

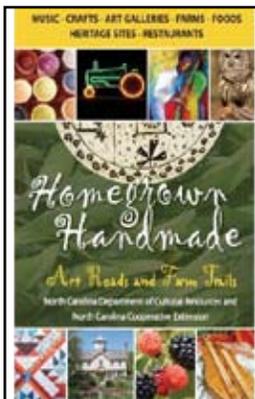
# North Carolina Books

Eileen McGrath, compiler



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources and North Carolina Cooperative Extension

## ■ Homegrown Handmade: Art Roads and Farm Trails



Winston-Salem: John F. Blair,  
2008. 387 pp. \$19.95. ISBN  
978-0-89587-355-2.

Corn mazes, farmers markets, historical houses, orchards, watermelon festivals, and much more in North Carolina can be found with the help of *Homegrown Handmade: Art Roads and Farm Trails*. The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources and North Carolina Cooperative Extension worked together to publish this treasure-filled book that takes the reader all over this state in search of local farms and homemade crafts. This book builds upon and complements two previously published guidebooks, *Farms, Gardens & Countryside Trails of Western North Carolina* and *The Craft Heritage Trails of Western North Carolina*, which were produced by the North Carolina

organization HandMade in America.

The scope of the book includes three geographic regions: the piedmont, the coast and the foothills. In all, seventy-six counties of North Carolina are covered in this guidebook. These counties are divided up into sixteen trails, each in its own color-coded chapter. Each chapter is arranged alphabetically by city or town name, with sites grouped by location. Every site receives a brief description, address, hours of operation, website, and contact information. Helpful and easy to identify symbols are also included to designate the types of locations: arts and crafts, agricultural, and other. Useful information about the location, such as group accommodation, signage, parking, restrooms, and handicap accessibility is also given.

Overall, I found this book to be a wonderful resource, filled with colorful pictures and information about all types of local treasures. The description for each site was brief, yet thorough. I was pleased with the amount of information available about each site and appreciated the simple symbols used. I would recommend and emphasize that users carefully read the introduction to this guidebook. I found it very helpful and it gave me a greater understanding and appreciation of the work that was done to produce this book.

Only the index disappointed. Although the index is quite complete in listing cities, counties, and individual sites, I believe that having a subject index would have been helpful and made for a more comprehensive index. If the reader knows the name of a specific place or a general location then the index is incredibly useful, but if someone is looking for only one type of site to visit (i.e., farmers markets, pottery shops, or bed and breakfasts), then the user will have a more difficult time.

Overall, I found this book to be a wonderful guidebook to the arts, farms, and handmade crafts of central and coastal North Carolina. This book is an essential addition to any public library in North Carolina, as well as any academic or school library, especially if they already own the two complementary guidebooks.

*Thea Allen*

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Edward P. Norvell

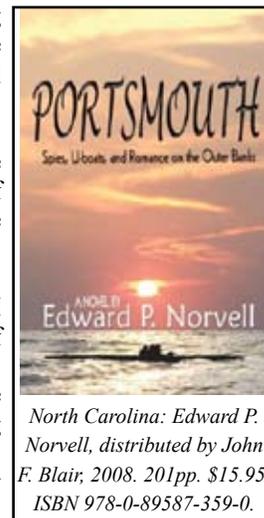
## ■ Portsmouth: Spies, U-boats, and Romance on the Outer Banks

Edward P. Norvell, an attorney working for non-profit land trusts across the state of North Carolina, has written several short stories and a previous book, *Southport, a Story of Second Chances*. He has a MA in English and creative writing from the City University of New York and a law degree from Wake Forest University.

North Carolina during World War II does not usually bring up images of spies, U-boats, or German submarines, but in 1942 German submarines were all along the East Coast both spying and sinking cargo boats, pleasure craft, and other submarines. The British navy was also present in our coastal waters; without its help, the American navy would have lost far more ships to German U-boats. Many of the details of the operations of the U-boats and the British navy are mentioned in this book. It was very interesting to read a book of fiction that was so well researched; the attention to historical detail makes this a fascinating book.

The story starts when Marcia, a recently widowed woman, finds a man who gives his name as Bruce Hall. Bruce claims to be the only survivor of the British submarine, the HMS *Bedfordshire*, which washed up onshore after being sunk by a German U-boat. Bruce is actually Kurt Sanger, a spy from the U-boat that sunk the British submarine. Sanger was sent onshore to find out what happened to the submarine and the Enigma machine it was carrying. Marcia finds him on the beach and takes him to her home, where she nurses him and eventually they fall in love.

The author's purpose seems to be not only to give the reader an education about the submarine activity during World War II, but also to weave in the feel of the Portsmouth area, the Outer Banks, and the people who lived there. The United States blacked out a lot of the story of the U-Boats on our coast, and that historical



North Carolina: Edward P. Norvell, distributed by John F. Blair, 2008. 201pp. \$15.95. ISBN 978-0-89587-359-0.

information, now brought to light, is very interesting. The plot is believable and the description of the island life wonderful. The characters, however, were a little underdeveloped. The love scenes seemed to be a bit forced, but that could also be the reviewer's bias, not being a fan of romance fiction.

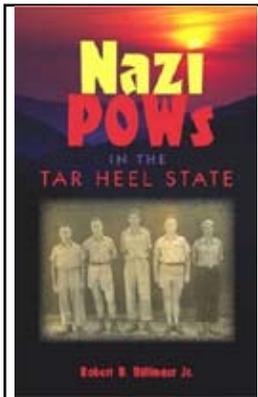
This book is most suitable for libraries in North Carolina, and for libraries that have a collection of World War II books. The book's bibliography would be a good starting point for anyone doing research on the Ocracoke area during the Second World War. This reviewer enjoyed *Portsmouth* and would recommend it to anyone who is interested in World War II, or who has a love of the Outer Banks.

*Judi Bugniacet*  
Montreat College



Robert D. Billinger, Jr.

### ■ **Nazi POWs in the Tar Heel State**



Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2008. 246 pp. \$27.00. ISBN: 978-0-8130-3224-5.

The presence of more than 10,000 German prisoners of war in North Carolina during and immediately after the Second World War will likely come as a great surprise to many. The prisoners, scattered over eighteen camps through out the state, presented both a challenge and an opportunity to the state and the nation. Governments struggled to house and feed the captured men and to meet the demands of the Geneva Conventions. The POWs provided vital manpower during the final push in 1944 and 1945 and were viewed as potential tools in our nation's attempt to export democratic ideals to a soon-to-be-defeated Fascist state.

Robert Billinger, a professor of history at Wingate University and the author of a similar study of German POWs in Florida, has done a signal service with this wide-ranging and thorough examination of this largely unknown episode in North Carolina history. Beginning with pen portraits of a few of the men who found themselves unexpected "guests" of the state, Billinger goes on to brief descriptions of each camp (which he expands upon in later chapters). He follows this with an examination of the role of the prisoners as laborers on army bases, in fields and pine forests, and in factories. He also details the varied backgrounds of the POWs, which had an effect on their placement (and occasionally, treatment) within the camps.

