



Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

**7** here are exactly 100 counties in North Carolina, and every school child in the state is made to learn the names and county seats for each of them—much to their chagrin. To their minds it may seem pointless to learn the principal agricultural products of Yancey County, or the date of the establishment of Brunswick County. It is only as we grow older, move away to new towns, and start families and businesses that we begin to ask for the kind of information we promptly forgot in grade school. Most people go to the phone book for answers, but if letting their fingers do the walking gets them nowhere, then they fall back on those lessons learned in grade school—they go to the library and ask the librarian.

Beverly and Glenn Tetterton.

## ***The North Carolina County Fact Book, Volume I & II.***

Wendell, N.C.: Broadfoot's of Wendell,  
1998 and 1999. 153 and 226 pp.  
\$25.00 each volume.  
ISBN 1-56837-359-7 and 1-56837-375-9.

Beverly Tetterton has been answering such questions for people for over 20 years. Tetterton is the reigning queen of the New Hanover County Public Library's state and local history room, and the person to see if you're in Wilmington and want to know anything about the town, the Cape Fear, or the state of North Carolina.

As of this year, you don't even need to go to the library to consult Mrs. Tetterton. She and her husband have compiled a list of North Carolina FAQs (frequently asked questions, for those of you who don't use computers) and published it in two volumes as *The North Carolina County Fact Book*. Now researchers, the curious, and students with projects have easy access to all sorts of odd information about the state.

Volume I covers the first 50 counties, in alphabetical order, and Volume II covers the remaining 50. Each county is shown in relation to the state as a whole, and a small highway map also is provided. A few articles have black-and-white photographs, but the strength of these books isn't in pictures; it is in pure factual information. Each county is given its location, its longitude and latitude, elevation, and a list of relevant physical features. Cultural institutions are listed, newspapers are detailed, and historic sites are given. Tetterton includes a list of notable

people in each county, Chamber of Commerce information, and a section for what she calls "Odds and Ends"—odd facts and interesting information that refuses to be categorized. Look up Pender County, and you will find that it was the site of Operation Bumblebee—the 1945 Naval project that was the forerunner of the Space Program. You will also find that Pender County has a thriving business in ostrich ranches. New Hanover County is extensively documented, with a list of notable people that covers two pages and includes the obvious (Michael Jordan) and the not-so-obvious (Meadowlark Lemon, the "clown prince" of basketball).

*The North Carolina County Fact Book* is literally a collection of lists of facts. It isn't a history book in that it offers no interpretation, no attempt to delve deeper into the material. Each county's entry, however, includes a section headed "Read More About It" with a list of resources to consult if the researcher wants more information. For instance, residents of Moore County will find that they live in the "Golf Capital of the World," and they can learn more about that by reading "A Celebration of Golf and Good Times" by the Resorts of Pinehurst.

A project as extensive as the *North Carolina County Fact Book* could only have been 20 years in the making—the breadth and the depth of coverage are incredible. This book should be in the hands of every librarian, every educator, and every historian in the state. Whether you are a professional researcher or merely someone with an insatiable desire for trivia, you will want these books on your shelf.

—Nicki Leone  
Bristol Books

Societal observers refer so frequently to "the importance of the church in the lives of African Americans" that the phrase risks becoming a cliché. The centrality of organized religion in the Black community is indeed undeniable, yet remarkably little scholarly study of this component of African American culture has been attempted, at least until recent years. There have been histories of Black denominations, studies of important churches, and the occasional biography of a religious leader, but these have often been more celebratory than objective. In addition, few of the critical examinations of African Americans and religion that have been written were intended for the general public.

With *For God and Race: The Religious and Political Leadership of AMEZ Bishop James Walker Hood*, author Sandy Dwayne Martin offers a skillfully researched and thoughtful interpretation of the public career of one of the most significant Black religious leaders in the half-

decade following the Civil War. It was in that period that most of today's major Black denominations emerged to become not only key shapers of African American culture but also important influences on American religion in general. Martin's biography of Hood, while scholarly in tone, is nevertheless quite accessible to the non-scholar.

