

# New North Carolina Books

Maurice C. York,  
Compiler

A. C. Snow. ***A Dust of Snow***. Raleigh: The News and Observer Publishing Company, 1980. 197 pp. \$9.95.

For the past several years the News and Observer Publishing Company has published collections of cartoons or articles by individuals on its staff. In 1980 A. C. Snow, editor of *The Raleigh Times* was chosen to publish a collection of his articles which had appeared under his by-line "Sno Foolin," or other articles.

A collection of news articles takes on a different character when they are bound into a monograph. What has been ephemeral, coffee-ground or potato-peel wrappings, takes on a level of permanency which can be confronting. To have the collection arranged adds to the potential confrontation. In many instances the confrontation generated by this collection is one of self recognition, the I-have-been-there kind of pleasant surprise.

Surry County born and bred, Baptist by heritage, Presbyterian by choice, humorous by instinct, gentle by nature, sure of the right word by gift and discipline, A. C. Snow sees ourselves as others see us, hears our dialogues with acute inflections, and puts it all together for us in many slices of life experiences. He says he cannot write fiction. So, for each of the episodes, there is a life experience at the base, many autobiographical. Sometimes, however, you are not sure if the autobiography is yours or the writer's!

For three decades A. C. Snow has provided interesting, thoughtful, provocative insights to his readers. One wishes he had provided a date for each of the pieces chosen for this anthology. We hope that in several more years he will venture again to provide another collection.

Jonathan A. Lindsey,  
Editor, North Carolina Libraries

Kate Ohno. ***Wilson County's Architectural Heritage***. Wilson, N.C.: County of Wilson, 1981. 177 pp. \$11.44 paper plus postage—total \$13.04. (Order from Wilson County Planning Dept., P.O. Box 1228, Wilson, N.C. 27893)

This work is the product of a one-year survey of historical buildings in Wilson County. It was supported by the U.S. Department of the Interior, the N.C. Division of Archives and History, and Wilson County. Only part of the buildings surveyed—usually the most unique examples of the county's rural architecture—are included. The book contains a representative sample of common structures, such as schools and churches. The city of Wilson is treated

only slightly, because Ms. Ohno and Robert C. Bainbridge recently published *Wilson, N.C.: Historic Buildings Inventory*.

Ohno presents a brief description of Wilson County's beginnings, social and economic development, topography, and attitudes towards preservation. This is followed by a short section, "preservation tools," which describes the federal, state, and private agencies that aid the preservation movement, including Wilson County's efforts.

The main body of this publication is divided into the townships that fall in and outside the city of Wilson. Each township's history is revealed, complete with marvelous old black and white photos depicting families, houses, buildings, and street scenes. Grand architectural details have been captured in nearly every photograph, making the work a boon for architectural historians.

The work is well documented and footnoted throughout, citing clearly in its bibliography many oral interviews and published and unpublished works. The book also contains separate biographical indexes of builders, carpenters, contractors, masons, and architects known to have been active in Wilson County, making this a most valuable research tool for historians, preservationists, and others interested in the heritage of Wilson County. The book is very suitable for college, school, and public libraries that have a special subject emphasis in the field of architecture and architectural history, as well as any North Carolina collections. One wishes that such a resource were available for every county.

Maryellen LoPresti  
North Carolina State University

Corinne Madden Ross. *The Southern Guest House Book*. Charlotte: East Woods Press, 1981. 192 pp. \$6.95 paper.

Corinne Madden Ross has added another delightful travel book to her growing number of titles on the subject, including the prize-winning *Christmas In Scandinavia* (1977), *The New England Guest House Book* (1979), and many travel articles. She has done Southerners the great favor of publishing in paperback a book that can help them plan vacations that are special from several points of view.

A guest house resembles the "bed and breakfast" form of lodging that long has been popular in Europe. It is a private home that offers only lodging or lodging plus breakfast. In this day of rising costs for hotel and motel accommodations, guest houses often are surprisingly inexpensive. Some charge as little as five or ten dollars per person per night. Many of the Southern guest houses are historic buildings; some are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and are included on tours in their locales.

