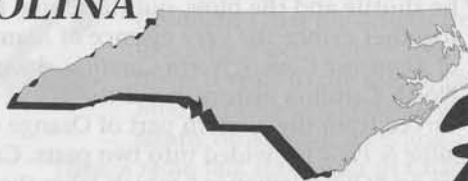


NORTH CAROLINA



Books

Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

7

his is an exciting time for the publication of southern Black history, with good, even excellent, historical studies about African Americans flowing from the presses. Many have been based on North Carolina, due in no small part to the excellence of the state's archival and manuscript resources. Sharon Holt's contribution is a close examination of how emancipated Black families in

Granville County pooled their resources to supplement and extend their field earnings. Previous studies have largely focused on farm tenures and men's earnings; Holt shows that grandparents, children, and especially wives made significant contributions to household income. She has dug deeply into county records and cross-checked one type of evidence against another to produce rich and moving stories of Blacks freed after the Civil War, but given little with which to succeed. Her work complements Robert Kenzer's more ambitious *Enterprising Southerners: Black Economic Success in North Carolina, 1865-1915* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1997).

Holt finds that once Black families obtained some land, typically one to six acres, they generally did not try to buy more land or equipment. She attributes this to cautionary real-life stories of those who over-extended themselves and lost everything, as well as to fear of reprisals if Blacks were discovered to be doing better than White farmers. Her greatest discovery, that Blacks often manipulated tenure and credit systems to their own advantage, has received widespread attention due to her award-winning 1994 article in the *Journal of Southern History*. Although Holt's research extends to 1900, she does not fully explore the changes occurring in transportation, agriculture, and the tenure system over that time and what effect, if any, these changes had on Black families and their relationships with the dominant race.

Holt attempts to generalize her findings beyond Granville County. The diligent student will not be misled by the geographic scattering of some of her examples, a failing common

enough, but those not familiar with North Carolina may think her arguments more buttressed by facts than they sometimes are. Her tendentious willingness to speculate on patterns and activities outside Granville County, especially in her discussions of schools and churches, would be more solidly grounded if she had paid greater attention to new secondary sources. Holt's bibliography reflects only a few of the latest relevant publications; she seems to be unaware of Edward L. Ayers's magisterial synthesis *The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction* and many other recent studies of African American life during the period. Most puzzling of all is that Holt ignored a more substantial study of Virginians that parallels her own work: Jeffrey R. Kerr-Ritchie's *Freedpeople in the Tobacco South: Virginia, 1860-1900* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999). Kerr-Ritchie completed his doctorate in 1993 at the University of Pennsylvania, just two years after Holt accepted her doctorate at the same school, but does not cite her dissertation either.

Index, bibliography, and endnotes are included; the book has no illustrations. The University of Georgia Press's practice of using only the short title in the footnotes, even on first citation, forces the reader to continually flip to the brief bibliography. Most North Carolina libraries will want to have this book despite its shortcomings.

— Patrick Valentine

Wilson County Public Library

Sharon Ann Holt.

Making Freedom Pay: North Carolina Freedpeople Working for Themselves 1865-1900.

Athens: University of Georgia, 2000. 188 pp. \$30.00.
ISBN 0-8203-2170-2.

7 he shuttle and the plow, quintessential metaphors for textiles and farming, together evince the very essence of Alamance County. *Shuttle & Plow: A History of Alamance County, North Carolina*, documents over three hundred years of North Carolina history, twice the age of Alamance County itself, which was carved from the western part of Orange County in 1849.

Shuttle & Plow is divided into two parts. Carole Watterson Troxler wrote eight chapters on "Old Allemance," which takes the reader through the Civil War; William Murray Vincent wrote seven chapters on "Recovery and Renewal," the modern-day period after the Civil War. A scholar's dream, this county history includes notes, bibliography, appendices, index, and sixty illustrations, including black-and-white portraits of historic figures and photographs of historic homes and buildings, and county and township maps.

Troxler and Vincent weave a seamless history. Troxler begins with a discussion of the trading paths created by the Siouan tribes that inhabited the area in the early 1600s, and introduces the first white European settlers, attracted to land for sale by Lord Granville. She elucidates the interaction between the sympathizers with the

Regulator Movement and the proud heirs of the Dissenting heritage from the British Isles, that culminated in both groups supporting the Revolutionary War. Her narrative of the years before and during the Civil War and the fate of both free and enslaved African Americans during this bloody period sets the stage for the second part of the history.

Vincent begins with Reconstruction and the growth of the textile industry that was the salvation of Alamance County, and, indeed, of the South. He covers reforms in education, including the founding of Elon College, agriculture, medicine, and the electrical and gas utilities. His chapter on race relations, particularly desegregation and its eventual demise, is a fascinating reminder of how far we have come with regard to political and social reforms, but how far we have to go to reach true equality in civil rights.

Troxler and Vincent show us the interaction between the inhabitants of Alamance County and the natural resources at their disposal, introducing many illustrious personages. Joseph Graham (1759-1836), a Revolutionary War patriot, was father of Governor William Alexander Graham (1804-1875), for whom the county seat was named. William Luther Spoon's (1862-1942) survey maps of the county were indispensable in his planning and supervision of the creation of new roads in the early twentieth century. Sallie Walker Stockard's (1869-1962) 1900 master's thesis at the University of North Carolina became the first book on Alamance County history. John Newlin (1776-1867) was a Piedmont Quaker, who was a long-term activist for the abolition of slavery. Archibald DeBow Murphey (1777-1832) is remembered for his proposals for internal improvements in North Carolina that would lead eventually to the development of a modern network of highways and to a statewide system of standardized public instruction. Giles Mebane (1809-1899), for whose family the town of Mebane was named, was a tireless promoter of railroads. Edwin Michael Holt (1807-1884), whose Alamance Cotton Factory was built in 1837, and James Spencer Love (1896-1962), founder of Burlington Mills in 1924, were leaders in the development and expansion of the textile industry in Alamance County.

