New North Carolina Books

Alice R. Cotten, Compiler


Pictorial histories can look deceptively easy to produce. *North Carolina Illustrated*, however, gives no such false appearances. The sheer impressiveness of the volume reflects the difficulty of the undertaking as described by the author in the preface. Over a period of ten years, H. G. Jones searched for North Carolina illustrations in hundreds of repositories throughout the country and abroad. He examined hundreds of thousands of illustrations and obtained photocopies of more than ten thousand of those he saw. He carefully narrowed this initial selection to the 1,158 eventually reproduced in *North Carolina Illustrated*. At considerable expense he obtained prints and permissions to publish them from the various repositories, agencies, and individuals owning the originals. He wrote the text and captions to accompany and interpret the illustrations. In sum, the time, labor, and resources devoted to producing this volume were indeed considerable.

Dr. Jones is uniquely qualified to have undertaken this work. As state archivist for twelve years, director of the Division of Archives and History for six years, and curator of the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill since 1974, Dr. Jones has been intimately involved in preserving documentation of the state's history. His previously published works—*For History's Sake* (1966), *The Records of a Nation* (1969), and *Local Government Records* (1980)—have dealt with the care and use of local, state, and national records; they were written primarily for a specialized audience. The present publication reflects the author's desire to share a particular portion of North Carolina's historical record, the pictorial record, with the general public and to present, through the illustrations and the accompanying text, an image of the collective character of North Carolinians.

*North Carolina Illustrated* contains ten chronological chapters, each of which is introduced by an essay on the significant events, developments, and people of the period covered. These essays range from three to eighteen pages in length, the longer ones dealing with more recent periods. Together they comprise approximately one hundred pages of text and provide a brief but comprehensive history of the state. Topics covered, both in the essays and in the illustrations, include politics and government, agriculture, business, labor, race relations, the role of women, religion, transportation, communication, education, literature, sports, and other such subjects. The illustrations are numbered, and the numbers also appear in the margins of the text, tying each illustration to the relevant portion of the preceding essay. In addition, lengthy and informative captions are printed adjacent to the illustrations. As might be expected, there are fewer illustrations for the early years covered by the volume than for later years. The first 200 years following the arrival of Verrazzano are represented by 37 pages of illustrations, while 160 pages are devoted to the last 120 years. An index with personal, geographical, and topical entries covers both the essays and the illustrations.

*North Carolina Illustrated* is not as approachable or as susceptible to browsing as are many pictorial histories. It is a very dense volume, with an average of four illustrations per page; this density makes the contents more difficult to absorb visually. Period illustrations were used wherever possible, but there is no sepia toning to give an impression of old photographs. For the period prior to the development of photography, the illustrations include maps, portraits, drawings, reproductions of the texts of documents, and modern photographs of contemporary buildings and furniture. The heavy use of reproductions of documents—they account for one-third of the illustrations in the first seven chapters—like density of the volume, diminishes the ease with which it is approached and absorbed.

These comments on appearances are perhaps minor criticisms for a book concerned with the difference between being and seeming. Dr. Jones maintains that the collective character of
North Carolinians is epitomized in the state's motto, *Esse Quam Videri*, "To be rather than to seem." Whether or not the illustrations in this volume document such a character, they certainly illuminate the state's past. By bringing together such an extensive collection of illustrations, this volume will deepen the understanding of those who study North Carolina's history and provide numerous points of contact with that history for citizens only vaguely familiar with their state's past. *North Carolina Illustrated* is an invaluable resource for study and reference. It should be available in academic and public libraries throughout the state and in secondary school libraries as well.

Robert L. Byrd, Duke University


*North Carolina Poetry: The Seventies* was published midway through that decade as a special issue of the *Southern Poetry Review*. Poems by sixty-six contributors provided a general sense of what was then being written by a representative selection of poets. There were many writers from which to choose, and the quality of the work chosen, though uneven, did show talent and skill aplenty. No concise definition of "seventies poetry" could be derived from it, but the poems included were generally personal and in free verse. Varied in content, a few reflected current life, such as a rock concert, while others dealt with topics for poets in any era: love and death, for prominent examples.