Hood, born in Pennsylvania in 1831, first professed Christian beliefs when eleven years old. A decade later he felt called to preach, and by 1856 was licensed to do so by the United Church of Africans in New York City. Soon afterwards, however, he affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, an independent Black denomination that had been organized in New York in 1821. He would devote the remainder of his life to "Zion."

AMEZ officials first assigned Hood to service in New York, then in New England and Canada; but in 1864 they dispatched the energetic, charismatic minister to organize churches among the newly freed slaves in the American South. Arriving in New

Bern, North Carolina, a city that had been captured by Federal forces, he persuaded an influential pre-Civil War Black congregation, previously controlled by the White Methodist Episcopal Church South, to affiliate with AMEZ. Competition for the allegiance of existing churches and in organizing new ones for Blacks in the South was fierce, especially among independent Northern-based Black Baptist and Methodist denominations. Hood proved an effective proponent of AMEZ, winning over many churches and founding numerous others. He also debated effectively those African Americans who argued for affiliation with White denominations because of their belief that Christians should be united and their concern that segregated churches would reinforce economic, political, and social discrimination.

Martin presents much information on these and other interdenominational disputes, but his focus is on Hood's role in them. The minister, Martin asserts, deserves much of the credit for the growth of AMEZ in the South, especially in North Carolina, which soon had more members than any other state and which became the church's new headquarters. Today, AMEZ membership totals more than 1,200,000, and the church is the country's fourth largest Black denomination. A considerable portion of the book concerns Hood's leadership as bishop, a position he held for 44 years, 22 of them as presiding senior bishop. Martin argues that Hood should also be remembered for his leadership in public affairs.

Hood saw himself foremost as a Christian minister, responsible not only for the religious lives of fellow African Americans but also for helping improve educational, economic, and social conditions for them. An active involvement in politics and the "temporal world," he felt, was a logical extension of his ministerial duties. The author details Hood's political and "racial betterment" activities—presiding in 1865 at the first convention of free Blacks in North Carolina, serving as a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1867, promoting educational opportunities for Blacks as Assistant State Superintendent of Public Instruction, supporting the establishment of Livingstone College at Salisbury, North Carolina, and encouraging African Americans to remain loyal to the Republican Party, especially during the presidential elections of 1908 and 1912.

*For God and Race* is a welcome addition not only to African American historiography, but also to the study of religion in the United States. Well written, with extensive footnotes and bibliography—but surprisingly with no illustrations other than a photograph of Hood on the dust jacket—it restores to historical consciousness a major figure in North Carolina history. Libraries with African American, North Carolina, and religion collections will want to add this book to their holdings.

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

Sandy Dwayne Martin.

***For God and Race:  
The Religious and Political  
Leadership of AMEZ  
Bishop James Walker Hood.***

Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1999.  
248 pp. \$39.95. ISBN 1-57003-261-0.

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Thomas Lanier Clingman's resumé was impressive — college graduate, lawyer, member of the N.C. House of Commons, U.S. Congressman, U.S. Senator, Civil War General, amateur scientist, inventor, entrepreneur, writer. His life and career spanned three of the greatest national political events of the nineteenth century (slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction) and brought him into contact with such varied national personalities as Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Stephen A. Douglas, James Buchanan, and Thomas A. Edison. Yet today he is chiefly remembered for discovering the highest peak in the Smoky Mountains, Clingman's Dome.

Clingman's political career was based in and around Asheville where, as a Whig, he won his first election to the state House of Commons. It was at the state level that Clingman learned the rough and tumble frontier politics that he would practice throughout his life. Though not a Secessionist, he was a strong advocate for the South's viewpoints on the national political scene, and his Congressional service coincided with such great debates as the Mexican War and extension of slavery into the newly forming western states. Clingman's political ambitions and tireless self-promotion helped propel him to the U.S. Senate and to the point of having his name prominently mentioned as a possible running mate with Stephen A. Douglas for the fateful presidential election of 1860.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Clingman resigned his Senate seat — a move that put an end to his national political ambitions. Without formal military training, he nonetheless commanded the 25th North Carolina Infantry throughout the war and participated in battles at Goldsboro, New Bern, and Petersburg, Virginia. After the war his interest turned to North Carolina state politics. Though he tried desperately to regain his political reputation, his every attempt failed. Clingman then turned his efforts toward trying to persuade Northern capitalists to invest in western North Carolina. He also spent considerable time on several failed money-making schemes of his own, including patenting an electric lighting device and trying to turn tobacco into a medical curative.

