



Nicholas Graham, Compiler

William S. Powell, ed.

Encyclopedia of North Carolina.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press,
2006. 1247pp. \$65.00. ISBN

The *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* brings together in a single volume more than 2000 entries on a wide range of events, institutions, and cultural landmarks. The editor, William S. Powell, is a noted historian who has published scores of books and articles on our state, particularly its colonial history. Jay Mazzocchi, associate editor, is an experienced managing editor who has worked with Oxford University Press's *American National Biography*. Representing the culmination of 15 years of work, this massive, wonderful reference work is designed explicitly to be used with the editor's *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* and his *North Carolina Gazetteer*. More than 500 historians, archivists, librarians, and journalists contributed signed entries in their own voices. Nearly 400 illustrations and maps accompany articles, many with references, designed to lead historians, librarians, and students to generally-available resources for further information.

Oriented toward history and the humanities, entries selected for the *Encyclopedia* help capture North Carolina's culture and personality. Major topics treated in the volume include agriculture, business and industry, cultures and cultural influences within the state, education, government and law, the natural environment, transportation, and cultural institutions related to preserving and educating people about North Carolina. Individual entries provide detailed breakdowns of these topics. Articles related to transportation topics include, for example: Indian trading paths, the Great Wagon Road, railroads, the Intracoastal Waterway, and the Dismal Swamp Canal; plank roads are covered in the general entry on Roads; even the "Road to Nowhere" (which lies in Swain County) has an entry. Unfortunately, there is no overarching entry for Transportation to bring together these disparate pieces. Cross-references within entries would also be helpful in identifying related articles. "See" and "See Also" references are included, and are very helpful.

Who lives in North Carolina, and how have we made our living? Extensive entries on African Americans and American Indians (the title used, rather than Native Americans), and shorter entries on Scottish settlers, Welsh, and other groups of people, including specific Native American tribes, Melungeons, and Swiss and Palatinate settlers, provide sketches of people who make up North Carolina. While there isn't a separate entry for the Jewish people, there are related entries—journalist Harry Golden's *Carolina Israelite*, for instance, or the Temple of Israel, the oldest synagogue in the state. Admirably, topics related to ethnic minorities are generally included, rather than singled out by minority. Textiles, tobacco, furniture, and naval stores are all represented among the entries on business and industry, and so are entries on particular companies which have had an impact on North Carolina. The *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* does not gloss over or exclude negative chapters of our history. The Ku Klux Klan and Thomas Dixon's novel *The Clansman* are represented, as well as the lynching and deaths resulting from the Gastonia Strike. While the primary emphasis is historical, there is a currency through 2005 for entries on the Poet Laureates and community colleges. Entries on biotechnology and homeland security indicate awareness of present and future directions for the state.

Cultural history, the arts, and education are well represented. There are entries for several historic houses of worship and for religious groups and related religious topics: Sunday School, "dinner on the grounds," and Vacation Bible School; Baptists and AME Zion churches among many others. Fiction, folklore, dramatic arts, and poetry provide insight into our state's literary achievements, although this volume does not include individual writers like A. R. Ammons, George Moses Horton, or Paul Green. There are entries on selected texts, including William Bartram's *Travels*, slave codes, John Brickell's *Natural History of North-Carolina*, and some newspapers. Education is treated in extensive articles on adult, public, and private education in North Carolina, and supplemented by shorter articles of a narrower focus. There are entries on individual campuses within the University of North Carolina system; these are supplemented by sketches of many of the state's private schools, the state's

community colleges, selected grade-school academies, and the Biltmore Forest School. Entries also include cultural institutions and bodies dedicated to preserving and educating the citizenry about the state's history, including Horne Creek Living History Farm and the North Carolina Humanities Council.

Did you ever stir up an ant lion when you were little? We did, my brother and I. We'd take a piece of pine straw or a small stick, poke it in the ant lion's little inverted cone in the sand, and stir until we could see the creature itself, rearing up with its pincers. What does this have to do with the *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*? They're the subject of the entry titled "Doodlebugs." And while we didn't sing any ditty, as the entry says, many North Carolina children do, that memory, drawn while browsing through this book, is one of the very reasons to savor this magnificent reference work. There are many entries that may seem at first a little misplaced in such a specifically North Carolina-oriented encyclopedia—penmanship, for instance, or profanity. Well, the entry on profanity actually includes North Carolina-specific content: the "Clean Language clause" directing funeral directors not to use profanity in the presence of the deceased. These and other such entries help suggest a North Carolina identity—barbecue and basketball, the Hollerin' Contest and the Davie Poplar. Topics like these make the *Encyclopedia* more readable, "browseable", and just plain enjoyable.