A successor to *The Seventies* was published recently, and *New North Carolina Poetry: The Eighties* can be described in exactly the same terms. There are very good poems by very good North Carolina poets, some resident in the state and some not. Tar Heel settings are well represented: "Passing the Marquee in Mayseville" and "Girls Grow on Trees in Haywood County" are two examples. Themes include love and death as well as divorce and commuter flights. Among the well known poets are A. R. Ammons, James Applewhite, and Fred Chappell; newer names include such people as Michael McFee and Anna Wooten. With only forty-nine poets represented, this volume has seventeen fewer than its predecessor.

Not included are such writers as William Harmon, Jonathan Williams, Reynolds Price, O. B. Hardison, and Robert Watson. According to the foreword, Mr. Smith selected these from eight hundred submissions. To pick from so many just those that, when read together, will bespeak the time, represent the field of participants, and make a book—that is no small doing. Mr. Smith must have chosen well; he might have chosen more. Perhaps what he chose best was Fred Chappell to write the foreword. In two and a half pages of juicy prose Mr. Chappell makes a tale from snippets of the poems and gives them all a home on the corner just past the Fugitives and on the way to the future.

The book is important for assessing the current course of poetry writing in this state. It has some good poems in it, too. Profits from its sale will benefit The Friends of Weymouth, "a non-profit organization founded to preserve Weymouth for its natural, historical, and cultural significance."

Tucker Respess, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill


This North Carolina award-winning author of five books for children and young adults tackles in this book the sensitive subject of religion, public expectation of a minister's children, and the reaction of the children to the pressure. Children of a Baptist minister in North Carolina struggle with their need to know who they are and how they fit into the community and into their family. The main character, Neal, dislikes conflict and resolves his fate by not responding to it until forced to by younger brother Georgie's rapid loss of reality and the failure of his parents to recognize the seriousness of the situation. Georgie's fear that he may be the only one in the family that is "real" and that his parents don't love him lead him to seek escape in lies and a plan for evading the "false" people who surround him. Woven with subplots—Neal's joy in jazz, Aileen's rebellion, and Georgie's odd friendships—the story concludes on a tragic but hopeful note. Newton's realistic characterization and polished plot arouse in the reader a real concern for Neal and Georgie as they struggle with daily life. While other characters are not as well developed, they fit their roles and remain true to the plot. This book, one of several fiction books published recently about religion and children, is appro-

*Hope and Dignity* tells the story of forty-seven black women throughout North Carolina, sixty-five years old and older, who have lived rich, inspiring lives. The book consists of individual biographical sketches of these women, revealing their tragedies and dreams. Each reflects, in some way, the time and community in which she lives.

The women included represent a cross section of older black women in North Carolina, with varied skills, educational backgrounds, and interests. Carrie McDonnell Stewart of Franklin and Maude Lee Bryant of Moncure are representative of the experiences of a number of black women who were practicing midwives during the 1920s. Mademoiselle Ernestine Burghes Sanders of Raleigh is a graduate of Fisk University and of Middleburg College. Until her retirement in 1971, she was a French teacher and served for twenty-three years as associate professor of St. Augustine's College. She speaks French and German and reads French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish.

The author, Emily Herring Wilson, presents the stories of these women by using their recollections of the past as told to her in interviews over a three-year period, thus reflecting the black heritage of the women represented. The photographs by Susan Mullally, a photographer with special interest in portraits, enhance the stories of these proud black women.

*Hope and Dignity* was written for the general public and is appropriate for public and school libraries. It would also be appropriate for collections of North Caroliniana and black history. The absence of an index makes the volume difficult to use as a reference tool, but such usage was not the author's intent.


Gottlieb Schober spent his adult life in the Moravians' Wachovia settlement, which included the town of Salem (now Winston-Salem), North Carolina. Prior to the 1830s, Salem was a congregational town presided over by the Aufseher Collegium (council of elders), which regulated individual life to a degree that would be labelled authoritarian today. Choice of marriage partner, trade, and place of residence were among the many details requiring the Collegium's approval. In addition, lots were often cast; if the lot went against the individual's choice, even with the Collegium's consent, it was interpreted as divine disapproval, and the request was denied.

