New North Carolina Books
Alice R. Cotten, Compiler


_Thomas Wolfe Interviewed, 1929-1938_ is a unique collection of twenty-five newspaper interviews that Thomas Wolfe gave during his brief but extraordinarily full literary career. The uniqueness of the collection is due in part to the types of interviews Aldo Magi and Richard Walser selected for the book. The selections they chose are interviews done during the years Wolfe's star was rising. The older interviews have been cached away in various archives since the 1920s and 30s but are as pristine now as when they first appeared in print.

Magi and Walser are well qualified to decide which materials were suitable for _Thomas Wolfe Interviewed_. Magi is the associate editor of _The Thomas Wolfe Review_, the in-house publication of the Thomas Wolfe Society. Additionally, he has assembled the largest private collection of secondary Wolfe material in existence today. Walser, professor emeritus of English at North Carolina State University, will be familiar to readers as the author of several works about Thomas Wolfe, including _Thomas Wolfe Undergraduate_, _The Enigma of Thomas Wolfe_, and _Thomas Wolfe's Pennsylvania_. He has also edited several works on North Carolina folklore and history.

At first glance, a chronological collection of newspaper interviews might seem to be a rather repetitive way to gain an insight into a very complex writer. But Magi and Walser, well acquainted with Wolfe's genius and the idiosyncrasies that became Wolfe's hallmark, chose interviews that addressed these subjects. Because the reporters who researched and interviewed Wolfe decades ago wrote with an individual style and focus, _Thomas Wolfe Interviewed_ offers a many-faceted look at Wolfe. The headlines and afterwords, along with the chronological list of Wolfe's life and photographs, serve to knit the separate interviews into a very solid work.

_Thomas Wolfe Interviewed_ is a fresh look at Thomas Wolfe that will serve the casual reader of Wolfe and the scholar equally well. Because it also examines Wolfe in a literary and historical light, the book will appeal to a wide variety of readers.

_Steve Hill, Thomas Wolfe Memorial, State Historic Site._


Barnetta McGhee White, Professor of Education at North Carolina Central University, has written one of the first published genealogies of a North Carolina black family. She was born in Oxford, N.C., but spent many years in other states obtaining her education. She returned to North Carolina in 1978 and became interested in discovering more about her family, many of whom remained near Oxford in Granville County. _In Search of Kith and Kin_ is the story of her family and also a record of the adventures she encountered in learning about them.

Barnetta White begins with her McGhee great-grandparents, Caroline (1822-1902) and Robert (1824-1903), both of whom were slaves, and traces the descendants of their nine children who were named in Robert's will dated April 2, 1900. Four of the children married children of Charles and Phyllis Hicks. The eldest son, Frank McGhee (1841-1946), a former slave, was Granville County's last living Confederate veteran. An article (reproduced in White's book) by Thad Stem in the _Durham Morning Herald_, October 8, 1939, describes Frank's childhood and experiences in the Civil War. All of the children settled on farms in the same area near Oxford. Many of their children and grandchildren left the land to seek their fortunes in the cities of the North and West. Altogether, more than 1,500 descendants are listed, many of whom have become successful businessmen or have entered the professions.

In addition to the history of the McGhee family, White's book presents information about the daily life of rural black North Carolina families in the first part of this century. Cooking in the fire-
place, hunting, the home life of family members, courting, superstitions, family legends told and disputed, all are related here with warmth.

Perhaps the most important aspect of this book is Barnett McGehe White's story of her search. Readers not accustomed to the intricacies of a genealogical search might find this aspect somewhat confusing, but she presents an accurate and moving picture of what such a search is like. She documents her discoveries and describes in great detail how she arrived at her conclusions. She faithfully records dead ends as well as successes. White makes use of oral history along with appropriate written records.

In Search of Kith and Kin includes excerpts from the diary of Robert Pool, a brickmason in Durham, as well as other original source material. An appendix lists selected abstracts of transfers of slaves from Granville County Deed Books #17-#21. The book is illustrated with numerous old family photographs, and an index is included.

In Search of Kith and Kin should be required reading for any beginning black genealogist, and it is recommended for academic and public library genealogy/local history collections.

Anne Bond Berkley, Durham County Library

[Ed. Note: North Carolina Libraries does not ordinarily review genealogical titles. We chose to review this one because there are few books available on successful genealogical research into black families in North Carolina.]


The last years of the nineteenth century saw many American railroads fail. Turbulent economic conditions so strained a large number of lines that they went bankrupt or sought survival through merger with stronger ones. Yet out of this economic turmoil arose the Southern Railway System, destined to become a major American business success story. By 1974 it had grown to be a corporation acknowledged as one of the best managed in America and one whose profitability was the envy of its industry. The Southern Railway is Burke Davis's telling of its story.