Mrs. Ross has visited almost all of the houses and has made friends of the owners. She gives personal tid-bits of description and very detailed information concerning addresses, telephones, costs, accommodations, and seasons the

houses are not open. Pen-and-ink drawings or photographs of each of the guest homes are included.

Of inestimable value to travelers is her pertinent, concise historical information about the District of Columbia and each of the eight southeastern states covered. Parents of children who want to know *everything* about their travels will be grateful for this, as will librarians who have students needing interesting information but "not a whole book" about a state.

*The Southern Guest House Book* is highly recommended. It made this librarian want to do some traveling just to see the guest houses.

Jane Hobbs  
Wilkes County Library

Richard Kelly. *The Andy Griffith Show*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 1981. 195 pp. \$7.95 paper.

North Carolinians have a special fondness for native son Andy Griffith and the television show set in Mayberry, a representative North Carolina town. Therefore, Richard Kelly's new book, *The Andy Griffith Show*, will be a popular title in public libraries in this state. Although the show went off the air in 1968, continuing re-runs have kept episodes fresh in the public's mind.

Richard Kelly is a professor of English at the University of Tennessee. He is the author of several books, including two on Douglas Jerrold, a comic journalist of the nineteenth century. His interest in the Andy Griffith Show dates from his graduate student days at Duke University when he began watching the series, drawn by its North Carolina references and picture of rural nostalgia.

Kelly's study of this television series is unusual in that little has been done to document and study the production and development of individual television programs. His goal is to show how the series developed and how, even within the constraints imposed by time and money, television can produce materials of artistic integrity. The book, which includes an index, is divided into four parts. Part one traces the development of the show from its conception to its conclusion. Part two, entitled "The Comedy of Nostalgia," examines the artistic qualities of the series that made it a classic. Part three is a sample television script with commentary, and part four contains a listing and summary of all 249 episodes of the show.

The book is fun to read simply to bring back to memory favorite episodes, characters, and turns of phrase. For the fan it has the attraction of enlarging on the familiar—sharing behind-the-scene happenings and the logic behind the characterizations, sets, and actions. For the reader interested in television production, story development, and acting, there is both explanation and example. An analysis of the sociological reasons for the popularity of the series is included. Photographs of scenes and interviews with the actors

complete this picture of a part of our television heritage, one of special interest to North Carolinians.

Barbara K. Walker  
BHM Regional Library

Suzanne Newton. **M. V. Sexton Speaking.** New York: Viking Press, 1981. 196 pp. \$9.95.

Suzanne Newton writes that works of fiction need to include both "stories and significance," and her newest work, *M. V. Sexton Speaking*, contains both in good measure. It has the additional contribution of a likeable, if unusual, female protagonist. Martha Venable Sexton, sixteen, was orphaned at age six when both parents died in a mountain climbing accident. Since then, her home has been in a small North Carolina town where she has lived a quiet, lonely life with her aunt and uncle. Life with Uncle Milton and Aunt Gert has given M. V. a no-nonsense, somewhat old-fashioned outlook that has isolated her from friendships with peers. To avoid being a "responsibility," Martha Venable, at her aunt's urging, takes a summer job at a bakery. The experience widens both her horizons and her circle of friends to include the warm, free-spirited couple who run the bakery, a young man trying to decide on a career, long-forgotten school chums of her aunt and uncle, and romance with the boy next door.

M. V.'s droll observations keep the story moving as she watches and then, hesitantly, joins in the activities of the world around her. As the story and the summer end, both the reader and M. V. are happily aware that her newly won self-confidence and awareness of the needs of others will make her transition from adolescence to the adult world a smooth one.

*M. V. Sexton Speaking* should prove popular with public and secondary school readers. Librarians looking for young adult fiction with strong female characters will find *M. V.*, written in an emphatic first person, especially valuable. The major characters are well developed and, for the most part, believable. However, given Martha Venable's inquisitiveness, her lack of knowledge of her family's background seems unlikely.

Mrs. Newton, who lives in Raleigh, has written four other juvenile titles, two of which, *What Are You Up To, William Thomas?* and *C/O Arnold's Corner*, have won the American Association of University Women Award for Juvenile Literature.

