
New North Carolina Books

Alice R. Cotten, Compiler

Fred Chappell. *I Am One of You Forever*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1985. 184 pp. \$14.95. ISBN 0-8071-1216-X.

I Am One of You Forever, Fred Chappell's fifth novel and his first since 1973, is testimony to the immense talent of this native North Carolina writer.

Set in the hill country of western North Carolina during the years just before the outbreak of World War II, and covering about a two-year period, the story is narrated by young Jess, an amiable ten-year-old boy. Jess lives with his mother, father, grandmother, foster brother, and, occasionally, an assortment of unusual relatives whose memorable eccentricities leave an indelible impression on the boy's mind. It is a novel about growing up and coming of age in a less complicated era, told with insight and understanding.

Born in Canton in 1936, Fred Chappell grew up in Haywood County. He graduated from Duke University in 1961 and remained at Duke until 1964, when he joined the English faculty at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He has been a full professor there since 1971. Chappell has long been recognized as one of the pre-eminent authors of this region. His literary yield is marked by consistently high quality. Published works to his credit include several volumes of poetry, a collection of short stories, and five novels. This year he and John Ashberry were co-recipients of the prestigious Bollingen Prize in Poetry. Though Chappell's fiction contains a distinctive North Carolina flavor, with identifiable settings, thematically it is universal in scope.

I Am One of You Forever brings to the fore the author's cumulative gifts as skilled poet and storyteller. Written in the rich vernacular dialect of the mountains and interspersed with descriptive narrative of great lyrical beauty, the novel brings together individual vignettes richly crafted and often infused with humor. We meet Uncle Luden, who at age sixteen left the family farm to seek his fortune in California; his visit home upsets almost the entire community. His debonair approach toward romance leads him into trouble with the

husbands and boyfriends of the women he calls upon. This flair for the ladies later causes him to become the object of a cruel practical joke played by Jess's father and Johnson Gibbs, his foster brother.

Other relatives that follow Uncle Luden on visits include mysterious Uncle Gurton with his long, flowing beard tucked inside his overalls, who disappears and reappears without notice. Seer-like Uncle Zeno, the storyteller of the family, lives, according to Jess, "in a different but contiguous sphere that touched our world only by means of a sort of metaphysical courtesy." Uncle Runkin carries about with him his bed, a hand-carved coffin already twenty-five years in production, in his search for an appropriate epigram to engrave on the unfinished lid. Aunt Sam, the well-known country singer, bawdy in speech, is, nevertheless, a woman of honesty and strong character who returns to recapture the essence of family she lost to tragedy, and to repair the broken friendship between herself and Jess's grandmother.

Though Chappell imbues each of the above character sketches with humor, sometimes bordering on the hilarious, he is quite capable of evoking moments of poignancy, such as in relating the death of Johnson Gibbs, the orphan, whose life has enriched Jess's otherwise lonely existence on the farm. Early in the novel we learn that Johnson has enlisted in the army, where he is ultimately to meet his death. A telegram reaches the family informing them that Johnson Gibbs died in a training accident at Fort Bragg before he could make good his intention of killing Hitler. The telegram repulses the family to the extent that no one will touch it, so death-like has it become. It next becomes the object of ritual that the family must confront in order to be released from its stranglehold. As Jess describes in his encounter and subsequent emergence: "I don't know how long I sat looking ... At last the telegram began to change shape ... I watched it go away and my heart lightened then and I was able to rise, shaken and confused, and walk from the room without shame, not looking back, finding my way confidently in the dark."

Jess's willingness to face the reality and harshness of death enables him to continue participating in the lives of those who touch his existence; one example is his vision, at the conclusion of the novel, of being with Johnson Gibbs again. For Jess will be one of them forever.

This novel is highly recommended for all adult fiction collections. Many young adults should also find this readable.

Jim Chapman, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County

Mary Jane McCrary. *Transylvania Beginnings: A History*. Brevard: Transylvania County Historic Properties Commission, 1984. 321 pp. \$27.50 plus \$1.95 shipping and handling (Order from Southern Historical Press, PO Box 738, Easley, SC 29641-0738.) ISBN 0-89308-415-8.

