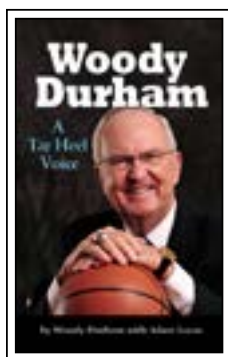


# North Carolina Books

Eileen McGrath, compiler



## **Woody Durham: A Tar Heel Voice**

By Woody Durham, with Adam Lucas.  
Winston Salem: John F. Blair, 2012. 241 pp. \$26.95.  
ISBN 978-0-89587-577-8 (alk. paper), ISBN 978-0-89587-578-5 (ebook).

During a Christmas basketball trip to the Canary Islands in 1971, Woody Durham had his hands full getting equipment to work in time for the Carolina radio broadcast. Then things got worse, although at the time the offer of a ride back to the hotel on the team bus seemed like a good idea. “Some of the players mentioned they thought there was a nude beach near the hotel. I felt like I had to check things out. Here’s a lesson for you: before you visit a nude beach, find out if the main clientele is elderly people. I saw some things that day I’ll never be able to forget.”

That personal anecdote hints at Durham’s engaging style, which earned him the moniker of “The Voice of the Tar Heels” during the forty years he provided radio play-by-play coverage of Carolina football and basketball games. Born in Mebane and raised in Albemarle, Durham became involved with radio in high school. His work after college was in television sports broadcasting,

where he hoped to have a long career with the ACC, but fate—and his alma mater—came calling. In 1971 Durham succeeded Bill Currie as the UNC-Chapel Hill radio network’s play-by-play man. By the time he retired in 2011, Durham was synonymous with Tar Heel football and basketball to the many fans who “turned down the sound” on their televisions to “listen to Woody.”

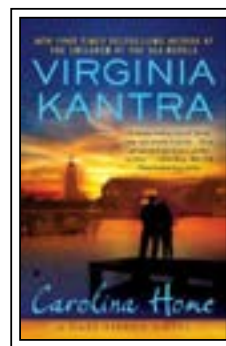
While most of the book will be familiar to many UNC fans, the insights Durham offers into specific moments in Tar Heel sports history make this book a must-read for Carolina partisans. One example is his take on how Georgetown’s Fred Brown came to throw the ball away to James Worthy in the closing seconds of the 1982 NCAA championship game. Durham’s memoir is one of the first books to be published since the onset of UNC’s NCAA problems beginning in the football program in 2010. His always-diplomatic perspective on how various coaches worked within the Carolina system is fascinating, particularly in the light of recent events (e.g., Dean Smith’s successful opposition to Michael Hooker’s choice of Matt Kupec as Carolina’s athletic director).

The book is nicely illustrated with black-and-white photos from Durham’s family life and important moments from his career. The chapters are separated by “Memorable Moments,” each providing a few lines of Durham’s play-by-play coverage in pivotal games followed by further elaboration from Durham. To find out, for example, where “Go to war,

Miss Agnes” originated, check page 176.

The book contains a brief but useful index—not a given in sports memoirs—and all Carolina fans will appreciate that the first index entry is “8 points in 17 seconds.” This book is suitable for any collection of North Caroliniana or sports writing at a high school level or above, and for collections on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

*Margaretta Yarborough  
University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill*



## **Carolina Home**

By Virginia Kantra.  
New York: Berkeley Sensation, 2012.  
294 pp. \$7.99. ISBN 978-0-425-25093-8.

Matt Fletcher appears content to avoid serious relationships and to instead focus on raising his sixteen-year-old son and running his charter fishing business. All that changes when he meets his son’s young, attractive English teacher, Allison. Despite the age difference and Allison being his son’s teacher, Matt and Allison begin an intense affair. Allison supports Matt through several family

crises, yet he finds it difficult to put his traumatic first marriage behind him and trust that Allison will stay in his life.

*Carolina Home* is the first book in Virginia Kantra's Dare Island series. Perhaps because it is the beginning of a series, Kantra includes many storylines in this novel. Several dramatic elements converge and advance at any one time, and most of the storylines are not resolved by the end of the novel. Readers who enjoy this book will want to read the sequels to see how Allison resolves the conflict with her parents who disapprove of Matt; what happens to Matt's soldier brother and his daughter (a very complicated and intense storyline that, at times, overwhelms the main story of Matt and Allison's relationship); learn the outcome of Matt's mother's health crisis; and follow Matt's son's journey into adulthood. Kantra packs a lot of drama and a lot of characters into this novel.

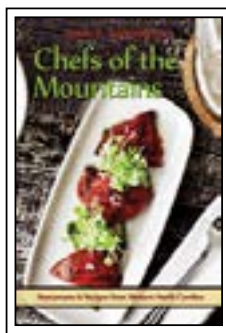
Since Kantra is the author of over twenty romance novels, her readers should be prepared for phrases such as "he was a man with a man's needs" and "those just-licked lips." However, when Kantra steps away from the romance genre clichés and writes about life on an Outer Banks island, the writing rings true and the reader comes away with insights into the love/hate relationship between islanders and tourists, and also between the islanders themselves. Matt's long history of flings with female tourists mirrors the attitude of the islanders towards the tourists—happy to see you and happy to see you go.

The detachment the islanders feel towards the tourists is juxtaposed against the close, sometimes claustrophobic relationships between families that have known each other for generations. Matt bristles at the close scrutiny of the fellow

islanders—especially when he wants to get to know Allison away from their intense interest. However, when tragedy strikes, he can count on those close bonds to support his family. The North Carolina feel to this book makes it a good choice for a romance reader heading to the beach. The sex is graphically described so this is definitely an adults-only read.

*Carolina Home* is recommended for public libraries with a romance collection.

Linda Winkler  
Wake County Public Libraries



***Chefs of the Mountains:  
Restaurants and Recipes from  
Western North Carolina***

By John E. Batchelor.  
Winston-Salem, NC: John F. Blair, 2012.  
338 pp. \$19.95. ISBN: 978-0-89587-581-5.

In recent years Western North Carolina has seen a surge in locally owned restaurants garnering regional or even national attention. The Asheville area in particular has become a destination for "foodies" looking for locally sourced, regional cuisine. The recipes used in these establishments originate with executive chefs from a wide range of backgrounds. Some of the restaurants and menu items have been featured in national media, a trend that shows no sign of slowing.