Laura S. Gorham  
Durham County Public Library

William S. Powell, ed. **The Correspondence of William Tryon and Other Selected Papers**, Volume II, 1768-1818. Raleigh: N.C. Division of Archives and History, 1981. 960 pp. \$28.00.

For almost eighty years the North Carolina Division of Archives and History has been responsible for preserving in original and published for the documentary heritage of our state. Historians have depended upon the scholarly outpouring of this great agency to provide the sources vital to the writing of North Carolina state and local history.

With the release of volume two of *The Correspondence of William Tryon and Other Selected Papers*, the tradition of excellence in documentary publications is continued. Approximately 800 documents for the period between 1768 and 1788 have been gathered from the holdings of the North Carolina State Archives, the British Public Record Office, and a variety of archival repositories and manuscript collections throughout the United States. These documents reflect one of the most important eras in the development of this state and the activities of one of its more fascinating public figures.

The work concentrates on the last four years (1768-1771) of Royal Governor William Tryon's administration in North Carolina. A limited number of items reflect Tryon's continued contacts with the province between his departure for New York in 1771 and his death in 1788, and only the last will of his widow, Margaret Wake Tryon, extends the end date to 1818. As would be expected, major emphasis is placed upon the Regulator movement in Piedmont North Carolina and the Battle of Alamance that ensued. Substantial attention is given to such topics as Tryon's interest in legislative activities, operation of the governor's office, construction and occupation of the governor's celebrated residence in New Bern, survey of the Cherokee Indian boundary line, quitrents, taxes, post roads, and provincial defense. Criticism of Tryon in the New England press stirred heated debate after he assumed the governorship of New York in 1771, and the papers reveal that North Carolinians were quick to defend their former governor.

Professor William S. Powell is to be highly commended for another noteworthy accomplishment. His editorial skill, the excellent source references and footnotes, and an extensive index combine to make an important historical source. This book and volume one of the series are essential for all academic libraries and for those public libraries that aspire to build worthwhile North Carolina research collections.

Donald R. Lennon  
East Carolina University

Hugh A. Matthews. *Leaves From the Notebook of an Appalachian Physician*. Edited by Ruth B. Matthews. [Cullowhee, N.C.: Hugh A. Matthews, 1980]. 198 pp. \$7.95 plus tax, postage, and handling—total \$9.25. (Order from Neil's Way Enterprise, P.O. Box 63, Cullowhee, N.C. 28723)

Dr. Hugh A. Matthews, the Appalachian physician referred to in the title, has followed his entertaining, nostalgic *Neil's Way* (1978) with another book of



remembrances, these from his adult days as a family physician in the North Carolina mountains.

The book is divided into four sections. The first traces, in interview form, Dr. Matthews's own rather remarkable road to becoming a physician. Section two, "On Unforgettable Patients," is perhaps the most interesting. It contains short, informal stories of some of the more unusual folk of Dr. Matthews's professional acquaintance. A few of the episodes are just plain funny, some are sad, and a few are tragic in their revelation of ignorance of the most rudimentary health and sanitation practices. One word to the squeamish: a few of these tales have graphic medical details and may not be suitable for pre-dinner reading.

Section three uses the interview technique again, this time with Dr. Jerome L. Reeves. This method of writing undoubtedly has value, but an interview often loses some of its vitality when it's reduced to ink on paper. It needs editing to make the text read smoothly and to provide coherent, organized, and pertinent information to the reader.

Section four is a collection of prayers composed by Dr. Matthews for specific occasions. This section would be stronger if all of the dates and occasions were known and identified; alas, they are not. Nevertheless, a few of the prayers are genuinely touching, in the best sense of the word.

Public libraries throughout the state will want to consider this book for their adult, regional collections.

