

New North Carolina Books

Suzanne S. Levy,
Compiler

William S. Powell, editor. **THE CORRESPONDENCE OF WILLIAM TRYON AND OTHER SELECTED PAPERS**, Volume I, 1758-1767 Raleigh: N. C. Division of Archives and History, 1980. 664 pp. \$25.

The administration of royal governor William Tryon spans one of the fascinating eras in North Carolina's colonial history. Tryon himself is generally considered the most competent of the governors sent to this colony by the British ministry and his talents were put to the test during the six years he served the province. During his tenure here from 1765 to 1771 he weathered the Stamp Act resistance, the Townshend Duty protests, and the Regulator rebellion. When he left to become governor of New York he still retained a significant following in North Carolina. The construction of the governor's residence or "palace" in New Bern that bears his name was undoubtedly the most notable monument to his administration although the original "palace" spawned some controversy among the citizens of his day.

The publication of Governor Tryon's papers is a long-awaited and highly significant addition to North Carolina historiography. Professor Powell has combined his many editorial talents with those of the Division of Archives and History staff to produce an important documentary source. Documents previously included in the William L. Saunders edition of the *Colonial Records of North Carolina* constitute a significant segment of the volume, but errors and omissions in the Saunders's transcriptions have been corrected and footnoted. These papers are supplemented by previously unpublished letters from major repositories throughout the nation and from the British Public Record Office. Location identification symbols, copious explanatory footnotes, and an exceptionally good index add considerably to the research value of this handsome volume.

Historians with research interests in colonial North Carolina will surely want to add this book to their personal collections and anxiously await its companion volume. It should be a must for academic libraries and for larger public libraries that attempt to provide documentary sources in state and local history.

Donald R. Lennon
East Carolina University

Suzanne Levy has done a superb job of compiling the book reviews and soliciting reviewers for "North Carolina Books," which is a major feature of this journal. Suzanne moved to Fairfax, Virginia, in February, where she has assumed the position of head of special collections. We are grateful for all the work which Suzanne accomplished in behalf of NCL.

Jock Lauterer. **WOULDN'T TAKE NOTHIN' FOR MY JOURNEY NOW.** Hill. University of North Carolina Press, 1980. 167 pp. \$12.50

Wouldn't Take Nothin' for My Journey Now is the result of journalist Jock Lauterer's interviews with more than 30 North Carolina mountain dwellers. There are millers, photographers, mule sellers, molasses makers, midwives, farmers, of course, and more. They have one thing in common—age. And each had a story to tell.

What they say is not always surprising, but the way they say it . . . On repairmen: "Some repairmen do terrible things;" retirement: "The four walls, they'll have me squeezed to death," modern stores: "They're likely to make you buy something," trees: "They're a-fixin' to bloom is what they're a-fixin' to do," farming techniques: "When the gal there is holding them blossoms, then stay out of the plantin' business."

Lauterer's prose and photographs, together with quotes from the subjects, make *Wouldn't Take Nothin' for My Journey Now* a lively and entertaining book. It is recommended for public libraries and North Carolina collections.



Old-timers from the North Carolina mountains share their lives and skills in *Wouldn't Take Nothin' for my Journey Now*.

Rebecca S. Kornegay
Johnston Technical College

Robert L. Moxley and Ronald C. Wimberley. **CHANGING SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA.** Raleigh: Agricultural Research Service, North Carolina State University, 1979. 86 pp. free. (Order from Department of Sociology and Anthropology, N.C.S.U., P.O. Box 5428, Raleigh, NC 27650)

This study was "inspired" by the desire of the faculty of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at N. C. State to respond to the needs of North Carolinians by utilizing "applied research." An introductory review of the literature attempts to justify the project and set the modest goal of exposing the trends in the changing social structure of the 11th most populous state.

Three structural indicators are used to quantify trends: differentiation, the diversity of specialized institutions and organizations; counts of the types of

occupations, retail businesses, educational and health care facilities; fluidity, the ease with which information and resources flow, examines the interaction among the differentiated institutions; and, linkages, channels of communication and transportation, join the institutions of one locality with those of another. Other trends studied include infant mortality rates, suicides, homicides and possession of essential household items.