Schober's temperament was at one point described by the elders as tending toward an "American freedom," which they rightly saw as "dangerous" to their medieval German way of life.Repeatedly Schober flouted their rules and decisions and, when called to account, stretched the truth beyond reasonable credulity.Yet he usually stopped short of acts that would have resulted in his expulsion from the community. Mostly Schober seemed eager to make money, an ambition he satisfied through a legal career and land speculation. The surprising fact of his life was his piety, which eventually led to his becoming a minister and leader in the Lutheran church. Yet, despite his departure from the Moravian communion, he somehow managed to retain his Salem residence. His life of pious entrepreneurial individualism in fact contributed to the general relaxation of ecclesiastical control and its eventual disappearance from Salem.

Surratt, who teaches at Wingate College, has done a careful piece of research, growing out of his graduate thesis on Salem's evolution. His book suffers from his compulsion to put everything he discovered into it: is it really necessary, for example, for us to know in detail the events of Schober's parents' voyage to America? Surratt also, as he admits, assigns the best possible motives to Schober and too easily passes over his dissimulations. Frequently feelings are described for which there is apparently no evidence.

Was Schober important enough for a full biography? Probably not as an individual but possibly as a case study of social change. He also represents the conflict between a religious society in which everyone works and everyone's basic needs are met and one in which individuals are free to pursue wealth as far as their abilities allow. That conflict, in somewhat different form, is still with us.

Damon D. Hickey, Guilford College

Claiborne Young has written an informative, interesting guide to the coastal waters of North Carolina. It is a navigational guide as well as a guide to the historic development of the coastal area. The volume includes information on the availability of fuel and repair facilities and recommendations for restaurants and sight-seeing.

Young is an experienced boater who recently spent several months exploring the North Carolina coast. This guide is based on his explorations and enhanced by his knowledge and appreciation of the heritage of the area. He begins his journey on the Intercoastal Waterway near the Dismal Swamp at the Virginia line and continues south to Calabash at the South Carolina line, taking time to explore the creeks, inlets, rivers, and islands that abound along the coast.

Boaters will appreciate his references to buoy numbers, channel depths, and sandbar locations. The author gives specific directions for navigating the waters and also provides NOAA chart numbers required for the navigation of each area. He warns boaters of dangerous areas and recommends safe routes and safe places to anchor.

However, the appeal of this book is not limited to boaters. The historical sketches and legends of each area are brief but interesting. The author frequently recommends additional publications for those who want to pursue the history of a particular area. The descriptions of the coastal areas today are informative.

The format of this paperback guide is excellent. Each chapter covers a different area of the coast. Navigational information is shaded in gray, separating it from the narrative. Each chapter contains easy-to-read maps and several black-and-white photographs, most of which were taken by the author. The index includes geographical names, restaurants, and business establishments that cater to the boater.

This is an informative, enjoyable book. It is recommended for public libraries, especially those in the coastal areas.

*Arlene Hanefeld, University of North Carolina at Wilmington*

Thornton W. Mitchell. *The State Library And Library Development In North Carolina*. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1983. 164 pp. (Copies have been widely distributed in North Carolina. All public, school, and academic libraries, among others, should have received a copy. A limited number remain. Contact the North Carolina State Library, 109 East Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27611.)

Governor James B. Hunt's program, "North Carolina 2000," gave the impetus for research into the history of libraries in North Carolina as background for planning for improvement of libraries in the state during the next two decades. Thornton W. Mitchell, retired North Carolina State Archivist, was a most appropriate choice to write this history.

Prior to the twentieth century, libraries in North Carolina consisted only of parochial, private, school, and college libraries and a state library for use by certain persons in state government. As in other southern states, a movement for public libraries began in North Carolina only in the last years of the nineteenth century. Mitchell traces the development of libraries across the state from the beginning of tax-supported libraries in 1897, through the work of the North Carolina Library Commission (established in 1909 to promote library service throughout the state), and on to the merger of the Commission and the State Library in 1956. The shift in emphasis at the turn of the century from libraries as repositories of knowledge to libraries as a means of providing educational opportunities for citizens gave an impetus to the library movement that by the 1920s resulted in substantive growth of public libraries and the introduction of traveling libraries, extension of service to rural areas, and development of the bookmobile.

