

# New North Carolina Books

Maurice C. York  
Compiler

William R. Finger, ed. ***The Tobacco Industry in Transition: Policies for the 1980s***. Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Books, 1981. 339 pp. \$23.95.

Although it is not spelled out in the title of this collection, which was sponsored by the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research, North Carolina is heavily represented. In fact, almost all of the articles have some connection with the state, through author background or affiliation, location of farmland, research, and industry, or social and political implications. In chapters where this is not the case, general considerations, such as smoking and health, are involved.

The editor is a free-lance writer with training in economics and southern history. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Christian Century*, and *Southern Exposure*. He currently is editor of *N. C. Insight*, the magazine of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research.

The book, with thirty chapters by twenty-nine authors, is "designed to provide an interdisciplinary understanding of tobacco in the 1980s. It has been prepared for use by a wide range of readers—from scholars and experts to those with only a casual or limited interest in the subject."

Transition and interdisciplinary are key words; chapters vary widely (an interview, chapters from books, reprinted magazine articles, essays, a summary of the 1981 Surgeon General's report, an annotated bibliography, chronologies, etc.) to present information on historical, political, economic, research, business, and social implications of the tobacco industry at a time of change and uncertainty concerning its prospects and the prospects of farmers, researchers, politicians, employees in tobacco manufacture and trade, and others whose future is closely connected to developments in the industry. Understandably, currentness is important, and material as recent as 1981 is included.

The book is divided into six parts: "World Leaf Sales Expand—But U. S. Share Shrinks"; "Corporate Diversification and International Expansion"; "The Rise of Smoking: Rights and Ramifications"; "Alternatives for Tobacco Farmers"; and "Politics of Tobacco: Policymaking Under a Cloud of Smoke."

In addition to the wide variation in type and length of articles, equally varied viewpoints are represented, including those of Elizabeth Tornquist, William F. Buckley Jr., the chairman of the board and chief executive officer of R. J. Reynolds Industries, the general counsel to Federal Employees for Non-Smokers' Rights, and a former secretary of agriculture.

The usual repetitiveness and varying quality of chapters in such a work are evident here, but in many cases authors refer the reader to other chapters

and sections that contain related material. Thus, the reader has the advantage of being able to skip about freely in the work.

Reference aspects of the book are significant. In addition to comparative and historical tables and charts, it contains chronologies ("Landmarks in the Tobacco Program" and "Chronology of Major Federal Actions and Events on Smoking and Health"), a directory chapter ("Resources on Tobacco Production and Marketing"), a "Selected Bibliography on Smoking and Health," and extensive lists of references and notes for many of the chapters. There are a few appendices, and the book ends with an index and section "About the Contributors."

The editor admirably succeeds in attaining his objectives. This thorough, balanced, altogether readable collection should be a valuable addition to the state's public libraries, appropriate special libraries (especially medical, business, and tobacco industry collections), and academic libraries at all levels.

Joe Rees

Duke University

Sylvia Wilkinson. *Bone of My Bones*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1982. 272 pp. \$13.95.

"It's easy to live in your imagination/When you can't control the situation."

—John Entwistle

*Bone of My Bones* chronicles the passage from childhood through adolescence to adulthood of Ella Ruth Higgins, one of the most endearing young heroines since Scout in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The ten-year-old daughter of an alcoholic father and a loving but "simple" mother, Ella Ruth copes with growing up in rural Summit, North Carolina, in the 1950s with independence and courage not uncommon to children in the South. In many ways Ella Ruth behaves like Everychild, retreating into a fantasy life to survive and surmount the injustices and lunacy of so-called reality.

Ella Ruth records the adventures of her alter egos in countless Blue Horse notebooks while acting as first person narrator of the events in her everyday life. As the story progresses, Ella Ruth sorts out many of the seemingly senseless real life events to make sense of them. The very difficult task of growing up (much too hard for children) is beautifully described by Ms. Wilkinson.

The character development is superb, and the plot entirely believable. The author's ear for dialog is excellent and her ability to construct conversation is among the best this reviewer has encountered. Some readers may find the swearing in the book objectionable, but the language is so in keeping with the way most adolescent boys and their good-old-boy fathers converse that it may not be a consideration.

The novel evoked an especially personal emotional response from this reviewer. With every page there was the phenomenon of recognition, of familiarity with much of what Ella Ruth was experiencing and feeling. Finally, I realized: "That is what growing up in the 1950s in small-town North Carolina was like for me and so many other little girls." There was the power of tradition, the pain of sexism and racism that continue today. There was so much love so seldom expressed, and so much strength and courage that many of us really could and did raise ourselves. There was the rebellion against parents and then, suddenly, the recognition that we carry them with us forever.