Mary Jane McCrary has inspired an attractively printed, well-bound book that will interest genealogists and local historians in western North Carolina. A fifth-generation native of Transylvania County, Mrs. McCrary strove to "honor the families of the pioneers and to give grateful recognition to the institutions they have bequeathed to us—the churches, the schools, and government by the people." She and other contributors accomplished that goal.

The Transylvania County Historic Properties Commission chose to divide *Transylvania Beginnings* into four parts that focus on the period prior to 1865. Part I, Mrs. McCrary's overview, titled "Transylvania Beginnings," includes thirteen short chapters. Utilizing secondary references and a sprinkling of primary sources, including court minutes and published papers, the author weaves a folksy (and occasionally unobjective) account of Transylvania County's physical characteristics, Indians and the period of white settlement, the division of counties and the creation of Transylvania County in 1861 from Henderson County, frontier commerce and industry, schools and education, the development of postal service, churches and preachers, roads and bridges, and the county's role in the Civil War. In many cases Mrs. McCrary places these topics in a broader historical context. Western Carolina University Professor of History Gordon B. McKinney verified the accuracy of many statements and provided many of the footnotes for Mrs. McCrary's essay, but was unable to document all of it. Readers will appreciate the 3½-page bibliography that follows the end notes of Part I.

A sixteen-page section of photographs of historic buildings, tombstones, and notable residents, printed on slick paper for greater clarity, is followed by Part II of the book. This portion includes a well-documented discussion of the "Walton War" during the early nineteenth century. Robert Scott Davis Jr. intersperses his narrative with transcribed documents to explain the conflict that arose over disputed land along the borders of North Carolina and Georgia. Also of interest in Part II are a list of Transylvania County cemeteries, abstracts of marriage bonds (1861-1868), and a list of county officials (1861-1867).

Nathaniel B. Hall's contribution, Part III of the book, traces the history of blacks. Covering the century after 1861, Hall uses primary and secondary sources to discuss slaves' transition to freedom, religion, socio-economic aspects of black life, service of blacks in various wars, and politics.

The compilers devote the final portion of the book to family history. This 113-page group of genealogies, essays, and document transcriptions should be of interest to genealogists. Unfortunately, these contributions lack sources.

Transylvania Beginnings, which includes an index of names, resembles in format the series of county heritage books published by Hunter Publishing Company of Winston-Salem. Its pleasing physical characteristics and impressive content, however, set Mrs. McCrary's book above similar county histories. It deserves a place in academic and public libraries in western North Carolina, high school libraries in the immediate area, and other institutions that collect material pertaining to western North Carolina.

Maurice C. York, Edgecombe County Memorial Library

Nannie M. Tilley. *The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985. 706 pp. \$35.00. ISBN 0-8078-1642-6.

In 1958 the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company commissioned Nannie May Tilley to prepare a company history. Tilley, whose previous work on the bright leaf tobacco industry had become a standard, enjoyed an ideal relationship with Reynolds. She had access to company records and personnel, a salary that allowed her to devote full time to her work, and freedom from control and censorship. The result is a detailed account of the origins and growth of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco from

its creation in 1875 to its absorption by R. J. Reynolds Industries in the early 1960s.

Tilley devotes substantial attention to the role of the company's founder, Richard Joshua Reynolds, arguing persuasively that Reynolds was crucial to the early development of the business. He combined a talent for marketing and sales with a family background in the growing and processing of tobacco when he formed R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He oversaw the early growth of the company and, more importantly, guided the concern into an arrangement with James B. Duke and his great monopoly, the American Tobacco Company. Reynolds became Duke's lieutenant for the organization of the bright leaf plug division of the tobacco industry, buying out numerous smaller companies in the process and emerging from the break-up of Duke's monopoly in 1912 as one of the four great tobacco manufacturers in the United States.

Tilley clearly sympathizes with R. J. Reynolds and his successors at Reynolds Tobacco, but she deals evenhandedly both with the company's successes—the introduction of Prince Albert smoking tobacco, the creation of Camel cigarettes and later Winston cigarettes, and the company's sense of community responsibility—and also with its failures and darker side—union-busting activities in the 1920s and 1930s, the failure of Cavalier cigarettes in the early 1950s, and the conviction of Reynolds executives for violation of anti-trust laws in 1941.

