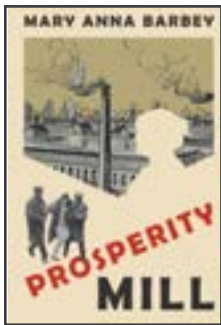


North Carolina Books

Compiled by Al Jones



Prosperity Mill

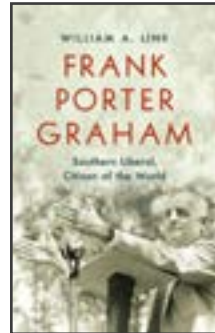
Barbey, Mary Anna Pope
Columbia, SC: Independently published,
2022. Paperback. 182 pp.
ISBN-13: 879-8542580937.

Mary Anna Pope Barbey was born in Durham, North Carolina, grew up in Connecticut, and married and moved to Switzerland, her home of over sixty years. She has published twelve books in French. The translation of *Prosperity Mill* is her first publication in English.

Prosperity Mill is a fictional account of the 1929 textile Loray Mill strike in Gastonia, North Carolina, told as the eyewitness account of Susannah Marshall, who was fourteen when the strike broke out. Sixty-five years after the strike, Marshall returns to Gastonia to investigate and better understand the world-famous walkout led by Communists. Susannah is particularly curious about the role her own family played in the tragedy and to document the aftermath of the textile strike and how it impacted the lives of the participants, including the courageous union organizer Ella May Wiggins, a victim of the strike, and union organizer Fred Beal, as well as mill management, and the community.

Although fiction, *Prosperity Mill* has the authenticity of a social history document. Barbey gives special credit to the staff of the Gaston County Public Library for their hospitality and allowing her full access to the carefully preserved primary documents related to the 1929 Loray Mill strike. Barbey's book would be an excellent resource for book clubs, civic organizations, and libraries of all types to discuss the history of the labor movement, especially in North Carolina, and to compare events of 1929 with current events in labor history.

Al Jones
East Carolina University



Frank Porter Graham: Southern Liberal, Citizen of the World

William A. Link
Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North
Carolina Press, 2021. 343 pp. \$35.00.
978-1-4696-6493-4

Is it possible for a politician to overcome cultural obstacles and still have a significant impact on the direction of North Carolina historical events? Throughout the pages of the book, *Frank Porter Graham: Southern Liberal, Citizen of the World*, author William A. Link introduces readers to the illustrious career of Frank Porter Graham. Born in 1886, Frank Graham grew up in the Charlotte area and worked throughout his life to make life easier for ordinary North Carolina citizens. For Graham, every human being had value, and through compromise, change could happen. During his life, Graham utilized this philosophy to advantage while serving in various capacities, including the following positions: UNC History Department professor (1915-1930), President of UNC Chapel Hill (1930-1949), President of the UNC System (1932-1949), U.S. Senator (1949-1950), and United Nations mediator (1951-1967). Despite some negative publicity associated with his political affiliations (for example, being labeled a Communist), Graham never lost sight of his political ideals and tried to use mediation and compromise to solve disputes.

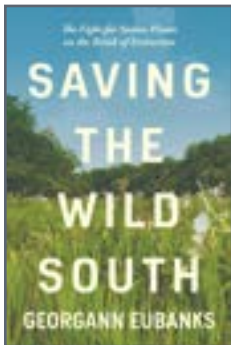
In this book, a selected bibliography and 21 pages of illustrations are included showing Frank Graham working with famous people like Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Harry S. Truman. Where possible, William Link includes quotes by Frank Porter Graham or from individuals who knew him during his distinguished career, including Josephus Daniels and William Friday.