Mitchell's book documents the growth of school libraries in the 1930s as changes took place that led to state supervision and certification. He records the impact of WPA library programs and the Citizens Library Movement on public libraries during the Depression and the fight for state aid to libraries that culminated in 1941 in legislation making the maintenance of public libraries a part of the state's educational program. His history shows the changes brought about by the development of library standards and the beginning of federal aid in 1956. Finally, we are told of the many studies in the 1960s that pointed out inadequacies in public library service in North Carolina, of problems in obtaining enough state support to provide needed services, and of attempts in the 1970s to raise standards through regional libraries and equalization of services throughout the state.

Mitchell has carefully documented his study with the pertinent manuscript and secondary
materials, and he has included appendixes and a good index which will make the book a useful reference tool on North Carolina library history. The large number of statistics included in the text, however, do not make easy reading. Although this kind of summary record is precisely what Mitchell was asked to write, the history would have been more interesting with some discussion of the fascinating personalities who made the statistics happen.

David N. McKay, the State Librarian, has added an epilogue in which he outlines the current programs, services, and projects of the North Carolina State Library. McKay points out that what this history shows is still true: the greatest progress in library development results from citizen-supported programs. The State Library is currently encouraging citizens to assume leadership roles in pushing for better library service and for funding for that service.

Mitchell's book should be in all public libraries in North Carolina in order to encourage librarians and citizens to read it. One can more effectively work for a better future when one knows the past.

Betty L. Young, Duke University


In his varied roles as reporter, columnist, editorial writer, journalism professor, historian, novelist, biographer, book reviewer, lecturer, and television commentator, Gerald W. Johnson established himself as one of twentieth-century America's leading writers and observers of public affairs. In each of his endeavors he enjoyed success and acclaim. Yet it was as essayist that he first emerged at the forefront of American intellectuals, producing pungent, provocative articles for leading magazines, something he would do until his death in 1980.

In **South-Watching: Selected Essays by Gerald W. Johnson,** editor Fred Hobson has gathered twenty-two Johnson essays written from 1923 to 1960, all dealing with the writer's native South. Born in Riverton, Scotland County, North Carolina, in 1890, reared in Thomasville, and educated at Wake Forest College, Johnson had deep southern roots and maintained a lifelong interest in the region. After stints with the *Lexington Dispatch* and *Greensboro Daily News,* he left the Tar Heel state in 1926 and began a seventeen-year association with the *Baltimore Sun* papers. There he strengthened his friendship with H. L. Mencken, leading American iconoclast and critic of the South, who had earlier suggested that Johnson submit essays to various journals and who eventually persuaded the young Tar Heel to join the *Sun* papers staff. Thereafter Johnson would call Baltimore home.

The essays Hobson has chosen for inclusion illustrate well Johnson's writing talents and wide interests. Topics range from southern literature to the Ku Klux Klan and from southern Babbitry to personalities, such as college presidents Frank Porter Graham (University of North Carolina) and William Louis Poteat (Wake Forest). Hobson limits his editing to several sentences introducing each essay and to a few concise footnotes identifying people and publications mentioned by Johnson.

A craftsman with the language, Johnson uses humor and tragedy, exaggeration and understatement, irony and metaphor to explain the South to itself and to the rest of the world. He scolds, cajoles, praises, and condemns, but his essays always show a forgiving and loving—though no less critical—view of the South, an understanding of human frailties often lacking in the writing of more caustic southern critics such as Mencken.

With **South-Watching,** Hobson, professor of English at the University of Alabama and author of *Serpent in Eden: H. L. Mencken and the South* and coeditor of Literature at the Barricades: The American Writer in the 1930s, offers a work which Tar Heel libraries should consider for their collections. Academic and large public libraries with southern studies collections will want the book as much for Hobson's fine twenty-five-page biographical introduction to Johnson as for the essays. Other libraries seeking to include Johnson in their holdings but on limited budgets will first want to compare South-Watching with America-Watching: Perspectives in the Course of an Incredible Century (Owings Mills, MD: Stemmer House, 1976). The latter, a collection of seventy-one Johnson essays and excerpts from longer works, includes five of South-Watching's twenty-two essays, plus writings that show Johnson's national and international interests.

