

Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

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his collection of twelve essays, which includes a foreword by noted historian John Hope Franklin, marks the centennial of the violent overthrow of local government in Wilmington in November 1898. Most of the historians who contributed these provocative essays presented their work at a symposium at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in November 1998. Academicians and laymen alike responded eagerly to the ideas presented in the public forum. It is likely that this volume, too, will stimulate interest and discussion.

This would please the editors, who sought not only to interpret the Wilmington race riot in the context of the socioeconomic development of North Carolina during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but also to foster a more perfect society through frank examination of race relations.

H. Leon Prather's summary of his book about the Wilmington race riot, *We Have Taken A City* (Associated University Presses, 1984), provides a framework for the rest of the essays. Prather tells how Alex Manly, the African American editor of Wilmington's *Daily Record*, ignited smoldering racial discord by publishing an editorial stating that sexual relationships between white women and African American men often were consensual. White elites, who had long resented the relatively high economic status of many of Wilmington's African Americans and their involvement in local government, led angry mobs in destroying Manly's newspaper, killing innocent African Americans, and forcing the elected city officials to surrender their offices. The strife in Wilmington was the flash point of a calculated campaign by the Democratic Party in North Carolina to wrest control of state and local offices from the Fusionist coalition of Republicans and Populists by inciting fear and hatred of African Americans.

The remainder of the essays cover a broad span of time, but they are linked thematically. The authors focus on how racial harmony in North Carolina often depended upon the degree of civility or deference African Americans exhibited and how whites' fears of racial amalgamation colored their attitudes toward or treatment of African Americans. David Cecelski provides a backdrop for the

Wilmington affair with his analysis of the brief career of Abraham Galloway, a former slave who became an important political leader during Reconstruction. Glenda Gilmore and LeeAnn Whites explore the relationship between sexuality and race relations. Raymond Gavins and Timothy Tyson analyze the legacy of 1898 through discussions of the Jim Crow era and the impact of World War II on race relations. William Chafe's epilogue carries the book's theme forward to the civil rights movement of the 1960s in Greensboro.

Democracy Betrayed deserves a place in the state's academic, public, and high school libraries. Its flaws—factual errors in Prather's piece, inconsistencies in footnote styles, and a tendency toward preaching in some essays—are more than offset by the underpinning of in-depth research in a broad array of primary sources and the powerful writing throughout.

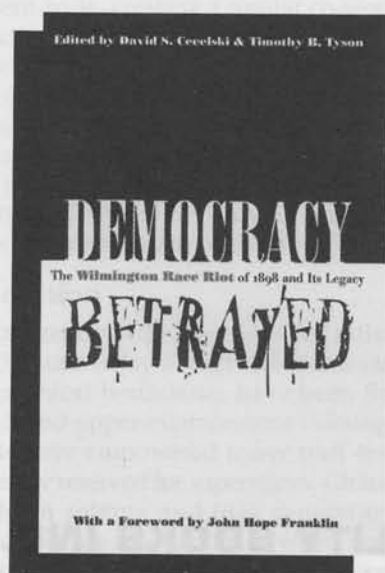
— Maurice C. York
East Carolina University

David S. Cecelski and Timothy B. Tyson, eds.

Democracy Betrayed: The Wilmington Race Riot of 1898 and Its Legacy.

Chapel Hill: University of
North Carolina Press, 1998.

301 pp. Paper, \$18.95. ISBN 0-8078-4755-0.
Cloth, \$45. ISBN 0-8078-2451-8.



Deborah Knott fans will cheer this latest installment in the adventures of the feisty judge, originally introduced as the *Bootlegger's Daughter*. After solving crimes while circuit riding Down East (*Shooting at Loons*) and in High Point (*Killer Market*), Deborah is back home in Colleton County (somewhere near Raleigh), building a house of her own and running for re-election. As usual, family troubles distract her from these projects, as well as from her courtroom and her love life.

This time it's A.K., teenaged son of Deborah's third brother Andrew and his third wife April, who, along with a couple of ne'er-do-well friends, is in trouble for getting drunk and defacing a cemetery. The three have just been sentenced for this offense when they fall under suspicion for defacing and burning down a local Black church. Before this crime is solved, two more Black churches in the area are torched and the sexton of one of the churches dies in the blaze, turning the case into a murder investigation. As usual, it is Deborah's understanding of human nature, as well as her roots in the community, that help her crack the case.

Margaret Maron.

Home Fires Burning.

New York: Mysterious Press, 1998. 288 pp.
\$22.00. ISBN 0-89296-655-6.