Davis, a prolific writer with forty-plus books to his credit but perhaps best known for his Civil War works, sees keen management as the secret to Southern's survival and prosperity. From 1894, when it was organized from the remnants of the collapsed Richmond Terminal System, to its merger with the Norfolk and Western Railway in 1982, the Southern was led by men willing to adopt innovations, experiment with new technology, and plan for long-term development rather than short-term profit. The system, for example, was the first major railroad to switch to diesel power from steam and the first to develop a microwave communications program. Its leaders were also constantly aware of the need to expand into new markets. Over its eighty-eight year history, the system grew from an initial 2,000 miles of track to over 10,500 when it ceased as an independent operation.

Most of this dramatic growth in mileage resulted from acquisition of or combination with other companies. Davis outlines this process well. He also skillfully relates the history of those pioneer southeastern railroads prior to 1894 that would eventually form part of the Southern network. His discussion of the role these lines played in the Civil War and the war's effect on them is arguably the high point of the book. In all, more than 125 at one-time independent railroads, through various combinations and recombinations, made their way into the Southern system.

Although Davis's talent as a writer shines through repeatedly in The Southern Railway, the book is disappointing in several respects. Management is discussed in such detail—a chapter is devoted to each of the nine presidents, with minor biographical information included—that little space is left for analysis of other factors that shaped the company. The rise of labor brotherhoods, for example, is barely mentioned and then only as a threat to the system's financial stability. Management is never criticized or second-guessed, and little attempt is made to incorporate into the story the views and actions of those citizens who at times objected to the enormous economic influence railroads once wielded over communities.

One is also somewhat surprised at the level of editing adopted for this major institutional history. There are no footnotes, bibliography, or bibliographical essay. A source is given for only one of the more than fifty illustrations, and all three maps are undated. There is, however, an adequate index.

Despite the book's shortcomings, academic and large public libraries will nonetheless want to consider adding The Southern Railway to their holdings. It is not only the story of a major corporation, but also a valuable, if incomplete, account of the development of railroading in the American South.

Robert G. Anthony, Jr., Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County
New North Carolina Books


Dr. Perdue, a noted Indian historian now at Clemson University and formerly at Western Carolina University, has written a brief overview of the history of Indians in North Carolina from the earliest period to the present day.

Prof. Perdue, whose earlier works include Slavery and the Evolution of Cherokee Society, 1540-1866 (1979), and Cherokee Editor: The Writings of Elias Boudinot (1983), used information from the latest archaeological, anthropological, as well as historical research in preparing a work that will likely replace Stanley South’s Indians in North Carolina (now out of print) as the standard publication of its type.

Of particular note in this short work is the final chapter which describes the surprising diversity of Indian peoples and lifestyles current in North Carolina today.

Native Carolinians is illustrated, includes maps, a chronology of important dates, and a list of sources and suggestions for further reading. It is not indexed.

It is recommended for public and school libraries as an initial source for reading about North Carolina’s first residents.

Wayne Modlin, Fontana Regional Library


The spiritual journey of Cleo Lewis, wife, tenant farmer, is the story of Where She Was, Anderson Ferrell’s first novel. The setting of the story is the small tobacco farm where Cleo works with husband Dalton and their two small children in the town of Branch Creek, North Carolina.

Cleo is a good woman who takes pride in the order of her life, yet craves to know the meaning of her existence. She experiments with the local churches, but soon finds herself totally consumed by the shadowy presence of a stranger, a man who silently prowls her vegetable garden at night. Ferrell attempts to develop the character of Cleo through her relationship with the stranger but does not leave the reader with a resolution. Cleo remains lost at the end of the story.

The author moves in many directions and would have done well to write a short story rather than a novel. Paring down the minute descriptive details given on every page would have left more to the imagination of the reader. Everything from the True Gospel Holiness Powerhouse Holy Ghost Church to Sweet Society Snuff is described in such detail that the story line often eludes the reader.

Anderson Ferrell, thirty-four, is a native of Black Creek, North Carolina, who now lives in New York City. This is his first published work.

Recommended for public libraries and North Carolina Collections.

Anne T. Dugger, Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County


The economic benefits of capitalizing on changes in technology have long been apparent to the leaders of North Carolina. From the establishment of the North Carolina Railroad in the nineteenth century to the creation of the Research Triangle Park in the mid-twentieth century, economic improvement has been a result of taking advantage of opportunities that result from new technology. The establishment of the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina in the early 1980s under the direction of Governor Jim Hunt is among the latest and largest efforts on the part of policymakers to insure that North Carolina will continue to benefit from technological change.