This reviewer must confess the enjoyment in browsing the volume led to difficulty in keeping track of particular searches, but this did not undermine my appreciation for the scholarly uses of the book. Don't neglect this gem. The two previous efforts with the same title operate more like handbooks or compendia, while the current offering allows multiple voices to describe the living landscape of North Carolina. As a result of its size, there are sure to be minor lacunae you might quibble over, but the truth is, there's nothing else quite like this *Encyclopedia*. Get it.

Joseph Thomas
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LeRae Umfleet.
1898 Wilmington Race Riot Report.

Raleigh, Office of Archives and History, Department
of Cultural Resources, 2006. 480pp. Available as a
NC State Document: F3 102:W75 2006.

Established by act of the General Assembly in 2000, the Wilmington Race Riot Commission consisted of thirteen members whose terms of office expired at the end of December 2005. The General Assembly appointed six of the members, the Governor three (one of whom was to be an historian), the Mayor and City of Wilmington two members, and New Hanover County Board of Commissioners two members. The Commission was patterned after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission pioneered by Bishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa. The Commission held twenty-three meetings and three public hearings. The Commission's report includes findings of fact about the riot, and fifteen specific recommendations regarding "repair" of the damage caused to the moral, economic, civic, and political fabric of Wilmington and New Hanover County. In addition to a printed report, the Commission also issued web and microfiche versions. The web version may be viewed at: <http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/1898-wrrc/>

The Report essentially documents the only successful coup d'état in United States history. The people of Wilmington were inflamed by a viciously racist political campaign in the summer and fall of 1898, which focused much of its attention on an editorial by Alex Manly, the editor of Wilmington's African American newspaper. On November 10th 1898, Manly's press and office were destroyed by armed mobs. Rallied by Raleigh editor Josephus Daniels of the *News and Observer*, former Confederate officers, Democratic office holders, and train loads of whites roamed Wilmington with wagon-mounted machine guns and repeating rifles. Over twenty black and white individuals, who were specifically targeted, along with 2,100 other citizens were banished from town. Many individuals, according to the report, were found shot while trying to escape from trains hustling the banished out of town. The exact number of dead as a result of the riot will never be known. According to Umfleet, Wilmington became a model for the violent white-supremacy movement that culminated in Jim Crow legislation throughout the country. Other riots followed in Atlanta (1906), Tulsa (1921) and Rosewood, Florida (1923), but by the time of these events whites were firmly in control of governments in the South.

The report is well illustrated with a number of photographs, maps, and drawings that add a visual dimension to the stark facts presented by the Commission. There are fifteen appendices that provide useful additional data to the report such as tax lists, city directory analysis, a WLI (Wilmington Light Infantry) Roster, and copies of letters to President McKinley. Eleven maps illustrate boundaries of residential, business and race patterns in Wilmington. The Table of Contents is found after seven leaves of preliminary matter, a minor annoyance if you are trying to find anything. There is no index, but there is a bibliography. Some sources are cited multiple times in the bibliography (For example, the *History of the Wilmington Light Infantry* by Harry

Hayden). The bibliography ends with a brief section entitled “Literary Works” not written in standard bibliographic citation format. Nine web sites are listed, but they are general in nature (“Documenting the American South” for example). Some appendices such as the short essay entitled “The Psychology of the Wilmington Riot” seem to not have been written by anyone in particular and simply appear in the book. It’s not clear if these were written by the Commissioners or not. The “Psychology” essay appears to be driven largely by a work by Arnold P. Goldstein on *The Psychology of Group Aggression*, and cites what look like page numbers in the text from the Goldstein work, although this is not completely clear. (Goldstein, alas, did not make it into the “Bibliography” either.) There is a similarly un-attributed essay entitled “Education for Wilmington African Americans,” which has footnotes (this time at the bottom of the page) from “Reaves, *Strength Through Struggle*” which is cited in the “Bibliography.” Two of the best essays in the Appendix section are written by James Vincent Lowery. One deals with “Alexander Manly’s Confrontation with the Democratic Campaign” and the other covers the literary responses to the memory of the riot.