Billinger also discusses escapes and escape attempts, the War Department indoctrination program which sought to "de-Nazify" the prisoners, the reaction of civilians to the presence of POWs (and the public revulsion when the horrors of German concentration camps became more widely known), and the routes by which the prisoners were slowly repatriated after the war ended. There is a brief chapter on the whereabouts of the remains of some of the prisoners who died while in the state's care and the memories of some survivors. Billinger concludes with a poignant appendix detailing the harrowing experiences of a stateless German Jewish prisoner, Jakob Fisher, whose ultimate fate remains unknown.

The prose is workmanlike and scholarly, and each chapter (with extensive endnotes) provides rich fodder for further study. The book also contains a bibliography and an index. One might occasionally wish for tighter editorial control, since Billinger tends to repeat salient points, sometimes within a few sentences. This caveat aside, the book is a fascinating window into North Carolina's past. Billinger's work would be an obvious and excellent addition to all North Caroliniana collections, as well as public libraries with military history collections, academic, and military base libraries.

*Steven Case*  
State Library of North Carolina



Lyle Estill

### ■ **Small is Possible: Life in a Local Economy**

Lyle Estill has a heart as big as his social network, and both are on display in his new book *Small is Possible: Life in a Local Economy*. Through anecdotes featuring his community of biofuel producers, farmers, co-op owners, natural healers, and artists living, working, and playing in the woods of Chatham County, North Carolina, Estill leads the reader to the conclusion that community and economic and environmental sustainability are intertwined.



Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers, 2008. 227 pp. \$17.95. ISBN 978-0-86571-603-2.

A resident of this area since 2003, Estill is "Vice President of Stuff" for Piedmont Biofuels in Chatham County. He is also the author of *Biodesiel Power: The Passion, the People, and the Politics of the Next Renewable Fuel*, as well as the "Energy Blog" (<http://energy.biofuels.coop/>). Central to his new book's narrative is a group of independent, locally-minded organizers, small-business owners, and producers of consumable goods. Intentionally or otherwise, their efforts are protecting Chatham County from the "great collapse". They have, in effect, established what Estill calls "Hometown Security." Take food for example. If an economic collapse occurs and our grocery stores cannot get their shipments of fruits and vegetables from California or Brazil, but your local community has a thriving farmers market or co-op that stocks 30% local food, as the Chatham Marketplace does, you, the consumer, have access to fresh, healthy things to eat. What if your community has nodes all along the production network? You survive the economic collapse. Alarmism aside—this is not such a tract—Estill demonstrates how a community with such a network, stacked with producers of the necessities of the day-to-day, is healthy in its own right.

While it is a convincing argument, Estill could have made it in a neater way. In a chapter titled "Feeding Ourselves," Estill writes, "Surely gardening is a function of good editing." So is a good book, and this book is in desperate need of tending. There are easily a quarter as many grammatical mistakes as pages. Also, Estill, clearly a booster for his county, lets his sentences get away from him, stringing them together in free associative style. Most importantly, at least to this reader, Estill's work would benefit from

a theoretical grounding, one that would strengthen his argument and also balance out his anecdotes. The book is a descendant of E. F. Schumacher's *Small is Beautiful* (Estill's title clearly echoes Schumacher's), but there is little discussion of Schumacher's work or other books from this intellectual tradition.

The message and intention ultimately overcome the shortcomings. Readers with an interest in Chatham County or community development will appreciate Estill's lessons on being an active, connected citizen. The book would be a fine addition to most North Carolina public and academic libraries. Any library with a local section, or that owns Schumacher's book or Estill's previous book, may consider purchasing *Small is Possible*.

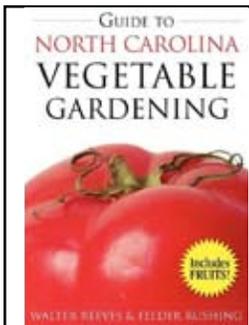
**Brian Dietz**

North Carolina State University



Walter Reeves and Felder Rushing

## ■ Guide to North Carolina Vegetable Gardening



Franklin, TN: Cool Springs Press, 2007. 288 pp. \$12.95. ISBN 13: 978-1-59186-395-3.

Gardeners in North Carolina know and love Felder Rushing, co-author of *Passsalong Plants* and garden sage of *Southern Living*. Now we can also get to know Walter Reeves, Georgia garden writer, radio personality, and columnist for the *Atlanta Constitution*. Together they have put together a useful and interesting guide to vegetable gardening in North Carolina and adjacent parts of the South.

Beginning with tables and maps of hardiness zones, precipitation, and other basic information, the authors move into a discussion of the peculiarities of gardening in the South. This is useful to newcomers, but also informative for old hands. A discussion of pests and pesticide use covers insect pests and briefly touches on four-legged marauders. They do not give deer damage the obsessive treatment some of us might like, but their focus, after all, is on the actual growing of the plants.

In the heart of the book, the authors tell us exactly how to plant our vegetable gardens, then describe most of the vegetables anyone would want to grow. Some may ask "What! No artichokes?" but the few omissions from the plant list mark things that are difficult in our climate. The list of varieties is very good and fairly up-to-date with Romano-type beans and some heirloom tomatoes. All of the varieties covered will grow well in our climate.

The sections on herbs, fruits, and nuts are a bonus. Reeves and Rushing present many aspects of their cultivation, with useful diagrams. They certainly captured my interest by including such small fruits as raspberries, which grow very well in North Carolina. The interesting asides include an essay on plants tolerant of black walnut trees. I have always believed these trees to be inimical to all other plant growth, but the authors correct me.

The book contains excellent drawings to illustrate many of the discussions. It is rounded off nicely by a list of sources, a glossary, a bibliography, and a good index. Full-page biographies of the

authors include photographs, their considerable credentials, and their other works.

These very experienced regional gardeners know their subject. The *Guide to North Carolina Vegetable Gardening* is readable, but serious in its mission to de-mystify vegetable gardening and make it appealing to many people. This is a timely subject. Many North Carolinians long for the tastes of home-grown vegetables and fruits.

Libraries with gardeners of any skill level should have at least one copy of *Guide to North Carolina Vegetable Gardening*. The format is useful, but as it is available only in slick paper covers, the book will not stand very many trips to the garden plot. Gardeners will probably want to purchase their own copies to accompany them to the garden.

**Nancy R. Frazier**

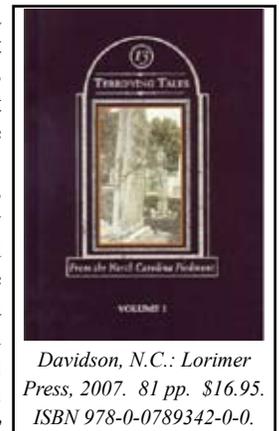
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Leslie Rindoks, ed.