Readers who have followed the whole series may feel that this episode is rather tame. Deborah does less than her usual amount of annoying law enforcement agents and terrifying her family by poking about unaccompanied in pursuit of the murderer, contenting herself with darting into a burning church to save the pulpit Bible. What they will enjoy is a relaxed visit with retired bootlegger Kezzie Knott, Aunt Zell, Maidie, and Dwight

Bryant, as well as many of Deborah's brothers, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends and associates from earlier books. The author has included a family tree to help sort out Deborah's 11 brothers and their offspring.

In spite of all the church picnics and family barbecues that a campaigning judge has to attend, and the nephews and nieces helping build their aunt's house and frolicking in her pond, Maron, Deborah, and the reader know that this world is not as bucolic as it looks. The author takes an honest look at racism as it intrudes in the courtrooms, the politics, the churches, and the social life of the modern South, examining the problem from both White and Black perspectives. As she has before in this series, she also comments on the development that is rapidly changing her landscape.

Like all the Deborah Knott mysteries, *Home Fires Burning* is an intelligent, entertaining story about likeable people dealing with believable problems in present-day rural North Carolina. It will appeal most to those who have followed the series, which also includes *Up Jumps the Devil* and *Southern Discomfort*. Highly recommended for high school and public libraries.

— Dorothy Hodder

New Hanover County Public Library

Stolen Russian nuclear warheads, an angry Chechen terrorist, corrupt government officials, and an ex-CIA knight-in-shining-armor outline this somewhat predictable but essentially solid thriller. Hovering off the coast of North Carolina sits a trawler with five thermonuclear warheads and a crew of determined terrorists bent on bringing Washington to its knees. Tipped off by a friendly Mossad agent, the CIA calls on former operative Friar Clarke, now retired in North Carolina, to investigate. What follows is an adventure that brings the United States close to utter chaos.

John S. Powell.

The Nostradamus Prophecy.

Burlington, N.C.: Belladonna Press, 1998.
354 pp. \$23.95. ISBN 0-9661922-5-7.

First-time author John S. Powell has taken all the requisite characters of a modern terrorist thriller, including a very likeable and potentially reusable hero, and put them in the caverns and backwoods of North Carolina's Grandfather Mountain. There, working against the clock and an incompetent President closely controlled by a powerful and corrupt National Security Advisor, the drama unfolds. While Powell's novel does succeed at keeping the tension high and the reader anxious, those looking for more than an incidental North Carolina backdrop will have to look elsewhere. For large public libraries.

— Harry Tuchmayer

New Hanover County Public Library

It seems odd to hear the state's largest city, Charlotte, referred to as "an agricultural trading village," but that is the way it started in the 1750s. Thomas W. Hanchett traces Charlotte's roots and subsequent development in *Sorting Out the New South City: Race, Class and Urban Development in Charlotte, 1875-1975*. He attempts to answer questions such as what shapes a city, its neighborhoods and its businesses, and succeeds as he describes Charlotte in its preindustrial mode and beyond.

In the 1870s, Charlotte residents would live in neighborhoods without regard to class distinctions, and the housing patterns reflected "salt and pepper racial mixing." Over a short period of time, however, the housing patterns began to shift as the city's financially successful white men manipulated community decision making to their advantage.

Successful efforts to strip the vote from African Americans and blue-collar Whites permitted those in control to start to establish patchwork quilt types of neighborhoods. These new communities were developed to house Blacks, blue-collar Whites, and white-collar Whites separately. Hanchett refers to this process as a "sorting out of the city."

The author includes separate chapters devoted to the development of neighborhoods for each group. Each community development is identified by location and described in relation to its unique identity. Latter chapters focus on such topics as the downtown area, changing business industries, growing road and shopping expansions, long-range neighborhood planning, and the impact of federal government financial aid to the city.

The book is peppered throughout with maps, tables, and photographs of homes and prominent city buildings. A detailed bibliographic reference section is included, followed by the index. Many events from the book are retold as printed in the current mainstream newspapers of the day, including the *Charlotte Observer*, *Charlotte Democrat*, and *Charlotte News*. Also featured is the Black-oriented newspaper *Star of Zion*.

The book appears to be a condensed, edited version of the author's 1993 doctoral thesis, *Sorting out the New South City: Charlotte and its Neighborhoods*. He is revisiting Charlotte neighborhoods as a subject, having co-authored *Legacy: The Myers Park Story*, a book about the prominent Charlotte community. Hanchett is an assistant professor of history and coordinator of the historic preservation program at Youngstown State University in Ohio.