The indicators are charted over a twenty year period, from 1950 to 1970, by four categories of county types: metro, urban, semirural and rural. The categories are charted simultaneously to facilitate comparisons among types as well as over time periods. The study concludes that the quality of life has, in general, improved from 1950 to 1970 and is higher in urban areas. No attempt is made to compare North Carolina to other states.

This research report, replete with tables, charts and maps, will probably delight statisticians. Because there are appendices to explain abstruse tools, such as the Gini Coefficient and the Guttman Scale as well as an adequate bibliography, I can recommend this study for colleges and universities. Others I fear, will find it tiresome.

Tim Dempsey
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

Helen F. M. Leary and Maurice R. Stirewalt, eds., **NORTH CAROLINA RESEARCH, GENEALOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY**. Raleigh: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1980. 633 pp. \$21.50 (Order from The Society, P. O. Box 1492, Raleigh, N. C. 27602)

To describe this book adequately in less than a dozen pages would be impossible. It is a magnificent source of factual information as well as a guide to historical and genealogical (and by extension, biographical) research in North Carolina. Nearly twenty specialists contributed sections to this work and they have most generously shared the knowledge they have gained over a long period of time. Various categories of state and local as well as federal manuscript records are described; in addition such assorted sources as maps, newspapers, business records, oral history, photographs, artifacts, and folklore are discussed. Recommendations are made concerning note taking, abstracting, correspondence, and other essential aspects of research. A mere listing of some of the categories of records covered in this book will perhaps suggest its breadth. Among the significant as well as unusual should be noted marriage, divorce, and vital statistics; wills; estate records; land records; tax and fiscal records; minutes from a variety of courts; bonds; military and pension records; school records; census reports; family records; cemetery records; and church records. In every case the category of records is fully described, their potential use discussed, and extracts or examples cited. There also are numerous facsimile illustrations, photographs, maps, charts, and diagrams. An especially useful feature of this book is a 40-page section devoted to definitions of terms and abbreviations often found in historical and genealogical research. Finally, there is a section that explains how to organize and record genealogical

New North Carolina Books

information. Included are examples of various kinds of charts and suggestions for numbering generations. The book is carefully indexed and this, together with the detailed table of contents, make it a reference librarian's treasure trove. No library in the state should be without a copy. It can help high school students begin research for term papers, graduate students in writing theses and dissertations, and everybody in finding ancestors and historical information.

William S. Powell
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

Jerry Bledsoe. **JUST FOLKS, VISITIN' WITH NORTH CAROLINA PEOPLE.** Charlotte, N. C. : East Woods Press, 1980. 208 pp. \$9.95.

For those of us who pick up the morning paper, scan the headlines for the latest disasters, read those national wire service stories which we feel dall educated and halfway intelligent people *must* read, and then pour a second cup of coffee and settle back to savor the *real news* as presented by local columnists who write about local people, this book is a collection of treasures. They probably should be savored slowly, as an after-dinner liqueur, but who can stop after reading just one or two?

Bledsoe is a former columnist for the *Greensboro Daily News*, now with the *Charlotte Observer*. This book is a collection of his columns, divided geographically into coastal, piedmont, and mountain regions, with good reason. As Bledsoe says in his introduction: "The lives and character of many of the people in this book were formed by the land on which they lived ... It is important that the influence of the land on people's lives and character be preserved, if only in a book."

So get this book for your public library or your academic library, but sneak it home first and read about Ben Owen at Seagrove and about Carbine Williams, and about Otelia Connor's smacking students with umbrellas, and about Brunswick stew, and about the closing of Oak Hall in Tryon, and about — but enough. I think you get the idea.

Alice R. Cotten
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

Judith M. Spitsbergen. **SEACOAST LIFE: AN ECOLOGICAL GUIDE TO NATURAL SEASHORE COMMUNITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA.** Raleigh: State Museum of Natural History, in association with the Hampton Mariners Museum, Beaufort, N. C., 1980. 114 pp. \$5.95. (Order from Museum Publications, P. O. Box 27647, N.C. State Museum of Natural History, Raleigh, NC 27611 — Make check to NCDA Museum of Extension Fund)

Seacoast Life, unlike many field guides to plants and animals, uses a habitat approach, treating in separate sections each of the major coastal habitats (ocean beach, sand dune, salt marsh, tidal flat, and rock jetty and piling), its

environment and its more important organisms. The author is curator of education at the Hampton Mariners Museum in Beaufort.