William A. Link is the 2018-19 President of the Southern Historical Association and the Richard J. Milbauer

Chair in Southern History at the University of Florida. Prior to writing this book, his publications have included the following: *Paradox of Southern Progressivism, 1880-1930* (1996), *The Rebuilding of Old Commonwealths: Documents in the Social History of the Progressive Era South* (1996), *The South in the History of the Nation: A Reader* (1999), *Jackson Davis and the Lost World of Jim Crow Education* (2000), *Roots of Secession: Slavery and Politics in Antebellum Virginia* (2003), *Righteous Warrior: Jesse Helms and the Rise of Modern Conservatism* (2008), *North Carolina: Change and Tradition in a Southern State* (2009), *A Hard Country and a Lonely Place: Schooling, Society, and Reform in Rural Virginia, 1870-1920* (2011), *Links: My Family in American History* (2012), *Atlanta, Cradle of the New South: Race and Remembering in the Civil War's Aftermath* (2013), *William Friday: Power, Purpose, and American Higher Education* (2013), and *Southern Crucible* (2015).

This book is intended to showcase the efforts of Frank Porter Graham to fight against injustice and racism not only at the state level, but on the world stage as well. Because of its specific scope, *Frank Porter Graham: Southern Liberal, Citizen of the World* would be suitable for inclusion in any academic library with a focus on North Carolina political or cultural history.

David W. Young
University of North Carolina at Pembroke



***Saving the Wild South:
The Fight for Native Plants on
the Brink of Extinction***

Georgann Eubanks
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina
Press, 2021.
272 pp. \$25.00.
ISBN 9781469664903

Saving the Wild South takes readers on a road trip through North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee in search of endangered and threatened plant populations. From sunflowers to goldenrod, spider lilies to sumac, river cane to gooseberries, Eubanks and her photographer colleague, Donna Campbell, drive back roads and hike rough terrain to bring us face to face with plants whose populations are in danger of snuffing out. Through rivers, woodlands, rocky outcrops and

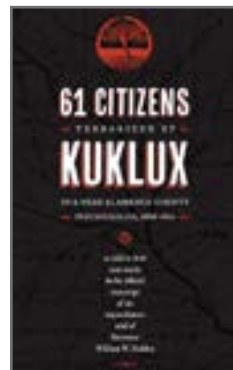
grasslands, we sadly learn the impact of habitat loss and climate change on ten fragile species.

In the course of our travels, we meet botanists, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Nature Conservancy staff, academic professors and researchers, botanical garden staff, and enthusiastic volunteers of all ages who care deeply about saving these plant populations and who are working together to do that. Through seed-saving, propagation, habitat protection and restoration, experimental planting projects, assisted migration, and collaboration among conservation groups, these true heroes are devoting their time and careers to saving rare and threatened plants.

Intensive research is obvious throughout *Saving the Wild South*, especially in the detailed end notes that lead us to further reading. Botanical details are meticulous; though some of the personal stories are a bit long, in the end we realize that hope for endangered plants lies with these people who are working so hard to save them.

Saving the Wild South will appeal to public library readers who are interested in plants and conservation. Academic and botanical garden libraries will appreciate the careful botany and the useful conservation models used across the “wild South.”

Dianne Ford, Retired
Elon University



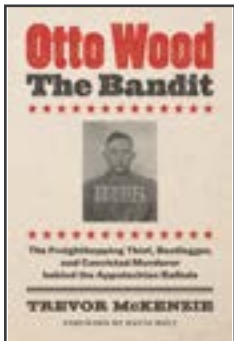
***61 Citizens Terrorized by Kuklux in
& near Alamance County, 1868-
1870***

Edited & published by a Citizen of
Alamance. Fountain, NC: R.A. Fountain,
[2022].
ISBN: 978-0-9842102-5-11.
180 pp. Paperback. \$10.19.

The title perfectly encapsulates the context of this verbatim account of this important North Carolina document dealing with the impeachment of Govern William W. Holden. The book was compiled by the editor, R. A. Fountain, and Jaki Shelton Green, North Carolina Poet Laureate, whose great-grandfather Caswell Holt survived being beaten, shot, and hanged and let down twice by the KuKlux Klan, and whose testimony is part of this book. This book was formally released at the Greensboro

History Museum, May 21, 2022, 3:30-4:30 p.m., as part of the Greensboro Bound Literary Festival.