The history of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company reads better at the beginning, where the author's historical perspective is clear and she confidently sets out an organizational theme, than at the end, where historical perspective inevitably clouds and her writing tends to become a chronology of people and events. It also appears that the author understands the R. J. Reynolds Company much better before its involvement with Duke's tobacco trust than after. Duke's monopoly was dissolved by court order in 1911, but Reynolds and the other successors to the trust formed an odd industrial group. In part they behaved as if they were an oligopoly, in part as if they were fiercely competing adversaries. Tilley is certainly not alone in being unsure of exactly the sort of creature with which she deals. The long delay between the completion of Tilley's manuscript in 1964 and its publication in 1985 means that questions of great interest to many readers are dealt with in passing if at all. There is almost no discussion of the controversy over smoking and health which has dramatically affected the cigarette

industry in the last twenty years, and there is nothing on the movement away from tobacco by Reynolds and other manufacturers in the last decade. Tilley's style is, as always, clear, clean, and to the point. She has, however, the historian's love of detail and shares the historian's uncertainty as to where essential detail ends and historical trivia begins.

Overall, Nannie Tilley has produced a thorough, balanced, and lucid history of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, which will serve as an important account of industrialization in the New South and as a model for business history.

Harry McKown, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Robert Martin Fales, M.D. *Wilmington Yesteryear*. Edited by Diane C. Cashman. Wilmington: Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, Inc., 1984. 158 pp. (P.O. Box 813, Wilmington 28402).

It is amazing that a city the size of Wilmington could be the subject of four pictorial volumes within the last four years. *Wilmington Yesteryear* by Dr. Robert Fales is the most recently published Wilmington history.

An effective pictorial history must be well-designed, with crisp unique visuals. Captions should be clearly written and concise. If a book is attempting to be a city history, text should place the city within an urban history framework. *Wilmington Yesteryear* fails to meet these criteria.

The most disturbing problem of the volume is uneven picture quality. Some excellent previously unpublished photographs appear alongside fuzzy visuals. The author acknowledges that many visuals for the volume were made from his slide collection. This is generally unacceptable practice for production of quality historical photographs. Also, in a few cases duplication of previously published illustrations might have been avoided.

The design and layout of the book frustrated the reviewer. Text is followed by photographs rather than placing photographs with the appropriate text. Photo captions often repeat large quantities of the text, rather than enhancing the narrative.

Dr. Fales, a physician, notes in his preface that he is neither a scholar nor a writer. The text is a personal memoir about life in Wilmington during the twentieth century. The author has captured the life of a bustling seaport and vividly describes growing up in a commercial fishing family. His reminiscences of recreational, commercial, and educational activities of early Wilmington are

recorded with clarity and a sense of humor. The narrative sometimes lacks continuity, however, and transitions are often missing.

Libraries with limited funds might want to consider more general pictorial histories such as *Cape Fear Adventure* by Diane Cobb Cashman, published in 1982, or *A Pictorial History of Wilmington* by Anne Russell, published in 1981. For those interested in architecture, Tony P. Wrenn's *Wilmington North Carolina: An Architectural and Historical Portrait* should be given careful consideration. Wrenn's 1984 publication is an excellent detailed architectural inventory of historic buildings accompanied by beautiful illustrations.

Morgan J. Barclay, East Carolina University

Michael T. Southern, ed. *Historic Montford, Asheville, North Carolina*. Asheville: Graves Printing Company, 1985. 64 pp. \$10.20 (includes postage). Order from The Preservation Society of Asheville & Buncombe County, Inc., P.O. Box 2806, Asheville, N.C. 28802.

This slim paperback volume, elegantly designed and lavishly illustrated, briefly tells the history of the Asheville neighborhood of Montford. Laid out in 1889, incorporated in 1893, and annexed by Asheville in 1905, Montford developed into a large neighborhood of handsome Victorian and Colonial Revival residences largely occupied by Asheville's middle-class professionals, including lawyer Locke Craig, who was elected governor in 1912. His house still stands.

The text, based on the Montford Historic District Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, includes a brief history of Montford as well as a short architectural essay. The captions to the excellent black-and-white photographs give equal treatment to both the architectural characteristics of the houses and to their history of occupants. The text and photographs combine successfully to describe Montford as a community in terms of families and personalities as well as a collection of attractive homes.