It is possible that in order to understand many of the allusions in the novel, one must be at least thirty years old and have grown up in the region; but the book has a universal appeal. *Bone of My Bones* is a book of so many layers and textures that there is something for everyone. For many of us the book may be a Rorschach test: we bring to it as much as we take from it.

I highly recommend the book to all public libraries for both general and North Carolina collections, to academic libraries that want to preserve a very special book, and to the daring among the high school media specialists.

Nancy O. Massey

Hyconeechee Regional Library

John Ehle. *The Winter People*. New York: Harper & Row, 1981, 1982. 272 pp. \$13.95.

Another mountain story based on the theme of illegitimate birth, this takes place during the 1930s west of Asheville, near the North Carolina-Tennessee state line.

Collie Wright, unwed mother, lives alone in her log cabin with her baby, Jonathan. The identity of the baby's father is hidden from Collie's family, who live farther down the cove.

Collie is afraid when she sees two strangers approach her cabin from the woods, but she offers them shelter and food. The man, Wayland Jackson, is a widower and the third generation of clockmakers, originally from Philadelphia. He and his daughter, Paula, headed for Tennessee, are delayed because of vehicle trouble and rain-slick roads. They sleep in the old spring house but enjoy the warmth of the fire in the cabin. Paula is good help with the baby, and Mr. Jackson "has manners a good deal better than those of the men who Collie had grown up with." Slowly they become a part of the community, with Wayland setting up a clockmaking shop in the corner of a store and Collie's father spending time with Paula "because he found that she was curious about the mountains themselves, their age and history."

Descriptions of Collie's three brothers, their neighbors, country store scenes, an exciting bear hunt, and daily activities fill the book, with many scenes taking place in the fire-lit cabin.

When the father of Collie's baby appears one night, the terror begins. Wayland, who has grown to love Collie, becomes involved in fighting that ends in killing. Now there seems to be no way out except a heart-breaking decision made by Collie to protect her family and "to complete what she had started."

The author, born in Asheville, has written five novels set in the North Carolina mountains. *The Winter People* and *Lion on the Hearth* are set in about the same time frame, near the same location, and are family centered, with sibling rivalries and concerns about rightful inheritances. The writing does not match the quality of that in *The Land Breakers*, Ehle's most unforgettable novel.

*The Winter People* is recommended for fiction collections in public libraries, especially those that collect works by North Carolina writers.

Martha Palmer

Nantahala Regional Library

Betty Bettz. **Up North.** New York: Seaview Books, 1982. 312 pp. \$14.50.

*Up North* follows the fortunes and misfortunes of southerners, mostly from North Carolina, who have grown to New York City. It describes the soft and charming southern belles who can become the "quintessential southern woman," strong and dependable when the need arises.

The primary character is artist Nell Proctor, who grew up in the mountains of North Carolina. She has married, then divorced, a member of a prominent New York family. During the year included in the story, Nell develops new insights into her own feelings through experiments with sculpture in several media and through interaction with the other characters.

The catalyst for the story is William Rabb, vice-president of Rabb Pharmaceuticals, a North Carolina company with offices in New York City. The plot focuses on twelve friends of Rabb who assemble at the annual North Carolina Society of New York dance to see him honored as Man of the Year. Each person has a dream for success that can be assisted by manipulating William. When a freak accident incapacitates William, the various southerners look to his eccentric, unpredictable, and demanding brother, Bernard, chairman of Rabb Pharmaceuticals.

This easy-to-read novel has a story that makes it a book one "can't put down." The descriptions of locales in North Carolina and in New York City are accurate enough to be believable. Although the story takes place in New York City and nearby Connecticut within a period of one year, flashbacks describe the lives of the characters as children in the South.

Each of the middle-aged characters is well developed and becomes an interesting individual. The multiplicity of important persons sometimes makes it difficult to remember who is married, who is divorced, and who is sleeping with whom.

Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, Betty Bettz is a graduate of Duke University. She has been a resident of New York City for twenty years. *Up*

*North* is her second novel. Her first, *Blue Ladies*, introduces Gilky Museum and the work of "culture-vultures" and tax-deductible philanthropy. It examines the pain, the hurt, and the economic dilemma of women left along after long marriages.

*Up North* is recommended for libraries with collections of light fiction or North Caroliniana. The language used by the characters may be offensive to some readers.

Elizabeth J. Laney  
Pettigrew Regional Library

Joe A. Mobley. ***James City: A Black Community in North Carolina 1863-1900***. Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1981. 113 pp. \$3.00 paper plus postage—total \$4.00.

After the capture of New Bern by the Union army in March, 1862, many blacks from eastern North Carolina sought freedom and safety there. The refugees were settled in the Trent River camp, which later became James City. The settlement was named for the Reverend Horace James, the first superintendent of Negro affairs in North Carolina, who later served as the assistant commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau for North Carolina.