In *Chefs of the Mountains*, long-time food writer John Batchelor gives his readers a tour of over forty

restaurants located in the western mountain area of the state. The restaurants and their chefs were self-selected in response to the author's mail inquiries. While the geographical coverage is broad some readers will undoubtedly discover that their own favorite restaurant are missing. Most of the restaurants fall into the upscale or fine dining category. Readers looking for family style dining will not find it in this book.

Each chapter begins with a short biography of the chef and a description of the restaurant. The remainder of the chapter features selected recipes. Each chef describes his or her background, philosophy and experience. Some chefs were self-taught and worked their way up, while others graduated from top culinary schools and have lengthy experience in renowned restaurants. Success in the restaurant business requires energy and commitment and these traits show through clearly. One man escaped from Communist East Germany, while another overcame poverty and near-homelessness. Some gave up promising careers in other fields. One woman dropped out of a PhD program to pursue her passion for creating fine food.

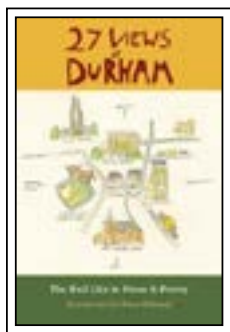
A number of the restaurants are leaders in the "farm to fork" movement which focuses on food from local farms or shipped as short a distance as possible. Sidebar entries found throughout the book describe various local food producers where several of the restaurants obtain ingredients. The recipes range from European-inspired gourmet dishes to Southern specialties like fried green tomatoes or pecan-fried trout on cheese grits. The recipes have been modified for home preparation and are geared toward family-size quantities. This is not a recipe book for beginning cooks or for those looking

for a ten-minute meal. It will be most useful for experienced cooks looking to create upscale dishes for entertaining or special occasions.

The book is printed on glossy paper and lavishly illustrated with color photographs of the individual chefs and representative selections of prepared dishes. Browsing the book when hungry could be damaging to one's waistline. Separate indices make it easy to locate individual chefs and recipes, though some cross-referencing in the latter would be useful. As with any print resource, changes may occur to data after publication. One restaurant described in the book has gone out of business, while at least one chef has moved to another establishment. Readers are advised to call before visiting a particular restaurant to verify current information.

This book will make a pleasant addition to the North Carolina travel and cooking collections of public libraries. It should also be considered by academic libraries that support culinary arts programs.

Mark Stoffan  
Western Carolina University



**27 Views of Durham:  
The Bull City in Prose & Poetry**

Hillsborough, N.C.: Eno Publishers, 2012.  
207 pp. \$15.95. ISBN 978-0-9832475-3-1.

**27** *Views of Durham* is a lively, eclectic, rousing montage of essays, poems, memoirs, and fiction depicting the grit and grace of

the Bull City. It is the fourth collection of “27 Views” to be published by Eno Publishers of Hillsborough. Others in this series include collections for Hillsborough, Chapel Hill, and Asheville.

Steve Schewel, cofounder of *The Independent Weekly*, states in his introduction to this collection, “While few have captured Durham in fiction, our city attracts more than its share of journalists and bloggers, essayists and advocates, historians and slam poets.” Here you will find stories of Old Durham and tales of a much revitalized Durham that still retains its persistent grit and occasional eccentricity. As Jim Wise notes in his essay, “Durham has also turned its gritty side into a badge of honor.”

In his remembrance, Walter Matthew Brown conveys what it was like as a boy growing up in the 1930s in Durham’s West End section, then going on to attend North Carolina College for Negroes (now North Carolina Central University). Novelist Lewis Shiner recounts a memorable evening in 1964 hearing jazz artist Charlie Shavers at the Wonderland Theater in the Hayti section of Durham. And more than one writer in this collection espouses a love for baseball and for the Durham Bulls. In “Last Days, Old Ballpark,” Clyde Edgerton tells of attending baseball games with his eccentric uncles and gives us a history of the various ballparks that have graced the city.

Dawn Baumgartner Vaughn, in “Durham, Unvarnished,” writes of her love for the old brick textile and tobacco factories that have been repurposed, of the new, highly successful Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC) that has sprung up adjacent to the American Tobacco Campus (former factories now thriving as office space and restaurants),

and of the old Lucky Strike Tower that is lit up at Christmas. “New Durham gathers to play where Old Durham once worked,” she observes.

“Harry Potter on Ninth Street,” by John Valentine, co-owner of the Regulator Bookshop on Ninth Street in Durham, recounts the HP phenomenon from the perspective of a bookshop owner and father of avid readers. He tells us that his favorite part of the wildly successful Harry Potter release parties was seeing young readers curled up in various nooks of the Regulator, some with their favorite pillow, entranced with the latest Potter installment.

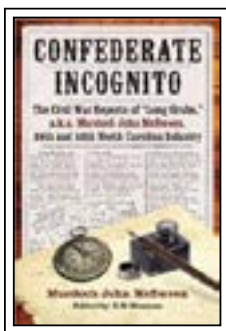
Novelist Katy Munger, after admitting to several failed relationships in her life, talks of her love/hate relationship with Durham in “Best of Towns, Worst of Towns – My Town”:

Eventually, as is the case with all lasting relationships, I have come to love Durham for what it is, not for what I want it to be . . . Thus it is that I still proudly call myself a citizen of Durham – the town that is what it is, with few pretensions; the town that manages to find room for everyone, without making anyone feel out of place; the town that, like all good relationships, lets you be yourself.

This fine collection concludes with the heartfelt “One Square Mile: A Durham Anthem” by Rebecca Newton of Rebecca & the Hi-Tones, her band of 30 years (<http://www.reverbNation.com/rebeccanewton>). Suitable for all libraries.

Tommy Nixon  
University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill





***Confederate Incognito: The Civil War Reports of "Long Grabs," a.k.a. Murdoch John McSween, 26th and 35th North Carolina Infantry***

By Murdock John McSween.  
 Edited by E. B. Munson. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2013. 263 pp. \$45.00.  
 ISBN 978-0-7864-7210-9. www.mcfarlandpub.com.