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

Journalist, magazine writer, fisherman, and conservationist, Bob Simpson shares his tales of nature, fishing, and life along Peltier Creek in his first book. Readers might be familiar with the author from his newspaper or magazine articles. In a folksy manner, the author chronicles the purchase and restoration of his beloved old craft, *Sylvia II*. *When the Water Smokes* describes the four seasons along the Carolina coast near Morehead City. The reader learns about the subtle changes of coastal flora and fauna that only an experienced naturalist could describe. The author pokes fun at city life and the rat race that most people call civilization.

An outspoken environmentalist, Bob Simpson in this volume urges us to take a careful look at the diminishing undeveloped North Carolina coastline and inland waterways. The author leaves the reader with a greater understanding of the ways of the shoeshide folk who live “Down-east.”

The volume is a series of short personal essays that lack central themes; often transitions are nonexistent. Some essays are much stronger than others, and sometimes the reader is left with the impression that many newspaper columns have been pieced together. The book lacks an index or a bibliography. The volume is well-designed, but this reviewer would have liked to see more of Simpson’s excellent photographs.

The volume should be given serious consideration by public libraries. Fishermen will love the volume, and Simpson has captured the essence of life found in coastal Carolina communities.

*Morgan J. Barley, East Carolina University*


We are taken from an airport lounge on a nostalgic reverie to a southern childhood in the first section of *Foreseeing the Journey*, James Applewhite’s third collection of poems. By means of an internal monologue, he conveys the memories of his childhood: a serious illness, summertime swimming and baseball, his father mowing the grass in the long twilight. An occurrence, an isolated vignette, is relayed by bright images: “sun in my lashes/was broken colored glass” from “First By the Sea” or “prayed to see a hawk/ swimming and flying in the liquid air/metallic as museums’ bronze statues in the sun” from “Red Wing Hawk.” Although each poem is unique and separate, as a whole they present a flashing kaleidoscope of the poet’s youth.

The second section of the book begins as the author boards his flight, his thoughts reflecting the complexities of adult life and his own growing disillusion. He writes of garbage, both material and human, prejudice, loss of innocence, and death. In the final three poems concerning a fondly recollected canoe trip, Applewhite recalls some of the magic of childhood, ending on a faintly optimistic note: “The path I run/twists between hardwoods and pines/As if into aperture of the sun” from “Returning from the River.”

Applewhite’s memories are rephrased into sometimes delicate, sometimes tough verses that have a surface loveliness as well as in-depth character. Each reading deepens the patina. Recommended for public and academic libraries.

*Emily S. Walker, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County*


Twenty years ago, while searching for a house to purchase, Paul Koepke and his wife came across an advertisement in the local newspaper for a house, five acres, and a pond. Since they were both ardent fishermen, they quickly bought the property, and their adventure with country living began.

Their struggle to restore the house to liveable condition was only a prelude to the adventures of restoring the pond to productive use. After the pond was rehabilitated, the fishermen, human and otherwise, moved in. Koepke describes all of them in humorous detail; he even observes his dog fishing. The environment of the pond, that “pro- tean, mercurial mirror,” where “no cloud may pass, no raindrop fall, nor any fish rise without the event being transmitted to an attentive witness,” is described in loving detail. Here one meets birds, snakes, snapping turtles, assorted insects, and plants. Koepke also examines the joys of various rural pursuits: raising catalpas for the fishing worms they produce, picking blackberries, fighting bermuda grass, philosophizing about the weather, and planning a super vegetable garden while contemplating winter’s first seed catalog.

Paul Koepke is a retired professor of music theory and composition with an interest in gar-
dining, wildlife, and conservation. He has written articles for *Organic Gardener* and *Wildlife in North Carolina*. He also dabbles in light verse.

A delightful blend of humor, adventure, and nature description, *Two-Moon Pond* belongs in every public and secondary school library.

Anne Bond Berkley, Durham County Library


Henry King originally wrote the vignettes which comprise this book for the *Asheboro Courier-Tribune*. Each story describes a North Carolinian with whom Mr. King has visited. Most of them live in piedmont North Carolina, though a few are from elsewhere in the state. There is Robert Harrel, “the Hermit of the Sand Dunes,” who lives at Fort Fisher, and Weston Varnon, “He Can Build an Ark If Need be,” a boat builder at Holden Beach. Also included are Joann Denton, “The Nation’s Most Famous Witch,” of Morganton, and Rebecca Gatlin, “the Lyrical Lady of the Lonely House,” who writes poetry in Franklinville.