High Hopes for High Tech provides an in-depth view of the circumstances surrounding the organization of the Microelectronics Center and the effects that this center and this industry are likely to have on the state as a whole. The editor, Dale Whittington, provides in his introductory chapter a framework on which the subsequent contributors elaborate: pursuing microelectronics as industrial policy is more complicated than is at first apparent.

Each of the contributed chapters explores the ramifications of one of three major areas. First are chapters on the broad issues that exist in the nation as a whole. The rapid change in the microelectronics industry, the relatively small costs of producing and transporting materials associated with the industry, and the skill levels required in the manufacturing process mean that research and production are not necessarily conducted in the same place. The interaction of pri-
vate industry and academia in this industry is discussed in some detail. Clearly the Research Triangle resembles Silicon Valley and the Boston area in the availability of trained technical professionals, but can North Carolina gain and maintain a foothold in competing with these established areas?

The second section of the book concerns the suitability of the Southeast as a location for high technology manufacture. Economic benefits that might be assumed from the establishment of this industry appear, in fact, to be more a function of replacing declining industries like textiles than of providing significant improvements in earnings among the workers themselves.

The third and largest section of the book focuses on North Carolina and the planning process which must be a part of attracting and maintaining the microelectronics industry. Among the interesting chapters that comprise this section are a description of North Carolina’s effort to build on the success of the Research Triangle and to continue to attract private investment in this major growth industry segment. This section of the book discusses the realities of the establishment of this industry in North Carolina. The benefits of establishing the Microelectronics Center as a matter of good industry and public relations, and the State’s ability to develop and support an attractive high technology industrial environment are well covered. The accompanying problems range from hazardous wastes, to the small changes in real earnings that will result, to the difficulty in holding onto companies whose motivation is not necessarily the same as that of the policy makers who would like to see long-term commitments in an industry that is based on change.

This well-researched work questions the direct benefits which will accrue to the state and its people as a result of the establishment of this industry, but such a study is useful in planning a future that makes the most of the advantages and minimizes the disadvantages associated with high technology industry. *High Hopes for High Tech*

is a serious scholarly study of this topic, but because of the nature and timeliness of the subject many public libraries as well as most college libraries will find it of use.

Carson Holloway, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill


Named for the dark green foliage of the balsam firs which are now dying on their peaks, the Black Mountains, located in southeastern Yancy County near the boundaries of Buncombe and McDowell Counties, present the social historian with the problem of writing about a locality that has had few permanent residents. Schwarczkopf, a native of Asheville with degrees in history and geography, solves the problem by recounting the history of the persons who have sojourned on the mountain slopes during the last two hundred years. After a brief description of the aboriginal hunters and plant gatherers and the early white settlers, the author gives accounts of the explorers and scientific visitors of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

By the 1850s, improved roads, more frequent stagecoaches, and the development of tourist accommodations on the mountains made visits to the summits of the Black Mountains possible for the more venturesome excursionists and summer residents. Development of the region was brought to a halt by the Civil War and recovered only in the 1870s with the onset of mining and timber exploitation.

The middle portion of the book is devoted to Elisha Mitchell, professor of science at the University of North Carolina, his several scientific expeditions to the Black Mountains between 1827 and 1855, and the controversy between him and Congressman Thomas Clingman. The author illuminates the confusing dispute as to which peak was the highest, who got there first, and whether Dr. Mitchell ascended the peak later known as Mt. Mitchell before 1855. The affair culminated in 1857 with the death of Mitchell at Mitchell’s Falls on the western slope of the mountains and his later interment on Mitchell’s Peak.

The final chapters of the book bring the history into the twentieth century with an account.
of land speculation, exploitation of the Black Mountains’ mineral and timber resources, and construction of railroads and turnpikes. Concern over the destruction of the forest on the East coast’s highest peak and the resulting damage from forest fire and erosion, coupled with civic pride and a growing awareness of the value of tourism to the region, resulted in the creation of North Carolina’s first state park in 1915, Mt. Mitchell State Park. The author ends with the somewhat gloomy observation that Mt. Mitchell once again faces pressures of development and overuse combined with environmental threats to its vegetation.

The book, drawn from a much larger manuscript based on research done for the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources, is readable and rich with interesting details. It is only slightly marred by its repetition of the now discredited explanation of the origin of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians as a group of fugitives from the 1838 removal. The book is illustrated with several appropriate photographs and maps and includes a short bibliography. All libraries concerned with North Carolina should have the book.