Each section starts with useful introductory material, including brief descriptions of the habitat (physical environment) and community (ecological relations of the plants and animals) plus lists of special habitat features and characteristic adaptations of the organisms found there. The last and longer part of a section is a species by species discussion of the ecology of the organisms typical of the habitat. Every one of them is illustrated.

An introductory section, "Seacoast Ecology," covers material fundamental to the rest of the book. Here, the important physical factors and ecological concepts applicable to seashore communities are well presented accompanied by clear illustrations. The cross section of a barrier island and the diagram of how nutrients and energy cycle through a seashore community are especially helpful.

I think *Seacoast Life* would be improved by a table of contents or, at least running heads, to give quick access to the material. The illustrations (black and white drawings) are uneven in quality. Many show detail well, but others are dark and muddy. They could, in most cases, suffice for quick flip-through identification.

There is a good short bibliography and a five page glossary. Some of the definitions in the glossary could be tied better to the material in the book, as, for example, mentioning the sea shells are calcareous, under that term.

The two indexes cover names of organisms, both scientific and common. I found a couple of blind cross-references in the common names section. A third index, to the rest of the material in the book, would help, particularly in the absence of a table of contents.

Seacoast Life should be available in public, school, and academic libraries throughout the state. There has been a real need for a popular, readily-available book on the natural habitats of coastal North Carolina. I hope this book will help people appreciate and understand the beauty and complexities of this unique part of the state, and always be more of a record of what exists, rather than what use.

John B. Darling
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

Ruth O. Szittya. **MAN TO MATCH THE MOUNTAINS: THE CHILDHOOD OF ZEBULON BAIRD VANCE.** Asheville: Hexagon, 1980. 104 pp. \$5.00 plus \$.75 postage and handling. (Order from Ruth O. Szittya, P. O. Box 545, Swannanoa, N. C. 28778)

Dedicated "To the boys and girls of North Carolina," *Man to Match the Mountains* is the story of young Zeb Vance growing up in Buncombe County in the early 1800s. The book is definitely geared toward young readers (approximately grades 4 through 8), especially those of Buncombe County and its environs; indeed, the title is taken from the motto on the Buncombe County seal.

New North Carolina Books

The book is interestingly and well written. Close attention is paid to the customs and history of western North Carolina. As Szittyta points out in the preface, "Zeb was a precocious, mischievous boy. Many tales of his pranks are still part of the folklore . . ." Indeed, the story of Vance's young life is well blended with the events and people of the time.

Man to Match the Mountains is a worthwhile addition to any library with a collection of North Carolina materials and/or with a need for good biographies for young people

Diane Kessler
Durham County Schools

Alan D. Watson. *MONEY AND MONETARY PROBLEMS IN EARLY NORTH CAROLINA*. Raleigh: N. C. Division of Archives and History, 1980. 60 pp. \$2.00 paper.

Any North Carolinian who bemoans the country's present financial difficulties should read this pamphlet. Dr. Watson, an expert in the field of colonial history, sketches such a dismal picture of monetary affairs in North Carolina during the entire eighteenth century that the reader cannot help but be comforted by today's relatively stable currency and economy.

Watson discusses North Carolina's problems in relation to England's mercantilistic policies during the colonial period, the difficulties the colonies faced as they attempted to finance the Revolution, and the controversies attending the efforts to unite the colonies under a central government. The reader learns that North Carolinians suffered during the eighteenth century because of the scarcity of specie (hard money). Watson catalogues a variety of unsuccessful relief measures, including the use of commodity money, commodity inspection notes, bills of credit, land bank money, and treasury notes. Numerous emissions of paper money by the colony and the state fueled inflation and caused a widespread loss of confidence in the value of North Carolina's currency.

Money and Monetary Problems in Early North Carolina, one of several brief, unfootnoted treatments of discrete topics sponsored by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, updates a pamphlet written by Mattie Erma Parker and published in 1942 by the North Carolina Historical Commission. In addition to an expanded bibliography of printed primary and secondary sources, Watson's well-written work includes twelve illustrations, a list of North Carolina's currency emissions between 1712 and 1785, and a glossary of thirty-nine money-related terms. This pamphlet will be useful to many patrons of academic and public libraries. Depending upon how the study of North Carolina history is treated in secondary schools, *Money and Monetary Problems in Early North Carolina* could be used to supplement general textbooks.

Maurice C. York
East Carolina University