Thomas E. Jeffrey, associate editor for the Thomas A. Edison Papers project at Rutgers University, has done an outstanding job in researching and presenting Clingman's life and times, especially the evolution of North Carolina and national politics in the 1830s and 1840s. This biography should be included in all North Carolina collections and in collections dealing with southern political history. The work includes extensive notes, a bibliography, an index, and black-and-white illustrations.

— John Welch  
State Library of North Carolina

Thomas E. Jeffrey.

## **Thomas Lanier Clingman: Fire Eater from the Carolina Mountains.**

Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1999.  
450 pp. \$50.00. ISBN 0-8203-2023-4.

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athy Reichs's first suspense novel, *Deja Dead*, burst on the scene in 1997, making the *New York Times* Best Seller list. *Death du Jour*, her second book, undoubtedly will be no less popular with fans of this particular genre of murder mystery.

Understandably, Reichs's main character and plots are compared to those of Patricia Cornwell. But Cornwell and Reichs part company in the area of actual expertise. The character Temperance ("Tempe") Brennan is by training a forensic anthropologist — as is the author. Reichs's character is openly patterned after the author's actual life. The advice "write what you know" has never been followed more closely. In real life, Dr. Reichs is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and also serves as a forensic anthropologist for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, State of North Carolina, as well for the Laboratoire des Sciences Judiciaires et de Médecine Légale for the province of Quebec in Montreal, Canada. She divides her time between Charlotte, and Montreal. Tempe Brennan leads an equally busy double life in the same locations, with so many parallels to the author's actual life that the reader cannot be sure what is fact and what is fiction. This is certainly a fascinating element that is rarely

Kathy Reichs.

## **Death du Jour.**

New York: Scribner, 1999. 379pp. \$25.00.  
ISBN 0-684-84118-5.



successful in popular fiction. For this author it seems to work.

Tempe Brennan is an authentic modern woman who leads a complicated life. She is separated from her husband, for whom she still has ambivalent feelings, and has a college-aged daughter who aspires to be a crime analyst. She quit drinking after years of struggle, dotes on her cat, and gets herself involved in precarious situations from time to time. She is not glamorous like Cornwell's Kay Scarpetta: she drives a Mazda, not a Mercedes. Minor characters are just emerging and are not as well-developed as Tempe, but if the author continues to write sequels, perhaps we'll learn more about them. A potential love interest in the character of Montreal-based Detective Andrew Ryan teases the reader into wanting more from that relationship. Montreal scenes tend to dominate her plots; Carolina readers would probably enjoy more action involving our region.

Plot development in Reichs's second novel (as well as the first) is multi-layered and generally well done. Occasionally, events turn on coincidences which seem contrived. For example, one might find it hard to believe that a key lead in the mystery shows up so easily on a South Carolina island, which is introduced to the plot as a school project for Tempe's daughter. That aside, the pace and development of characters and plot are compelling and hold the reader's interest.

Reichs's novels are a must for public library collections and are also suitable for academic "popular reading" collections.

— Eleanor I. Cook  
Appalachian State University

**I**t is the eve of the new millennium and a bizarre confluence of events has assembled a mismatched and colorful group of characters in the small Smoky Mountains town of High Balsam. There, a spirited but introspective young Episcopalian pastor struggles with the needs of a changing community, the proclivities of parish life, the stresses and strains of a difficult marriage, and the remnants of her own troubled past.

The novel is *Evensong*, sequel to the best-selling *Father Melancholy's Daughter*. Author Gail Godwin has crafted a narrative that continues the story of Margaret Bonner, now 33 years old and married to her late father's protégé. Adrian Bonner is a complex character who is darkly reminiscent of Margaret's father: moody, morose, and subject to frequent bouts of self-deprecation. He is a modern day flagellant who is so convinced of his unworthiness that even his work as chaplain at a school for troubled adolescents offers him little consolation. Together, Adrian and Margaret paint a spectrum of spiritual responses to the paradoxes and peculiarities of life: one is preoccupied with his inadequacies and responds by retreating farther into himself, while the other is more imbued with untainted curiosity and a passion for reconciling her parishioners (and herself) with a benevolent God.

