

# New North Carolina Books

by William S. Powell

LOUISE HOWE BAILEY. *Along the Ridges*. Asheville: Groves Printing Company, 1971. 108pp. Illus. \$3.95. (Order from author, P. O. Box 241, Flat Rock, N. C. 28731.)

Mrs. Bailey, a native of Henderson County, spent many years visiting her mountain neighbors collecting true tales of their pioneer ancestors. She made notes and wrote down the information they gave her. The result of this unusual hobby is a delightful book of history, folklore, and word-pictures of a time now past. They suggest how resourceful our mountain forebears were, how deep a sense of humor they had, and how friendly and cooperative they were in their home communities. Mrs. Bailey is a skilled storyteller herself and she has made good use of the material she gathered. Her unusual collection of North Carolina will delight the over-thirty segment of our readers and just might even catch the fancy of some younger ones as well.

JUDITH ANN BENNER, *Lone Star Rebel*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1971. 232pp. Illus. \$4.95.

The subject of this book for young people does not qualify it to be classified as a North Carolina book, but it has a North Carolina interest, nevertheless. It was published in Winston-Salem, of course, and it was printed in Charlotte by Heritage Printers, another splendid example of the good work of both of these firms. The attractive and appropriate but stark black and white woodcuts which illustrate this book were prepared by Robert B. Dance, a free-lance commercial artist of Winston-Salem who is represented in the permanent collection of the North Carolina Museum of Art. The book, incidentally, is fiction based on fact and tells the story of a 14-year-old Texas lad who joins the Confederate Army in Mississippi. The author is completing her doctoral dissertation on Colonel Lawrence

Sullivan Ross who appears as one of the leading characters in *Lone Star Rebel*. This book illustrates very clearly that scholarly historians can write well, even for young people. It is a book which should be on the young people's shelf of every library in the South, and it might even help correct a few misunderstandings if read by modern Yankee youth.

LINDLEY S. BUTLER. *Our Proud Heritage, A Pictorial History of Rockingham County, N. C. Bassett, Virginia*: Bassett Printing Corporation, 1971. [103]pp. Illus., map. \$3.25 paper.

This is a large-size, magazine format publication with numerous advertisements. Dr. Butler, head of the history department at Rockingham Community College, Wentworth, has written the county history in four sections: *Our Proud Heritage* [a survey of events]; *Our Education and Cultural Heritage*; *Our Industrial Heritage*; and *Our Religious Heritages*. The picture section is broken into twenty-three parts with portions devoted to the different towns and communities in the county as well as to such general topics as transportation, old homes, recreation, industry, and so on. The text is informative and readable and the pictures are interesting.

HUBERT J. DAVIS. *The Great Dismal Swamp, Its History, Folklore and Science*. Murfreesboro: Johnson Publishing Company, 1971. Revised edition. 175pp. Illus. \$4.95.

First published in 1962, this account of the Great Dismal Swamp in eastern North Carolina and Virginia is readable, entertaining, and informative. It is a sympathetic account designed to counteract the unsavory reputation of this region as an evil place of stagnant water, vicious bears, poisonous snakes, an hiding criminals. Snakes and bear are there, of course, but they are much less troublesome to their

human neighbors than tradition has pictured. Mischievous racoons and colorful songbirds also inhabit this wilderness. Cypress and juniper trees, areas of meadow, and the historic Dismal Swamp Canal add to the beauty of the place. History, myth, and scientific fact are combined in this useful work on a little known area of the two states.

JOHN F. GILBERT and GRADY JEFFERYS. *Crossties over Saluda. A Portrait of Southern Railway Power on the Nation's Steepest, Standard Gauge, Main Line Railway Grade.* Raleigh: The Crossties Press, Box 2481, 1971. 36pp. Illus. \$2.74 paper.

Saluda is a town in southwestern Polk County in the high mountains of western North Carolina and this is the story of the construction of the railroad there nearly a hundred years ago and its subsequent use. There are only a few pages of straight text but the fifty interesting pictures, made at various times from 1889 to the present, have full captions. For the railroad fan this little book is a sheer delight; for others it should prove to be informative about an interesting aspect of our past and to give a new appreciation for the modern diesel-powered trains.

