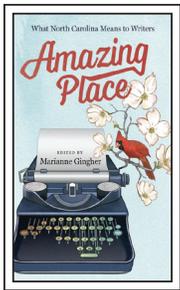


North Carolina Books

Al Jones, compiler



Amazing Place: What North Carolina Means to Writers

Marianne Gingher, ed.
Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.
214 pp. \$20.00 ISBN 978-1-4696-2239-2.

The first night I had this book in my possession, the cover bothered me. I had taken the book out of its yellow envelope, looked at it briefly, and put it on the shelf in my office. In addition to the obligatory cardinal in the dogwood, the cover has a typewriter with an incomplete, pastel-rainbow-colored set of keys on it. My subconscious was greatly bothered by that incomplete set of keys. I woke up early that next morning with a thought: What if that keyboard was in the shape of North Carolina? When I got in to work that morning, the first thing I did was pull the book off of my shelf and sure enough, a subtle, rainbow-hued North Carolina stared back at me from that cover.

The personal narratives in this anthology are much like that semi-dreaming-state lightning-bolt-of-understanding upon first waking-up moment: they read deceptively easily and then some amorphous time later, they get you. Not all of them, mind you, but a few. And I suspect the ones that get you will be different for everyone who reads this book because it's a strong collection. Marianne Gingher's expert

editing gives us so many good choices here!

For me, it is how Michael McFee likens the writing of a poem to the “daily vertical movement” (p.58) of living in the mountains, with the end of one line and the start of the next—the switchback of poetry. He also expresses what so many of these writers mention in one way or another: “What I knew—what rooted and nourished me then, and later as a writer—was the local” (p. 51).

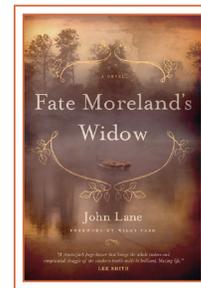
I also resonated with Ben Fountain's narrative of a woods in Eastern North Carolina and how the prospect of, and eventual reality of, logging that woods characterized his family's dealings for years. He talks of running wild in those woods as a boy, and says, “Whatever it was I found out there, I need it still” (p. 176). He concludes the essay by stating eloquently that he hasn't been back to the family land for 30 years because he cannot bear to find out definitively that his woods, his 12 or so acres of his family's trees, has been cut down.

Another theme that came through for me was just how influential Fred Chappell has been in growing and nurturing writers in this state. He shows up in more than a couple entries and has authored one himself for this collection, entitled simply “100.” The point he drives home to me is that North Carolina is too diverse a state to be characterized as one thing.

It's good that we have twenty-one personal narratives to read in this anthology--twenty-one chances for something to wake you up out of a sleep and surprise you with understanding.

Highly recommended for all public and academic libraries in the state.

Cindy Shirkey
East Carolina University



Fate Moreland's Widow

By John Lane.
Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2015.
184 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 978-1-61117-469-4.

In his foreword, Wiley Cash places the time and setting for John Lane's novel *Fate Moreland's Widow* and provides a glimpse into the perspectives of the main character Ben Crocker. Crocker, son of a mill worker, is a man caught in the middle in his new somewhat isolated position as the right hand man of his boss, a wealthy textile mill owner. George McCain, Jr. the current mill owner in a long family line of privilege has little concern for those he employs, including Ben Crocker's friends and family, beyond how productive they can be in the textile mill.

In the mid-1930s mill workers were engaged in labor strikes across the country attempting to organize unions to enhance their bargaining power and improve working conditions. Mill owners like McCain were highly resistant. Crocker, from a mill-working family now finds himself to be a “company man” at odds with all he has

held dear, particularly the organization of unions. Further he is forced to act on his boss's behalf in laying off workers, targeting those engaged in labor union efforts, and removing them from their mill-owned homes, generally finding himself burdened by the resulting moral and ethical conflicts.

As the story unfolds, mill owner McCain becomes embroiled in a legal dispute, charged with murder for recklessly causing an accident that resulted in the drowning of Fate Moreland, his young son and another person on the local lake property owned by the McCain mill family. The Morelands represent all that the McCains do not. They are seen as hardworking, caring members of the community as opposed to the McCain family with their wealth and disregard for the common man. There are also tantalizing hints of the involvement of George's despised older brother Angus in this tragedy, leaving readers to wonder who really caused this accident but these questions are not advanced.

Crocker, however, is called upon to serve, once again, the best interests of his boss. These include paying off the widow of Fate Moreland and others. In the process of this unethical involvement, Crocker's feelings are complicated by his increasing infatuation with the young widow. Even so Crocker holds true to his status as a "company man," squelching his personal feelings and doing what he has to do.

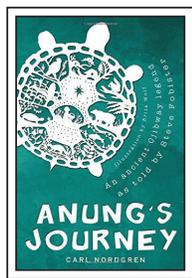
It is in the latter part of life, with time to reflect back, that he continues to be burdened by how he allowed himself to be used in the quest for his own personal success. Crocker questions the value of what he did and whether or not he actually helped to improve anyone's life.

In *Fate Moreland's Widow*, John Lane skillfully shares historical fact, local drama, and unanswered questions. Perhaps Lane is planning a

sequel to answer some of these questions, especially in regard to the older McCain brother.

This book is recommended for anyone interested in historical fiction from the southern region. There is clear evidence of the inequities of social class and family status that readers may find interesting, particularly as related to a pre-modern rural southern setting. Public and academic libraries that collect North Carolina or South Carolina history or literature should definitely have John Lane's *Fate Moreland's Widow* in their collections. High school libraries may wish to acquire this book as well.

