and cannot be obtained through such study. The third essay, "A Demographic Analysis of Colonial North Carolina with Special Emphasis upon the Slave and Black Population," discusses such topics as immigration and natural increase as sources of population growth, changes in population density, and the implications of sex ratios and sex imbalance ratios on familial patterns. Thoroughly documented tables present the extensive statistical data upon which the authors, Marvin L. Michael Kay and Lorin Lee Cary, professors of history at the University of Toledo, base their conclusions.

The three final essays relate to the period between 1860 and World War I. Linda M. Perkins, whose doctoral research at the University of Illinois dealt with black educational history, describes the experiences of northern black women who taught under the auspices of the American Missionary Association in the South during the 1860s. She focuses on their motivation for teaching and the discrimination they faced within the association. Howard N. Rabinowitz, associate professor of history at the University of New Mexico, compares race relations in southern cities, especially Raleigh, with conditions in northern cities between 1860 and 1900. His observations concerning Raleigh are similar to conclusions offered earlier in his book *Race Relations in the Urban South*. Todd L. Savitt, who teaches medical history at East Carolina University, traces the history of Leonard Medical School at Shaw University from its establishment in 1882 to its closing in 1918 because of inadequate funding. He relates the institution's history to developments in medicine and to the needs of the black community.

All six essays are well documented. Several make good use of tables to present data, and several benefit from illustrations, of which there are two dozen in all. The volume is indexed, but there appear to be no entries in the index for names, titles, or topics mentioned in the notes to the

essays. The absence of such entries is unfortunate particularly with regard to Gavin's historiographic essay. While one might wonder whether most of the essays could just as well have been published as articles in various journals rather than as a collection of essays, still one can appreciate the contribution the volume makes to promoting the study of black history in North Carolina. Though *Black Americans* is suited primarily for students and scholars, it will be a useful addition to library collections serving adult readers interested in the history of blacks and race relations in North Carolina.

Robert L. Byrd, Duke University Library

Lindley S. Butler and Alan D. Watson, eds. *The North Carolina Experience. An Interpretive And Documentary History*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1984. 467 pp. \$29.95 cloth; \$9.95 paper.

The nineteen essays comprising *The North Carolina Experience* were all written by historical scholars who have published works to their credit. The essays provide a topical survey, beginning with the first settlers, the Indians, and running to the present, of most of the major events, contributions, and issues that should be described and interpreted in any history of North Carolina. There are gaps in this history, though, and the editors warn their readers of this in their preface. To cite a few examples of the gaps, the military role of North Carolinians in our national wars and their contributions in the fields of education, literature, and the arts are not covered.

The second through the sixth chapters survey the period from the beginning of Elizabethan explorations to the entry of the colony of North Carolina into the Revolutionary War. The next chapter describes the otherwise-mindedness of North Carolinians about joining the federal union. This same independent spirit is also captured in "Unwilling Hercules: North Carolina in the Confederacy." The lot of blacks and issues concerning them are treated in chapters on slavery, Reconstruction, and "Sit-ins and Civil Rights." The thread of politics naturally runs through all of the chapters, and two of them specifically concern political parties. The first of these deals with the reemergence of the two-party system after the demise of the Whig Party, and the second one discusses Populism and the Fusionist interlude. Economic issues are dominant in the chapters on the awakening of the "Rip Van Winkle State" in the

1850s, the state's place in the New South, and the effects of the Great Depression and the New Deal on North Carolina. Religion and its influence are discussed in "An Agrarian and Evangelical Culture," and "Professors, Fundamentalists, and the Legislature" examines the evolution controversy of the 1920s. Interestingly, the chapter outlining the status of women in North Carolina throughout its history comes last. It is only fair to say, however, that the chapters run roughly chronologically, and the struggle of both women and blacks to gain their civil rights and increased opportunities in education and careers is carried into the early 1980s.

This history was designed to be a "supplementary reader" for college courses in the history of the state and to serve as a "basic text in brief survey courses or as a source book for teachers on the elementary, secondary, or postsecondary level." It meets these goals admirably in the areas that it covers, and these include a very high percentage of the major aspects of the state's history.

Each essay is supported by original documents dealing pro and con with the major theme of the essay and a bibliography. Citations of documents and occasionally of bibliographical items within the essays are adequate substitutes for footnoting these general accounts. The inclusion of documents with each essay serves in part to give the reader insights into and feelings for periods of history as only original records can do. These carefully selected documents, along with occasional mention of differences of opinion by historians on a particular point, should give young students and lay readers some idea of how history is written and lead them to question the alleged definitiveness of any secondary account.

The essays naturally vary somewhat stylistically, but they are all solid and well written. A thirteen-page index to both texts and documents and a list identifying the contributors round out the volume. It is the kind of history of North Carolina that should be available to all students and teachers of the subject and to the general reader.

Mattie U. Russell, Duke University

Michael H. McGee. *Separation And Divorce In North Carolina: How To Do It With Or Without A Lawyer*. Charlotte: East Woods Press, 1984. 144 pp. \$9.95 paper.