Published by The Preservation Society of Asheville & Buncombe County, *Historic Montford* provides an excellent model for any neighborhood or historic district wishing to publish its history, and will be a welcome addition to any library for its local history, historic preservation, or urban planning collection.

Marshall Bullock, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Harry R. Phillips. *Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers*. With Contributions by Rob Gardner and Charlotte A. Jones-Roe in Collaboration with the Staff of the North Carolina Botanical Garden. Edited by C. Ritchie Bell and Ken Moore. Illustrations by Dorothy S. Wilbur. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985. 331 pp. \$24.75 cloth (ISBN 0-8078-1648-5), \$14.95 paper (ISBN 0-8078-4131-5).

Harry Phillips and his colleagues at the North Carolina Botanical Garden put ten years of work into *Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers*, and it shows. The product of those ten years of experimentation is 331 pages of instruction and encouragement for those who want to grow successfully the native plants of the eastern United States.

According to the author's introduction, the book was designed to give the reader a thorough understanding of the fundamentals of wild flower gardening and to provide specific information on the propagation and cultivation of about one hundred species. Parts 1 and 2 of the book fulfill the first purpose, with discussions of soil preparation, cultivation, garden planning and maintenance, and explanations of seed collection and propagation techniques. There are also sample garden designs and a timetable of gardening activities for each season.

The great part of the book, though, is given over to detailed instruction for growing—from seed, by division, or by root or stem cuttings—seventy-five wild flowers, about a dozen carnivorous plants, and fifteen native ferns. It is in this section that the North Carolina Botanical Garden's experimentation truly benefits the reader, for here are revealed the peculiarities and particularities of each species, many of them important for successful cultivation.

The writing is clear and concise. Though the subject requires scientific terminology, Phillips has successfully blended the scientific and the literary. His description of the nodding onion (*allium cernuum*), for example, is precise and authoritative, but not dry: "There is a sharp downward arch at the top of the scape causing the inflorescence to nod, prompting the specific epithet *cernuum*, from the Latin *cernuss*—'with the head facing toward the earth.'"

Dorothy S. Wilbur's excellent line drawings appear throughout the book to illustrate techniques and to aid the reader in plant identification. Her drawings of the ferns are especially useful.

Appendixes provide information on plant

rescue, calendars of blooming dates, and an extensive bibliography. Appendix 4 is a production timetable intended for use by commercial growers and nurserymen. A glossary and an index end the book.

Wild flowers are abundant in the Southeast—nearly three thousand species of flowering plants occur in North Carolina alone. Many are so common that we forget their beauty—Queen Anne's Lace, Black-Eyed Susan, Goldenrod. Others are not so well known—the crimson Bee-balm, a favorite with the hummingbirds. As Phillips writes in his introduction, these flowers are all around, and we "just need to take a closer look" to recognize their ornamental potential.

Becky Kornegay, Western Carolina University

Ellie M. Andrews. *Ellie's Book: The Journal Kept by Ellie M. Andrews from January 1862 through May 1865*. Transcribed and Annotated by Ann Campbell MacBryde. Davidson: Briarpatch Press, 1984. 147 pp. \$15.00.

"Their zeal and energy will go far to sustain the South in the forthcoming struggle," wrote William Howard Russell in 1861, "and nowhere is the influence of women greater than in America." The eminent British journalist was entirely correct. Women were indeed the staunchest Rebels, and their contributions were integral to the Confederate war effort. The one Southern woman whose experience is depicted in this diary symbolizes all the wives, mothers, and sisters who devoted their lives to the Lost Cause, and in many cases were consumed by it.

Ellie M. Butz, a native of Easton, Pennsylvania, married a young Carolinian named Clinton M. Andrews in 1856. The Andrews family, which settled in the Piedmont during the Scotch-Irish migration of the mid-18th century, had extensive connections throughout Iredell and Rowan counties. The couple moved to Statesville, where Andrews operated a small military academy. When the war began, he volunteered in the 2nd North Carolina Regiment of Cavalry, which he eventually commanded.

Like thousands of other Southern women, Ellie Andrews made the painful adjustment to total war and detailed the process in her personal journal. During the first part of the conflict her morale remained high despite separation, family bereavements, and steadily increasing economic hardships. The diary reflects a complete identification with the Confederate cause, combined

with a keen interest in family gatherings, local conditions, and the military events which affected everyone. Helping to maintain her spirits, as well as those of the community around her, were parties, charitable affairs, and the seemingly endless round of social visits that occupied so much of the Southern matron's time.