Troxler, professor of history at Elon College and a past president of the Historical Society of North Carolina, is the author of *The Loyalist Experience in North Carolina* (Raleigh: Department of Cultural Resources, 1976), and numerous article-length Revolutionary studies. Vincent, executive director of the Alamance County Historical Museum, has served on the Alamance County Historic Properties Commission and is president of the Historic Stagville Foundation of Durham.

One of the finest county histories available, *Shuttle & Plow* will undoubtedly set the standard for future county histories. It deserves a place in all North Carolina collections in school, public, and academic libraries. As the handsome dust jacket synopsis reveals, Alamance County is truly a microcosm of the American South.

— Plummer Alston Jones, Jr.
Catawba College

Carole Watterson Troxler and William Murray Vincent.

Shuttle & Plow: A History of Alamance County, North Carolina.

[Graham, NC]: Alamance County Historical Association,
7519-C Lindley Mill Road, Graham, NC 27253, 1999. 541 pp.
Cloth, \$40.00 (includes tax, shipping, and handling).
No ISBN.



etter writing is an art that has quietly faded from our lives. In Judy Goldman's first full-length work of fiction, *The Slow Way Back*, we see how touching a well-written letter can be and the mysteries it can unravel. The novel reveals to the reader, piece by piece, the mystery called "Mother." Mixing prose and epistolary writing, Goldman treats us to a look at a family broken but mending.

Thea, a radio talk show host in Charlotte, is given letters that her grandmother wrote to Thea's great aunt around the time of the marriage of Thea's parents. Through these letters Thea hopes to gain a better understanding of her mother, who though loving and generous at times, was often withdrawn and a mystery to her daughter.

The difficulty is that the letters are written in Yiddish, and Thea, having let her Jewish upbringing slip away from her, is unable to read them on her own. Through her quest for translations, the reader is introduced to her sister Mickey, her aunt Florence, and other family members who encourage and discourage her quest. The varied personalities and individual motives of the family members are portrayed well. Judy Goldman does a good job of showing Thea's isolation from her roots, her relationships with various family members, and her struggle with her well-loved but misunderstood mother. It is a pleasure to read a book where letters and the art of letter writing is a focus.

Thea's desire to know more about her mother's past is intriguing and pulls the reader in, letter by letter. This makes the book read at a fast pace. This work would fit well into a public library, as it contains many threads to interest a variety of people.

Other books by Judy Goldman are *Holding Back Winter* and *Wanting to Know the End*. Both are books of poetry.

— Caroline Keizer

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Judy Goldman.

The Slow Way Back: A Novel.

New York: William Morrow, 1999. 274 pp. \$24.00.

ISBN 0-688-16598-2.



ira DeLand, Julie Fleming's reluctant protagonist, is more than a little overwhelmed. After her father's death, she discovers that she has inherited her childhood home, named Lila, under the condition that she must move it from Ona Island, North Carolina, to Mims, Arkansas, where the family now lives. On top of that, older brother Kearney insists that their much younger sister Kat must not be allowed to travel with Mira to North Carolina, because Kat might discover family secrets surrounding the home, and the reasons why the DeLands moved away several years before her birth.

Despite all their efforts Kat insists on accompanying Mira on the journey across the South and into the past. The sisters are accompanied by house movers Ray, a married flatbed driver who Mira finds very attractive, and his assistant, Aron. Along the way they meet Felissa, a teenage runaway staging her own kidnapping, and Aron quickly includes her in the moving adventure. In a series of flashbacks we meet the sisters' parents, now both dead, and get some tantalizing hints about past transgressions and indiscretions.

The sisters have a rough journey. The drive is long and monotonous, and the revelations about the past cause a split between them that is slow to heal. Mira is surprised to learn that Kat is aware of some of the supposedly well-buried family secrets, and wryly amused when Kat manages to worm out a few more, including their mother's infidelity and Mira's last visit to Lila during a personal crisis. Neither is prepared for her emotions when they learn the identity of the mysterious woman for whom the house was named. The drive home to Arkansas centers around the growing attraction between Ray and Mira and what that might mean when they return to their families; the deterioration and eventual rebuilding of the relationship between Mira and Kat; and Mira's own journey of self-discovery.

This interesting novel is full of ironic humor and has as many twists and turns as the road between Ona Island and Mims. The reader feels some distance from the characters even in their most intense moments, and Fleming's minimalist style leaves the reader wishing for more emotional engagement with Mira, Kat, and the others. Thanks, however, to the compelling story line and picturesque descriptions, Fleming succeeds in telling her story, and leaves the reader wanting to know what happens next.

Recommended for high school and public libraries.

— Joan Ferguson

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Julie Fleming.

Moving Lila.

New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000.

212 pp. \$22.95. ISBN 0-312-24409-6.



digging through the treasure trove of primary documents to create this slim volume must have been nearly as daunting a task as the process of draining Lake Mattamuskeet. It took the author eleven years to clean and sort the contents of five crates that had been stored in a barn for over half a century. The result is a pictorial review of a quixotic project that never quite attained its goal, but which stirred much interest, made a great deal of money for some investors, and, ultimately,

proved the value of leaving natural resources intact.