## ■ Thirteen Terrifying Tales from the North Carolina Piedmont

While the mountains of North Carolina are known for their rich history of ghost stories and famous storytellers, it is pleasing to discover that the Piedmont of North Carolina has its own heritage of ghost tales and talented storytellers. Each of the thirteen ghost stories included in this book were written by a different author. They were selected from the many ghost stories told to Leslie Rindoks while she was researching a centennial history of Cornelius, North Carolina. The centennial history, *A Town by Any Other Name: From Virgin Springs to Lake Norman: A History of Cornelius, North Carolina*, was published in 2005. Three of the stories in *13 Terrifying Tales* also appear in the earlier book.



Davidson, N.C.: Lorimer Press, 2007. 81 pp. \$16.95. ISBN 978-0-0789342-0-0.

Like all ghost stories, these leave the reader with questions and, in some cases, the impulse to make sure the doors are locked! Can this story be true? What really happened? Surely there's some logical explanation! For residents of Piedmont North Carolina, the realization that the stories happened in familiar locations adds to the suspense of each story. If you've been to an isolated family burial ground, explored an old house, or crossed a bridge on a deserted road, you can easily relate to these stories. In fact, you may have your own ghost stories to tell. There are stories about dogs that won't die, blood stains that can't be removed, cars that mysteriously stop, and visits from the grave, just to mention a few themes. The book itself is a work of art. The illustrations, which have been abstracted from photographs, add to the ghostly atmosphere of the tales and the elegance of the book. The cover indicates that this is "volume I." Let's hope there are more volumes to follow.

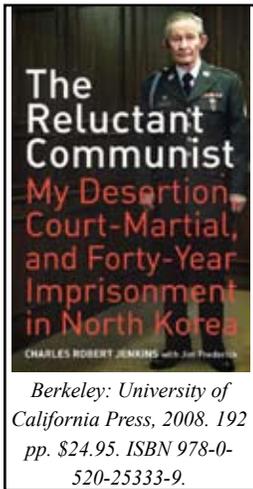
The best way to read this book is to believe that the stories are true and enjoy the storyteller's tale. The stories are also great for reading aloud. The book is suitable for libraries with an interest in North Carolina literature, and for personal collections.

Connie Keller  
Elon University



Charles Robert Jenkins, with Jim Frederick

## ■ **The Reluctant Communist: My Desertion, Court-Martial, and Forty-Year Imprisonment in North Korea**



Charles Robert Jenkins, born and raised in Northampton County, North Carolina, lied to join the National Guard at fifteen. When his three-year commitment to the guard was up, he joined the United States Army. It was during his second tour of duty in South Korea, late on the night of January 5, 1965, that the twenty-four-year-old Sgt. Jenkins got drunk, abandoned his post, crossed the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), and surrendered to North Korean soldiers. At the time Jenkins mistakenly believed his army unit was headed for Vietnam. His misguided plan to avoid this assignment was to cross into North Korea, seek asylum from the Russians, and secure passage back to the States, expecting

that he would most certainly stand trial for desertion. Jenkins eventually made that trial date, but not before he spent forty years inside of one of the most reclusive societies in the world.

Three other U.S. servicemen had crossed the DMZ earlier, and Jenkins would live with or near them over most of his four decades in North Korea. Because they crossed the DMZ willingly, all four were considered Cold War "trophies." Their pictures were used in propaganda pamphlets, and they even appeared in several movies, including one based on the 1968 USS *Pubelo* incident. Jenkins believes that their propaganda appearances were the reason that, although they were always guarded and often treated harshly, they were kept mostly healthy.

The men were provided with women to marry, and on August 8, 1980 Jenkins and a young Japanese woman named Hitomi Soga became man and wife. Early on in their relationship, Hitomi told Robert that she and her mother were abducted while shopping near their home on the Japanese island of Sado. Her mother was never heard from again.

*The Reluctant Communist* benefits greatly from the solid efforts of journalist Jim Frederick, who was *Time Magazine's* Tokyo Bureau chief in 2004 when Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi made his first-ever trip to Pyongyang to meet Korean dictator Kim Jong-il. It was long rumored that the North Koreans had, over many years, systematically kidnapped Japanese citizens to teach in Korean spy schools. Japanese concern over its abducted citizens played a significant role in the conclusion of the Jenkins story. Jenkins'

wife was indeed one of these captives, and as the abductees' story unfolded, so did the story of the long-AWOL Jenkins. Japanese public opinion was sympathetic to both Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, and the Japanese government interceded with the North Korean and United States governments on Jenkins' behalf.

The book may present a problem for readers with strong sentiments concerning Jenkins' desertion. He is unequivocal that his actions on that dark January night were wrong. "I abandoned men under my command," he states, "which is absolutely one of the worst things a leader can do. . ." Upon his release by the North Koreans in 2004, Jenkins was court-martialed and sentenced to thirty days in jail. However, Jenkins believes that four decades of "mind-numbing indoctrination, hunger, cold, and fear of violence" were also a form of punishment. He clearly understands that some readers will accept his view of the situation and that others will not.

We have very little first-hand information about the daily lives of more than twenty-three million North Koreans living under a brutal and secretive regime. This account helps fill in some important blanks, and the span of years covered make it a unique contribution. *The Reluctant Communist* is recommended for libraries with a collecting interest in modern history, politics, international events, current affairs and North Carolinians generally.

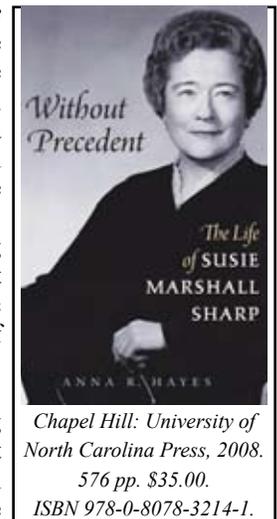
Bryna Coonin  
East Carolina University



Anna R. Hayes

## ■ **Without Precedent: The Life of Susie Marshall Sharp**

*Without Precedent: The Life of Susie Marshall Sharp* is the chronicle of Susie Sharp, who was the first female judge of a superior court in North Carolina, the first woman on the North Carolina Supreme Court, and the first woman in the United States to be elected and serve as chief justice in a state supreme court. Anna Hayes has written an intriguing story of Susie Sharp's life, covering not only the many triumphs in her public life but also the many complications of her private life.



Hayes enjoyed the luxury of writing the biography of a person who kept nearly everything in the way of written correspondence as well as an incredible amount of other material chronicling her life. Susie Sharp saved scrapbooks, news clippings, and even notes passed to her when she was a schoolgirl. Hayes had access to nearly forty years of journals, as Sharp was an avid diarist. Sharp was so concerned about documenting her life that she recreated the events from the years covered by a group of journals that had been burned by creating abstracts of those volumes which had been lost. Interestingly enough, this copious amount of information did not come without its own obstacles, as Hayes was obliged to learn how to read Susie's shorthand before she could use the diaries. Even then, it took two years to decipher the journals.

Even though Hayes had this wealth of material, her job as a biographer could not have been an easy one because Ms. Sharp's life proved to have no end of complications. Sharp's public life was one of achievement and success. Her private life was complex, as she made the decision early on to not marry, a decision she followed through her entire life. She was not without companionship, however, as she had lengthy affairs with first one married man and then another.