This volume describes a variety of types of people, but all are independent, and most are eccentric. The author obviously enjoyed talking with them. He discusses the philosophy of life of each one with interest, accepting their differences with compassion. Each story is accompanied by a photograph, most of which were taken by Mr. King.

Henry King has written newspaper columns about people for twenty-five years, in addition to writing news, features, editorials, and special articles. He has won two Valley Forge (Pa.) Freedom Foundation awards and numerous North Carolina Press Association awards.

These stories are light and easy to read. The book would be a popular addition to any collection in a high school library, a public library, or the leisure reading section of a university or research library. In addition, it would bring local color to a North Carolina collection.

Elizabeth J. Laney, Pettigrew Regional Library


This is a collection of local history and lore “written by a native of the area in an effort to capture not only the mind but the heart of a people with a great tradition and culture.” Born in the Ledger community of Mitchell County in 1902, Phillips was raised by his grandparents, from whom he garnered good advice and a wealth of community and family history. After laboring on the farm and in the timber and mica industries, he worked his way through high school and college. He spent twenty-five years as an educator in Spruce Pine and Bakersville, as teacher, principal, and county superintendent (no small accomplishment for a Democrat in a Republican county).

After retiring, he developed one of the first commercial apple orchards in the county.

Phillips has included not only the heritage that he gained and remembered from his forebears but also the personal experiences of his involvement in the developments of the twentieth century. Anecdotal and episodic, the book provides some of the flavor of life in the North Toe Valley and supplements Dayton’s “History of the Toe River Valley to 1865” [North Carolina Historical Review, 24 (October 1947): 423-466]. The final portions of the book are devoted to Phillips’ philosophy and poetry.

The book would be suitable for school, public, and academic local history collections, particularly those with an interest in western North Carolina.

Eric J. Olson, Appalachian State University

**Other Publications of Interest**

*Come When the Timber Turns* [1983] is an informal, delightful book in which a woman tells her experiences as a young teacher in a small town in Avery County in the 1920s, a reunion of teacher and students in 1976, and general stories of mountain life in North Carolina. Appropriate for libraries with collections of mountain literature. Available from the Puddingstone Press, P.O. Box 67, Banner Elk, NC 28604. $8.50. (This is the tenth title from Puddingstone, a non-profit adjunct of Lees-McRae College which was begun in 1970 to help make regional literature more readily available.)

Hikers, bird watchers, and other naturalists will be glad to have available the 77-page “Guide to the Uwharrie Trail in the Uwharrie National Forest in Randolph and Montgomery Counties,
Other recent genealogical publications are as follows: *Marriages of Orange County . . . 1779-1868* (425 pp., $25.00); *Marriages of Granville County . . . 1753-1868* (431 pp., $25.00); *Marriages of Rowan County . . . 1753-1868* (506 pp., $28.50); *Marriages of Wake County . . . 1770-1868* (425 pp., $25.00); *Marriages of Wilkes County . . . 1778-1868* (243 pp., $20.00); and *Marriages of Surry County . . . 1779-1868* (272 pp., $20.00). All were compiled by Brent H. Holcomb. Also *Marriages of Bertie County . . . 1762-1868*, compiled by Raymond Parker Fouts (130 pp., $15.00). All are available from Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 111 Water Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. (Postage and handling: first book, $1.00; each additional book, $2.)

Is there a librarian in North Carolina who does not know who Suzanne Britt Jordan is? If so, let's remedy that. She is, first of all, a witty woman. She is also a good writer with common sense who writes a weekly column for the News and Observer and has contributed to other magazines and journals. Her subjects range from religion to family relationships, from smoking to sex, from food to proper English, and touch just about everything in between. *Show and Tell* is her latest ($8.95 paper plus tax, postage, and handling—total $10.31, from Morning Owl Press, P.O. Box 31868, Raleigh, NC 27607). Certainly appropriate for public libraries; other libraries may want to consider it for their leisure reading sections. Highly recommended.