Al Jones
East Carolina University



Otto Wood the Bandit: The Freighthopping Thief, Bootlegger, and Convicted Murderer Behind the Appalachian Ballads

Trevor McKenzie
Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2021.
160 pp. \$18.00.
ISBN 978-1-4696-6471-2

During the early 1900s in Wilkes County, North Carolina, why would the name Otto Wood evoke mixed feelings among the local inhabitants? In the book, *Otto Wood the Bandit: The Freighthopping Thief, Bootlegger, and Convicted Murderer Behind the Appalachian Ballads*, author Trevor McKenzie answers this question by tracing the life of a local wanted outlaw named Otto Wood. When Wood died in a gun battle with Salisbury, North Carolina police on New Year's Eve 1930, his notoriety seemed to grow. Because he escaped several prisons in North Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Virginia, he earned the nickname "Houdini of Cell Block A" as few authorities could keep the outlaw in custody for any length of time.

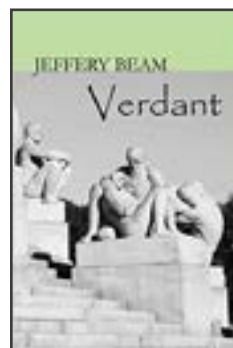
Perhaps one of the biggest features of the book is the author's inclusion of excerpts from Wood's 1926 autobiography called "Life History of Otto Wood," whereby he attempted to justify his "life of crime" to the inhabitants of Wilkes County, North Carolina. While imprisoned, Otto Wood used his disability of having only one hand and a club foot to his advantage in receiving lighter tasks to complete at the prisons. Ultimately, Wood also wrote letters to local newspapers explaining why he robbed stores or held people at gunpoint. After Otto Wood died in 1930, his contributions to local folklore culminated with the song "Otto Wood the Bandit" (recorded by Walter Kid Smith in 1931) or the later establishment of the outdoor drama, *Otto Wood: The Bandit* which ran for 5 seasons (2011-2015) at a park located near Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

For specific details about Otto Wood's life, author

McKenzie includes an "Otto Wood Timeline" to help document the key events in this Wilkes County outlaw's life. Additionally, numerous illustrations are available throughout the book, including an Otto Wood mannequin figurine which became part of a traveling "crime museum" display in March 1941. The author also provides readers with a short bibliography of additional sources for further reading as well as first-hand newspaper accounts of Otto Wood's activities at the beginning of every chapter.

Trevor McKenzie is an archivist and musician who resides in Boone, North Carolina. Besides *Otto Wood*, author Trevor McKenzie co-edited with Mark Freed and Dr. Sandra L. Ballard *Appalachian Journal's* special issue on Appalachian music. Before publishing this book, Trevor McKenzie worked with the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage as an archival and field researcher. Because of its specific scope, *Otto Wood the Bandit: The Freighthopping Thief, Bootlegger, and Convicted Murderer Behind the Appalachian Ballads* would be suitable for inclusion in any academic or special library with a focus on North Carolina folklore or popular history in the early twentieth century.

David W. Young
University of North Carolina at Pembroke



Verdant: Poems

Beam, Jeffery
Kin Press.
ISBN: 978-0-9989293-4-7, \$17.95.
Paperback. 64 pp.

This handsome volume of poems by North Carolina poet Jeffery Beam is recommended for libraries with poetry collections. He has written twenty award-winning works including, among others, *The Broken Flower*, *Gospel Earth*, *Visions of Dame Kind*, and *Spectral Pegasus/Dark Movement*. Beam's poems have been the inspiration for composers, including Steven Serpa, Holt McCarley, Daniel Thomas Davis, Tony Solitro, and Frank E. Warren. In 2023, Andrea Edith Moore will present in celebration of

Beam's 70th birthday, a concert program featuring selections from many musical works inspired by Beam's poems.

Beam is poetry editor emeritus of the print and online literary journal *Oyster Boy Review*. He lives in Hillsborough with his husband of 42 years, Stanley Finch. He retired in late 2022 from many decades as a UNC-Chapel Hill botanical librarian. Check out his website at <https://jefferybeam.com/>.

Al Jones
East Carolina University

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://blogs.lib.unc.edu/ncnovels/>).

If your interest in North Caroliniana is more general, the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill regularly posts lists of new additions to their collection at this address: <http://blogs.lib.unc.edu/ncm/index.php/whats-new-in-the-north-carolina-collection/>.