During the period from 1863 to 1900, the blacks who settled at James City adapted themselves economically, socially, and politically to their new status as freedmen. With the assistance of teachers from the North, the freedmen learned to read and write. They were encouraged to seek employment, and most did so successfully. The most difficult problem faced by the settlers of James City was that of land ownership. Their settlement was located on land that the owners refused to sell. After a long and unsuccessful court battle, the original James City began to dissolve in 1893. Many residents relocated at the present site of James City nearby, where they could purchase land.

This book is the first in a series of research reports to be published annually by the Division of Archives and History. Abstracts of two other reports, which were submitted but not published, are included at the end of this report. At the time the book was published, the author, Joe A. Mobley, was a member of the staff of the Research Branch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section.

Attractively illustrated with photographs and engravings, this book provides interesting reading. It is well documented with many types of sources. There is an appendix of statistics relating to the settlement, and an excellent index.

The author has admirably achieved his objective of providing a history of a specific black community as a model for the study of Afro-American history on the local level. This book would make a useful addition to academic, public, and high school library collections.

Anne Berkley  
Durham County Library



Barbara T. Cain, comp. and ed., Ellen Z. McGrew, and Charles E. Morris. ***Guide to Private Manuscript Collections in the North Carolina State Archives***. Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1981. 706 pp. \$16.00 paper plus postage—total \$17.00.

Although the primary functions of the North Carolina State Archives are to preserve and make available the official records of the state and local governments, it has collected, almost from its inception in 1903, papers of individual citizens relating to the history of North Carolina. Through the series of *Archives Information Circulars*, in workshops for beginning and advanced researchers, and by means of a variety of other programs, the State Archives has built an impressive record of achievement in keeping the public informed of its resources.

With a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the State Archives has brought up to date one of its most important links with its users, the *Guide to Private Manuscript Collections in the North Carolina State Archives*. First published in 1942 and revised in 1964, the guide has grown from a slim volume describing 815 collections to a fat compendium of more than 2,300 entries, requiring an index of 188 pages. The new edition includes collections received through December 31, 1978, and additions to previously accessioned collections through June 30, 1979.

The guide is organized in three sections. The first describes 1,640 collections of personal papers, which include correspondence, diaries, financial and land records, literary manuscripts, and other original source material. The second section summarizes the contents of 186 additional collections available on microfilm, and the third lists 480 account books. The first two sections are arranged by collection number, and each entry includes the collection title (the name of the person or family by or about whom the collection was created), inclusive dates, volume of material, and a concise but informative description of the major features of the collection. The entry also indicates the place of residence and occupation of the person(s) principally connected with the collection and includes, where applicable, references to significant related collections in the State Archives or in nearby repositories.

The list of account books is arranged numerically, and information is provided on the person or firm that kept the accounts, place of residence or business, principal occupations and activities, number of volumes, and dates. The index permits access by name, place, and subject.

Substantial editorial work is evident throughout. Entries from the 1964 guide have been revised to reflect additions to collections described therein, to provide greater clarity and detail, or to correct errors. Researchers should note, however, that the guide describes only those collections classified by the State Archives as private collections. Omitted by this definition are the records of organizations (except in cases of material contained by chance in an individual's papers), the iconographic, military, and audiovisual collections, and, of course, the records of the state and its political subdivisions.

Academic libraries and public libraries that serve historical researchers will want to add this guide to their reference collections. It is a worthy companion to the recently published *Guide to the Cataloged Collections in the Manuscript Department of the William R. Perkins Library, Duke University* (Santa Barbara: Clio Books, 1980) and the slightly older *The Southern Historical Collection: A Guide to Manuscripts* (Chapel Hill: Southern Historical Collection, 1970 and supplement, 1976).

Robin Brabham

University of North Carolina at  
Charlotte

Clarence Gohdes. ***Scuppernong: North Carolina's Grape and Its Wines.*** Durham: Duke University Press, 1982. 115 pp. \$14.95.

Federal census figures in 1840 revealed North Carolina to be the leading wine-producing state in the Union. The distinction was based chiefly on home production of wine from scuppernongs, America's first important native wine grape.

In *Scuppernong: North Carolina's Grape and Its Wine*, Clarence Gohdes, professor emeritus of American literature at Duke University, carefully relates the story of this bronzy green, tough-skinned grape. The result is a fact-filled, yet entertaining account of one of North Carolina's most overlooked gifts to the nation.

A sport of the muscadine species native only to the South, the scuppernong appears to have been domesticated first in northeastern North Carolina. In fact, the reader learns, the grape attracted its name in 1811 because of its association with the Scuppernong area, a swamp section of Tyrrell County.