Gail Godwin.

### ***Evensong*.**

New York: Ballantine, 1999. 405 pp.  
\$22.00. ISBN: 0-345-37244-1.

Godwin is at her best when she delves into the everyday struggles of Everyman, and explores the sometimes poetic and sometimes comical methods people employ to find sense and meaning in a world that seems devoid of both. The sleepy mountain town of High Balsam offers up an array of residents and transients who collectively imitate the frayed strands of larger society. The landscape of *Evensong* is peppered with a Bible-beating zealot, a chain-smoking mystic, a wine-swilling juvenile delinquent, and a fairly unremarkable ensemble cast.

Though they sometimes are a tad too well-informed about their flaws and motivations, the protagonists are, at heart, decent people trying to lead good lives. Godwin offers a solid and candidly drawn picture of life in a small town that is perched on the cusp of a collision between time and change. Her writing is frank and thought-provoking and the story, though ponderous at times, still manages to keep the reader engaged. She has skillfully continued the narrative and themes introduced in the novel's prequel, but the success of *Evensong* is evidenced by its ability to stand alone as a work of fiction.

— Gayle McManigle Fishel  
Davidson College

Do you live a boring life and long for adventure? Do you have strange friends and family? If you answered yes to either of these questions, you will be able to identify with Molly and Nell O'Hara.

Molly and Nell own Enchanted Cottage Antiques in Pelletreau, North Carolina. Nell has not spoken since the day she saw her mother murdered seventeen years ago, a case that has never been solved. At an estate sale, the sisters are shocked by a Broadway *Playbill* featuring their grandmother on the cover. Their grandmother, now in the Pelletreau Charitable Nursing Home, had barely been able to support her family with the money she earned as a seamstress. Never had she mentioned her past as a Broadway actress. While the girls were growing up, she had refused to say anything about her past except that all of her family was dead. Anxious to see their grandmother and find out more about her past, Molly and Nell arrive at the nursing home to find their grandmother dead. Molly has a nagging suspicion about her grandmother's death and the mysterious visitor she had before she died.

The sisters embark on an adventure that takes them to New York, England, and finally to a small island in Vermont to retrace their grandmother's footsteps back to any family they may have. Molly and Nell meet quite a cast of characters on their journey. An aging actor who appeared on stage with their grandparents leads them to a former actor who gives them the information needed to track down their grandfather in England. At a dog show in England, the sisters meet their grandfather, who turns out to be the key they need to find their grandmother's family.

When Molly and Nell are welcomed at their grandmother's family home, the family appears to be dying off. The victim in the latest death looks suspiciously like their grandmother's mysterious visitor, and the sisters become suspects. Mathes will keep you guessing the identity of the killer or killers until the last chapter.

Other books by Mathes are *The Girl with the Phony Name* and *The Girl Who Remembered Snow*, mysteries also featuring young women and their travels as they search for their families. His latest novel of humor and suspense will be a welcome addition to any fiction collection.

— Lisa C. Driver  
Pitt Community College

Charles Mathes.

## ***The Girl at the End of the Line.***

New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999. 279 pp.  
\$22.95. ISBN 0-312-19887-6.

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST ...**

*Where There's a Will*, by Elizabeth Daniels Squire, is the sixth installment of the adventures of Peaches Dann, absent-minded amateur sleuth from Asheville, North Carolina. As usual, Peaches copes with family trouble, but this time it's her lifelong friend Marietta, whose family is in trouble. Seems eccentric Uncle Hiram left \$15 million to his eight heirs on the condition that within a year of his death they travel together to England to view the ancestral digs, and return on the cruise ship on which he and his bride enjoyed the blissful honeymoon that all too briefly preceded her death from leukemia. Before the trip gets organized two heirs are dead, and the survivors can't decide whether to suspect creepy Hiram or each other of setting them up. Only Peaches would be patient enough to take a cruise with this dysfunctional family, and even Marietta is guarding family secrets that almost get her loyal friend killed for her trouble. Stalwart husband Ted and colorful, aggravating Pop fax advice from home every day or so, but not even warnings from the psychic who Pop consults save Peaches from being mistaken for an alcoholic by the crew and almost being snuffed out in a clothes dryer set on high. Virtue and painstaking detection triumph over greed and hate, and we leave Peaches contemplating changing careers from murder investigation to newspaper reporting, something else the author knows a great deal about. (1999; Berkley Prime Crime, 375 Hudson St, New York, NY 10014; 243 pp.; paper, \$5.99; ISBN 0-425-16984-7.)