This is an important study and North Carolina libraries will want to add it to their collections. While some aspects of the Report appear to have been hastily constructed, North Carolinians will want to give the report thoughtful reading and review. Hopefully the topic will get a more closely-documented and definitive treatment in the future.

Ralph Scott
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Mary Best, ed.

**North Carolina’s Shining Hour:
Images and Voices from World War II.**

Greensboro: Our State Books, 2005.
180 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 0-9723396-5-5.

7hough one can read *North Carolina’s Shining Hour* quickly, for full effect, the reader will instead want to give it deeper attention. In part a “scrapbook” to honor the editor’s parents for their parts in World War II, it is beyond that a heartfelt memorial to all North Carolinians who played roles great and small in that global cataclysm. This work should stir readers’ hearts and touch their spirits, and for those North Carolinians of the “Greatest Generation” still among us, it will bring forth memories both sad and glorious.

North Carolina’s Shining Hour is not so much a history of the state’s role in the war as it is a deeply felt account of selected North Carolinians caught up in this massive conflict. It movingly juxtaposes anecdotes, memoirs, letters, photographs, and contemporary pieces from *Our State* magazine alongside newly written commentary by the editor and contributors to frame these personal experiences within the international struggle.

For instance, a draft of President Roosevelt’s “Day of Infamy” speech is followed by accounts of two North Carolina sailors who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor. Asheville’s Col. Robert K. Morgan piloted the famous B-17 “Memphis Belle” and the USS North Carolina figured heavily at Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. North Carolina’s own Edward R. Murrow looks weary in the streets of London from which he broadcast war news. A North Carolina bombardier was on the “Enola Gay” over Hiroshima, while Japan’s final surrender on the USS Missouri is remembered by George Rogers of Whiteville. High Point’s Bob Rankin helped guard the train carrying Roosevelt’s body from Warm Springs, Georgia back to New York.

The book appropriately showcases contributions by African Americans—some of the first black Marines trained near Camp Lejeune and Durham’s Wilson Eagleson was a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen—but also notes that such advances were within the framework of continuing segregation. The editor and her contributors also highlight the many roles of women during the war, including manufacturing munitions, maintaining homes, piloting planes, and caring for the sick and wounded.

North Carolina’s Shining Hour does not ignore the home front. The book addresses rationing (and getting around it), war bonds, the USO (the first government-built club was in Fayetteville), Victory Gardens and home canning, massive industrial expansion (Fontana Dam for hydroelectric power and the state’s textile mills for uniforms) and even popular music (Tommy Dorsey and Frank Sinatra playing in the UNC gymnasium). The aftermath of the war at home, such as ex-soldiers on the G.I. Bill attending the state’s universities and two million North Carolina Baby Boom infants, is touched on briefly.

Editorially, *North Carolina’s Shining Hour* is quite well done. One or two pictures per page with accompanying text give it a clean look. The editor and contributors allow the primary documents to speak for themselves, while supporting them with relevant secondary sources. Some flaws appear, however, such as dark type set against dark pictures making the text hard to read, but these are few.

I commend this book—first to those North Carolinians who fought and survived World War II and who are still among us, but perhaps more crucially, to us, their children and grandchildren, so that we do not forget what they did. This is a fitting memorial to North Carolina’s World War II generation, and all libraries in the state should acquire it.

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David T. Morgan.

**Murder along the Cape Fear: a North
Carolina Town in the Twentieth Century.**

Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 2005.
233pp. \$27.00. ISBN 0-86554-966-4.

Evidently, birthplace matters mightily. Though this reviewer currently hails from Fayetteville, North Carolina and has lived in North Carolina for more than thirty years, she is “still not from around here.” However, David T. Morgan, author of *Murder along the Cape Fear: a North Carolina Town in the Twentieth Century*, is a native son born and raised in Fayetteville. The author left the area before many of the murders he reports on were committed and Fayetteville’s reputation has alternated in that time between “Fayettenam” and “Fatalville.”

Morgan’s book is, in ten accessible chapters, the account of ten murders that occurred in Fayetteville and surrounding areas during the twentieth century, including the nationally known Jeffrey MacDonald and Velma Barfield cases. Though a credentialed historian, Morgan relied primarily on newspaper accounts of the events to pen the narrative, making his take on the murders an easy to read, enjoyable, and entertaining interpretation, if not strictly scholarly. According to the author, his goal was to tell the “story” of Fayetteville as opposed the “history” of Fayetteville. Though Morgan chose to call his book *Murder Along the Cape Fear* he wants the reader to understand that Fayetteville is much more than just a place where people are killed. He tends to lay the blame for Fayetteville’s ills at the feet of Fort Bragg or its soldiers, while moralizing about the dangers of drink and “dens of iniquity,” as if these were only readily available where large numbers of military personnel congregated.