With its origins shrouded in mystery, Mattamuskeet, the state's largest natural lake, has been the target of entrepreneurs since colonial times. The rich, boggy lake bed attracted hopeful

farmers the way its waters drew game and waterfowl. By an act of state legislature in 1909, the Mattamuskeet Drainage District was established, and three separate reclamation projects followed — in 1916, 1920, and 1926 — but only the latter could be deemed successful. Using engineering techniques that originated in Holland, the location of the project was dubbed "New Holland." In the face of the Depression, spending money to pump water out of a lake to grow crops that didn't sell couldn't be justified. The New Holland Corporation was dissolved and Lake Mattamuskeet became a wildlife refuge under the auspices of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Since 1989, a different kind of reclamation project has been underway, as the citizens of Hyde County have sought to renovate the Mattamuskeet Lodge, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Like a family album, the book's black and white photographs and their captions provide a glimpse of a specific segment of Hyde County's past. Admirably succinct introductions to each chapter and the soft-cover format will appeal to the casual reader, and the carefully documented sources will please historians, but the lack of an index may aggravate researchers looking for quick answers. The book is most suited to an adult audience in public libraries.

— Marie Spencer

New Hanover County Public Library

Lewis C. Forrest.

Lake Mattamuskeet: New Holland and Hyde County [Images of America series].

Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 1999.
128 pp. \$18.99 + \$3 s/h. ISBN 0738502715.



hough far from the major battlefields of the Civil War, western North Carolinians nonetheless fought a true "civil" war—one that pitted neighbor against neighbor with as much physical and psychological violence as that found on any battlefield. While initially backing the Confederacy at the beginning of the war, western North Carolinians' attitudes became less supportive as Confederate army and government demands for men and materials grew. In 1863, the forced conscription of men from western North Carolina brought on a severe economic downturn for everyone remaining in the area. Left with only small, ineffective groups of "home guards," those too young or old to be in the regular army, the area was open to federal attacks from east Tennessee, the depredations of Confederate deserters using the mountains as hiding places, and the general lawlessness that pervaded the area at the time.

Surveying Alleghany County south to Rutherford County and west to the counties that border Tennessee, the authors of *The Heart of Confederate Appalachia* examine the sociological impact of the war on

western North Carolina by exploring a variety of topics including secessionist sentiments, mobilization, guerrilla warfare, economics, slavery, and the final military collapse of the region. Of special interest is their research into women's roles during the war. Not only were women thrust into leadership on family farms and small businesses, they were also frequently the targets of roving gangs of thugs and, in the most bitter battles of all, the savage invectives of their neighbors. This latter fate was especially hard on women who espoused the Union's cause.

Much of the research in the book comes from original documents and letters. It is both refreshing and saddening to hear the voices of those who endured the war years; there is a great poignancy in their pleas to the governments in Raleigh and Richmond for relief from their suffering.

The authors have done an excellent job in covering a geographically large area. This outstanding work offers a new perspective on the civilian side of the war in North Carolina and should be purchased by all libraries interested in the Civil War, North Carolina, and the Appalachian area. It

is suitable for high school as well as college level collections. The volume includes black-and-white maps and photographs, notes, and an extensive bibliography.

— John Welch

State Library of North Carolina

John C. Inscoe and Gordon B. McKinney.

The Heart of Confederate Appalachia: Western North Carolina in the Civil War.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina
Press, 2000. 368 pp. \$39.95.
ISBN 0-8078-2544-1.

W

hich North Carolina counties get the most tornadoes? Which have the highest migration, average wages, number of international firms, ozone levels? And when you're trying to answer questions about North Carolina, what are your preferences? Interesting text? Beautiful photographs? Statistical tables? Colorful maps? Exciting graphs? All of these? Here's your book.

This is not a conventional atlas arranged by geography; rather, it's an analytical atlas where every chapter has a theme: the natural environment, history, population, education, health, culture, economy, agriculture, mining, manufacturing, transportation and utilities, government and politics, crime, and tourism. Each chapter analyzes long-term trends, provides historical background and context, discusses current issues, and speculates on future trends and challenges. The text is enhanced with colorful photos, tables, maps, and graphs. Under "Transportation and Utilities," for instance, maps show percent of vehicle registration increase by county, volume of traffic, bridge conditions, pavement conditions, highway improvements, and truck volume. Tables and figures present data on highways, urban public transit systems, and travel. Bibliographical references direct readers interested in more information and detailed statistics.

Douglas M. Orr, Jr., and Alfred W. Stuart, editors.

The North Carolina Atlas: Portrait for a New Century.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000.
461 pp. \$45.00. ISBN 0-8078-2507-7.

Another feature is a collection of short essays, some by well-known North Carolinians. Charles Kuralt remembers his childhood in Dare County, William Friday discusses higher education, former governors Robert W. Scott and James Martin write about politics, Tom Wicker talks about growing up in Hamlet, and Doris Betts muses on the literary renaissance in North Carolina. Topics of other essays include aquaculture, banking, challenges of the new century, famous labor disputes, tobacco, urban terminology, and women in the workforce. In the final chapter, Orr and Stuart look at the future in relation

to economic change, population change, the urban/rural balance, regionalism and planning, sustainable development and "smart" growth, and new geographic divisions in the state. They conclude: "The challenge of thinking and planning in this twenty-first century context will call for creative thinking within a whole new paradigm."