Citizen journalism has been around a long time, long before the historic YouTube videos and Tweets of the Arab Spring. During the American Civil War, the nation's newspapers relied heavily on the public to supply the press with first-hand accounts of the war. Soldiers and citizens submitted letters and telegraphs for publication, which often provided the most detailed and immediate reports available. Additionally, the Southern press lagged behind its Northern counterpart in employing professional war correspondents to record the war, making citizen journalists all that much more critical to the flow of news in the South. *Confederate Incognito: The Civil War Reports of "Long Grabs," a.k.a. Murdoch John McSween, 26th and 35th North Carolina Infantry*, edited by E. B. Munson, chronicles the war-time exploits of one such Southern nonprofessional correspondent, through a collection of more than eighty letters that were published in the *Fayetteville Observer*.

Little is known about the man who wrote under the odd pseudonym "Long Grabs." Munson links "Long

Grabs" to real-life Murdoch John McSween, an on-again-off-again drill instructor at Camp Mangum, in Raleigh, who seemed to prefer roving around North Carolina and Virginia documenting camp life to actual military service. The anonymity in writing as "Long Grabs," afforded McSween the freedom to present unvarnished observations in his dispatches. He wrote with candor, often even commenting on the personal lives of major Confederate figures. For example, in a letter published March 12, 1863, Long Grabs described Jefferson Davis's son as a "spoiled chicken," a rambunctious child who, "can use more profanity, turn over more furniture, torment more cats, and invent more scenes of devilment than all the little boys within his father's jurisdiction."

The letters include many unexpected passages, such as a description, in May 1862, of a performance by "Blind Tom," a famous nineteenth-century African American musical savant; or the mention in October 1862 of the "lunatic asylum" at Raleigh's Dorothea Dix Hospital ("a library is much needed, and there should be gardens, fields, woods . . . This would no doubt tend to palliate and remove mental derangements"); or the January 1863 allegations that Union soldiers occupying Norfolk, Virginia were accepting bribes to return emancipated slaves into Southern bondage.

McSween's personal story had its twists and turns. In 1863, McSween became embroiled in a dispute with Colonel Matt Ransom, of the 35th North Carolina, and was ultimately court-martialed and sentenced to twelve months of hard labor. Upon his release, "Long Grabs" enlisted in the 26th North Carolina and was wounded twice at the Battle of Petersburg. Following the war,

McSween parlayed his reporting experience into a career as a publisher of another newspaper, the *Fayetteville Eagle* (1868-1875).

Editor E. B. Munson, who is a librarian at East Carolina University, provides a valuable layer of analysis and contextual information to the original letters. Munson's chapter notes, footnotes, index, and bibliography should provide many potential hooks for readers, especially genealogists or those researching relatively obscure topics from North Carolina's Civil War experience. *Confederate Incognito* would be a useful addition to any library collection with a focus on state and local history or for institutions with an interest in the history of journalism.

*Biff Hollingsworth*  
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*



***Two Captains from Carolina: Moses Grandy, John Newland Maffitt, and the Coming of the Civil War: A Nonfiction Novel***

By Bland Simpson.  
 Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012.  
 187 pp. \$28.00. ISBN 978-0-80878-3585-2.

Those familiar with Bland Simpson's storytelling will easily recognize his voice and style in his new nonfiction novel, *Two Captains from Carolina: Moses Grandy, John Newland Maffitt and the Coming of the Civil War*. Drawing from historical records and using a narrative style,

Simpson tells the story of two North Carolina men, Moses Grandy and John Newland Maffitt, who come from very different backgrounds, but both of whom are involved in the shipping business prior to and, in the case of Maffitt, during the Civil War.

Grandy, born into slavery in Camden County, North Carolina, begins his shipping career in the Dismal Swamp ferrying people and merchandise along the canal when he is not working as a field hand. Through his role as a river skipper, Grandy earns money and comes to have the idea and the opportunity to buy his freedom, only to be cheated twice. Later he finds himself in Boston where he learns of the anti-slavery movement and is introduced to its leaders.

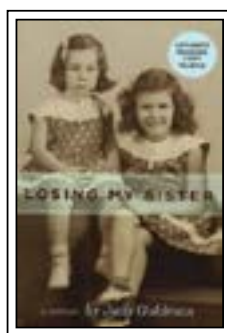
Maffitt, on the other hand, is born on a ship travelling from Ireland. Because his father is a travelling evangelist, he is adopted at an early age by his uncle, Dr. William Maffitt, who lives near Fayetteville. There he lives a more luxurious life than Grandy to be sure, especially as he is white, and later goes to a boarding school in the North. He joins the navy at thirteen, travels to exotic locations, and has a range of experiences that includes such things as dancing with the Queen of Greece. He eventually becomes a blockade runner in the Civil War.

From what we know from the book, the paths of these two men never cross; they do however overlap. Simpson does a deft job of paralleling the two and charting their careers on the water. While the lives of the two men could not be any more different, the enjoyment they share in being ship captains is similar, as are the experiences they have in their personal lives. Simpson illustrates that while environments may be different, the human experience is often

universal.

Simpson draws on historical documents about the two men, such as Grandy's *Narrative*, available in *North Carolina Slave Narratives*, and Maffitt's autobiographical novel, *Nautilus, or Cruising under Canvas*, to create a truthful foundation upon which he fleshes out this account of the two men. Simpson, Kenan Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a storyteller, a member of the Tony Award-winning Red Clay Ramblers, and author of numerous books about North Carolina. His writing, which is done in a storytelling style, is much easier to understand if one reads it as if listening to him performing the story. While all readers will enjoy this book and will be transported to this different era, it will be of particular interest to history buffs, especially those interested in the Civil War and just prior. This title is recommended for college and university libraries as well as public libraries with large North Carolina collections.

Rodney Lippard  
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College



### ***Losing My Sister***

By Judy Goldman.  
Winston Salem: John F. Blair, 2012.  
270 pp. \$21.95. ISBN 978-0-89587-583-9.