Test your knowledge with *The Ultimate North Carolina Quiz Book*, covering the state's environs, wars and elections, arts and letters, commerce and science, culture, music and entertainment, and sports and recreation. Recommended for the State Quiz Bowl Committee and all public libraries. Author Lew Powell is a reporter and editor for the *Charlotte Observer*, and has previously published *On This Day in North Carolina* and *Lew Powell's Carolina Follies*. (1999; University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; 177 pp.; paper, \$10.95; ISBN 0-8078-4825-5.)

Former UNC Press staffers Lisa Dellwo and Jessica Philyaw have put together a helpful guidebook called *Romantic North Carolina: More Than 300 Things to Do for Southern Lovers*. It is equal-opportunity, including spectator and participatory sports as well as arts, shopping, dining out, nightlife, and lodging. (1999; Hill Street Press, LLC, 101 East Broad St., Suite 209, Athens, GA 30601-2848; 146 pp.; paper, \$10.95; ISBN 1-892514-14-1.)

Two mouth-watering cookbooks represent Tarheel cuisine this fall. *The Country Ham Book*, by Jeanne Voltz and Elaine Harvell, covers the history, lore, and basic preparation of country ham; presents more than 70 recipes for country ham and its accompaniments; and includes a glossary and list of sources for ordering country ham. (1999; University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; 146 pp.; cloth, \$24.95; ISBN 0-8078-2519-0; paper, \$16.95; ISBN 0-8078-4827-1.)

*Mama Dip's Country Kitchen* includes more than 250 traditional Southern recipes familiar to most anyone who ever went to school in Chapel Hill, and Mama Dip's (or Mildred Council's) memories of early childhood, hard work, and business success. (1999; University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; 230 pp.; cloth, \$27.50; ISBN 0-8078-2508-5; paper, \$15.95; ISBN 0-8078-4790-9.)

Two memoirs of North Carolina women will be of interest to state and local history collections. *Life Behind the Potted Plant*, by "Miz M," is the life story of Doris Michael, a native of Surry County and a retired teacher. A church musician from the age of twelve, she observed life from behind a series of piano and organ keyboards, "all from behind untold numbers of potted plants." Illustrated with photographs, as well as drawings, sketches, and paintings by the author. (1998; Gabbard Publications, 1829 Grubb Rd., Lenoir City, TN 37771; 236 pp.; paper, \$14.95; ISBN 0-9622608-6-X.)

Christine Whaley Williams tells her story and the story of Duplin County's progress as the state's most profitable agricultural county in *Chrysthine: Portrait of a Unique North Carolina Girl: Up From the Sharecrop Fields*. A hard worker since her childhood as a sharecropper's daughter, Christine rose to serve nine terms as Duplin County Register of Deeds, and to make many other contributions to her community. (1999; Pentland Press, Inc., 5122 Bur Oak Circle, Raleigh, NC 27612; 424 pp.; cloth, \$25.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling; ISBN 1-57197-150-5.)

New from the Institute of Government is *Public School Volunteers: Law and Liability in North Carolina*, by Ingrid M. Johansen. It covers guidelines for developing policy and procedures on screening, training, and supervising volunteers, as well as liability issues. Public libraries might want to check their volunteer policies against this work. (1999; Institute of Government, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, CB#3330 Knapp Bldg.; Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330; 105 pp.; paper, \$16.00; ISBN 1-56011-358-8.)

A new edition of Stephen Allred's *Employment Law: A Guide for North Carolina Public Employers* updates the 1995 edition with expanded sections on the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and other pertinent state and federal court decisions. (3rd edition, 1999; Institute of Government, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, CB#3330 Knapp Bldg.; Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330; 459 pp.; paper, \$35.00; ISBN 1-56011-351-0.)

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