A minor annoyance was the author’s repeatedly reminding the reader that the first year of a decade is not really the first year since there was no Year Zero. That is, the year 1970 is, in actuality, part of the decade of the 1960s, the year 1980 is the last year of the 1970s decade and not the first year of the 1980s, etc.

David Morgan is not the first author to examine Fayetteville and its relationship with Fort Bragg during this timeframe. Catherine Lutz’s *Homefront: a Military City and the American Twentieth Century* (Beacon Press, 2001) focuses on the symbiotic connection of Fayetteville and Fort Bragg, with similarly less than flattering conclusions. Nevertheless, the two works have very different goals.

Murder Along the Cape Fear is recommended for public libraries and the general reader.

Robin Imperial
Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center

Michael Joslin.

**Highland Handcrafters:
Appalachian Craftspeople.**

Boone: Parkway Publishers, Inc., 2005.
224pp. \$19.95 ISBN 1-933251-08-5.

What do fresco painters, stone masons, a chimney maker, a chef, and a gunpowder maker have in common? They are all among the more than fifty craftspeople featured in Michael Joslin’s tribute to his talented neighbors in the High Country of Western North Carolina and Tennessee.

Joslin is an artist himself, a photographer and writer who has lived in the Buladean community of Mitchell County since 1983. His writing has appeared in newspapers and magazines over the past twenty years and his photographs have been featured in a number of exhibitions throughout the region. In addition, he teaches literature, writing, and photography at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk.

In his introduction, Joslin describes his ambition to tell the full story of craftspeople in the mountain region, “from Mary Patton, whose powder blew the British from the Carolinas at Kings Mountain, to Billy Ruth Sudduth, a recent ‘settler’ who has brought basket-making to a high-art form.” However, he arranges the essays in alphabetical order, a somewhat confusing arrangement since the book’s introduction implied that they would appear chronologically. This might have better served his

stated purpose while at the same time giving the book a more cohesive overall structure. Finally, although the table of contents gave descriptive titles for each essay, the book would be even more useful had it included an index.

Many of the individuals whom Joslin has chosen to feature in this survey of talent are his friends, and it shows, especially in essays about living masters of vanishing skills, such as Joe Willis, who at 89 still hand-hews wooden handles for work implements. These essay tributes are accompanied by generally good-quality black and white photographs, presumably examples of the author's own work. However, owing to the nature of the subjects, the pictures might have been more illustrative had they been reproduced in color.

Highland Handcrafters, despite its few shortcomings, is a well-written and thoughtful examination of Appalachian crafts and craftspeople and would be a good addition to any public or secondary school library.

Peggy Higgins
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Jackson, Dot.

Refuge.

Charlotte: Novello Festival Press, 2006.
346 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 0-9760963-5-8.

Refuge is not your ordinary mystery novel. The murder touted in the cover description doesn't take place until well into the book and is not the main focus of the story. Instead, this book explores myriad secrets. What things can be shared only with family? What can only be told to a stranger, and what can hardly be admitted even to oneself? The story is narrated by Mary Seneca Steele, told retrospectively from her old age. She speaks to her only companion, a bird, telling of her life growing up in high society Charleston, S.C. in the early twentieth century. Mary made what she describes as a "suitable" marriage to an abusive man, eventually escaping him by stealing away with her children in the middle of the night. Mary and her kids travel to North Carolina to take refuge with her father's family, though she's never met them. Mary blossoms in the lush countryside and although she makes heart breaking--though seemingly inevitable--choices, she comes to live life on her own terms.

Dot Jackson is acclaimed for her journalism and other non-fiction, but this is her first novel. Promotional materials say this story has its roots in tales from Ms. Jackson's own family, and that its publication was delayed many years to avoid offending relatives. Mary is a thoroughly believable if contradictory mixture of vulnerability and strength, and Jackson's other characters are similarly complex. The town of Caney Forks is portrayed with such beauty and detail that the reader longs to explore it in person. Conversation is largely written in dialect and can sometimes be impenetrable ("bile" for "boil" and "dope" for "soda") but brings alive the flavor of the place and time. The title is extremely apt, as this book offers an intense and fascinating refuge from the workaday world. Appropriate for most libraries.

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