Sadly, Mrs. Andrews' situation worsened abruptly after her husband's death in action in June 1864. Her home was sold and the estate divided; she and her nine-year-old son were forced to board with a friend. For some time she tried, unsuccessfully, to keep school in Statesville, then moved to Raleigh to accept a position as a tutor. Her diary for this latter period is intermittent, occasionally skipping entire months, and deeply tinged with sorrow and depression. "Grant unto us Oh Lord, strength and comfort from on high," reads one of the final entries. "To my precious little boy, my only one, do I bequeath this book, that as he grows to riper years, he may read with a loving tenderness, a small portion of his Mother's happiness and his Mother's grief." When the fighting ended, Mrs. Andrews and her son moved back to Pennsylvania. She died in 1876 at age forty-one, perhaps as much a victim of the war as her husband.

Ann Campbell MacBryde, the author's great-granddaughter, has edited this journal with evident affection. Her prologue, epilogue, and explanatory notes concentrate on disentangling the complicated Andrews family background, and on identifying the numerous individuals mentioned in the text. There is also a detailed index. Libraries specializing in local history, Civil War history, or women's studies will want to acquire this volume.

Everard H. Smith, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Sue Ellen Bridgers. *Sara Will*. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1985. 307 pp. \$15.95. ISBN 0-06-015385-7.

Sue Ellen Bridgers is familiar to many readers as the award-winning author of *Home Before Dark*, *All Together Now*, and *Notes for Another Life*. The native North Carolinian's most recent novel is *Sara Will*, a moving and tender story of a woman who confronts and overcomes the fears that have insulated her from her feelings and learns to love.

Life holds few surprises and little joy for Sara Will Burney. Over her fifty-odd years Sara Will has become a rigid, solitary woman who cares more

for the dead than for the living and more for things than for human relationships. Her world is orderly, routine, and controlled with little human contact. Then one autumn day a mud-caked truck arrives at her door, bringing three strangers into her life and eventually into her heart.

Here are Fate Jessop; his unmarried sixteen-year-old niece, Eva; and her baby, Rachel. Trapped by circumstances with no other place to go, they ask to stay with Sara Will temporarily. The unwelcome presence of these visitors in her home poses a threat to Sara Will's well-ordered and well-protected existence. Gradually, though, her resentment and hostility begin to give way as she responds to the life they bring with them. Feelings of love, tenderness, and caring that have lain dormant for years slowly awaken in Sara Will, encouraged by the understanding and love offered by Fate.

The characters dominate the novel, making the plot seem secondary in importance. Portraits of the characters emerge through skillfully written descriptions, dialogue, and reminiscences which provide information about past events and offer insights into the thoughts and feelings of the characters. These are believable, lovable people who grow and change as the story unfolds. There's Fate Jessop whose life has been scarred by the losses of an arm, a wife, and the career he'd dreamed of, but whose humor, devotion, and love support and sustain the people in his life. There's the irrepressible Swanee Hope, Sara Will's widowed sister, whose spirit, romanticism, and occasional foolishness provoke her sister but give her some balance. And there are the determined but struggling teenagers, Eva Jessop and her persistent suitor, Michael. From this assortment of loosely connected individuals emerges a family of varied personalities, occasionally at odds, but loving and dependent on one another. One becomes so fond of these people that it's difficult to leave them at the end of the book.

Sara Will is set in the present in the small fictional North Carolina town of Tyler Mills and nearby Sparrow Creek. All of the action takes place during one year, beginning in the autumn and ending the following spring. The seasons give structure to the novel and parallel the development of plot and characters.

Sara Will is a warm, wonderful book with broad appeal. Public, academic, and high school libraries will most certainly want to include it in their collections.

Gloria Colvin, *Herald-Sun Newspaper Library*

Catherine W. Bishir and Lawrence S. Earley, eds. *Early Twentieth-Century Suburbs in North Carolina: Essays on History, Architecture, and Planning*. Raleigh: Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1985. 105 pp. \$8.00 paper (plus \$1.00 first copy and \$.25 each additional copy for postage). ISBN 0-86526-229-2.