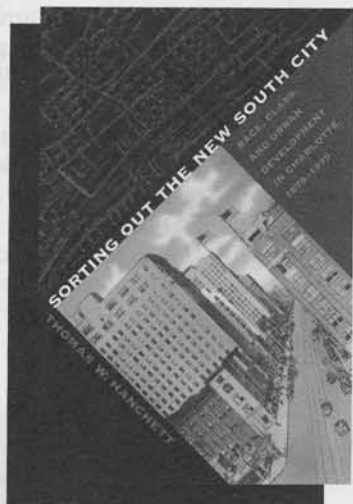
His well-researched new book is recommended for academic, public, and high school libraries.

— Lawrence D. Turner
Queens College

Thomas W. Hanchett.

***Sorting Out the New South City:
Race, Class and Urban
Development in Charlotte,
1875-1975.***

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press,
1998. xv, 380 pp. Cloth, \$59.95. ISBN 0-8078-2376-7.
Paper, \$24.95. ISBN 0-8078-4677-5.



he spirit of Ellen Foster lives on in Kaye Gibbons's newest heroine, Emma Garnet Tate Lowell. Set in nineteenth-century Virginia and Raleigh, North Carolina, Emma's story is a reminiscence of her long and eventful life. Born in 1830 on a James River plantation to the monstrous self-made Samuel Tate and his well-bred wife, Emma Garnet is remarkable for her moral strength, love of learning, and human wisdom—qualities that set her apart from most other people, then and now. She is no Scarlett O'Hara. She marries a New England Lowell, a doctor; she not only assists in the local hospital during the War, she brings it into her home; and she appreciates ("loves") the Negroes as people. Her sensibilities are unmistakably Gibbons's own, translated to another time and social class. Given the value of those sensibilities, it is a worthwhile translation—like a new jewel placed in an antique setting.

Kaye Gibbons.

On the Occasion of My Last Afternoon.

New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1998. 273 pp. \$22.95.
ISBN: 0-399-14299-1.

It is clear that Gibbons strove to make the details of her setting as accurate as possible, even using an occasional term now gone from common usage. We see aspects of family life as it may well have been for a woman of means in the South before, during, and following the Late Unpleasantness. This is no small achievement, but it is superseded by the creation of the three main characters: Emma, her father, and Clarice, the black freedwoman who raised them both. Sam Tate is purely dreadful in his meanness and arrogance, an imperious combination of material success and humane ignorance—the worst sort of person to have authority over (or ownership of) others. Clarice, by way of contrast, combines dignity, integrity, and strength with a keenness of mind that constitutes genuine authority. It is the Clarices of the world who hold it together and make it turn.

The core of the novel is its portrayal of the best and worst of human relationships: nurturing and horrendous parenting, fulfilling and abusive marriages, chosen and imposed bonds between people of different origins—all of these constituting either happily or miserably shared lives. Slavery is a pervasive yet subtle metaphor throughout the book, presented in terms that make it clear that even now, a century later, legality is just one aspect of the larger condition. Whether by love or hatred, we are all bound to others.

On the Occasion of My Last Afternoon is Gibbons's sixth novel, all published since 1987, and all widely acclaimed. Her first and still best known, *Ellen Foster*, won several awards, including the Sue Kaufman Award for First Fiction from the Academy of Arts and Letters. Her third, *A Cure for Dreams* (1991), won the PEN/Revson Award for the best work of fiction published by a writer under 35 and the North Carolina Sir Walter Raleigh Award. In 1996, she was the youngest person ever to receive the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres for her contribution to French literature, and just this November she received North Carolina's Governor's Award. Not at all shabby for a kid from Nash County, North Carolina.

For all North Carolina libraries.

— Rose Simon
Salem College

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his book might well be regarded as a monument to the few libraries in North Carolina where the staff had the foresight years ago to collect and preserve material pertaining to their community's minority population. This book, published by the public library in Wilmington, is an outstanding example of the results of this acquisitions policy, although many of its holdings in this field came in large quantities that had been collected by individuals and presented as units. Further, it is a model of the good use of assorted sources in writing local history. A great deal of interesting and useful information has been gleaned from advertising leaflets and broadsides, vanity publications, political notices, business, religious, and social announcements, newspapers of specific rather than general interest, and other out-of-the-ordinary sources. The book is enhanced by countless photographs, pen-and-ink sketches, paintings, advertisements, and illustrations of objects.

The text of the book is divided into eight chapters on such topics as social life, religion, education, community affairs, politics, agriculture, business, industry, and labor. There also are four appendixes, and a classified bibliography. Among other useful contents there are extensive biographical sketches, rosters of military units, population statistics, a list of African American sites of interest, and a detailed index.