Hayes chose to follow Sharp's life chronologically, starting with a short section on her family, moving through her years of schooling, to her early career as a lawyer, and on to her later groundbreaking rise to the North Carolina State Supreme Court. Hayes covers both Sharp's triumphs and her tragedies.

There is not enough space here to tell even a small fraction of the interesting facts and stories that Hayes relates about Sharp's life. One story that seems representative of Sharp's struggle occurred in the early part of her career and contains a theme that would pursue her throughout her professional life. Hayes tells of one of Susie's experiences in her father's law firm, Sharp & Sharp, shortly after she began working there. A man came in wanting to see the female lawyer. When Sharp asked what she could do for him, he replied that he didn't actually need her services but just wanted to see if it was true that there was an actual female lawyer there.

Hayes also fills us in on Sharp's life in her waning years, when she was out of the spotlight. Ms. Sharp had a number of personal tragedies (at least one of which is chronicled in another book), and in her final years her great mental acuity left her. It was a very sad ending to a life that proved exemplary in many ways.

Although the book is filled with an unexpected level of detail, the detail does not crush the reader. Hayes' style of writing carries the reader along, and you quickly find yourself interested in what happens next. Interestingly, Hayes mentions at the end of the book that there are also many volumes of correspondence which Sharp copied in shorthand that Hayes didn't have time to incorporate into the book. Hayes believes that it may provide the groundwork for further study of Susie Sharp's life.

Anna R. Hayes is a former partner in the law firm of Manning, Fulton, and Skinner, P.A. The book contains an index, bibliography, copious notes, and pictures. It would be a valuable addition to a range of libraries, both public and academic, not only for its local and historical interest, but for its writing. For those interested in North Carolina history, the history of women overcoming gender roles, or simply a good biography, I recommend this book.

**Scott Rice**  
Appalachian State University



Mark de Castrique

## ■ **Blackman's Coffin: A Blackman Mystery**

Sam Blackman is not a happy man--and not just because he is in the Veterans Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina, having lost a leg in Iraq. His parents died recently in an auto accident, and he has nowhere to go when he leaves the hospital except to his brother and sister-in-law's home in Alabama. So for Sam the future is looking gloomy.

Things begin to look up a little when a sassy, attractive, black female security worker stops by his hospital room. She introduces herself as Tikima Robertson, ex-marine and fellow amputee, and she brings him one of his favorite fiction reads, a mystery novel. She also gives him her card from Armitage Security Services, suggests to him the prospect of future employment, and says she needs his help in solving an old mystery.

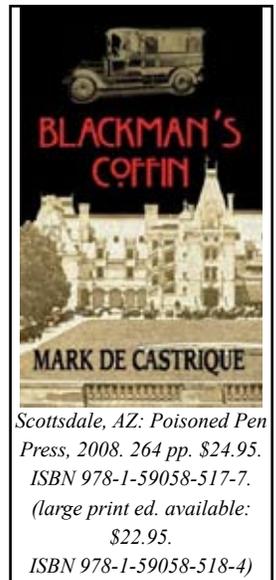
Blackman finds himself hooked. Anxiously awaiting her next visit, he is shocked to learn that her dead body has been found in the French Broad River not far from the Biltmore Estate and that he was the last person besides her murderer to see her alive. Later, Tikima's sister, Nakayla, brings Sam a 1919 journal written by a twelve year old white boy. The boy accompanied his father from Asheville to Georgia to help the women's great-great grandfather bury a relative in the family plot. When Blackman reads the work, he realizes that it could it not have been written by a young boy. It appears that there is more than one mystery to solve, involving hints of hidden gold and emeralds, and a century-old murder.

Thus begins a new series by this regional writer, whose four previous titles appeared as the Buryin' Barry Clayton mystery series. This first person narrative is full of complex twists and turns, excellent characterization, and replete with local color and flavor. There is indeed a Veteran's Hospital in Asheville, as well as emerald mines in North Carolina, lending authenticity to this tale. And North Carolina was the site of the first gold found in the United States in 1799. There is also humor when protagonists Sam and Nakayla find the boy, now elderly but still alert, living in a nursing home, and spirit him away to help solve the crimes.

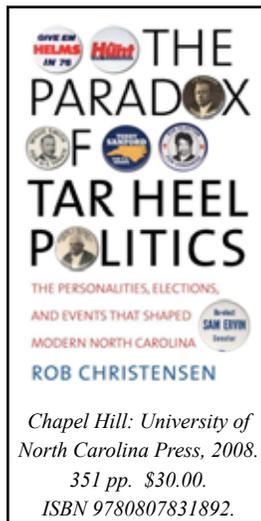
Mark de Castrique, a native of the western North Carolina mountains, grew up immersed in the lore of the area, including the building of the Biltmore Estate and the life of author Thomas Wolfe. He is currently an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He is also a playwright and has worked in both the television and film production industries.

Public library patrons who read the earlier series will surely be asking for this title, and high school libraries and other libraries which collect North Carolina authors and works set in the Appalachian region should consider purchasing this book.

**Carol Truett**  
Appalachian State University



## ■ The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics: The Personalities, Elections, and Events That Shaped Modern North Carolina



Do you recall that Harvey Gantt drew more votes in his 1996 North Carolina Senate race against Jesse Helms than Bill Clinton garnered at the top of the ticket that year? That data point may seem paradoxical to some, but it is illustrative of what is fascinating and complex about North Carolina political life. The passing of Senator Helms on the Fourth of July of this year has prompted many North Carolinians to reflect on the state's politics. Fortuitously, the University of North Carolina Press recently published two excellent books that will help all of us as we consider the past, present, and future of Tar Heel politics. Each will take its place next to earlier examinations of the politics and government of our state by Jack Fleer<sup>1</sup> and Paul Luebke<sup>2</sup>.

Rob Christensen, the longtime (and by his own admission, occasionally controversial) political reporter for the *Raleigh News & Observer*, has merged his own encyclopedic knowledge of recent North Carolina elections with historical research to craft an engaging analytical narrative about the contradictions and anomalies of our twentieth-century political history. In *The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics: The Personalities, Elections, and Events That Shaped Modern North Carolina*, Christensen identifies three ideological strains manifested in our political discourse: (1) a pro-business progressivism that was unique within the South and that has tended to predominate over the years, (2) a social and political conservatism that is more typically Southern which serves as a counterbalance to the more pragmatic (at times, even "liberal") progressive impulse, and (3) an egalitarian and anti-establishment populism that first triumphed in the pitchfork rebellion of 1894 that overthrew conservative Democratic rule and that has been exemplified most recently in the campaigns of John Edwards. This analytical structure is eloquently outlined and argued in the introduction; it is then populated in subsequent chapters with the colorful personalities who have commanded attention in our electoral politics since 1900. Each chapter covers an historical era, and in each the reader is treated to a collection of anecdotes that are entertaining and instructive. A biographical cast of characters is helpfully presented as an appendix. Racial politics are treated objectively and are fully incorporated into the historical presentation throughout. The emergence of a more competitive two party system in the 1970s is explained within the context of the progressive/conservative dynamic. An epilogue summarizes the accomplishments of business progressivism as