*Alice R. Cotten*

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Leslie S. Bright, William H. Rowland, and James C. Bardon. **C.S.S. Neuse: A Question of Iron and Time.** Raleigh: N.C. Division of Archives and History, 1981. 165 pp. \$10.00 paper plus postage—total \$11.50. (Order from Caswell/Neuse State Historic Site, P.O. Box 3043, Kinston, N.C. 28502)

This informative and well-researched book should be a delight to all Civil War buffs—especially those interested in the war on a local level. The book is very well organized for easy study. Part I deals with the historical background of ironclads and discusses the construction of the C.S.S. Neuse at White Hall on the banks of the Neuse River. This detailed account of the progress and problems of the construction of the Neuse is interspersed with accounts of the events of the war and their effect on the building effort and on the destruction and sinking of the ironclad in the Neuse River near Kinston.

Part II is a fascinating account of the efforts to raise the C.S.S. Neuse, beginning with the birth of the idea in the early 1940s and ending with the raising of the hull, after many setbacks, in 1963. Parts I and II are enhanced by detailed illustrations and photographs.

Parts III and IV, the architecture of the Neuse and the inventory of recovered artifacts, are elaborately illustrated with photographs and detailed

drawings of what the ship actually looked like and of the type of supplies, weapons, and ammunition it carried.

Three appendixes deal with the preservation of the *Neuse* and its artifacts and with crew life aboard the vessel. The fourth appendix gives information on the C.S.S. *Albemarle*, another North Carolina-constructed ironclad. The book concludes with detailed notes and an extensive bibliography.

This book is highly recommended for North Carolina collections of public and academic libraries.

Jackie Beach

Edgecombe County Memorial Library

James T. Fain, Jr. ***A Partial History of Henderson County***. New York: Arno Press, 1980. 601 pp. \$10.95 plus postage—total \$11.95. (Order from T. Michael Fain, 2000 Dilworth Road East, Charlotte, N.C. 28739)

Looking ahead to the nation's Bicentennial, many residents of Henderson County felt that the history of the people of this county and their works should be preserved. Mr. Fain, a retired editor of the local newspaper and a Henderson County resident for fifty years, approached the editors of *The Times-News* with the idea of a weekly column dealing with various aspects of the history of Henderson County and its county seat, Hendersonville. Thus began a newspaper column in 1975 that 287 weeks later was discontinued, not because it was finished, but because it was felt the columns should be collected into book form.

Drawing widely and wisely from published works on Henderson County and unpublished papers and records, Mr. Fain has produced the most definitive work on Henderson County from an historian's viewpoint.

*A Partial History* is approached from a subject point of view. There are ninety-seven chapters with such headings as "The Low Country Influence," "The Trauma of Wars," and "Early Public Education." The table of contents is invaluable because it is the only clue the reader has to the wealth of information contained in the book's 601 pages. Many of the chapters overlap and lack smooth transitions because they were written as individual newspaper columns, but this style also allows Mr. Fain's humor to shine through all the people and places discussed. The book's only major fault is the lack of an index. Also slightly annoying is the number of typographical errors, including several incorrect dates.

Mr. Fain graduated from The Citadel, the military college of South Carolina. He joined the newspaper staff of the Hendersonville *Times-News* in 1928 and was its editor from 1956 until his retirement in 1972. His qualifications as a writer and historian cannot be questioned.

Without reservation I recommend the book for public, university, and special libraries with collections pertaining to North Carolina history and genealogy. Except for local schools, I feel the book is too difficult, especially

without an index, for school libraries.

Carolyn Vaughan  
Henderson County Public Library

Douglas Swaim, ed., Talmage Powell, and John Ager. ***Cabins & Castles: The History & Architecture of Buncombe County, North Carolina***. Asheville: Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, 1981. 225 pp. \$12.00 paper. (Order from Asheville City Planning Dept., P.O. Box 7148, Asheville, N.C. 28807)

In recent years the N.C. Division of Archives and History has joined forces with several city and county governments to inventory historically and architecturally significant structures, publishing the results with photographs and accompanying historical text. *Cabins and Castles* is an excellent example of such an inventory and joint cooperation.