STANLEY E. GREEN. *Kinnakeet Adventure.* New York: Vantage Press, 1971. 242pp. \$4.95.

Kinnakeet is a small community on Hatteras Island in Dare County and this is the recollections of Stanley E. Green who went there in 1930, fresh out of the University of North Carolina, to be principal of the local school. He remained until the early 1940's during World War II when he was assigned to a ship that sailed for the Mediterranean. Kinnakeet was isolated but the people were cordial and the stranger in their midst soon became one of them. Green's experiences are told in an interesting style; his friends on the Outer Banks become real to the reader. This account of a time that has passed and a place that has changed is very moving and

North Carolinians should be grateful to the author for recording it. In spite of the fact that this book was published by a "vanity press," it is a most worthy addition to any collection of North Caroliniana.

CHARLES M. HUDSON, editor, *Red, White, and Black, Symposium on Indians in the Old South.* Athens: Distributed by the University of Georgia Press, 1971. 142pp. Maps. \$3.75 paper.

At the 1970 meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society in Athens, Georgia, a symposium was presented on the Indians of the Old South. Prof. William S. Pollitzer of the University of North Carolina was one of the participants, and his paper is published in this volume. A number of Indian tribes from North Carolina, particularly the Cherokee and the Catawbas, are mentioned frequently. The general subject of the relations of the three races in the South is particularly interesting in view of contemporary events but especially because it is a subject only inadequately touched upon by past writers. The authors of the eight papers and the two commentators present much new information and suggest topics for further investigation. Such subjects as the use of maps as a source of information on Indians, the physical appearance of Indians based on archaeological evidence, their language, the attitude of whites towards the other two races and the attitudes of Indians and blacks towards each other are among the topics discussed. Footnotes and bibliographies suggest sources for further study. The essays are all interesting and well written combining to form a volume that will appeal to the scholar and the interested layman alike.

SARAH McCULLOH LEMMON, *The Pettigrew Papers, Volume I, 1685-1818.* Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1971. 699pp. Illus., maps. \$15.00.

This is the first in a projected multi-volume series of papers of an important North Carolina family over a period of many years. In this volume the papers of

the Rev. Charles Pettigrew and his son, Ebenezer, are included together with correspondence from a wide range of friends, business acquaintances, and other persons. The papers are arranged in chronological order and while this is intended to be a sourcebook, it may be read with pleasure from beginning to end. Most of the material is dated from 1780 onward and deals with personal, church, plantation, and business matters. The splendid and carefully compiled index with ample cross references will delight both the general reader and the researcher. In addition to listing the names of persons and places mentioned in the papers, numerous subjects are also included. There are, for example, lengthy entries under the subjects Agriculture, Apparel, Books, Churches, Diseases, Food and Beverages, Furnishings and Supplies, Health, Livestock, Medicine, Negroes and Slaves, Plantations, Postal Service, Schools, Travel and Transportation, Weather, and many more.

TED MALONE. *The Tapestry Maker*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1972. 82pp. \$4.50.

The author is a native of Coats, a graduate of Campbell College, and presently a graduate student at the University of North Carolina. He has been a reporter and a newspaper editor, and served two years in the army. His free verse poems in this volume were written in Germany, in England, and in North Carolina, and they contain thought-evoking symbols, clear expressions of many sentiments, and word-pictures of places and events that are moving. Places in North Carolina (Currituck, Martin County, Chapel Hill, for example) are mentioned. Two short poems will serve to illustrate the kind of poem to be found here:

#### Another Name

I am no more alone in Germany  
than I was in Carolina,  
nor than I was in Georgia,  
nor than I'd be in Upper Volta.  
It isn't distance of miles  
crushing the vitals within me;

you're no farther now,  
nor ever can be,  
than the night you were close beside me  
and called me another name.

#### Whereupon Leaving the Laundromat

Whereupon leaving the laundromat  
I came across  
a little beggar girl,  
who looked at me with sad  
imploing eyes  
/and/  
asked me questions  
that I could not answer,  
such as, who are you?  
/and/  
where are you going?  
Why don't you help  
me?