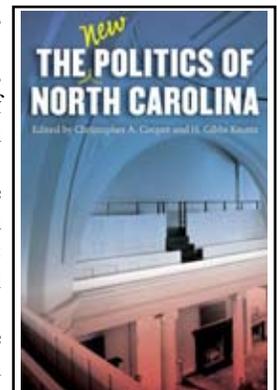
<sup>1</sup> Jack D. Fleer. *North Carolina Government and Politics*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994. Dr. Fleer is a professor emeritus of political science at Wake Forest University

<sup>2</sup> Paul Luebke. *Tar Heel Politics 2000*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998. Dr. Luebke is a professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and has been a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives from Durham for nine terms. This work is a revision of an earlier book *Tar Heel Politics: Myths & Realities* also published by the UNC Press in 1990. A third "edition" is anticipated to be ready for publication in a year or two.

the state advanced economically and socially during the course of the twentieth century, but Christensen also recognizes that the conservative underpinning of our Southern values has allowed the conservative voice to be heard, acknowledged, and elected. Christensen speculates on the impact on the traditional North Carolina political balance that will be created by growing African American voter participation as well as the influx of Latino workers and relocated families from elsewhere in the country.

Readers of an analytical bent may feel that Christensen has not truly unpacked the fundamental paradox of why North Carolina votes progressively in some instances and conservatively in others. Perhaps North Carolina politics cannot be analyzed simply in terms of progressive and conservative voting blocks, with a set of swing voters deciding elections. There may be a dual political instinct in many of us that results in the pendulum swing. An early archetype of this contradictory tendency may be best illustrated in the person of Governor Charles Aycock (1901-1905) a white supremacist not untypical of his era who was also the original "education governor" and much admired by later advocates for North Carolina's schools such as Terry Sanford and Jim Hunt. Despite such possible objections, most readers will enjoy reviewing their North Carolina political history under the guidance of Rob Christensen and will appreciate the added knowledge, perspective, and readability given to the subject by this experienced journalist. This book is strongly recommended for all high school, public, and academic libraries in North Carolina.

Two political science faculty members at Western Carolina University, Christopher A. Cooper and H. Gibbs Knotts, have edited a collection of essays on North Carolina politics and governance which may serve as a useful, but more academic, companion to the Christensen book. The contributed chapters in *The New Politics of North Carolina* address categories of political analysis favored by political scientists. The authors were encouraged to provide statistical comparisons between North Carolina and other states in the South and in the nation as a whole. Some of that data may in fact indicate that North Carolina's progressive reputation can be more myth than reality. All contributions are written in a style accessible to the informed citizen who possesses a basic grasp of civics and who enjoys reading serious political analysis in the newspaper.



Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008. 314 pp. \$65.00 cloth, ISBN 9780807831915; \$22.95 paper; ISBN 9780807858769.

The introductory historical chapter by Thomas Eamon (a political scientist at East Carolina University) provides a retrospective context for the other essays in the book and makes interesting reading in conjunction with the Christensen book. Eamon describes a pro-business, pro-economic development "progressive conservatism" which is the animating force running through both major parties in modern North Carolina politics. This consensus is at times challenged from the right by ideological conservatism (think Jesse Helms) and or on the left by democratic populism as occurred with Governor Kerr Scott or, more recently, with House Speakers Liston Ramsey and Dan Blue. Other chapters measure North Carolina's progressivism by examining public opinion in North Carolina, the party system, interest groups and lobbying, mass media, gubernatorial politics, the General Assembly, the judiciary, and the interplay between state and local government.

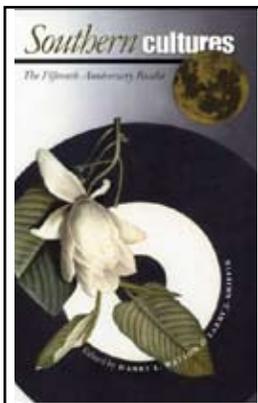
The final two chapters are devoted to two representative areas of public policy: the environment and education. Cooper and Knotts provide a synthetic overview of the chapters in a well-executed conclusion entitled “Rethinking Progressivism and Governance in North Carolina.” *The New Politics of North Carolina* would be a sound selection for high school libraries supporting a college preparatory curriculum, for large public libraries, and for all academic libraries in North Carolina.

**Eric Smith**  
Duke University



Harry L. Watson and Larry J. Griffin, eds.

## ■ Southern Cultures: The Fifteenth Anniversary Reader



Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008.  
507 pp. \$49.95 cloth;  
ISBN 978-0-8078-3212-7;  
24.95 paper  
ISBN 978-0-8078-5880-6.

Readers looking for a compilation of noteworthy essays about the South can find it in *Southern Cultures: The Fifteenth Anniversary Reader*, a collection of twenty-seven essays from the first fifteen years of the journal, *Southern Cultures*. Volume editors Harry L. Watson and Larry J. Griffin are also co-editors of the journal. They recall that in the journal’s founding year (1992) many observers wrote that the South was no longer a distinctive region. Time, the editors suggest, has proven that assertion wrong.

Part of the reason for the South’s difference is slavery, segregation, and their aftermaths, although as Larry Griffin reminds readers, racial segregation was a national problem that

Americans tended to regard as uniquely Southern. In their essays, Catherine Bishir and Drew Gilpin Faust provide historical context to segregation, describing how white Southerners created a heroic Southern past with monuments, a white supremacy crusade, and grand buildings in the Colonial Revival style. John Shelton Reed’s essay shows how the Confederate flag was part of the scenario, while Steve Oney writes on lynching. How to understand the antebellum cultural construct is addressed in individual essays by Franklin Forts, Adam Gussow, and Mart Stewart. Joseph Crespiro, Melton McLaurin, and Elizabeth Boyd’s contributions discuss how children and teens are inculcated and adapt cultural norms. The lasting achievements of Martin Luther King, Jr. are movingly profiled by Timothy B. Tyson.

The South as a distinctive place has been shaped by multiple groups, including Native Americans, Jews, Catholics, Hindus, and Buddhists. The experiences and contributions of these groups are examined in essays by Theda Perdue, David Goldfield, and Thomas A. Tweed. For black Southerners who left for the industrialized Midwest between the Depression and the postwar decade, migration meant new jobs and increased income, much of it spent in neighborhoods with other Southerners. Anthony Walton recounts a Chicago childhood sustained by Southern cooking. The theme of Southern distinctiveness is picked up by Charles Reagan Wilson in his essay on historic funerals of the South; Michael

Montgomery in his essay on Southern accents; by James Cobb on country music; Trudier Harris on African American humor and the South; Dan Pierce on NASCAR; Louis M. Kyriakouides and Peter A. Coclanis on professional wrestling; Patrick Huber on the creation of redneck identity; and Dwight Billings and Kathleen M. Blee on Appalachian feuds. A few physical markers of the South are almost legendary. Kudzu receives its due in an essay by Derek and Donna Alderman, and the equally tenacious Southern hog and its cultural symbolism is probed by S. Jonathan Bass.