Scuppernong cultivation spread rapidly in the state. One confident viticulturist in the late 1840s envisioned Wilmington as the future "Bordeaux of America" and established the nation's first vine dresser's school near that port city. After the Civil War, some southerners extolled grape-growing as an inexpensive means for the region to return to prosperity; and the scuppernong was planted widely throughout the South. A number of vineyards in North Carolina reopened, and several Tar Heel-connected vintners successfully promoted their products nationwide. At the turn of the century, "Virginia Dare," a scuppernong wine, was "the most popular vinous drink in the United States."

The national prominence of the scuppernong, however, did not last. Other grape varieties were proving better suited for urban fresh fruit markets; and wines made from less expensive grapes of large California and New York vineyards were increasingly popular. All grape production in the nation soon encountered "the buffetings of the Prohibition years." But, Gohdes argues, southern viticulture suffered the most and longest. For in the South, there was little market for legal sacramental and medicinal wines; and the availability of moonshine rendered less attractive the permitted home production of "nonin-

toxicating" wines and fruit juices. Demand for the scuppernong dropped and many vines were abandoned.

After the repeal of Prohibition, efforts were renewed to persuade southerners to plant grapes. Federal and state government agencies provided much assistance to vineyardists. Today southern viticulture, benefiting from the nation's increased interest in grapes and wines, is on the verge of a better future. But the outlook for the scuppernong itself, Gohdes concludes, is not as certain. Popular hybrids, with the scuppernong in their pedigrees, will undoubtedly survive. Each year they claim a larger percentage of the southern grape and wine output. The fate of the scuppernong and the wine made from its fruit, however, must depend on devotees determined to continue the long and fascinating story of America's premier native wine grape. Gohdes's work should do much to strengthen that determination.

Well-written, with a good index and attractive illustrations, *Scuppernong* is a significant addition to the historiography of North Carolina and southern horticulture. It is recommended for academic and public libraries.

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

Thomas J. Schoenbaum. *Islands, Capes, and Sounds: The North Carolina Coast*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 1982. 332 pp. \$22.50.

In *Islands, Capes, and Sounds* Thomas Schoenbaum describes the heritage of the North Carolina coast and offers suggestions for managing the coastal resources without destroying the rich heritage of the region.

Schoenbaum currently is a professor of environmental law at Tulane University, and is a former professor of law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has played an important role in formulating the legislation that serves to protect North Carolina's environment. In an earlier work, *The New River Controversy* (1979), he describes the controversy between a public utility and the North Carolinians who reside along the New River. Schoenbaum successfully fought many legal battles on behalf of the residents and the heritage of that region. The coastal region subsequently benefited from his work on the drafting and implementation of the Coastal Area Management Act.

However, Schoenbaum's talents clearly extend beyond the legislative world. In *Islands, Capes, and Sounds* he gives the reader a true appreciation of the coast's beauty, heritage, and resources. He begins in the northern coastal region, describing the early settlements of Roanoke Island and the Albemarle and Currituck sound areas. With each chapter he moves farther south, finally reaching Cape Fear and Brunswick County. Along the way he explains how the coast has changed over the years, both from natural forces and from man's development of the land along the beaches and sounds. The financial interests of land developers are contrasted with the interests of those who seek to retain the



natural beauty of the coast. He also discusses the legal issues relating to coastal development. The author's suggestion for preserving the coastal heritage is to let nature take its course.

The author's interesting story of the coast is greatly enhanced by many photographs and maps. An appendix serves as a visitor's guide to each coastal region, and an extensive bibliography and index are provided.

This book is highly recommended. Any library that serves the residents of the coastal area should have it.

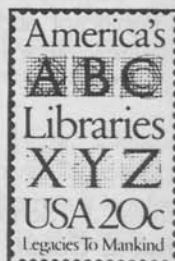
*Arlene Hanerfeld*  
University of North Carolina at  
Wilmington

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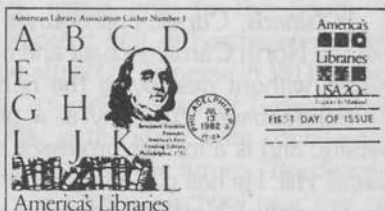
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To celebrate the long-hoped-for and eagerly awaited issuance of the America's Libraries stamp, ALA commissioned a special engraved first day cover. The envelope carries a handsome cachet of Benjamin Franklin, founder of the first lending library in the country as well as our nation's first Postmaster General. The envelopes are postmarked from Philadelphia on July 13, the first day issue, with the America's Libraries stamp. A special card inside the envelope gives a brief history of the American Library Association and its role in the development of library services in the United States.

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