Douglas M. Orr, Jr., is president of Warren Wilson College in Asheville; Alfred W. Stuart is Professor of Geography at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Orr and Stuart also edited the 1975 publication, *North Carolina Atlas: Portrait of a Southern State*. Many of the contributors to the current atlas are from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Other contributors are faculty members at various University of North Carolina campuses, as well as professors from Virginia and Florida.

The goal of the editors of the *North Carolina Atlas* was to enhance our understanding of this changing state so that citizens and policy makers can approach the future in a more rational and informed manner. They have certainly achieved this goal, and this important work should be available in school, public, and special libraries in North Carolina.

—Michael Van Fossen
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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If you are not already convinced that North Carolina is the "goodliest land," you will be persuaded once you have read this book. Edited by Dirk Frankenberg, late professor in the Marine Science Program at UNC-Chapel Hill (he died shortly after completing this book), the guide begins at the coast of North Carolina and moves across the state, ending in the Southwest corner.

According to the preface, the purpose of the book is "to present driving tours of some of the state's most attractive and interesting natural areas, identify learning experiences in each tour, and make the tours and experiences accessible to a wide general audience, from school children to adults." The book succeeds admirably, describing the natural wealth and unique features of North Carolina in thirty-eight easily understood essays grouped into four sections (coast, coastal plain, Piedmont, and mountains).

Frankenberg's introduction serves as an overview of North Carolina's geology, climate, plants, and animals. Each of the essays that follows provides a detailed driving tour — generally requiring a day or less to complete — and identifies the specific ecological lesson to be learned therein. Each chapter includes a detailed map of the tour route with stops clearly marked, discussion of the geology and animal and plant life of each area, and a description of the effects on the area of climate, weather events, and development by humans. The tour descriptions are frequently enhanced with historical information about the region. The authors include hiking and biking trails located along the tour routes, and often identify overnight accommodations for the longer tours. They also include the phone numbers for park or forest offices where specific hours, events, and fees may be determined.

Frankenberg, who has written several books on the marine life and coastal ecology of North Carolina, wrote nearly all of the chapters about tours of the coast. Leading naturalists in the state wrote the remaining chapters.

The book is well organized and interestingly written. Chapters are liberally illustrated with black-and-white photographs of features described in the text. Frankenberg has written a concluding section of "Suggestions for Further Reading," which will be most helpful to those whose curiosity is piqued by the tours. An index is also provided. Because these essays were independently written and designed to stand alone, there is some repetition. For instance, the term "pocosin" is defined in several chapters. This repetition, however, is necessary for those who may choose only specific tours.

This excellent work detailing the rich natural diversity of North Carolina deserves a place in all public and academic libraries in the state. High school science teachers planning field trips will also find it most useful.

— Joline R. Ezzell
Duke University Library

Iar Heel readers will find high drama in our own back yard, mixed with meticulously documented history, in *Communists on Campus: Race, Politics, and the Public University in Sixties North Carolina*. Author William J. Billingsley focuses on the 1963 "Speaker Ban" Law passed by the North Carolina General Assembly. Prominent characters in the cast include Jesse Helms, William Friday, Terry Sanford, Frank Porter Graham, George Wallace, J. Edgar Hoover, and Governor Dan Moore.

Billingsley begins with the passing of House Bill 1395, "An Act to Regulate Visiting Speakers at State Supported Colleges and Universities," on June 25, 1963. The law made it illegal for any speaker to appear at a state-funded college in North Carolina if the speaker was "a known member of the Communist Party," or "known to advocate the overthrow of the Constitution of the United States or the State of North Carolina" or had "pleaded the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States in refusing to answer any question, with respect to communist or subversive connections."

Obvious factors leading to the passage of the Speaker Ban include the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Bay of Pigs invasion, which had heightened awareness of Communist

Dirk Frankenberg, ed.

Exploring North Carolina's Natural Areas: Parks, Nature Preserves, and Hiking Trails.

Chapel Hill and London: The University of
North Carolina Press, 2000.
412 pp. \$18.95 (paper). ISBN 0-8078-4851-4.

William J. Billingsley.

Communists on Campus: Race, Politics, and the Public University in Sixties North Carolina.

Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1999.
336 pp. \$ 29.95. ISBN 0-8203-2109-5.

influences near the United States as well as within the country. The Joseph McCarthy hearings were recent events, and Civil Rights demonstrations were on the rise. Both Black and White activists were calling for immediate abolition of Jim Crow laws. In the context of all this turbulence, Billingsley portrays the Speaker Ban Law as a reactionary measure passed by conservatives to maintain the status quo in the social and political fabric of North Carolina.

The Speaker Ban Law hit a major obstacle when the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) threatened to deny accreditation to the University of North Carolina unless the law was altered. SACS required that university trustees have authority over speakers invited to campuses, rather than the government having that power by force of law. The law was ultimately judged as constitutionally flawed and repealed in 1968.

This book includes extensive notes and bibliography, index, and an eight-page inset of illustrations. It is a very well thought-out work of scholarly research with a dramatic undertone, and would work well as a reading in college level North Carolina history classes. It is also appropriate for public library and university library collections on North Carolina history, as a resource for individuals wanting to learn the history of North Carolina's civil rights development.

— John Zika

Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County

Siamese Twins Chang and Eng have been a topic of fascination, fear, and suspicion since they were born in Siam (now Thailand) in 1811. They were born conjoined at their chests by a cartilaginous ligament. At first merely a curiosity in Siam, they were introduced to the rest of the world after they were "discovered" by Robert Hunter, a Scottish merchant.