*Southern Cultures* is a worthy addition to the body of work on the topic and is appropriate for public, academic, and secondary school libraries. Readers will find it complements previously published essay compilations such as *The American South: Portrait of a Culture* (Louisiana State University Press, 1990), *Bridging Southern Cultures: An Interdisciplinary Approach* (Louisiana State University Press, 2005), and *The Prevailing South: Life and Politics in a Changing Culture* (Longstreet, 1988). Each essay in *Southern Cultures* includes references, and the volume is indexed.

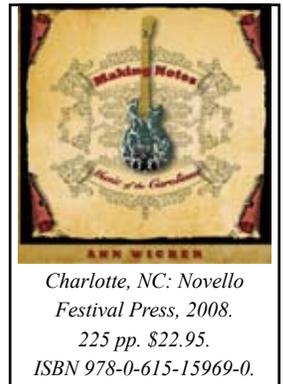
**Mary C. Metzger**  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte



Ann Wicker, ed.

## ■ Making Notes: Music of the Carolinas

From the mountains to the beach, music is woven into the cultural fabric of the Carolinas. Like sports and barbecue, there is a wealth of celebrated figures and regional tastes to choose from, and almost everyone has their own favorites, opinions, and stories to tell. Much of the flavor of our region’s music is authentically captured in *Making Notes: Music of the Carolinas*.



Charlotte, NC: Novello Festival Press, 2008.  
225 pp. \$22.95.  
ISBN 978-0-615-15969-0.

*Making Notes* is a collection of short articles, essays, and recollections on music and musicians from North and South Carolina. The book is divided into four sections: Carolina music connections, entertainers, bands, and music experiences. The pieces were written by writers, journalists, musicians, and academics. Many of the essays were originally written for magazines and newspapers and are under four pages in length. Like a mix tape of two-minute hit songs, it is enjoyable and easy to listen to, but leaves its audience wanting more.

The range of the music and geography covered in the book is impressive, especially considering the size of the musical landscape. The essays consistently bring the subjects into greater light through telling details. In addition to the articles one would expect to find on performers such as Doc Watson and Nina Simone, the book addresses lesser known figures like Peg Leg Sam and Gina Stewart and subjects such as the preservation of Gullah spirituals and Charlotte’s shout band tradition.

The book’s coverage of the different music scenes is refreshingly broad yet uneven. Hip hop is given lip service by a frustratingly short two-page survey, while the nascent Latino music scene

receives a four-page treatment. Many of the book's personal recollections are touching. It would not be difficult for a Carolina music fan to come up with a list of names and subjects that could have been added to the book. The Five Royales, Tal Farlow, Billy Strayhorn, and Wade Mainer come to my mind, but this is the quibbling of a music fan. What one really wishes for are longer pieces that add greater depth to our understanding and knowledge. Rather than a comprehensive look at the music, *Making Notes* is a self-styled sampler of musical figures, styles, and culture.

There is a lot to enjoy in the anthology and any omission makes a strong case that *Making Notes*, like the DaCapo's annual *Best Music Writing* anthologies, should be a continuing series. I highly recommend the book to academic and public libraries. *Making Notes* is an appealing book your patrons will enjoy, even your most dedicated and opinionated music fans.

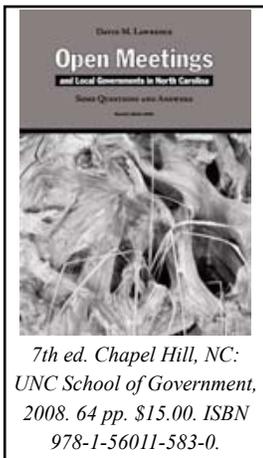
Steve Weiss

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



David M. Lawrence

### ■ Open Meetings and Local Governments in North Carolina: Some Questions and Answers



The School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has the distinction of being the largest university-based local government training, advisory, and research organization in the country. Its mission is to improve the lives of North Carolinians through practical scholarship that helps state and local elected officials, as well as the citizenry, understand the law. The law regarding open meetings is one of the most cited and questioned statutes. It has been the subject of at least two editorials in this librarian's local newspaper within the last two months. It directly affects

most citizens in their daily lives through governing bodies from city councils and county commissions to school boards and airport authorities.

*Open Meetings and Local Governments in North Carolina* is divided into five sections: basic coverage of the act, exceptions, miscellaneous questions, remedies, and citations. Topics are covered using a question and answer format, to good effect. Included are questions such as: "When our board interviews candidates for the job of manager, do the interviews constitute deliberations?" "May we hold a closed session at a retreat or workshop meeting?" "Does the statute require that any record be made of a closed meeting?" The appendix provides handy access to the text of the open meetings statute and reference is made to other parts of the *North Carolina General Statutes* when appropriate. The citations section is keyed to specific questions, and includes references to cases in North Carolina and other states. This seventh edition includes several North Carolina Court of Appeals decisions made under the open meetings statute since the sixth edition of 2002.

David M. Lawrence, a well respected and prolific writer, is William Rand Kenan Jr. Professor of Public Law and Government at the School of Government. He is keenly aware of the nuances in the open meetings statute and of new decisions both here in North Carolina and throughout the country. He is also the photographer of the cover image. After conducting an unscientific survey of library staff, no one could understand how this image connects to the subject matter of *Open Meetings and Local Government in North Carolina*. Another image would be helpful to draw attention to the importance of the book.

This book should be in the pocket of all government officials and available at every library in the state.

Beverly Tetterton

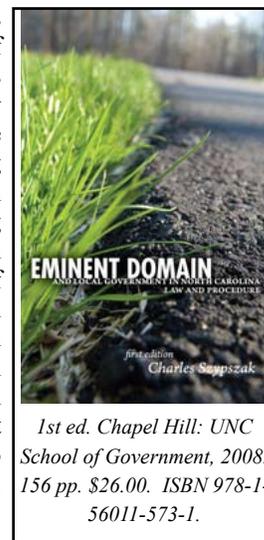
New Hanover County Public Library



Charles Szypszak

### ■ Eminent Domain and Local Government in North Carolina: Law and Procedure

The United States Supreme Court's recent decision in *Kelo v. City of New London*\* made citizens across the country acutely aware of just how broadly eminent domain laws could be interpreted when it comes to defining what constitutes "public use." In an effort to help attorneys representing those citizens, Charles Szypszak, an associate professor in the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, provides an introduction to eminent domain in North Carolina. Szypszak's specialization in real estate matters, particularly eminent domain, makes him well qualified to educate the rest of us on this important, and very timely, topic.