First presented at a 1983 conference, "Early 20th Century Neighborhoods in North Carolina," the essays included in this volume reflect the concentration of the conference on white, middle-class neighborhoods in five of the state's largest cities: Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Charlotte.

The collection explores the history and architecture of the neighborhoods, the planning that led to their establishment, and efforts in recent years to preserve them.

In his overview article on urbanizing the South, David Goldfield observes that North Carolina, as well as the rest of the nation, experienced a major population shift at the turn of the century as citizens in greater numbers left the farm to seek employment in industries and businesses that were booming in urban areas. Though North Carolina lacked the large metropolitan hubs that appeared in many other states, the housing patterns that developed here were similar to those in the rest of the nation as the availability of automobile and streetcar transportation made outlying neighborhoods both convenient and attractive.

Notwithstanding the absence in this state of the spectacular skyscrapers and grand mansions that graced America's major cities, the less dramatic, more conservative style of North Carolina's suburban dwellings are nonetheless important because their hallmark was simplicity.

In her article on landscape and architecture, Margaret Supplee Smith notes that the Colonial Revival and the bungalow were predominant architectural styles in a mix of variations on Tudor, Spanish and Dutch revivals, the Queen Anne Cottage, and the Amercian Foresquare, all of which were more often planned by local building contractors or adapted from plans ordered from Sears than designed by architects.

In separate chapters on each of the cities, these North Carolina historians and city planners acknowledge that the desire to separate the white middle-class from the black population and others of lower economic condition was the primary motivator of the suburban neighborhood movement.

We are introduced to some of the leading city designers and planners of the day as we read how the creation of new attractive neighborhoods was promoted by businessmen who could profit from large real estate transactions while diluting the political strength of the poor who remained in the inner city as the economically more fortunate moved toward an alluring suburbia of curving, tree-lined streets and parks.

Throughout these highly interesting accounts, the text is relieved by a generous collection of photographs and maps that document the studies and provide some moments of nostalgic reflection for the reader who may have lived in one of these cities in an earlier time.

The work culminates in several short articles that are concerned with "Planning in Today's Cities: Strategies for Protecting and Enhancing Early Twentieth Century Suburbs." Though the protection of these neighborhoods has been too long neglected to preserve them intact, recent years have seen a surge of active interest on the part of city dwellers in using the legal means at hand to protect their neighborhoods from encroachment of high density housing and commercial uses of single family dwellings.

The Survey and Planning Branch of the Division of Archives and History is undertaking similar surveys of the major cities in the state and some of the smaller cities as well. We can look forward to the publication of these studies and hope that yet another series of surveys will concentrate on some of the less affluent neighborhoods, for they, too, are an important part of our history.

This attractive, very readable volume is recommended reading for any person who has an interest in early twentieth century North Carolina, especially those who are involved in city planning and historic preservation. Libraries that collect North Caroliniana or items on city planning and preservation should consider this title.

Rebecca Ballentine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Horace W. Raper. *William W. Holden: North Carolina's Political Enigma*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985. 376 pp. Bibliography, index, illustrations. \$29.95. ISBN 0-8078-5060-8.

William Woods Holden, Reconstruction governor of North Carolina, has always been the focal point of controversy. He remains the state's only chief executive to have been impeached and

removed from office. As Horace W. Raper writes, he is the "most reviled and maligned person" in the state's history. Raper, professor of history at Tennessee Technological University and editor of the forthcoming Holden papers for the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, takes as his mission the vindication of this unjustly slighted man.

Holden, born illegitimate in Hillsborough in 1818, assumed editorship of the *North Carolina Standard* in 1843. With the newspaper as his platform Holden became a political power broker and engineered the election of several governors. In 1860 Holden broke with the Democrats and, during the war, headed up a surprisingly strong peace movement in the state. In 1865 he was rewarded by being named provisional governor by President Andrew Johnson. Though he lost that year's general election to Jonathan Worth he was returned to office in 1868. On the whole, the goals he set for his administration were entirely progressive and commendable. He was unable to achieve them, according to Raper, due to unstable national government, harassment by his political enemies, and his weaknesses as an administrator.