Chang and Eng is Strauss's first novel. He writes about the lives of the world's most famous conjoined twins from Eng's perspective, in a fluid narrative that draws the reader into the story. Strauss's account includes not only major and minor events from the real twins' lives but also many historical details that flesh out the novel very convincingly. It is interesting to note what Strauss leaves out of his fictionalized account, such as the fact that the twins had seven

siblings, and that they were discovered by Robert Hunter, not Abel Coffin, the captain of the ship on which they traveled to Boston. These inconsistencies are merely a reminder that the book is a novel and not Eng's diary, which is often easy to forget!

Particularly enjoyable portions of *Chang and Eng* are set in Surry and Wilkes Counties, North Carolina, where the brothers retired and married the Yates sisters. Strauss creates a very convincing picture of how difficult life must have been for the twins in the very rural town of Wilkesboro. The author also manages to convey the twins' closeness and the major differences in their personalities; their desire to remain conjoined as children and desire for disunion later in life.

Martell's *Millie-Christine: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* is an account of the lives of Millie and Christine McKoy, conjoined twins born in Columbus County, North Carolina, in 1851. Joined at the lower spine, the sisters were born into slavery, but became so successful touring and entertaining audiences around the world that they were eventually able to buy the farm on which their entire family had been held as slaves.

Martell became interested in the history of Millie and Christine McKoy after discovering a booklet about the twins in a library in Whiteville, North Carolina. Her history is the most comprehensive available concerning Millie-Christine and their truly fascinating lives

together. Their careers as exhibitionists were possibly more successful than that of Eng and Chang, yet few people have taken enough interest to record their story. They were considered beautiful, refined, and talented by some, and horrific by others. They entertained royalty and befriended a host of the side-show personalities that performed with them. Martell manages to pack in a great deal of information about her subjects' lives and careers, but has a tendency to make unnecessary conclusions about events and motivations. The book includes many black-and-white illustrations, an index and a bibliography; however, because the author failed to add endnotes to her history, readers may feel that she relies too heavily on too few sources.

Both *Chang and Eng: A Novel* and *Millie-Christine: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* would make excellent additions to any public library. Academic libraries may want to consider both volumes for their popular reading collections.

— John F. Ansley

Durham County Library North Carolina Collection

Darin Strauss.

Chang and Eng: A Novel.

New York: Dutton, 2000.

323 pp. \$23.95. ISBN 0-5259-4512-1.

Joanne Martell.

Millie-Christine: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.

Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 2000.

294 pp. Paper, \$12.95. ISBN 0-8958-7188-2.

Cloth, \$17.95. ISBN 0-8958-7194-7.

Cally Redd's son was sold in 1861. Fathered by their master, Jennis Redd, he was falsely accused of stealing a pair of earrings from Jennis's wife, who had seized the chance to remove this daily reminder of her husband's infidelity. Saddened and enraged, Cally reasoned: "If I'm going to lose my boy to a pair of earrings, then I am damn well going to have those earrings," so she stole the earrings herself and buried them in her cabin. The earrings, like their story, were handed down from one generation to the next.

Nancy Peacock's most recent novel, *Home Across the Road*, tells this tale through the voice of Cally's great-granddaughter, China. From her front porch across the street from the old Roseberry Plantation, China spends her final days recalling the histories of the family who lived and worked there: the "white Redds," who owned the house, and the "black Redds," who served them first in slavery and then in freedom.

China's perspective of Roseberry is very different from the aristocratic image the white owners of the home attempt to portray, revealing the more intimate details of life in the house. Though China recalls hard times, her tales also demonstrate the strength of the "black Redds." Her memories chronicle successive generations' struggle for independence, from emancipation to their complete break with Roseberry. China also outlines the deterioration of the White branch of the family: the alcoholism, infidelity, child abuse, and financial woes that lead to its downfall. China subtly reveals that though they believed themselves superior to their servant-cousins, members of the White family were largely dependent upon the strength of the Black branch for survival. In fact, as soon as China and her family completely withdraw from the White Redds, that branch literally shrivels and dies.

Ms. Peacock does a remarkable job of portraying various characters, their stories and emotions. Like her first novel, *Life Without Water*, this is a coming-of-age story, but one that examines the development of multiple characters over several generations. Because the author channels commentary through a modern character, she is able to jump successfully from past to present, constructing an even more intriguing and powerful story. Most of the characters are richer and deeper than those in her first novel. Through them, Ms. Peacock artfully explores the story not only of the Redds, but also that of race relations in the South.

The novel's captivating look at southern families makes it well-suited for public, high school, and other academic libraries. Set in North Carolina, the book is also appropriate for any special library concerned with the collection of southern works.

— Laura Young Baxley
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Nancy Peacock.
Home Across the Road.

Atlanta: Longstreet Press, 1999.
249 pp. \$18.95. ISBN: 1-56352-509-7.

When Lindy Jain's older sister, June, is found murdered in her home, Lindy's life in Charlotte, North Carolina, begins to unravel. Everything in her life becomes informed by grief — her career as a nurse in a major medical center, her impending marriage, her remaining family — and grief is not a rational emotion. As the months pass and Lindy's grief does not recede, she lets go of her job, her fiancé, her family ties, until almost nothing connects her to who and what she was before her sister's death. And since she believes a heart as badly damaged as her own may as well be broken completely, she determines to leave her life behind, and sets out to do so, without a word to anyone, taking with her only the one thing that still remains of her sister, her baby son.