In *Losing My Sister* author Judy Goldman has found a beautiful way to articulate the small nuances

of family relationships that so easily become immense emotional battles and simultaneously bring a foundation joy and connection to our lives. As Goldman observes,

“Those ties of kinship, reverberating through the generations, may have their perils, but they also gave me something sold and lasting.” Goldman writes about her life with her sister, interweaving stories from their childhood with the lives they lead as adults. She is keenly aware of the roles we assume within families and that if we try to step out of those roles others become uncomfortable. Growing up she was the quiet one, like their mother, and her sister was the strong one, like their father. As her parents and then her sister become ill, Goldman finds that she wants to be the strong one in the family, and the discord this brings about between her and her sister is somewhat surprising. Through her descriptions of all of the struggles, happy times, and the bonds they shared, Goldman deftly shows the reader what it really means to be family. While describing a dinner with her siblings and her father who was gravely ill at the time Goldman writes, “It’s one of those evenings when nerve endings feel closer than normal to the surface of the skin, in the way that, in the midst of great sadness, life can slow and spirits soar. We drink wine and eat more than we should and laugh and tell our glad-to-be-part-of-this-family stories.”

Although the idea of reading about family illness, fights among siblings, and the high emotions that surface from such close familial bonds may not sound appealing at first, Goldman is such an observant and immensely talented writer that the reader feels grateful to her for sharing such an intimate story that may be relevant to their own. Originally from Rock Hill South

Carolina, Goldman has spent much of her life in Charlotte. Goldman has written two novels, *The Slow Way Back* and *Early Leaving*. *The Slow Way Back*, published in 1999, was a finalist for the Southeast Independent Booksellers Association's Best Novel of the Year and won the Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction and the Mary Ruffin Poole Award for Best First Work of Fiction. Excerpts from *Losing My Sister* appeared in *Real Simple Magazine* and *The Charlotte Observer*. This memoir is highly recommended for public and academic libraries with an interest in North Carolina literature, memoirs, or Jewish life.

Jennifer L. Smith  
Elon University



### ...and love...

By Richard Krawiec, Allison Elrod, and Debra Kaufman.  
Durham, NC: Jacar Press, 2012.  
177pp. \$15.00. ISBN 978-0-9845740-5-6.

What is love? According to *...and love....*, a poetry anthology, it is a varied and diverse emotional and physical landscape. Each poem in this collection embodies the many places, spaces, times, moments, and faces of love, from erotic love to the love between parent and child. The title of this book easily could be "food and love" or "high school and love." One thing it is not is Shakespeare and love meant in the most positive of contexts. The poems of *...and love....* are a modern twist on an age old topic.

Dannye Romine Powell's "Let's Say We Haven't Seen Each Other Since Ninth Grade and We Meet as Adults at a Welcome Center in Southside Virginia," opens this volume by taking the reader on a tactile journey through memory and young love. Each sense is evoked through the movement across the human form. The discovery of a new thing in the mature form of an old beau opens the reader to the idea that love is a journey.

In "Listening to Roderigo's Concerto for Guitar," by Julie Suk, readers experience the searing pain of the loss of a child at birth and a husband's attempt at healing, by playing his wife as a guitar. This poem highlights the interplay between the physical and emotional, in one moment both sensual and cathartic.

But more than about love *...and love....* is about identity as illustrated in Bruce Lader's "Behold." Lader's "Behold" constrains itself, but is powerful in its stance not to open up to love at some appointed hour. The narrator instead will decide when, if ever, to pursue or be pursued by love. There is a sense of agency in the poem not often conveyed in odes to love.

"The Mundane but Discreet Lovely Details of Our Daily Lives" by Paul Jones begins with a first stanza that is reminiscent of "This is Just to Say" by William Carlos Williams, but in the following stanzas pays a fitting tribute to the artistry of the everyday, making the mundane majestic. If only taking out the garbage were so truly enthralling.

*...and love....* is a poetic journey through the many visages of love. At times it is a smooth and familiar ride taking us through our own memories of love, and at other times it opens the reader up to the other facets of love. It brings together over one hundred poets with connections

to North Carolina and is a worthy anthology to add to any poetry lover's library. The editors, Richard Krawiec, Allison Elrod, and Debra Kaufman, are established authors whose works include two novels, five anthologies, and works published across a broad spectrum of literary formats. *...and love...* will work well for an academic or public library setting. Some guidance might be required for those not yet in high school.

Ingrid Ruffin  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville



### *The Armchair Birder Goes Coastal: The Secret Lives of Birds of the Southeastern Shore*

By John Yow.  
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012.  
234 pp. \$26.00. ISBN 278-0-8078-3561-6.

When I retired last summer, friends who know my bird-watching habit gave me a copy of *The Armchair Birder: Discovering the Secret Lives of Familiar Birds*, John Yow's first book. Although I own dozens of bird books I was utterly enchanted by this one, which focused on backyard birds easily viewable from one's porch. Now Yow has published *The Armchair Birder Goes Coastal* whose subtitle, *The Secret Lives of Birds of the Southeastern Shore*, sums up the content nicely. Yow admits he reluctantly left his hometown armchair to view this new set of birds but claims all can be spotted from a deck chair or on an easy coastal stroll.



The novice birder will enjoy accompanying the author through his journeys cover-to-cover. The more experienced bird watcher will love dipping into the book more randomly, delighted to discover a chapter on a favorite species. Yow's travels take him from the Outer Banks to Sanibel Island, Florida to the Gulf Coast of Alabama.

Reading this book is like having a conversation with a highly knowledgeable yet unpretentious friend. Yow's narrative is a unique blend of personal observation and succinct synthesis of the wisdom of well-known field ornithologists, particularly Audubon, Wilson and Sibley. The author indeed focuses on each bird's "secret life" – diet, courtship, mating and child-rearing. Coastal visitors or residents will love learning the secrets of laughing gulls and brown pelicans, cormorants and willets, egrets and terns, all birds they see daily but often know little about other than their names.

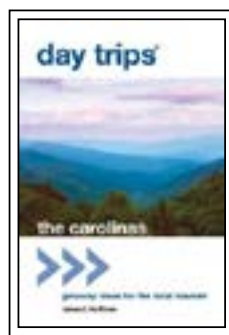
A self-described "lazy birder," Yow frequently questions leaving his comfortable home for visits to isolated coastal wildlife refuges, and his wry sense of humor adds great charm to what otherwise could be dryly scientific. He marvels at birders who slog through marshes at 5:00 a.m. or board boats in 30-degree weather to view rare pelagic species, but such activities are not for him. Consequently his book is perfect for a beginning naturalist, and indeed for all of us casual birders, as almost all the species described are ones easily seen. Yet the tone of the book is never condescending, nor are the chapters simplistic. Indeed, occasionally one wishes for a few less scientific quotes. Yow assumes his readers are eager to learn all they can and will share his infectious delight in the wonder of birds.