Holden's greatest test as governor came when he organized the militia in 1870 to suppress the rampaging Ku Klux Klan in Alamance and Caswell counties. For his efforts he was impeached by his Democratic opponents and, by a strictly partisan vote, removed from office. Holden fled the state and sought refuge in Washington. In 1873 President Grant appointed him Raleigh's postmaster, a post he held until 1881. Until his death in 1892 Holden sought but never received official vindication and removal of the ban on his holding state office. In his last years, though in fact he was a kindly, concerned, pious man, in the eyes of many North Carolinians he was a traitorous monster.

Until now Holden has not had a competent or sympathetic biographer. The study by Edgar E. Folk and Bynum Shaw, published in 1982, concentrates on Holden's private life and his years as editor of the *Standard*. Yet their book, begun by Folk over forty years earlier and completed by Shaw after Folk's death, is deficient on several counts. For many years J.G. deRoulhac Hamilton's broader study, *Reconstruction in North Carolina*, published in 1914, has been the most consulted source on Holden's years as governor. Hamilton portrayed Holden as an irresponsible, unscrupulous demagogue.

Ironically Raper's study grew out of a dissertation prepared under Hamilton at Chapel Hill in 1951. Thus, like the Folk and Shaw volume, it has

had a long gestation. Certainly a thorough re-evaluation of Holden's role in the state's Reconstruction years is long overdue. Not surprisingly, the picture painted by Raper is altogether different from Hamilton's interpretation. Indeed, on several specific points, Raper accuses Hamilton of misrepresenting facts in the case leading to Holden's impeachment trial.

The author works hard at absolving Holden of any guilt in the railroad corruption rampant during his administration. Raper further demonstrates that Holden's use of the militia in 1870 was altogether defensible. Some readers may find the detail involved in such exercises excessive. On the whole, however, the narrative is clear and engrossing. Raper leaves the reader convinced that "in spite of his critics' accusation and his lost administrative opportunities, William W. Holden was a man of dignity and integrity."

Michael Hill, North Carolina Division of Archives and History

Clyde Edgerton. *Raney, A Novel*. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 1985. 227 pp. \$12.95. (P.O. Box 2225, Chapel Hill 27514). ISBN 0-912697-17-2.

"Music is what brought me and Charles together," explains Raney, the narrator of this wonderfully funny and believable novel. If anyone has heretofore questioned the power of music, this statement should remove all doubt. Two more unlikely marriage partners would be hard to find.

A more delightful novel would also be hard to find. *Raney*, a Free Will Baptist from a small town, and Charles, a Methodist from Atlanta rapidly moving up to the Episcopal Church, are drawn together by their interest in bluegrass music. Charles, the assistant librarian at Listre Community College, has "liberal" ideas about race, sex, religion, and politics but lacks Raney's sense of family and community that nurture and bind people together in small towns. Raney is sensitive to the people in her world—her family, old people, members of her church, her neighbors—yet she has difficulty in going beyond the limitations of her upbringing and broadening her world to include those different from her (blacks, members of other religions, vegetarians, her husband and his "perverted" ideas about sex).

Raney and Charles both grow and change in the two years covered in this novel (though, mercifully, they do not dissolve into that homogeneous slush often described by the phrase, "we two are one"). They are without a doubt the central

characters. But those of us who grew up in small southern towns will recognize ourselves and others in the minor characters and take special delight in them. The small talk, the language used, the situations, and the ideas are as true to life as the events in any small town. *Raney* is a wonderful book to read aloud with someone who appreciates this gentle humor.

Edgerton, formerly on the faculty at Campbell University, is now at St. Andrews College. *Raney* is his first novel. Let's hope it is the first of many. This is another star in Algonquin's rapidly growing crown.

Recommended for all adult and young-adult fiction collections.

Alice R. Cotten, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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Library Privacy Act Passes Legislature

Legislation which will make library user records confidential has passed the North Carolina General Assembly. The act, initiated by the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the North Carolina Library Association, was ratified by the Senate on Thursday, June 27. Representative George W. Miller, Jr. (D-Durham) introduced the bill in the House. ECU Professor Gene D. Lanier, chairman of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, testified in legislative committees along with other librarians to have the bill approved.

North Carolina joins almost thirty other states that now have this statute on the books.