Szypszak has written a thorough work on the nuances and procedure of eminent domain actions in North Carolina. After discussing the historical roots of eminent domain and the statutory foundation from which the power arises, the author covers the process of instituting an eminent domain action, from determining the appropriate parties to determining attorneys' fees. He follows with a chapter on the most important issue in any eminent domain action: calculating the amount of just compensation to be awarded to the individual(s) whose land has been taken. The book closes with a chapter on inverse condemnation.

Although certainly not the first title to present a statutory and judicial foundation of eminent domain, or the first to guide an attorney through an eminent domain action, this book is the first to combine these two aims and to tailor itself for the North Carolina lawyer. Each chapter is meticulously researched with an average of over 150 footnotes per chapter. These notes lead the reader to pertinent statutory provisions, judicial decisions, and other secondary material. The book also contains a brief index, adequately detailed given the book's length.

\* 545 U.S. 469.

The multiple sample documents available in Chapter 2 to assist a practitioner in carrying out an eminent domain action are the most valuable feature of the book. The samples provide an exceptional starting point for practitioners when other legal form books may not be sufficiently specific to an eminent domain action. Additionally, the author provides invaluable practice pointers and checklists to accompany the forms. The one flaw in the book is the absence of a table of authorities. Because the book is obviously designed to assist attorneys, a helpful addition would have been a list of the sections within the book in which particular statutes and judicial opinions appear.

Despite the book's accessibility to the lay reader, it is ideal for attorneys, judges, and lawmakers because of its focus on the legal process of an eminent domain action. Individuals who may find themselves subject to an eminent domain action might find portions of the book helpful for context, but not as a how-to guide for the self-represented litigant. This title is a must-have for any law library. The title would also make an excellent addition to a general university library, but might not contribute meaningfully to a public library's collection as it is not intended as a legal self-help guide.

**Jason Sowards**

Wake Forest University Professional Center Library



Barbara R. Duncan, ed.

## ■ The Origin of the Milky Way and Other Living Stories of the Cherokee



This small but resonant collection of Cherokee stories serves as an important tool in efforts to preserve and share Cherokee language and culture. The twenty-seven short tales presented here were originally used to teach moral lessons to Cherokee children and to remind adults about living peacefully. Ranging in length from a few lines to three pages, the tales are written in a free verse style that echoes the rhythm of the storyteller. Editor Barbara Duncan has transcribed the stories word for word, breaking the lines where the storyteller paused. This format makes it easy to recreate the flow of a tale, and facilitates its ability to be shared aloud as originally intended.

Duncan is the education director of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, and her experience with the Cherokee storytelling tradition includes the publication of a similar set of stories entitled *Living Stories of Cherokee* in 1998. The children's stories in *The Origin of the Milky Way* were first published in the 1998 volume. Duncan's familiarity with, and respect for, Cherokee culture are easily seen in the concise introduction to the tales. Covering topics such as clothing, food, and homes, she provides young readers with an appropriate amount of information for understanding the context of the stories. Duncan divides the tales themselves into seven chapters in deference to the importance that the Cherokee give to the number seven.

Each chapter begins with a short paragraph that introduces the subject and prompts readers and listeners on how to identify with the stories. The stories cover an array of subjects, from ghost stories and origin tales to accounts of the Trail of Tears. Children may find just reading the stories uninteresting, but they will likely be engaged by listening to the stories read aloud. The opportunities for using this collection in the classroom are numerous. The extra material provided after the tales is helpful and shows Duncan's experience as an education director. A short glossary of unfamiliar words such as "conjurer" and "stickball" is included, as well as a map comparing Cherokee land in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century with their current territory. Also included are a timeline, a reading list of other Cherokee tales, and a collection of brief biographies for each of the storytellers whose tales are included in the book.

Interesting and entertaining, this book fills the small but important niche for children's Native American folklore. Collections with a focus on Native American or Cherokee folklore and culture will certainly wish to add this title, as will collections that concentrate on North Carolina's folklore traditions. Public and school libraries in need of an educational resource on Native American folklore should also consider this as a useful and engaging addition to their collections.

**Laura Gillis**

Lewisville Public Library



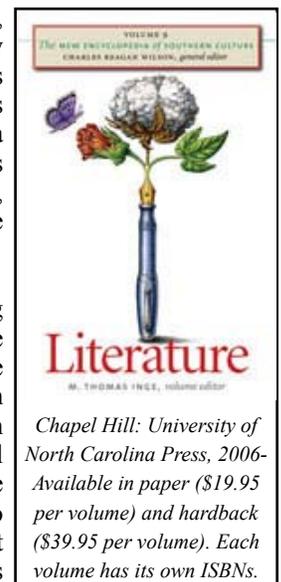
Charles Reagan Wilson, general ed.

## ■ The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture

The *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, first published in 1989 and edited by Charles Wilson and William Ferris, was a single tome. The new encyclopedia is a series of volumes, each dedicated to a separate subject. Currently, ten volumes of the new edition have been published, but eventually the series will comprise twenty-four volumes.

Wilson and Ferris's endeavor, according to the introduction, was to facilitate interdisciplinary study and "illuminate the nature and function of regionalism in American culture." The new edition accepts this mission. The general introduction states "Observers of the American South have had much to absorb, given the rapid pace of recent change ... Given the extent of changes in the American South and in Southern Studies since the publication of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, the need for a new edition of that work is clear."

Each volume of the New Encyclopedia is organized in two halves: essays in the first half cover broad topics, while essays in the second half cover more specific ones. In most volumes, such as in *Literature* or *Language*, this works well. In *Language*, essays on dialects and languages such as "Gullah," or "Lumbee English" appear first. The essays in the second half identify idiomatic



Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006- Available in paper (\$19.95 per volume) and hardback (\$39.95 per volume). Each volume has its own ISBNs.

phrases and styles, like “Preaching Style, Black,” or “Fixin’ to.” However, some volumes cover subjects that do not lend themselves so readily to this method. Religion is a good example. The first half covers broad religious movements, such as “Calvinism,” “Pentecostalism,” and “Islam,” but also “Women and Religion,” “Urban Religion,” and “Diversity, Religious.” The second half is also puzzling, containing topics such as “Moravians,” “Serpent Handlers,” and “Shakers.” There is no sense of cohesion among the topics in each half of the book. Why is a topic in the second half of the volume rather than the first? It is hard for readers to orient themselves, particularly if they don’t know exactly what they’re looking for.

The major strength of this encyclopedia is its depth. The back of the Literature volume sports this praise from Hugh Ruppersburg of the University of Georgia: “A comprehensive collection of information... that will become a necessary starting point for any scholar of the American literary South.” Professor Ruppersburg may have written his commentary for this volume alone, but it applies to each volume in the set. One expects an encyclopedia on Southern culture to include entries on William Faulkner, soul food, and Martin Luther King, Jr. However, an encyclopedia on Southern culture that contains entries on alien species in the Everglades, “See Rock City,” contemporary authors John Grisham and Nikki Giovanni, and cartoonist Doug Marlette is a unique scholarly contribution.

Overall, this encyclopedia is filled with interesting and well-researched entries. Its one drawback is organization. It would benefit from a comprehensive index; one hopes that this will be forthcoming in the final volumes. This set would make an excellent graduate level reference source for any college or university library.