This book should fly off the shelves in public libraries and also is highly

recommended for academic and high school libraries. It would be excellent reading both before and after field trips. The selective bibliography represents the best writing of bird behaviorists, easily accessible print and online resources perfect for further study. One caveat for North Carolinians – not all the species described regularly visit our own coast.

Speaking from experience, *The Armchair Birder Goes Coastal* also will make a perfect gift!

Kate Donnelly Hickey  
Elon University, retired



***Day Trips, The Carolinas:  
Getaway Ideas for the  
Local Traveler***

By James L. Hoffman.  
First ed. Guilford, CT: GPP Travel, 2012.  
391 pp. \$16.95. ISBN 978-0-7627-7940-6.

The idea of the day trip is not a new one, but the concept has gained in popularity of late as a corollary to the "staycation" and the movement to patronize local small businesses. North and South Carolina abound with opportunities for day trips, and this book does an excellent job of collecting and categorizing some popular examples. The author has written three other books about traveling in North Carolina, and is himself a Gastonia native. Although the book is heavily weighted towards North Carolina travel, Hoffman states in the introduction that this is due purely to the fact that the Old

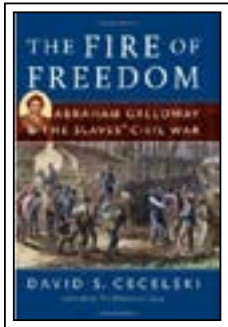
North State is geographically larger and that it is not a commentary on the age-old debate of which Carolina is the better.

The book is organized into fifty-five different itineraries. Thirty-nine of the trips use one of six major cities as home base: Raleigh, Wilmington, Charlotte, and Asheville from North Carolina and Columbia and Charleston from South Carolina. The remaining sixteen trips focus on various popular themes such as outdoor pursuits, the Civil War, and edible local specialties. Each of the itineraries provides readers with a basic overview of the area and brief directions followed by a description of the area's activities, complete with contact information, hours, and prices if relevant. A small selection of places to shop, local restaurants, and local lodging is also provided for each area and generally focuses on unique options not found anywhere else. Scattered throughout the book are small blue boxes that provide additional "quirky Carolina" facts or interesting local trivia that help readers get a feel for particular areas. For larger day trip destinations, Hoffman also includes a short note on activities and sights that may tempt visitors into lengthening their stay beyond a day trip. Special care is taken to note family-friendly options, but those traveling without children will find the information is just as helpful.

A user-friendly guide, this book is fully indexed and includes a helpful section on how to use the information provided. Here Hoffman states that while basic maps are printed for each day trip they are for reference only, and he recommends using a more detailed road map or a GPS to conduct itineraries. Suggestions on planning day trips are also provided, including details such as obtaining local fishing licenses and road maps.

Written for travelers of all ages and types, this guide provides excellent access to the highlights of North and South Carolina destinations. It is recommended for all public libraries and college libraries with popular interest sections.

*Laura Gillis*  
formerly Forsyth County Public Library



***The Fire of Freedom: Abraham Galloway & the Slaves' Civil War***

By David S. Cecelski.  
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012.  
352 pp. \$30.00. ISBN 978-0-8078-3566-1.

In *The Fire of Freedom*, David Cecelski reveals the captivating story of Abraham Galloway, an escaped slave from Smithville, North Carolina, who became an abolitionist in the North, a recruiter around New Bern for black Union regiments, an important spy behind Confederate lines, and, during Reconstruction, a North Carolina state senator. Among Galloway's other exploits are his escape to the North by ship, his helping slaves escape through Ohio into Canada, and a trip to Haiti where he worked to establish a colony for former slaves and discussed the possibility of fostering slave revolts. During the Civil War, he was captured by Confederates in Mississippi but escaped and later led a group from New Bern to meet with President Lincoln to advocate for equality and full citizenship for African Americans.

While telling the story of Galloway's activities and accomplishments, Cecelski effectively tells a much larger story of struggle. He demonstrates that freed slaves were far from passive and disorganized, as some have claimed. The particular importance of African American women and of churches in all aspects of the social and political movements of former slaves is well portrayed. He shows that protecting slavery was a core issue for the Confederacy from the start, but that the Union had an ambiguous stance on the matter until later in the war when former slaves served essential roles in the Union as spies, guides, boat pilots, laborers, support staff, and troops. The struggle to overcome racial insults and inequality, including from Union troops during the Civil War and from North Carolinian legislators after the war, is palpable throughout, as is the consistent efforts to obtain equal treatment from the Union, which never paid black troops as much as white troops.

Cecelski is an independent historian who has written widely on North Carolina coastal history. He is a graduate of Duke University and the Harvard Graduate School of Education and has held visiting professorships at Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, and East Carolina University. *The Fire of Freedom* is the highly informative result of ten years of detailed research, to which the thorough index, lengthy bibliography, and the copious annotated endnotes attest. Materials from distant research collections have been seamlessly fused to produce an engaging narrative.

Cecelski has made an important contribution to North Carolina history, African American history, and Civil War history. This account of Galloway's remarkable life and influence makes the history of the Civil

War era understandable through vivid descriptions of the people and places, photographs, and excerpts from letters and journals. Cecelski's accessible writing style further supports this successful popular history. Teachers will find this an excellent supplementary text. Scholars and students will enjoy a rich historical synthesis that will spark further research. The North Carolina public will read engaging stories about their state's influential role. For these reasons, academic, public, and high school libraries throughout North Carolina and far beyond are highly encouraged to add *The Fire of Freedom* to their collections.

*C. William Gee*  
East Carolina University



***Cobalt Blue***

By Peggy Payne.  
Winchester UK: Roundfire Books, 2013.  
299 pp. \$20.95. ISBN 978-1-78099-808-4.