While it is primarily designed as a work of reference, this oversized book is in large measure readable. However, it is printed on coated paper and is unusually heavy and uncomfortable to hold while reading.

— William S. Powell

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

William M. Reaves, edited by Beverly Tetterton.

***"Strength Through Struggle":
The Chronological and Historical
Record of the African-American
Community in Wilmington,
North Carolina, 1865-1950***

Wilmington: New Hanover County Public Library,
1998. xvi, 579 pp., illus., maps. \$30.00. No ISBN.
[Order from New Hanover County Public Library,
201 Chestnut St, Wilmington, NC 28401]
249 pp. \$28.00. ISBN 1-55750-720-1.

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o the European explorers and colonists of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the American South was a strange and wondrous place, rumored to possess great treasures, with gold and silver always just over the next hill. Tales also were told of wild beasts and indescribable monsters, of wildernesses that once entered could not be departed, and of native peoples sometimes welcoming, sometimes ferocious. Even friendly natives, however, could offer only scant information — and that in oral form — about the region's geography, since cartography was an art unknown to them. Europeans, accustomed as they were to trying to define the world through print and paper, quickly began to offer up maps of the region.

William P. Cumming.

The Southeast in Early Maps.

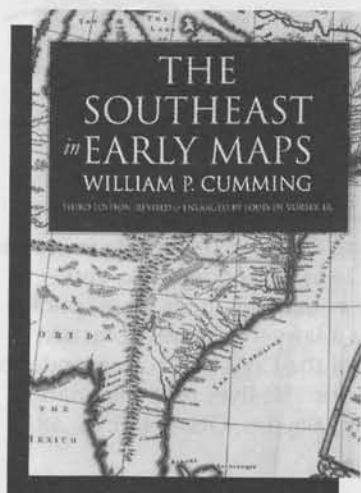
3rd ed., revised and enlarged by
Louis De Vorsey, Jr.
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press,
1998. 362 pp. \$90.00. ISBN 0-8078-2371-6.

The earliest maps were sketchy, imprecise ones, with some reasonably accurate information but also numerous errors, exaggerations, and imaginings. Explorers had not ventured far inland, so cartographers incorporated undocumented details about the region's physical characteristics. As European settlements became more widespread, however, knowledge and mapping of the region improved.

Historians can learn much about the American South by studying the evolution of its maps: the misconceptions that abounded in the earliest years of European contact, how English and Spanish settlers pushed the frontiers westward, how Native Americans shifted their territories as the newcomers took more and

more land. Maps also illustrate changes in human population centers, in the location of inlets, and in the routes of rivers and streams.

Because of this centrality of maps to a full knowledge of a region's history, few reference books have been as useful for a study of the American South as William P. Cumming's *The Southeast in Early Maps*. First printed by Princeton University Press in 1958, it went out of print within a year. In 1962 the University of North Carolina Press brought out an updated, corrected edition. It too sold well and quickly. In the years since, countless scholars, maps enthusiasts, and librarians have bemoaned the unavailability of the book, except for scarce copies offered for several hundred dollars each by rare book dealers. Now, with publication by the University of North Carolina Press of a



third edition—revised and enlarged by the late Professor Cumming's longtime friend, Louis De Vorse, Jr.—a new audience can appreciate this classic work.

The heart of the book is a chronologically arranged checklist of 450 manuscript and printed maps of the Southeast, all produced prior to 1776. The annotation for each map includes dimensions and scale; facts about the cartographer, if he is known; the book or other printed source in which the map appeared, if it was published; and a discussion of unusual details, errors, geographic exaggerations, and other distinguishing characteristics. Location of the map in any of 23 major United States and Canadian libraries and archives also is indicated.

De Vorse has left most of Cumming's research intact, but he has reorganized some material and made needed corrections. He has retained Cumming's important essay on "The Early Maps of Southeastern North America," while adding his own "American Indians and the Early Mapping of the Southeast," a significant contribution to American cartographic studies. The 67 full-page black-and-white plates of maps that appeared in the first and second editions are included in the third. But 24 color plates of additional maps have been specially prepared for the latter, strengthening the visual appeal of the book. The final product is an improved edition of a reference work that should be on the shelves of every college and large public library in the American South and in major research libraries everywhere.

— Robert G. Anthony, Jr.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jill McCorkle's second book of short stories begins in "Paradise," in which a man named Adam meets a woman named Eve at a wedding reception. Adam has been to five weddings in two years, being at the age where all of his college friends are getting married, and, in his opinion, they look "somehow old and washed out, wimped out ... subdued, professional, lobotomized." Adam and Eve start a relationship, despite the Adam-and-Eve jokes which erupt on a regular basis, and end up getting married at the same reception hall where they first met. A year later they have their first daughter, whom they name Sarah.