"There are parts of Lindy's mind that don't necessarily meet, one thing not always leading to another." And so it is with her story — instead of following a linear progression of events and their attendant emotions, we wander across an emotional landscape on a faint path illuminated by the author's lyrical evocation of the main character's thoughts and feelings. We, like Lindy, may wonder where exactly we are, but we are never really lost.

Lindy's odyssey into the past to find a new beginning starts with a car abandoned on the wrong side of town, a window broken, a child's car seat empty. Her physical journey terminates in Galveston, Texas, at her grandmother Esther's huge, vacant house, the house where she and June spent their childhood summers. It is a place she associates with happiness, innocence, hope, and possibility. It is here she feels she can start over, as an aunt, if not a sister. When she reconnects (and falls in love) with Orrin Cordray, the son of her grandmother's gardener and a constant third in those summers with June, and her grandmother, now in a nursing home, she gradually and inexorably comes to realize that the past and the present are not subject to separation. We may not be able to go home again, but neither can we ever completely escape it.

Ashley Warlick's first novel, *The Distance from the Heart of Things*, made her the youngest-ever recipient of the Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship Award, and this, her second book, proves that accomplishment was not a fluke.

— Samantha Hunt
New Hanover County Public Library

Ashley Warlick.
The Summer After June.

Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Co., 2000.
254 pp. \$23.00. ISBN 0395926904.

H

e was smart. He could write about anything and it was magic. From childhood, he had the most wonderful voice, warm and rich and deep. Busy people stopped what they were doing to hear his stories. Most of all, he listened. He was interested in everything you had to say, whether the conversation was the state of the nation or the vagaries of raising corn. He was Charles Kuralt, and there was no one else like him.

Remembering Charles Kuralt is not a biography, but a series of loosely chronological reminiscences of the many friends and colleagues interviewed by Grizzle, a contributing editor to North Carolina's *Our State* magazine. Using his own voice, but heavily sprinkling the text with quotations from the interviews and other sources, Grizzle follows Kuralt from his boyhood in North Carolina through his outstanding broadcasting career to his untimely death in 1997.

Ralph Grizzle.

Remembering Charles Kuralt.

Asheville: Kenilworth Media, 2000.
259 pp. \$25.00. ISBN 0-9679096-0-0.

Early on Kuralt knew he wanted to be a journalist. He published his own newspaper from about the age of seven, selling it to neighbors for a few cents a copy. As a teenager he wrote for the *Charlotte News*, the city's afternoon paper, and he had a radio show on WAYS at age 13. At UNC-Chapel Hill he was elected editor of *The Daily Tar Heel*, then returned to the *Charlotte News*. When his "People" column earned the 23-year-old the prestigious Ernie Pyle Memorial Award and CBS sent him a letter of congratulations, he wrote back, "If you really mean you're impressed by

this, isn't there something you could do?" CBS came through with a job in their radio newsroom, the stomping ground of Kuralt's hero, Edward R. Murrow. By 1960 Kuralt was named the host of *Eyewitness to History*, and CBS approved his idea for *On the Road* in 1967. The first telecast, a two-minute piece from a side road in Vermont, began, "It is death that causes this blinding show of color. But it is a fierce and flaming death." CBS loved it.

Kuralt stayed with CBS for 37 years, mostly doing the American snapshot mini-documentaries at which he excelled, but the crushing work load, chain smoking, and poor eating habits finally caught up with him. He was tired, the constant stress of meeting his own impossibly high standards all those years taking its toll. He resigned in 1994, and died, appropriately enough, on July 4, 1997. His friend Bill Friday honored his wish to be buried in Chapel Hill.

This book should be in every library. It is easy to read, insightful, and especially valuable for the photographs and the inclusion of some of Kuralt's writing. Given the transitory nature of broadcast media, it is sorrowfully likely that much of his work will be lost.

— Suzanne Wise
Appalachian State University



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“You’re not smart enough to be a farmer, boy. You’d better be a banker.”

His father’s words rang in the ears of Hugh McColl, Jr., as he reluctantly reported for work at the American Commercial Bank in Charlotte on September 1, 1959.

Hugh McColl, Jr., was born in Bennettsville, South Carolina, great-grandson of Confederate veteran Duncan Donald McColl, who after the war went on to become a widely revered citizen of the town, a magistrate, banker, and manufacturer, credited with guiding

Bennettsville through the uncertain years of Reconstruction. McColl’s heritage was one of civic responsibility, commitment, courage, and excellence. His own area of expertise, during his peacetime Marine Corps service and later as a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was poker.

Hugh McColl eventually found his stride, however. Married with his first child on the way, he learned the banking business from the bottom up, putting in long hours on the road tending to clients and looking for new business. Within the year, American Commercial Bank and Security National of Greensboro merged to produce North Carolina National Bank.

Addison Reese, the director of the new entity, intended to “beat The Wachovia,” the only other bank in North Carolina operating in more than one county, the state government’s bank, and one of the most important banks in the Southeast. Reese was a strong proponent of diversity in his workforce long before it was fashionable or even acceptable. His inclusion of minorities and women resonated with McColl, who would make it a key element of his own corporate commitment in the years to come.