Andie Branson, a thirty-eight-year-old artist, has recently broken up with her longtime boyfriend and is suffering from what might be called artist's block. She suddenly finds herself in a series of weird and even dangerous sexual encounters and feels like she has no control over her wild, passionate impulses. It would appear that any male in her presence is not safe. While set in Pinehurst and, briefly, the coast of North Carolina, this story does not really depend on its setting for its impact;



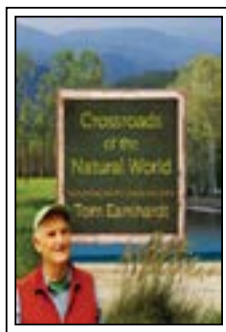
the protagonist and the story wander far and wide, including to the mystical underground of New Orleans. An interesting concept introduced in the novel is kundalini. “It is reported that kundalini awakening results in deep meditation, enlightenment and bliss. In practical terms, one of the most commonly reported Kundalini experiences is the feeling of an electric current running along the spine.” (“Kundalini.” *Wikipedia* Viewed 5/20/2013 at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kundalini>) Does Andie experience this in her search for artistic and spiritual enlightenment?

What is true is that Andie, only child of a wealthy couple who loved, spoiled, and adored their talented daughter, has gotten into a rut with her art. She is faced with a dilemma when she is offered \$100,000 to paint the portrait of a Southern senator whom she despises for his politics, racism, and bigotry. But how can she turn down this offer though when she really needs the money? When she does paint Senator Billy Sylvester’s portrait and the painting shows the true character of the man, she has to hide the painting because he does not want it shown in public. He basically wants to picture-nap it for his “private collection.” While some might call Andie’s solution blackmail, others would claim that the new Andie has found a way to reconcile her moral and ethical beliefs with her new artistic awakening and creativity, her kundalini. She has found her way as clearly as the color cobalt blue.

It is difficult to classify this novel: it might be erotica, mysticism, fantasy, female sexual awakening, spirituality, or another genre. Explicit sex and mature content might limit the audience for this work, but public and academic libraries wishing to include North Carolina authors will want to consider purchasing it. Because of

its somewhat limited dependence on regional setting, it is not an essential purchase for collections that focus on books set in North Carolina. However, it is likely that many women who have experienced a sexual awakening themselves may relate to the heroine. Peggy Payne is the author of *Revelation* and *Sister India*, which was one of the *New York Times* notable books of the year in 2001.

Carol Truett  
Appalachian State University



***Crossroads of the Natural World:  
Exploring North Carolina with  
Tom Earnhardt***

By Tom Earnhardt.  
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013.  
314 pages. \$35.00. ISBN 978-1-4696-0699-6.

Whether the readers are interested in chimney swifts or mayflies, phenology or pocosins, shifting coastlines or water quality, they will find the complexity and beauty of North Carolina’s natural history well covered here. Amateur and professional naturalists alike will delight in exploring North Carolina within these pages with Tom Earnhardt, as we’ve done so often during his UNC-TV show *Exploring North Carolina*. There’s something here for everyone who is an observer and student of nature, and Earnhardt’s excellent photography beautifully illustrates the biodiversity and habitats of our state.

Throughout the book, Earnhardt

emphasizes our state’s unusual number of ecological crossroads and boundaries, making us a “natural epicenter.” Geology buffs will especially appreciate “Part I: A Tarheel Timeline,” which take readers back though our geologic history, our early settlers, and through the amazing fossil collection in the North Carolina Museum of Natural History. Those of us who watch and study biodiversity at work will enjoy many fresh perspectives in “Part II: Diversity and Boundaries.” For most of us, it’s a new perspective to focus on North Carolina as the end of the northern range or southern range for many species “where the arctic and tropics meet.” Earnhardt examines both familiar and rare natural communities, showing that our state offers much more complexity than the coastal plain/piedmont/mountains’ scheme our students learn in elementary school. The impact and importance of using native vegetation in our yards is made clear, as well as our need to reestablish areas of unique native vegetation. Earnhardt emphasizes that it is critical to “keep all the parts” and to immerse ourselves in outdoor experiences.

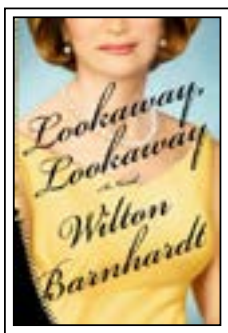
The many groups and individuals working on conservation issues in North Carolina will find rich content in “Part III: Voices for the Wilderness, Saving the Best.” Earnhardt describes those who have served as his environmental mentors, some influential naturalists, and the importance of creating future stewards. Those with an eye to the future of natural areas and conservation in our state will find challenging content in “Part IV: Trouble at the Crossroads, Decision Time.” Earnhardt details the damage caused by invasive plant and animal species, as well as showing the need to build buffers to protect our river basins and the need for long-term

planning for our ephemeral coastline.

The list of selected readings that precedes the index is especially rich with useful books, magazines, and websites. The inclusion of a listing of the common and scientific names of North Carolina plants and animals will please those of us who look for that level of information.

This book is highly recommended for the science collections in public, academic, middle school and high school libraries.

Dianne Ford  
Elon University



### ***Lookaway, Lookaway***

By Wilton Barnhardt.  
New York: St. Martin's Press, 2013. 361 pp. \$25.99.  
978-1-250-02083-3. (Also available as an ebook: \$12.99;  
978-1-250-02150.)

**“[T**he study] smelled of an ever-welcoming past, of lost causes and unvanquished honor.” And, eventually, of 150-year-old gunpowder and shot.

At the beginning of our new century, shrewd Charlotte socialite Jerene Johnston is willing to do whatever it takes to protect her family's reputation and to secure her children's future. Her radical daughter Annie, her gay son Josh, her preacher son Bo, and her insecure daughter Jerilyn don't make this easy. The Johnston family proudly traces its lineage to Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston, and Jerene's husband Duke has abandoned all professional

and political aspirations, preferring to reside in a world of nostalgia and Civil War reenactments.

Each chapter, focusing on one character's story, is like a portrait hung in a gallery. In some of the paintings the character is front and center; in others the subject blends into the background as action takes over the foreground. The chapter about Bo provides insight into his character, but the scene of a melodramatic Christmas dinner is far more memorable.

