

New

North Carolina Books

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JOHN MILTON COOPER, JR. *Walter Hines Page: The Southerner As American, 1855-1918*. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1977). \$15.95

This is a study of the career of Walter Hines Page. It is a successful biography; the research is vast and meticulous and the analysis is fair and sound.

Page saw his mission in life to be that of an emissary from the post Civil War South to the rest of the nation and, in his last years, as a spokesman for Great Britain to the United States during the First World War. Page's outstanding qualities appear to have been great energy and (with some significant exceptions) the capacity to attract the admiration and loyalty of those with whom he dealt, whether in the world of education, journalism, or in public life as the American Ambassador to the Court of St. James.

In addition to its portrait of Page, the book is important because of the picture it provides of life in North Carolina in the last decades of the nineteenth century. It is also valuable because of its description of American journalism during the same period. Students of the Wilson Administration will find much of value here: glimpses of that great and complicated president, the oblique Colonel House, and

other public figures, all admirably treated.

Some minor criticism can be made of Cooper's style; there is some repetition, and his use of the "elegant variation" is distracting. Page is often referred to as "Walt", "Page", "Walter Hines Page", "The Tar Heel", "The North Carolinian", and "The Ambassador". I would have preferred "Page" for once and for all.

One last criticism seems to be in order. Cooper makes no reference to Colin Simpson's study of the sinking of the *Lusitania*. Simpson shows that the ship's naval escort was deliberately withdrawn shortly before the attack by the German submarine. This certainly explains why, hours before that event, both Sir Edward Grey and King George V, in separate conversations, raised the question with Page as to what America might do if the *Lusitania* were to be sunk. What appears in Cooper's account as coincidence assumes a much darker color in Simpson's book, a deliberate attempt on the part of the British to bring America into the war.

All university and college libraries should add this book to their collections. Public libraries that maintain collections in American diplomatic history should also order it.

Henry G. Hood, Jr.

MARILYN GOMBOSI. *A Day Of Solemn Thanksgiving: Moravian Music For The Fourth Of July, 1783, in Salem, North Carolina*. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1977). \$14.95.

Marilyn Gombosi, Assistant Director of the Moravian Music Foundation, is involved in the collecting, editing and preserving of music in the archives of Old Salem, a restored eighteenth century village now a part of the city of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. In this book she presents, with full realization of parts for instruments, the music believed to have been used in services on July 4, 1783 celebrating the end of the Revolutionary War. The author explains in a most interesting way how Friedrich Peter worked out the complete musical program, drawing on remembrances from 1763 Peace Festival that celebrated the end of the Seven Years War. She describes the presumed reasoning of Peter in adapting existing music and parts to a prescribed order of service (by order of the state), and presents the replication in beautiful music autography by Helen M. Jenner.

This work can be considered a rare book collection in one volume. The "solemn, sober stile" of the music is truly stayed on harmony that imparts "Gladness, Charity, and Benevolence." Surely these musical collections will later appear in octavo form and will include reprints of Gombosi's discussion of the musical traditions of the Moravian Church. The author's musical "restoration" adheres to sound principles of research. It should be ordered by any North Carolina library that serves those who have an interest in the musical and cultural life of the eighteenth century.

Rosemarie Cooper

CURTIS CARROLL DAVIS. *Revolution's Godchild: The Birth, Death and Regeneration of the Society of the Cincinnati in North Carolina*. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1976), \$20.00

Very few people in North Carolina have heard of the Society of Cincinnati. And those who have heard the name most likely know little or nothing about the organization. This book (a limited edition of 1000 copies) is a history of this very old group of Americans. The Society was organized in the spring of 1783 on the banks of the Hudson River in New York. Its membership was restricted to officers of the thirteen Continental Lines that fought in the American Revolution. Its present membership consist of descendents of officers who fought in this conflict. The organization took its name from the Roman dictator, Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, who supposedly left his farm to defend Rome from aggressors.

The North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati was organized in Hillsborough on October 25, 1783. This book traces the life of the North Carolina chapter from its founding, through its lean years, to its status today. It concentrates on the membership over the years — who they were, what they believed, what they accomplished in private and public affairs, and what they stand for today. According to Davis the Society is conservative, martial, nationalistic, aristocratic, elitist, and always patriotic. In short, it is a group of leaders, gentlemen who stand ready to promote and protect the tried and true values of American life. In his concluding assessment of the meaning of the Society Davis seems unnecessarily snippy toward those groups that question the motives of such organizations.

The book is carefully researched and well written. It is a worthwhile reference work for college and university libraries.

WILLIAM JOHNSTON HOGAN. *Huntington, Silversmiths 1763-1885*. (Durham: Sir Walter Press, 1977), \$10.00.

ELLEN J. CRAIG-SCOTT. *Life On The Eno*. (Durham: Sir Walter Press, 1977).

These two books are the first offerings of a new publishing house in Durham, the Sir Walter Press. The first volume is an account of a family of silversmiths, the Huntingtons, that came to America from England in 1663. Members of this family practiced their craft in Connecticut, North Carolina and Alabama. The focus here is on the period when the family lived and worked in Hillsborough. The weight of this book is toward family history and genealogy rather than the art and business of the silversmith. Though there is some discussion of the craft and numerous illustrations of silver spoons, these seem incidental to the family story. It is worth mentioning that the metal cornerstone plaque of *Old East*, the oldest building on the campus of the University at Chapel Hill, is the work of this family.

The second book, a limited edition, is a volume of ten short stories set in Hillsborough. They are quiet little stories of romantic love written in the style of an earlier day. Readers who are jaded by the realism of "total exposure fiction" will smirk at the simplicity of these stories. They are rather old-fashioned, but they have certain charm. The book will be of interest to those who enjoy reading about life in and around Hillsborough.

ELIZABETH H. RAGAN. *The Lineage Of The Amos Ragan Family*. (Greensboro: The Quaker Collection Of Guilford College, 1976).

Genealogy is a vital part of history. Yet family histories are rarely read except by family members or an occasional biographer or social historian. Most such studies are not really meant to be read; they are reference books. This volume is

an exception to the rule; you can read it with some pleasure and profit. Though the focus is on the Ragan family, it contains much information about other North Carolina families in Guilford, Davidson and Rowan counties. It will be of value to anyone interested in the history of Quaker families in the central section of the state. The manuscript was edited by Herbert Poole.

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