North Carolina National Bank formed the holding company NCNB in 1968, and opened a branch in London in 1971. By 1980 NCNB was the largest bank in North Carolina, unquestionably surpassing “The Wachovia.” Under the leadership of McColl, who became chairman in 1983, NCNB became the first southern bank to span six states. In 1991 NCNB renamed itself NationsBank, for the first

time leaving North Carolina completely out of its title. 1998 brought a merger with BankAmerica, and in 1999 the name changed to the present Bank of America.

Ross Yockey’s *McColl: The Man with America’s Money* is a fascinating chronicle of a smart man dogged by insecurities, who compensated with an aggressive ambition that made him the CEO of the nation’s largest bank. It offers a snapshot of banking in the hectic decades of the ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s.

Ross Yockey lives in Charlotte, is an experienced newspaper and television journalist, and has authored biographies of orchestra conductors Zubin Mehta and Andre Previn. He acknowledges his debt to Harold Covington’s *The Story of Nationsbank* (UNC Press, 1993) and to the rich archival materials on the bank and the McColl family available at UNC-Chapel Hill. Ultimately, though, the book draws most heavily on the memories of McColl, his employees, associates, and some family members for its vitality. This biography is sympathetic, attempting to place the reader inside McColl’s head as he strategizes, reacts, and attacks. The writing is breezy and fast-paced, so readers may find themselves mentally casting the movie version.

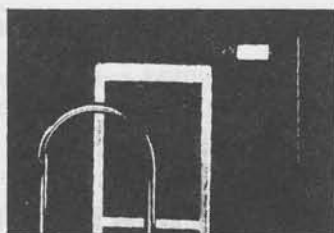
There is still plenty of room for a more objective, authoritative biography of this significant Tar Heel, recently ranked number one in *Business North Carolina* magazine’s 1999 list of North Carolina’s most powerful people. Nonetheless, readers with an interest in North Carolina banking and the man who has dominated it will find this book absorbing. *McColl: the Man With America’s Money* should find a place on the shelf of public and academic libraries alike.

— Bryna Coonin
East Carolina University

McColl: The Man with America’s Money.

Marietta, GA.: Longstreet, Inc., 1999.
636 pp. \$40.00 . ISBN 1-56352-539-9.

Ross Yockey.



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7

here is a line on the Minotaur's body. It separates where his bull head meets the rest of his human frame. That line, that demarcation, aches. It chafes, peels, and splits. The Minotaur tends that line daily, washing it, rubbing it in balm.

This slow-ache of a line is the crux of Steven Sherrill's first book.

Yes, he's the same Minotaur we've always known, creature of the Cretan labyrinth, the love child of Pasiphae and what must have been a quite handsome member of the stockyard. In Steven Sherrill's account, this mythic devourer of virgins struck a deal with Theseus, pretended to be slain, and then spent the next 5,000 years wandering from place to place. When the readers meet him, it is 1990, and "M," as his friends call him, is living at the Lucky-U Trailer Estates in Piedmont, NC, driving a 1975 Vega hatchback, and slinging food at a steakhouse called Grub's Rib.

Steven Sherrill.

The Minotaur Takes a Cigarette Break.

Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 2000.
313 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 0-89587-197-1.

Stranger things have happened.

Not that anyone in Sherrill's book thinks it strange that the local carver of steaks sports a hairy head, two horns, and a tongue too cumbersome to wrap around the intricacies of most human speech. He is a curiosity to the locals, if he is anything at all. Not feared or hated, as he has been in previous centuries, simply tolerated.

We know M's neighbors. We know his co-workers. They own junkyards, walk around in their boxer shorts, and yell out the back window at their kids. They wait tables. They fix cars. They move, and M helps carry the boxes. Because M is tolerated, because almost no one

looks twice at him, this book works. Sherrill's ability to weave the strangeness of the situation, the very otherness of a mythic beast, into the everyday, baked-potato-and-T-bone world of the suburban, lower middle-class South, is nothing less than Art. Art with a capital "A." Sherrill's depiction of behind-the-scenes restaurant work is especially noteworthy: the rush, the sweat, the slippery floors, the stinking garbage, and the petty waiter rivalries and juvenile dishwasher intrigues.

Even though the world seems changeless to the immortal half-man/half-bull, the reader knows something is about to happen. Something is about to change in M's life. As M goes into work, mends his clothes, and works on his car, as he tends his body's chafing line of separation, we wait. Sherrill subtly and expertly creates the suspense. When the event happens, when that change takes place, we are allowed to see it from M's perspective, and we know that this too will be subsumed, the centuries will roll on, and still M will wander on, will tend his aching line.

Where mythology meets the mundane, there is a line. And there is Steven Sherrill's story.

— Kevin Cherry

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OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST ...

Dr. John M. Hall, a dentist in Clarkton, North Carolina, writes about surviving and transcending a childhood of physical and emotional abuse as a member of an extremely separatist family church in *Betrayal and Escape*. This highly personal account will inspire and affirm other survivors. (2000; Vantage Press, Inc., 516 West 34th Street, New York, New York 10001; 286 pp.; paper, \$13.95; ISBN 0-533-13228-2.)

In *Outer Banks Architecture: An Anthology of Outposts, Lodges, and Cottages*, Marimar McNaughton sets out to preserve the record of the native architecture of the area, and to tell the stories of the people who live there. With black-and-white photographs. (2000; John F. Blair, Publisher, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; 114 pp.; paper, \$14.95; ISBN 0-89587-192-0.)

Volume XI of *The Papers of General Nathanael Greene* is now available, including 1,032 documents from April–September of 1782. Dennis M. Conrad is the editor. (2000; The University of North Carolina Press, P. O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; 811 pp.; cloth, \$95.00; ISBN 0-8078-2551-4.)