Throughout the nine short stories in this book, McCorkle successfully uses irony and wit to deal with real-life issues and relationships and to entertain the reader. The stories are diverse in nature and cover male-female relationships, both good and bad; career choices; and life-changing realizations.

Jill McCorkle.
Final Vinyl Days.

Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill,
1998. 212 pp. \$18.95. ISBN 1-56512-204-6.

McCorkle deals humorously with cheating husbands in "Your Husband is Cheating On Us." Mr. Big, who has been unfaithful to his wife for eight years, is now cheating on both his mistress and his wife. The mistress, or test wife, as she calls herself, because "he tries everything out on me first," confronts the wife and suggests that they "bump him off." The theme appears again in "Last Request," in which Tina's father is killed when a tornado demolishes his mistress's house. Tina's mother goes to the scene to identify the body and is interviewed by the local television station. Footage of the interview is run

over and over again that night. Tina tells us, "Just ten feet away from where she'd stood with the microphone in her face was my father's naked, sheet-draped body ... stretched out on the ground between a toaster oven and a fluffy piece of pink insulation." "A Blinking, Spinning, Breathtaking World" is a darker look at infidelity: Charlotte, whose husband has left her and their six-year-old son for other women, is having a very difficult time coping with the situation. She takes her son to visit Wonderland, an indoor theme park for children, where she realizes she is afraid that her life is spinning out of control in much the same way as an endless carnival ride.

McCorkle's female characters are often hopeless, tragic figures, although they may not realize it. Mary Edna of "Dysfunction 101" is one of these—married three times, she has two young daughters and still goes out every night of the week. The author describes people who have rather quirky personality traits, refuse to conform, or choose unusual career paths. The main character in the title story, for example, refuses to accept the extinction of the record album. He works in a record store called Any Old Way You Choose It, listens to bands from the '60s, and only plays record albums.

Final Vinyl Days is an insightful, entertaining piece of writing. Recommended for public and academic libraries.

— Geraldine Purpur
Appalachian State University

OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST ...

The Papers of General Nathanael Greene, Volume X: December 1781 - 6 April 1782 are now available. The volume is edited by Dennis M. Conrad, and includes a glossary of military terms, a chronology, and an index. (1998; University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; xlvii, 663 pp.; \$85.00; ISBN 0-8078-2419-4.)

Michael W. Taylor has compiled *To Drive the Enemy from Southern Soil: The Letters of Col. Francis Marion Parker and the History of the 30th Regiment North Carolina Troops*. He traces the history of the regiment from its organization in September 1861 to Appomattox, and concludes with a brief account of Parker's postwar life. The volume includes maps, photographs, casualty list, bibliography, and index. The author is a lawyer in private practice, and previously wrote *The Cry is War, War, War*, a collection of the Civil War correspondence of two lieutenants of the 34th Regiment North Carolina troops. He lives near Albemarle, North Carolina. (1998; Morningside House, Inc., 260 Oak St., Dayton, OH 45410; xi, 481 pp.; \$29.95; ISBN 0-89029-332-5.)

Reruns include *Mayberry 101: Behind the Scenes of a TV Classic, Volume 1*, by Neal Brower of High Point, a serious Goober who has written a column for *The Andy Griffith Show Rerun Watchers Club* since 1991. Each chapter of the book focuses on an episode of the show, arranged chronologically from 1960 to 1967. Indexed. (1998; John F. Blair, Publisher, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; xvi, 507 pp.; paper, \$14.95; ISBN 0-89587-218-8.)

Recently reprinted by Zuckerman Cannon, Publisher, is *Teen Angel and Other Stories of Wayward Love*, a collection of short stories by Marianne Ginger, originally published in 1988 by Atheneum. (1998; distributed by John F. Blair, Publisher, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; 207 pp.; paper, \$14.00; ISBN 0-9664316-0-X.)

And do not miss "a distinctive book about New South and Old from a writer standing at the intersection where the dirt road of the rural South meets the Information Superhighway," poet Michael Chitwood's *Hitting Below the Bible Belt: Baptist Voodoo, Blood Kin, Grandma's Teeth and Other Stories from the South*. With a foreword by Lee Smith. (1998; Down Home Press, P.O. Box 4126, Asheboro, NC 27204; 142 pp.; paper, \$13.95; ISBN 1-878086-67-7.)

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