Jerene's children and husband are not her only worries. Her alcoholic brother Gaston makes his living writing popular Civil War novels, her sister Dillard has never recovered from a personal tragedy, and their mother Jeannette lives with the knowledge that she failed to protect her children. Add to the mix Josh's best friend Dorrie, who's African American and a lesbian, and Bo's wife Kate who longs to return to the Peace Corps, and you have the perfect Southern tragicomedy.

The title obviously refers to the song “Dixie,” and there are other allusions as well. Characters are forced to look the other way when reality is inconvenient. Watching the events unfold is like driving by a gruesome car wreck or watching a reality TV show—we should mind our own business, but morbid curiosity prevents us from averting our gaze.

*Lookaway, Lookaway* is recommended for public libraries and academic libraries that collect Southern or North Carolina fiction. Peppered with interesting snippets of little-known North Carolina history—very few of them flattering—the book is as much scathing social commentary as it is fiction, making it an enlightening additional reading in social science classes examining the modern history of North

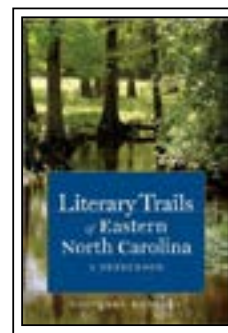
Carolina and the South.

Wilton Barnhardt is director of the Masters in Fine Arts program in Creative Writing at North Carolina

State University. His previous novels include *Emma Who Saved My Life*, *Gospel*, and *Show World*.

*Lookaway, Lookaway* isn't being released until August, but that's okay because it is not a summer beach read. It's an autumn book to be savored, one to read next to a cozy fire with a cup of hot tea.

Arleen Fields  
Methodist University



### ***Literary Trails of Eastern North Carolina: A Guidebook***

By Georgann Eubanks.  
Photographs by Donna Campbell. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013. 367 pp. ISBN 978-1-4696-0701-6 (cloth) \$39.95. ISBN 978-1-4696-0702-3 (paper) \$22.00.

**T**wo poems about birds create bookends for the rich content of this book. In the first, “At the Spring,” David T. Manning describes a whimsical encounter with a cardinal when the bird sits on his hand and drinks from a garden hose. In “Blue Heron,” Steven Lautermilch recounts a day in the life of a blue heron, capturing the heron at dusk particularly well. For both poems, words are tied to the land. Eubanks is good at continuously tying words to land.

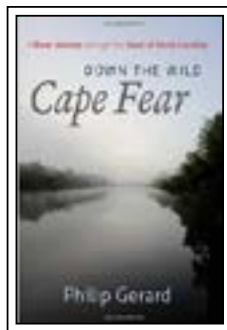
*Literary Trails of Eastern North Carolina* could have been called *Literary Tales*, too. Eubanks deftly

weaves biography, history, literature and art into tales about Eastern North Carolina's authors and the literature they represent. Some of the authors included are Charles Chestnutt, Tim McLaurin, Liza Wieland, A. R. Ammons, Allison Adelle Hedge Coke, and Gerald Barrax. Every author represented in the book is fit into a tour; there are eighteen tours, with each tour covering multiple authors. Tours start off with a map that shows the path the tour takes through the landscape. While there may be some areas in cities where the tours can be done on foot, most of the book requires a car, a driver, and a navigator to complete. Also included in each tour is a selection of "Literary Landscape" notables such as bookstores, libraries and centers of cultural import. Although this guide is not intended to be exhaustive, the tours seem like the kind of activity that would fill up a leisurely day.

This book is the third and final in a series. The first is *Literary Trails of the North Carolina Mountains: A Guidebook* (reviewed in *North Carolina Libraries* by Scott Rice in 2007) and the second is *Literary Trails of the North Carolina Piedmont: A Guidebook* (reviewed in *North Carolina Libraries* by Margarite Nathe in 2010).

This book is an ideal acquisition for public libraries in North Carolina, specialized academic collections focusing on the state, and literary enthusiasts.

Cindy Shirkey  
East Carolina University



### ***Down the Wild Cape Fear: A River Journey through the Heart of North Carolina***

By Philip Gerard.  
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013.  
276 pp. \$30.00. ISBN 978-1-4696-0207-3.

In *Down the Wild Cape Fear: A River Journey through the Heart of North Carolina*, Philip Gerard, a professor of creative writing at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and an author of three novels and five works of non-fiction, documents two hundred miles worth of travel down the Cape Fear River, from Mermaid Point, at the confluence of the Deep and Haw Rivers, to the Cape of Fear, where up to 3.9 million gallons of water a day flow into the Atlantic. At one end, the dam at Jordan Lake constrains the river, strongly influencing its depth and flow; at the other, dredging for commercial and military shipping has shaped the river. In between there's a lot of wildlife, people, communities—and history.

Gerard's desire to travel the entire length of the river was driven by "a philosophy of wholeness." This "wholeness" is akin to Gerard's understanding of the Cape Fear as a complex ecosystem, which is on display in the range of his work; a trip mate refers to the trip as a "survey" of the river. Gerard sees—and wants the reader to see—the relationship between the blue herons who nest along the river, the role of the river in establishing plantation culture in North Carolina, and battles past and current, from that of Fort Fisher

to those over the proposed concrete plants and super port at Wilmington. Gerard displays a concern for the life of the river and for those who depend on it, whether to make a living or to have clean water to drink.

Gerard states that for most of us a river is an abstraction on a map. He shows, to the contrary, that a river is an extremely complicated thing, a combination of natural, economic, political, historic, and cultural variables. Mastering a river, or getting as close to mastery as one can, requires a practicality founded on sensitivity. Gerard has developed that sensitivity for the Cape Fear as a topic of study.

As a matter of practicality, Gerard broke his trip into several legs. Each leg, corresponding to a region of the river, has its own section in the book. A map at the start of each section helps orient the reader. The book is well illustrated with photographs by the author and his traveling companions. The book's back matter includes select sources and a substantial list of acknowledgments, proving what the reader will have already concluded regarding Gerard's generosity toward others. However, there is no index; this might be the only real mark against the book.

*Down the Wild Cape Fear* should have wide appeal to North Carolina readers. It is engaging, thoughtful, and very well written. It would be an appropriate addition to the collections of public libraries, colleges and universities, and high schools.