The law says that a library shall not disclose any library record that identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific materials, information, or services, or as otherwise having used the library except in certain cases. Library records may be disclosed when necessary for the reasonable operation of the library; upon written consent of the user; or pursuant to subpoena, court order, or where otherwise required by law. The act becomes effective October 1, 1985. The law closely follows recommendations from the American Library Association for handling such library problems.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1985

RATIFIED BILL

CHAPTER 486

HOUSE BILL 724

AN ACT RELATING TO CONFIDENTIALITY OF LIBRARY USER RECORDS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the Library Privacy Act.

Section 2. Chapter 125 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 3.

"Library Records.

"§ 125-18. *Definitions.*—As used in this Article, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) 'Library' means a library established by the State; a county, city, township, village, school district, or other local unit of government or authority or combination of local units of governments and authorities; a community college or university; or any private library open to the public.

(2) 'Library record' means a document, record, or other method of storing information retained by a library that identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific information or materials from a library. 'Library record' does not include nonidentifying material that may be retained for the purpose of studying or evaluating the circulation of library materials in general.

"§ 125-19. *Confidentiality of library user records.*—(a) Disclosure. A library shall not disclose any library record that identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific materials, information, or services, or as otherwise having used the library, except as provided for in subsection (b).

(b) Exceptions. Library records may be disclosed in the following instances:

(1) When necessary for the reasonable operation of the library;

(2) Upon written consent of the user; or

(3) Pursuant to subpoena, court order, or where otherwise required by law."

Section 3. This act shall become effective October 1, 1985.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 27th day of June, 1985.

Robert B. Jordan III
President of the Senate

Liston B. Ramsey
Speaker of the House of Representatives

**Remarks by Dr. Gene D. Lanier, Chairman,
Intellectual Freedom Committee, North Carolina
Library Association before Senate Judiciary
II, July 2, 1985**

My name is Gene D. Lanier and I represent the over 2000 members of the North Carolina Library Association in the area of intellectual freedom and the freedom to read. As chairman of this committee, we have handled over 150 cases of attempted censorship of library materials in North Carolina since 1980.

In the last session of the General Assembly I was appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve on a Study Commission on Obscenity Laws. I served on this group along with representatives from both the House and the Senate, the Department of Justice, a district attorney, a state judge, and representatives from the press, television, the theater owners, and the magazine distributors. We studied the obscenity laws already on the books line-by-line over the period of a year. We heard testimony from experts both from North Carolina and from out of state. We discussed, we debated, and we did research. Based on all of this, we made recommendations to the Legislature for their consideration. I am sincerely disappointed that these recommendations were not considered in the drafting of House Bill 1171. I hate that all this hard work was for naught.

I agree that some legislation should come out of this session to strengthen our present obscenity statutes but I request that the recommendations of our Commission be considered before any new laws are passed. A number of the sections in House Bill 1171 are opposed to our findings in our deliberations. We have found as librarians that one of the main problems, as you might expect, has to do with the definition of obscenity. We feel some judicial determination of obscenity is necessary prior to any prosecution. Libraries follow due process and anyone with complaints about materials in the collection must file a written reconsideration form. On these written complaint forms, individuals have used the term "obscene" to describe their objections. As an example, individuals filed complaints about the "R" volume of *World Book Encyclopedia* due to its section on reproduction and in Durham they objected to *Little Red Riding Hood* because of the wolf eating up grandmother and the fact that in the original Grimm, she had wine and cheese in the basket she was taking to grandmother's house. Both of these were described by the complainant as being obscene. I think you can see how the definition changes as you move from one person to another.

This is why my organization supports a judicial determination based on a statewide standard rather than leaving it up to a local police official when a complaint is filed.

We all know that libraries are not the main target of this legislation. Most unsavory titles never reach the shelves of our libraries due to our professional selection policies and criteria for selection but we have faced a number of problems from potential censors who do not agree with a certain philosophy, theory, or idea found in library materials. Intimidation and the threat of padlocking libraries or librarians without a hearing sends cold chills up my spine.

Therefore, we solicit your support in studying carefully House Bill 1171, House Bill 143 which incorporates many of the recommendations of the Legislative Commission, and the thoughts I have tried to convey. Maybe a sub-committee with all factions being heard could iron out some of the differences.

Thank you for your kind attention and good luck on drafting legislation which will erase the pornography problem in the Tar Heel state.

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