Allen Paul Speer and Janet Barton Speer have compiled the letters and diaries of two antebellum Piedmont North Carolina sisters, Jennie and Ann Speer. *Sisters of Providence: The Search for God in the Frontier South (1834-1858)* provides a window on their spiritual, intellectual, and social lives. A section of family photographs is included. (2000; The Overmountain Press, P.O. Box 1261, Johnson City, TN 37605; 290 pp.; paper, \$19.95; ISBN 1-57072-158-0.)

Celebrating the centennary of Thomas Wolfe's birth, the original, unabridged version of the novel that the world knows as *Look Homeward, Angel* will be released this October under the title *O Lost: A Story of the Buried Life*. Editors Arlyn and Matthew J. Bruccoli have restored the material cut by Maxwell Perkins in the original 1929 publication. (2000; University of South Carolina Press, 937 Assembly Street, Carolina Plaza, 8th Floor, Columbia, SC 29208; 65 pp.; paper, \$29.95; ISBN 1-57003-369-2.)

David Cecelski's essays about ferreting out obscure oral histories, travel journals, and lost memoirs of coastal North Carolina have been a feature in *Coastwatch* magazine. They are collected, with black-and-white photographs and illustrations, in *A Historian's Coast: Adventures into the Tidewater Past*. (2000; John F. Blair, Publisher, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; 184 pp.; paper, \$16.95; ISBN 0-89587-189-0.)

Robert S. Neale has written a local history of *The Bank of Cape Fear of Wilmington, North Carolina*. (1999; The Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, The Latimer House, 126 South Third Street, Wilmington, NC 28401; 130 pp. \$15.00; ISBN 0-9673815-2-5.)

Vision Quest: A Visual Journey Through North Carolina's Lower Roanoke River Basin is a labor of love and three years' work by Carl V. Galie, Jr. The project was funded by an Emerging Artist Grant from the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Arts Council. In four brief essays and a series of truly luminous, breathtaking, mostly full-page photographs, Galie makes an impassioned case for conservation of an area the Nature Conservancy has designated as one of the "Last Great Places." A map of the area in question decorates the back cover of the dust jacket. (1998; Red Maple Press, P. O. Box 20143, Winston-Salem, NC 27120; unpaginated, about 80 pp.; cloth, \$29.95; ISBN 0-9669876-0-8.)

Marianne Gingher, author and writing professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has compiled a whimsical list of instructions on *How to Have a Happy Childhood*. Illustrated with family photographs and graphics, the text is a mixture of the philosophical (reason not to kill a black widow spider: "Smashing something you fear is always less illuminating than learning to live in proximity with its tiny wicked strategies."), the sentimental ("Have a best friend and love her for how she brings out the best in you."), the practical ("Your brothers will want to play Fifty-Two Card Pickup, but don't agree to it"), and the mischievous ("pretend that the kitchen counter-tops are cliffs or mountain tops. Scale them in your bare feet.") Children's collections may find a place for this small volume, but its primary use will be as a gift. (2000; Zuckerman Cannon Publishers, distributed by John F. Blair, Publisher, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; unpaginated, about 60 pp.; cloth, \$16.00; ISBN 0-9664316-1-8.)

Alan Stoudemire's memoir of an interracial friendship between two boys growing up in Lincolnton, North Carolina, is titled *A Place at the Table*. Begun when his friend Boyce Blake died of Lou Gehrig's Disease in 1997, the book was written during his own treatment for melanoma, and completed not long before his own death at age 49. (2000; Cherokee Publishing Company, P.O. Box 1730, Marietta, GA 30061-1730; 260 pp.; cloth, \$26.95; ISBN 0-87797-287-7.)

Christopher Camuto's *Another Country: Journeying Toward the Cherokee Mountains* has been reissued in paperback. It was originally published by Henry Holt in 1997, and previously reviewed in *North Carolina Libraries*, Spring 1998. (2000; The University of Georgia Press, 330 Research Dr, Athens, GA 30602-4901; 351 pp.; paper, \$16.95; ISBN 0-8203-2237-7.)

Thomas H. Thornburg, *An Introduction to Law for North Carolinians*. 2nd edition. (2000; Institute of Government, C.B. 3330 Knapp Building, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330; 23 pp.; paper, \$11.00; ISBN 1-56011-374-X)

David M. Lawrence. *Economic Development Law for North Carolina Local Governments*. (2000; Institute of Government, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330; 185 pp.; paper, \$25.00; ISBN 1-56011-364-2)

William A. Campbell. *North Carolina Guidebook for Registers of Deeds*. 8th edition. (2000; Institute of Government, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330; 199 pp.; paper, \$24.50; ISBN 1-56011-353-7.)

Professor Charles Royster does an outstanding job of chronicling the life and times of the colonial Virginia magnates whose mixture of greed, intrigue, and speculation rivaled anything that modern-day America has to offer in *The Fabulous History of the Dismal Swamp Company: A Story of George Washington's Times*. Though not a history of the Dismal Swamp itself, this work shows again how even the mighty can get caught up in quicksand of their own making. This is historical writing at its best—a real page turner. It belongs in all public library collections, especially those interested in northeastern North Carolina and southside Virginia. Libraries seeking a more popular history of the Swamp itself should purchase copies of Bland Simpson's *The Great Dismal*. (2000; Knopf, 201 E. 50th St, New York, NY; 622 pp.; \$35.00; ISBN 0-679-43345-7.)