NEW NORTH CAROLINA BOOKS

By William S. Powell

JOHN BIVINS, JR. Longrifles of North Carolina. York, Penna.: George Shumway, Publisher, 1968 (i.e., 1969), 220pp. Illus. $24.00 (10% discount to libraries).

John Bivins, born in High Point and now Curator of Crafts at Old Salem, was formerly with the Historic Sites Division of the State Department of Archives and History. He has written on a subject never before covered, and he has done a splendid job of research and of recording his findings. In the 18th and 19th centuries countless longrifles were made in North Carolina for use at home and for the use of settlers moving to the West. During the Revolutionary and Civil Wars many rifles were made in North Carolina for military use. More than 80 illustrations make this a useful work in the identification of privately owned rifles. There were many individual makers of rifles in the colony and state, but there also were schools which taught rifle-making. The most active of these schools were in Salem, in Rowan County, and in the mountains. These also are adequately discussed in the text. This is a carefully documented and indexed book, and there is an alphabetical list of known North Carolina gunsmiths from 1750 to 1865 with information concerning their work. Every library in the state which pretends to have an interest in North Caroliniana must have a copy. It might well be the means of attracting some men of the community into the library who, otherwise, would never darken the door.

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Prof. Willard B. Gatewood of the University of Georgia is a native of North Carolina and a graduate of Duke University. His knowledge of the 1920's has enabled him to select from a vast store of newspapers, books, tracts, personal letters, and other contemporary sources a fascinating collection of material concerning the modernist-fundamentalist conflict in which American Protestants were embroiled in the 1920's. Evolution was an important question but by no means the only one. Dr. Gatewood shows how determined the fundamentalists were to hold on to their literal interpretation of the Bible. Many North Carolinians figure in his account, both in the excellent notes which the editor has supplied and in the contemporary documents themselves which make up the bulk of the book. Gerald Johnson, Harry W. Chase, the Rev. Luther Little, and others on both sides of the questions are included. The documents provide interesting reading; the nearly 50 pages of introduction by the editor adequately set the stage; and a thorough index opens many subjects for ready reference.

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In the beginning the reader is told in this book that he “should not expect a critical analysis nor an in depth study of the economic factors involved in the building of North Carolina’s rail system. What the reader can expect are numerous nuggets and anecdotes
about railroading and railroad men which should prove enlightening, interesting, and entertaining.” There are concise statements concerning the origin and history of the different railroads in the state, maps showing routes, and a brief text on the construction of these lines. The outstanding feature of this book, however, is its magnificent photographs—clearly reproduced. Many of them have never appeared in a book before. Some are over a hundred years old, and they are interesting links with a real past. Such things as Col. Bennehan Cameron’s account of his escape from a wrecked train are spell-binding, but it is as a picture book that thus volume will be treasured.

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MARTHA C. KELLOGG HAYWOOD. Builders of the Old North State. [Raleigh]: Published by Mrs. Marshall DeLancey Haywood, 127 East Edenton Street, 1968. 272 pp Illus. $7.50.

Marshall DeLancey Haywood (1871-1933) was a librarian (N. C. State College) and a historian of note who did much pioneering research and writing. His biography of Governor William Tryon is a remarkably objective account of a much-maligned royal governor. His works appeared in book and pamphlet form, in The North Carolina Booklet and other periodicals, and in Ashe’s Biographical History of North Carolina. From readily available as well as quite obscure sources, Mrs. Haywood has collected more than thirty of her late husband’s publications of a biographical nature. Under the editorship of Dr. Sarah Lemmon of the Meredith College history faculty they have been skillfully prepared for publication as a very readable and useful volume. Seven colonial sketches, eight Revolutionary, six early Federal Period and six Ante-Bellum subjects cover the chronological arrangement. These are followed by accounts of some important naval heroes from the state and three essays on Masonry. A number of illustrations and a detailed index add to the interest of this volume. Every library in the state should have at least a reference copy of this new title in the area of North Caroliniana, and a “reading copy” also will please many patrons.

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HERBERT DALE PEGG. The Whig Party in North Carolina. Chapel Hill: Printed by the Colonial Press, Inc., for the Author, 1969. 223 pp. $2.95. Copies may be ordered from the Bull’s Head Book Shop, Daniels Building, Chapel Hill.

Submitted as a doctoral dissertation at the University of North Carolina in the 1930’s, this has been one of the most frequently consulted of the unpublished graduate dissertations in Chapel Hill. It is a thoroughly researched and well written account of a very important period in the history of the state. Covering the years between 1832 and 1861, it deals not just with politics as such but with the issues of the day—internal improvements, education, humanitarian reforms, banks, wars, slavery, and the men who led the state. This is not a book for “light” reading, but it is one which will catch the eye and hold the attention of those with a serious interest in North Carolina history.

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BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF NCLA

The NCLA will hold its regular biennial convention at the White House Inn in Charlotte October 22-25, 1969. There will be a joint meeting of the out-going and new executive boards on Wednesday evening. Registration will begin Thursday morning, October 23.

Highlights of the general sessions will include an address by David Clift, Executive Director of the ALA on Thursday evening; an address by John N. Berry, III, Editor of Library Journal, at the Friday banquet; and a talk at the Saturday morning session by Mrs. Margaret A. Edwards, former director of work with young adults at the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore.

Some of the sections and round tables have completed their plans. The College and University Section will meet Thursday morning; the Junior College Libraries luncheon on Thursday; Resources and Technical Services Section, Thursday afternoon.

Beta Phi Mu will have a breakfast Friday morning. On Friday morning also NCASL will hold a business meeting, followed by a panel discussion led by Mrs. Judith Garitano, State Supervisor of School Libraries. Mrs. Ruth Tarbox, Executive Secretary of the Children’s Services Division of ALA, will address NCASL at their Friday luncheon. Meeting on Friday morning also will be the Public Libraries Section, with Mrs. Edwards as speaker. The N. C. Association of Library Trustees will have a luncheon meeting on Friday, followed by a business session.

Mr. Warren Bird, Associate Director of the Duke University Medical Center Library, will be the speaker at the Junior Members Roundtable Breakfast on Saturday morning.

At the biennial convention meetings will be open to members only. Persons not already members will be given an opportunity to join at the registration desk. Complete details are given in The President Reports of this issue.

NEW NORTH CAROLINA BOOKS (Cont’d.)

This is a history of North Carolina as an English colony. It begins with the Roanoke colonies in 1584 and ends with the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It’s theme is the development of a spirit of independence in the colony and is a volume in the “Forge of Freedom” series. (Volumes on Maryland, New Jersey, and Rhode Island in this series have also just been published.) There is a bibliography, a list of important dates, and five pages of “Places to Visit” with comments, hours, and admission fees stated. Directed to the 10 to 14-year-old group, this book is indexed and illustrated with photographs, drawings, and maps.

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Glen Rounds of Southern Pines has written and illustrated two more, very attractive and interesting books for young people. Both are horse stories and are entertaining as well as instructive. Set in the West, only Stolen Pony has any human characters. Both, however, have other animals than horses in their stories.