In 1970, courts in North Carolina granted 13,702 divorces. Ten years later, 28,050 divorces were granted. It is fairly certain that many parties

involved in those 28,050 divorces experienced much pain, anger, and frustration. It is also fairly certain that many of the persons involved in those 28,050 divorces did not understand the legal concepts, the legal proceedings, and the ramifications of those proceedings. In *Separation and Divorce in North Carolina*, Michael H. McGee offers sound legal and practical advice to persons who need information about the separation and divorce laws in North Carolina. McGee writes that his goal with this book is to help persons separating and divorcing begin to make a plan for the future, understand what type of proceedings they are experiencing, and handle some of the unpleasant (yet very necessary) tasks that are required of people who split up. McGee satisfies his objective in this well-written book by dividing the book into three parts and by including sample forms and worksheets to assist the readers.

Part one of the book concerns the law of divorce in North Carolina. This part details the grounds for divorce in North Carolina since the 1983 revision of the divorce laws. Currently there are only two grounds for divorce in North Carolina: (a) one year's separation, or (b) three years' separation if one of the parties is incurably insane. This discussion should clear up any misunderstandings regarding possible grounds for divorce (i.e., adultery). In addition, McGee provides practical advice concerning the necessity of "living apart" during the one year's separation. Courts will interpret the slightest interaction between the two persons during the one year period as not living apart. For example, the North Carolina Court of Appeals recently ruled that one single act of sexual intercourse by the couple, regardless of living arrangements, would end the year's separation. Other chapters in part one concern the legal effects of an absolute divorce, where the case should be brought (jurisdiction and venue), annulment, and a special chapter on the Catholic Church's annulment process.

Part two of *Separation and Divorce in North Carolina* is devoted to separation periods and the problems that might be encountered by the parties during that period. In this part of the book, McGee explains how to select and work with an attorney. In fact, McGee warns throughout the book that some professional legal advice and assistance are needed. His book does not replace the need for an attorney, except in the case where the parties do not dispute anything. Rather, this book helps the parties to prepare for a meeting with an attorney and to recognize the importance of proceedings that they are approaching. Part two also deals with a new equitable distribution

law in North Carolina. This law, passed by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1981, essentially guarantees that marital property will be distributed evenly and equally between the two parties. The equitable distribution act has specific requirements that must be followed if the parties wish to take advantage of its provision. In addition, the act is constantly being reviewed by the courts in North Carolina. Another important chapter in part two concerns child custody and support. This extremely important part of the separation and divorce process is clearly described by McGee. McGee correctly notes that the courts in North Carolina award custody of a child to "such person, agency, organization or institution as will, in the opinion of the judge, best promote the interest and welfare of the child." The child custody chapter also includes a very practical checklist to assist in determining the amount of child support payments needed.

Part three of the book includes chapters on how to do your own divorce, the effects of previous divorce actions, how to write a complaint (with a sample), how to file the necessary papers, how to serve the spouse, and how to prepare for court. There is also a short chapter on what to do if the judge denies the divorce. Rarely is an uncontested divorce actually denied; either party, however, can appeal to the North Carolina Court of Appeals if he or she believes that the judge was incorrect in the decision.

The author, a resident of Charlotte and an attorney with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the Charlotte district office, writes clearly and objectively. No reader should experience any problems with this book; legal terms are defined clearly and McGee assumes that the reader has had no previous contact with the law and the courts in North Carolina. McGee recognized the need for a book like this one before he joined the EEOC; prior to working with the EEOC, he was in private practice and worked on a "substantial number of separations and divorces." It is through those experiences that he recognized the need for this type of book.

Some problems do exist with the book. An annoying problem which will be most evident to attorneys, law students, law professors, and law librarians is the use of incorrect legal citation format. Understandably, McGee has attempted to make his references clear for the lay users; however, citations using correct legal abbreviations and format would have been just as easy to use. Probably the most obvious mistake in this area is the lack of dates with some cases cited in the footnotes. The other concern is updating. It is extremely important that anyone who uses the book have access to the latest changes in the divorce laws and the courts' interpretations of those laws. For example, the North Carolina Court of Appeals decided an important equitable distribution case in late 1984. This case further defined what is separate and marital property in North Carolina and should be mentioned in any discussion of the equitable distribution law. Other changes and elaborations are sure to come and must be included in some manner.

The strongest point of the book is McGee's offer of sound practical advice to parties who are involved in a separation and/or divorce proceedings. His best advice is reflected in the following excerpt:

Always try to solve your problems at the lowest level of conflict possible. The scars of an angry court fight can last for years and affect your children and others. Use those weapons only when you personally believe they are necessary to avoid being taken advantage of by your spouse.

Overall, this book is well written and certainly fills a need. McGee should be commended for recognizing the need and writing such a valuable handbook. It should be read by anyone who is contemplating, experiencing, or has experienced divorce. For that reason, every library in North Carolina, whether public or academic, should purchase the book and make the public aware of its existence.

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