*Cabins and Castles* provides a wonderful package deal for the reader: Ager's history of Buncombe County, Powell's sketch of Asheville, Swaim's architectural essay, and the inventory description with photographs. As the book's title literally explains, the architecture of the county is as diverse as the isolated mountain cabin to George Washington Vanderbilt's castle, Biltmore. The chronological accounts by Ager and Powell outline the social and economic context that allowed for such diversity in one relatively small geographic setting. Asheville's growth as a nationally famous tourist and health resort, and as the financial hub of western North Carolina, resulted in an energetic and urbane environment in great contrast to the Buncombe County countryside. Swaim's architectural history describes this contrast not only in terms of architectural forms and styles, but also in terms of the economic and social developments, personalities, and politics that influenced that architecture. By examining the county's architecture from the mountain farmer's vernacular dwelling to the real estate developer's subdivision, Swaim has illustrated the natural and artificial responses of man to his environment.

The inventory list is arranged by townships and by neighborhoods within the city. The photographs by Mary Jo Brezny are excellent, but of necessity, small in size. The accompanying text briefly describes the structures' history, past occupants, and notable features. This well-designed paperback is indexed and includes an illustrated glossary of architectural terms.

*Cabins and Castles* should be included in any library's collection of local and North Carolina history or American architecture. With today's interest in historic preservation, this book should be found in city and regional planning libraries as an example of government involvement in the recording of our manmade heritage.

Marshall Bullock  
Chapel Hill



Anthony J. Badger. *North Carolina and the New Deal*. Raleigh: N.C. Division of Archives and History, 1981. 102 pp. \$3.00 paper.

The 1980 election has been heralded as marking a shift in the political direction of the United States. Anthony J. Badger's *North Carolina and the New Deal* is especially timely since it examines an earlier change in the political climate. University lecturer in the department of history at Newcastle University, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, Badger is the author of *Prosperity Road: The New Deal, Tobacco and North Carolina*, published in 1980 by the University of North Carolina Press.

In this latest work, as in his earlier book, Badger concentrates on the interaction of New Deal policies with local practices. He discusses the extent to which the Roosevelt administration was able to impose its will from above and to make fundamental changes in the state. Programs dealing with farmers, textile manufacturers, and the tobacco industry are examined. Badger notes that the federal government relied heavily on local leaders to administer these activities. As a result, few fundamental changes in the state's economy were effected. The author shows how various interests accepted programs that helped them, individually, while opposing federal intervention in other areas. In many cases, the New Deal helped to secure the positions of powerful local forces. The topic of relief also is presented, with the author noting the reluctance of state and county officials to assume responsibility for social reform. Badger points out the conservative attitudes of state leaders regarding welfare and their unwillingness to accept centralized control from Washington.

Badger discusses the various governors, congressmen, and senators who led the state during the New Deal. Universally, the governors approached the ills of the Depression by encouraging efficiency and reduced spending. They were uniformly skeptical of the New Deal social reforms. On the national level, North Carolina senators Josiah W. Bailey and Robert R. Reynolds were critical of the New Deal. Because they were closer to the voting public, who generally supported the New Deal, members of the House of Representatives were more sympathetic to Roosevelt's program.

Despite the difficulties of implementing programs, the New Deal made some difference in North Carolina. It helped farmers with better prices, staved off foreclosures for businesses, and gave emergency help to thousands of local citizens. In the final analysis, however, the fundamental nature of the state remained the same. Badger concludes that the actual effects of the New Deal challenge the traditional view of the progressive nature of the state.

Badger's work is a good general survey of the Roosevelt programs in North Carolina. The author uses no footnotes and relies heavily on secondary sources. However, he includes a useful bibliographical essay for further reference. Sixty-six illustrations provide excellent visual perspective.

North Carolina and the New Deal should be purchased by school, public, and college libraries interested in the New Deal or in North Carolina history.

Willie Nelms  
Sheppard Memorial Library  
Greenville

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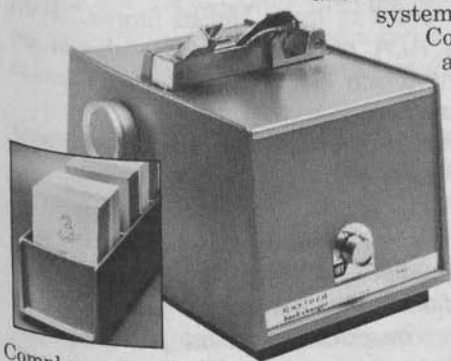
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