Eric J. Olson, Appalachian State University


The treacherous waters off the North Carolina coast offer scuba divers an explorer’s paradise for seeking out shipwrecks and marine life that inhabit the area surrounding these remains. In *Shipwrecks: Diving the Graveyard of the Atlantic*, Roderick Farb provides a comprehensive guide to locating North Carolina shipwrecks, information about their history, and technical assistance for diving. The volume is generously illustrated with diagrams and photographs depicting both the shipwrecks and the vessels prior to their wrecking.

Only a handful of the more than 2,000 shipwrecks known to exist along the coast of North Carolina have been identified. Of these, eighty or so wrecks can be visited with the assistance of charter boat captains. Farb, a PADI divemaster with over twenty years experience, has personally explored more than seventy of these shipwrecks which date from the early 1800s to the present century.

Farb’s extensive knowledge of shipwrecks and his diving experience along the Carolina coast are clearly evident as he discusses diving conditions north and south of Cape Hatteras. Here the warm tropical waters of the Gulf Stream merge with the cold Labrador currents to create some of the most unusual and exciting diving to be found anywhere in the world.

The author divides the wrecks along the North Carolina coast into two groups, those off-shore and those near shore. Shipwrecks within three miles of shore fall under the jurisdiction of the state of North Carolina. These include all of the Civil War blockade runners and blockaders mentioned. Those wrecks farther from shore are not under the state’s control and can be freely visited. Artifacts taken from ships beyond the three mile limit become the property of the diver who recovers them, but Farb cautions divers not to destroy the marine habitats around the wrecks while hunting for souvenirs.

According to Farb, searching for shipwrecks can be accomplished by wreck diving from a boat or by beach (“walk-in”) diving. The author gives suggestions for both methods and includes useful information for locating shipwreck sites, tips on avoiding seasickness, planning the trip to the site, and the “pre-dive talk” to familiarize divers with the wreck location. Farb places a great deal of emphasis on safety and urges divers to be extremely cautious when exploring wreck remains.

The author devotes a large part of his book to the history and lore of the wrecked ships. Farb describes each vessel, tells the name of its captain, the name of the builder, size of crew, type of cargo, and the details surrounding the loss of the ship at sea. These events make interesting reading and call to mind the sacrifices that are often made by ordinary citizens in the performance of their duties. Wreck sites are rated for visibility and condition of remains and are illustrated with photographs made at the underwater sites. Each wreck is rated for difficulty and whether it is appropriate for exploration by novices or only by experienced divers.

Farb includes several valuable appendixes which provide technical information on underwater photography, North Carolina statutes regarding underwater salvage, and tables on tonnage and depth of offshore wrecks. Divers will appreciate information on the Divers Alert Network, a directory of North Carolina dive shops, and a listing of charter dive services. Non-divers will find the glossary indispensable for understanding many of the technical terms used in diving. The extensive bibliography is useful for suggesting further reading on the subject.
This book should have broad appeal to both shipwreck divers and history buffs who want to learn more about an intriguing aspect of our state’s coastal heritage. The author’s expertise in scuba diving and proficiency in historical research should create a demand for this volume in public, college, and high school library collections.

Jerry Carroll, Forsyth County Public Library


David Stick is no stranger to North Carolina coastal residents. He is a native resident of the Outer Banks and has explored and recorded the history of coastal North Carolina in several books. This latest project on Bald Head Island continues his tradition of interesting, factual narratives based on careful historical research.

Stick charts the history of Bald Head from the early times of Spanish exploration along the coast to its current development as Bald Head Island Limited. He recalls the island’s varied past with tales of Indians, pirates, lifesaving stations, troops, lighthouses, naturalists, and developers.

Ownership of the island has changed many times, and plans for its development have varied with each owner. In the past few decades its development has been a controversial issue between developers and naturalists, and Stick judges its current condition as a favorable compromise between the two. Marsh and estuarine areas are owned and preserved by the state, and property owners have preserved the few historic structures on the island.

The author’s information is authentic, based on oral testimonies and letters of former residents and their relatives, and on research in state and federal archives. In searching the archives he experienced the satisfaction of discovering new historical evidence. He found federal government plans for construction of a fort on the island in the 1820s, although the fort was never built.

Many photographs and maps in the book enhance the reader’s interest in the island. The preface includes a fascinating account of how the author became interested in history, how his career has developed, and a description of his research and writing processes.

David Stick has made another valuable contribution to preserving North Carolina’s history. The book is recommended for academic and public libraries.