Brian Dietz  
North Carolina State University Libraries





## ***Can't Buy Me Love***

By Summer Kinard.  
Durham: Light Messages, 2013.  
267 pp. \$18.95. ISBN 978-1-61153-054-4.

In *Can't Buy Me Love*, first-time novelist Summer Kinard introduces Vanessa Fauchon, who learns that the path to true love can take a person to unexpected places—including the bottom of a dumpster.

Vanessa is a bartender, freegan, and sustainable-living devotee who resides in Durham, North Carolina. On one of her regular dumpster-diving expeditions, Vanessa finds a discarded scrapbook and comes to admire a man whose life she knows only from the pages and pictures of the book. Soon after, a twist of fate and a mutual friend bring her face-to-face with Javier, the man from the scrapbook. From there, the main plot follows a tried and true pattern: Vanessa and Javier fall for each other, obstacles come between them, and Vanessa must decide whether or not she is willing to fight for the relationship.

The story's over-arching themes will be familiar to readers of contemporary romance and women's fiction: learning to love one's self, finding true romantic love, and the importance and power of friendship. While the main plot arc of love found, lost, and regained is well-worn territory, other plot and character elements diverge from expected, staid tropes. Characters come from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds

and depict diversity in regard to age and sexual orientation. While some characters, including the story's main villain, feel less than fully realized, others are more clearly drawn. Among the stronger characterizations are Vanessa's female friends, who bring wisdom, love, and humor to the book.

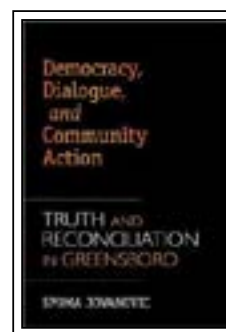
Other details that fill out the story come in a combination that readers will be hard-pressed to find together in another piece of fiction. In addition to dumpster diving, characters engage in yarn-bombing, *luchadora* matches, and opera singing; a subplot involves Vanessa's journey of Christian religious re-discovery. But in bringing together so many niche interests, sometimes with only sparse explanatory details, the author risks losing readers who are unfamiliar with some or all of these interests. With frank discussions of sex and sexuality throughout the story, this book is not recommended for readers who prefer their romances on the chaste side. The author addresses other "adult" concerns as well, including ethical, financial, and environmental considerations.

North Carolinians, especially those familiar with the Triangle, will recognize real-life locations that the author incorporates into the story. Characters visit Duke Gardens, the Durham Museum of Life and Science, and the American Tobacco Trail. Other local institutions receive mentions throughout the story, such as Durham's Carolina Theatre and the Triangle's local weekly *The Independent*.

This is the first novel for Durham-based author Kinard, and at times the author's newness shows through in the writing. Vanessa's third person limited narration is occasionally disrupted by point-of-view discrepancies, and at times events and

characterization suffer from a lack of clarity that may leave readers with questions about logical timelines and motivations. But these weaknesses aside, *Can't Buy Me Love* could be a breath of fresh air for romance readers looking for variety of experience and diversity of characters while still desiring the traditional narrative arc that leads to requited love. Recommended for public library collections, particularly in the Triangle region.

Anna Craft  
*The University of North Carolina  
at Greensboro*



## ***Democracy, Dialogue, and Community Action: Truth and Reconciliation in Greensboro***

By Spoma Jovanovic.  
Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2012.  
226 pp. \$34.95 ISBN 978-1-55728-991-9.

Written as a case study, this book documents the community-driven effort to organize, fund, and administer a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Greensboro to examine the events and consequences of the Greensboro Massacre of November 3, 1979. In that incident five people were killed and ten injured in a clash with Ku Klux Klansmen and American Nazi Party members on one side and Communist activists on the other. However, readers should not expect an exhaustive account of the massacre, but rather

an account and analysis of the TRC's work. For a full examination of the massacre, the author refers readers to the TRC's final report which is online at <http://www.greensborotrc.org/>.

The author is an associate professor of Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNC-G) and "worked alongside other community members ... to document the grassroots effort to convene" the Greensboro TRC. This appears to be her first book-length work since her dissertation in 2001, but her articles consistently address issues of communication and civic engagement.

The book is well organized, first leading the reader through the basic facts of the massacre, then explaining the theory of TRCs in general before narrating the story of the Greensboro TRC, both its formation and its work. Later chapters describe the community's response to the TRC's final report, analyze the impact of the commission's work on the community, and evaluate its effectiveness. The reader is left with a portrait of a community that still has a long way to go to achieve racial and economic

parity, but which is beginning to address those issues.

Although this is a scholarly work, the author writes in an accessible prose style. While the author strives to maintain an objective voice, she is not completely successful, which is not surprising given her personal involvement. Many readers are likely to find her interpretation challenging, but her evaluation of the need for greater civic engagement and civility overall in our society is highly relevant.

The book includes extensive references and notes, as well as an index. Six appendices provide the commission's mandate and guiding principles; a discussion of the concept of reconciliation; the final report general summary; a guide for conducting college class discussion based on the summary; and "Lyrical Reflections" on the massacre, the text of a spoken word production written by UNC-G faculty and students. This final appendix could use a better citation—if the reader misses the footnote where the work is described, there is no heading or textual note in the appendix to explain its source or

context or even to indicate this is not the author's own work. Overall, this work was not well-edited: grammar issues abound.

This book is recommended for all adult and young adult collections, particularly those with communications programs, North Carolina history collections, or collections which concern themselves with race and class issues. School libraries will want to evaluate the appropriateness of challenging content for younger age groups, who may have difficulty with the straightforward descriptions of the massacre and emotional personal narratives from the commission proceedings. This material, however, is a relatively small portion of the book.

*Michele Hayslett  
University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill*

## Looking for help with collection development?

If you want to expand your library's collection of novels set in North Carolina, you should visit the Read North Carolina Novels blog hosted by the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (<http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/ncnovels/>).

If your interest in North Caroliniana is more general, both the North Carolina Collection at East Carolina University and the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill regularly post lists of new additions to their collections.

The addresses for those sites are:

<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-lib/ncc/profs.cfm>

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/ncm/index.php/whats-new-in-the-north-carolina-collection/>