Ted Malone's poems should be in every Tar Heel library which has poems by any other North Carolina poet. His are as good as the best.

WILLIAM S. POWELL. *The First State University, A Pictorial History of the University of North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1972. 310pp. Illus. \$12.95.

The story of the University of North Carolina is told here in words and pictures from the eighteenth century to 1972. Attractively printed and boxed, this book is intended to help mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the University Press. Mrs. Joyce Kachergis, talented designer at the Press, is credited with the arrangement and the appearance of the work. An unusual feature of the book is the clear, varnished pictures which have the texture of original photographs.

DAVID B. QUINN. *North American Discovery, Circa 1000-1612*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1971. (Paperback edition, New York: Harper & Row, 1971.) 324pp. Maps. \$7.95; \$3.95 paper.

Professor Quinn's book, through extracts from contemporary sources, presents an account of the nearly six centuries between the first discovery of America and its perma-

ment settlement. There are concise introductory notes to each section and the whole book may be read straight through with ease or it may be used for information on specific points. North Carolinians will find here much new information on the early discovery and exploration of their state. From a document first translated and published in the *North Carolina Historical Review* in 1969 there is an account of a Spanish discovery in 1566, while from another source there is information of a Spanish discovery of English occupation of the Outer Banks in 1588, after the "Lost Colony" had been abandoned. Extensive attention is paid to the various expeditions to Roanoke Island and the colonies established there. *North American Discovery* should be in every library in the state both for its specific information on North Carolina and for its general material.

GLEN ROUNDS. *The Cowboy Trade*. New York: Holiday House, 1972. 95pp. Illus. by Glen Rounds. \$4.95.

Written for the 10 to 14-year-old, this attractive book will tell the young reader everything he (or she) might want to know about cowboys. Such things as the cowboy in TV, films, and fiction, the tools of the trade, what the cowboy did in winter and in the city, and "things are different today," as well as something of the history of this interesting way of life will be found here. Young cowboys are hard on books, so most librarians would be well advised to buy two copies.

ALFRED W. WILKES. *Little Black Boy*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971. 155pp. Illus. \$4.95.

Alfred W. Wilkes, a native of Winston-Salem now retired as a building superintendent at Columbia University, took courses in writing there while he was working. This novel for young people, his first published work, is very well written. Presumably based on his childhood experiences while growing up in the Negro section of his home town, the story relates a series of experiences of a 9-year-old with

his black friends and his encounters with whites, both child and adult. The meanness, bitterness, and cruelty displayed, and the casual way in which young Alf and his friends stole from merchants are undoubtedly embellishments of lesser feelings and events of the time. Recollections in 1971 of events of fifty years ago, presented in the light of 1971, take on different meanings. A factual recollection of the author's childhood, "warts and all," would be an extremely valuable contribution to "black history" — and this is a book he obviously is qualified to write — but a thick layer of fiction laid atop a thin core of truth does a disservice. (I grew up in a small town less than fifty miles from the one apparently described in this book and only about a dozen years after the time mentioned. I sometimes played with Negro boys my own age and was often in their homes, so I can recognize the truth in *Little Black Boy*. I have also been pushed off the sidewalk by bands of blacks, threatened with switchblade knives, and called worse names than I ever heard them called. There were two sides to race relations forty and fifty years ago, just as there are now, but *Little Black Boy* does not adequately recognize this.)

MAXVILLE BURT WILLIAMS. *First for Freedom, Story of the First Official Act for American Independence*. Murfreesboro: Johnson Publishing Company, 1972. 112pp. Illus. \$5.95.

Two exciting periods in the Revolutionary history of North Carolina are recreated here: 1776 and the Halifax Resolves and the first state constitution; and 1781 and the British invasion. Written in the form of a play, the narrative is based on fact with dialogue supplied. Most of the leading participants in the Revolutionary movement here, both political and military, appear as characters. Production of this play probably would be out of the realm of possibility for the average public school in the state, but portions of it might be read very effectively with adequate advance preparation of the students by their teacher.