Arlene Hagerfeld, University of North Carolina at Wilmington


Haiku poetry is a cultivated taste, a little like an appreciation for early recorder music or monochrome watercolors. This first collection of the poems of Lenard Moore, one of North Carolina’s most widely published and award-winning haiku artists, contains many fine examples of this exacting form.

To be successful in suggesting an emotion—sad, happy, poignant, or nostalgic—in the fewest possible words, a classic haiku describes a small scene or event, usually a natural one at a certain season, in such a way that the reader shares fully in all the nuances of the experience described by the writer. Conveyed in a few prescribed syllables, the image must be concrete yet suggestive, even elusive, so that the full effect may not even be fully apprehended until the lines have been read many times, absorbed, and recollected later.

As Lorraine Ellis Harris says in the foreword, “Every haiku can’t be terrific.” Although a few of these don’t work for me: “bullfrog/breath/on moon,” I found most of them skillful and pleasurable: “in the moonlit breeze/slowly falling one by one/white dogwood petals.” Some are nicely regional: “fall rain/falling in a bucket of crabs,” and some are as memorable as any in the great Japanese tradition: “Which way to go—/the eastward trail, snow/the westward trail, snow.”

Moore, though a relatively recent practitioner of haiku, has obviously found his niche. He has appeared in over a hundred publications and has been translated into several languages. Four selections from *The Open Eye* will appear in the next edition of *The Haiku Anthology* to be published by Simon and Schuster.

Reading haiku is an art, too, as I rediscovered in reading *The Open Eye* for this review. A haiku poem is often described as the flash of a firefly, easy to miss if one is not paying attention. This collection will reward the careful reader and writ-
er interested in exploring haiku technique. The graphics and book design, by local artist Claire Cooperstein, place the poems in an attractive setting. This volume is recommended for North Carolina libraries with literature collections, especially those emphasizing North Carolina writers. The Open Eye will find a receptive audience in school libraries as well; haiku in general, and many of Lenard Moore's in particular, will appeal to children ("On this chipped plate/drowning in maple syrup/ an old fly") at even the earliest levels of reading and literary inclination.

Cygia Barry, Burroughs Wellcome Co.

Other Publications of Interest

All public and academic libraries in the state will welcome volume two of the Dictionary of North Carolina Biography edited by William S. Powell. This volume, D - G, contains 523 entries, each giving full name of the subject, birth and death dates, family connections, career description, and sources of information for the sketch. This series is essential to libraries having local, state, or regional collections. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986. $45.00. ISBN 0-8078-1329-X.)

The Historical Publications Section, Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh 27611 has published two titles that many libraries will want to purchase. Volume X of the North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster is now available. This volume, containing individual service records for infantry, is available for $22.00 plus $2.00 for postage and handling. Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr. is compiler; unit histories are by Louis H. Manarin. (ISBN for volume X is 086526-015-X; for the set the ISBN is 086526-115-2.)

A new clothbound second printing of the heavily-used Guide to Private Manuscript Collections in the North Carolina State Archives is available for $20.00 plus $1.50 postage and handling. This volume contains descriptions of private collections in the Archives through 1978, over 1600 collections. It is compiled and edited by Barbara T. Cain, with Ellen Z. McGrew and Charles E. Morris. There is a name, place, and subject index. The original printing was in 1981 and was in paper. This printing includes some minor corrections and additions. ISBN 0-86526-142-3.

Instructions for the Preparation of Manuscripts for North Carolina Libraries

1. North Carolina Libraries seeks to publish articles, book reviews, and news of professional interest to librarians in North Carolina. Articles need not be of a scholarly nature, but they should address professional concerns of the library community in the state.
2. Manuscripts should be directed to Frances H. Bradburn, Editor, North Carolina Libraries, Central Regional Education Center, P.O. Box 549, Knightdale, N.C. 27545.
3. Manuscripts should be submitted in triplicate on plain white paper measuring 8½"x11".
4. Manuscripts must be double-spaced (text, references, and footnotes). Manuscripts should be typed on sixty-space lines, twenty-five lines to a page. The beginnings of paragraphs should be indented eight spaces. Lengthy quotes should be avoided. When used, they should be indented on both margins.
5. The name, position, and professional address of the author should appear in the bottom left-hand corner of a separate title page.
6. Each page after the first should be numbered consecutively at the top right-hand corner and carry the author's last name at the upper left-hand corner.
7. Footnotes should appear at the end of the manuscript. The editors will refer to The Chicago Manual of Style, 13th edition. The basic forms for books and journals are as follows:
9. Photographs will be accepted for consideration but cannot be returned.

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Issue deadlines are February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10.