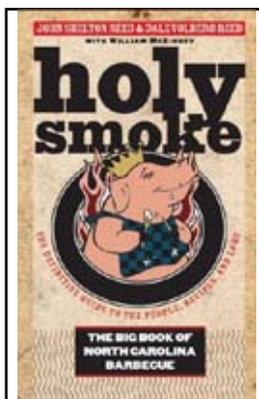
*Jennifer Townes*

State Library of North Carolina



John Shelton Reed, Dale Voleberg Reed, and William McKinney

## ■ Holy Smoke: The Big Book of North Carolina Barbecue



Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008.  
303 pp. \$30.00.  
ISBN 978-0-8078-3243-1.

According to one of the many interesting sidebars located throughout this book, “The story of North Carolina from the American Revolution through the Great War could almost be written in barbecue sauce.” Indeed, this book could easily serve as a textbook on the history of North Carolina and/or the history of barbecue. The authors’ thorough research and entertaining narrative provide the reader with a stimulating cultural portrait of both the state and its well-known tradition.

While the authors are not native to North Carolina, two have been residents here since the late 1960s and one is originally from neighboring South Carolina.

All three have impressive credentials including membership in the Southern Foodways Alliance and the North Carolina Barbecue Society; experience judging major

regional barbecue competitions; and being founders of UNC’s Carolina Bar-B-Q Society. John and Dale Reed have also previously collaborated in writing *1001 Things Everyone Should Know About the South* and in editing *Cornbread Nation 4: The Best of Southern Food Writing*.

By quoting from sources such as Homer, the Old Testament, George Washington, and other luminaries the authors seek to create a context for their later discussion which includes, in great detail, the changes that have occurred over the years with regard to their favorite food (or, in many cases, the lack of change). They delve deeply into the most contentious of all controversies, the Eastern/Piedmont split and its consequent debate: tomatoes or no tomatoes. This sounded to me very much like Yankees/Red Sox debate where I come from. There is simply no room for compromise and family and friends can be torn apart when sides are taken! Despite the controversies, it should be noted that the authors are fairly adamant on this point: when discussing real barbecue the meat has to be cooked over wood, usually hickory or oak. As they state in their conclusion “If you’re not smoking, you’re joking.” Of course, the meat needs to be hog.

One must progress through the book with extreme caution. I doubt that Pavlov’s dog was any less affected than the average reader will be as they read in detail about the various ways of barbecuing and types of sauces. The authors also cover the traditions, histories, and common recipes associated with coleslaw, Brunswick stew, cornbread, hushpuppies, cornpone, corn sticks, collards, baked beans, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, and the especially painful-to-read sections on peach cobbler, blackberry cobbler, banana pudding, and innumerable kinds of pies. (The authors note that there are debates on these items but they are much less heated than those on the barbecue itself.) They even discuss the ideal drinks associated with barbecuing such as sweet tea, ideally “real sweet,” or a soft drink like Cheerwine. (Cheerwine is produced here in North Carolina and considered “the sweetest soft drink ever made.”) They note that if you must have beer it should be the cheap kind as to not take away from the main attraction.

The book concludes with an interesting compilation of stories about some of the more well-known establishments in North Carolina. These have one common theme—it ain’t an easy profession. The proprietors talk about working six and seven day weeks; one even states “I try to work from sunup to sundown.” This book is highly recommended for any North Carolina library with a culinary-related collection of any size. (I know we are biased here at Johnson & Wales but are there any libraries in North Carolina that don’t have one of these?)

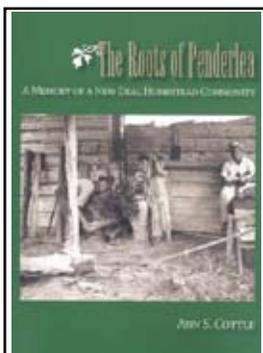
*Richard J. Moniz, Jr.*

Johnson & Wales University, Charlotte Campus



Ann S. Cottle

## ■ The Roots of Penderlea: A Memory of a New Deal Homestead Community



Wilmington: The Publishing Laboratory, University of North Carolina Wilmington, distributed by John F. Blair, 2008. 100 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 978-0-9791-4033-4.

The Great Depression and the social projects of the New Deal brought fundamental changes to American life. *The Roots of Penderlea* is the intimate history of one such project. Penderlea was the New Deal's first planned agricultural colony, a "noble experiment in economic recovery" carved from North Carolina's southeastern marshes by Civilian Conservation Corps labor. A journalist and a Penderlea resident since early childhood, Ann S. Cottle is uniquely qualified to tell its story in her first book; she does so with grace, wit, and careful detail. Her personal experiences enliven a wealth of primary source material, including a series of oral history interviews she spent twelve years conducting with original

homesteaders.

Penderlea owes its primacy to Hugh MacRae, a realtor and businessman who dreamed of revitalizing the rural Southeast and improving the lives of poor white farmers. By 1920, when he purchased the forty-five hundred acre tract which would become Penderlea, MacRae had already invested over a million of his own dollars in creating other planned farming communities. When the National Industrial Recovery Act became law in 1933, creating the Division of Subsistence Homesteads, MacRae was first in line. The government adopted his ten-year-old site plans later that year. Construction began early the next year, and some of the first 142 homes were completed and occupied by the end of 1934. Cottle traces the community's lifespan through its growing pains, heyday, and long metamorphosis as the South's agrarian economy became an industrial one. Though much has changed, some original homes remain in and around Penderlea, and "the spirit of the homesteaders" nourishes its strong community identity.

*The Roots of Penderlea* may be the first book-length history of the community. It includes a wealth of information: a chronology; a site map; photographs old and new; lists of the first homesteaders; job assignments; a list of black workers at Penderlea; a wage rates table; notes; and a bibliography. With its warm glow of nostalgia, loving attention to detail, thorough research, and the dedication evidenced by twelve years of interviews, the book is eminently readable. Although Cottle occasionally strays into lengthy details likely to interest only insiders, she includes enough entertaining anecdotes to keep other readers engaged. One could wish for more attention to Penderlea's negative aspects; for instance, MacRae and the government's selection process were at once paternalistic and segregationist. African Americans could labor but could not homestead at Penderlea; the only black individuals mentioned by name appear in the section on squatters. Clearly, Cottle's intention is to burnish, not tarnish, the community's name.

*The Roots of Penderlea* is appropriate for libraries in and around Pender County, academic libraries in North Carolina, and libraries with strong collections in Depression-era history.

*Anne Marie Taber*

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

### Looking for more help with collection development?

If you want to expand your library's collection of novels set in North Carolina, you should visit the Read North Carolina Novels blog hosted by the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (<http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/ncnovels/>).

If your interest in North Caroliniana is more general, both the North Carolina Collection at East Carolina University and the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill regularly post lists of new additions to their collections. The addresses for those sites are:

<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-lib/ncc/profs.cfm>

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/ncm/index.php/whats-new-in-the-north-carolina-collection/>