Kaye Dotson
East Carolina University



***Anung's Journey:
An Ancient Ojibway Legend as
told by Steve Fobister***

By Carl Nordgren.
Durham: Light Messages, 2014.
114 pp. \$16.95. ISBN 978-1-61153-117-6.

In this ancient legend, Anung is an orphaned Ojibway or Anishinaabe Indian boy who is adopted by the elders of his local village. One day, Anung has a vision in which he must travel to locate the greatest chief of all the nations in order to advertise the skills he has learned from his adopted family. After the vision, Anung seeks further guidance from the tribal chief, and is told that he will be protected on his journey by Gitche Manitou or the "Great Creator." At the outset, Anung is accompanied by Turtle, the interpreter of all other Native American

languages, and is also aided in his quest by a squirrel, and a female bear. Whenever Anung senses danger along the route, he beats a drum that is provided by his tribe to fend off bad spirits like Windigo (or the "cannibal spirit") that seek to harm the boy. Anung reaches his final destination and relates his accumulated knowledge to the "greatest chief of all" who turns out to be a baby boy.

Anung's Journey includes certain themes, including the importance of family and friends, traditions, and the blessings of daily life. Essentially, this book was written to relate an ancient Ojibway legend for future generations to enjoy, and is divided into twelve chapters. Each section contains a small number of photographs that help introduce readers to the Ojibway legend. There is both an epilogue and author's note included at the end of the work. Since the book is primarily intended for a juvenile audience, there are no bibliographical references or notes included.

Carl Nordgren, a native of Greenville, Mississippi, is a faculty member in the Sociology Department at Duke University where he teaches classes in creative entrepreneurship. Besides *Anung's Journey*, he has also written other books, including *The 53rd Parallel: A River of Lakes* novel (Light Messages, 2014). Prior to becoming a teacher, Carl was first employed as a fishing guide in Ontario, a bartender, and an entrepreneur.

Ultimately, *Anung's Journey* provides valuable insights into Ojibway Indian legends and culture. After reading the book, readers can begin to understand the value of legends as integral components of Native American tribal culture and tradition. Additionally, the author incorporates elements of Ojibway Indian culture into the narrative such as the use of birch bark canoes, reliance on wild rice for food,

and copper arrowheads. Because of its simple scope and subject matter, this work is primarily suitable for a juvenile audience. It can be included in any public or academic library collection with a prominent juvenile book section or focus on Native American history.

David W. Young
University of North Carolina at Pembroke



***Behind the White Picket Fence:
Power and Privilege in a
Multiethnic Neighborhood***

By Sarah Mayorga-Gallo.
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014.
193 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 978-1-4696-1863-0.

Diversity and multiculturalism are goals of many cities and neighborhoods in both North Carolina and the United States. However, even when a neighborhood is statistically integrated, it may be still segregated in terms of social and political power. Sarah Mayorga-Gallo's first book examines the social and political relationships of multiethnic neighborhood CreekrIDGE Park in Durham. Mayorga-Gallo conducted the research as part of her dissertation from Duke University. This book is a revision of Mayorga-Gallo's dissertation

Mayorga-Gallo interviewed over 60 residents of the CreekrIDGE Park community in Durham to discover their views on their neighborhood and the social relationships within the neighborhood. The interviews serve to illustrate the various sociological theories Mayorga-Gallo incorporates. The interviews illustrate that though

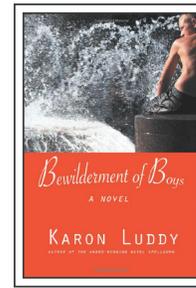
a neighborhood is statistically integrated, segregation due to language and cultural differences may still exist in social relationships. Mayorga-Gallo found few social relationships that existed across ethnic lines even though residents praised the diversity of the CreekrIDGE Park area. White residents of CreekrIDGE community claimed that cultural diversity was one of the reasons they were attracted to the neighborhood, but they had few friends in the neighborhood who were members of a different race.

Mayorga-Gallo found that the white residents worked to maintain the white middle-class values (no loud music, clean yards with no trash or junk in them) through the neighborhood association. The CreekrIDGE neighborhood association was almost 100 percent white homeowners with little participation from the apartment complexes whose renters were mostly minorities or ethnic homeowners in the area. Members of the neighborhood association reported they had tried to recruit members from the apartment complexes and other homeowners but no one participated. She reported that some Latino/as did not participate because they did/could not read the flyers put up around the neighborhood announcing the meetings or did not participate in the neighborhood association listserv.

Mayorga-Gallo is currently an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Cincinnati.

This book is recommended to all academic libraries that support sociology, ethnic studies, public administration, and political science departments, and to anyone who is interested in multicultural community development.

Robert Arndt
UNC-Pembroke



Bewilderment of Boys

By Luddy, Karon.
Backbone Books, 2014. 236 pp. \$14.99.
978-0991551804. Also available as an e-book: \$5.99.
978-0991551811.

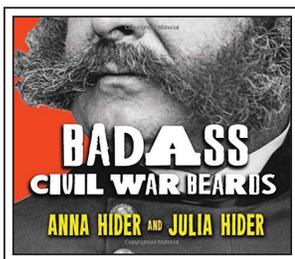
In the summer of 1971, seventeen year-old Karlene Bridges is a budding feminist trying to figure out what's left for her in the small town of Red Clover, South Carolina. Her boyfriend has joined the Navy, her best friend is headed off to college, her favorite teacher and mentor is moving to New York, and most of her male friends have enlisted in the military or been drafted. The "bewilderment of boys" is her friend Lucinda's favorite pastime, but until recently Karlene has regarded the opposite sex as nothing more than friends to hang out and play football with. When a tragedy rocks the town, Karlene must wrestle with the roles that faith, flesh, and power should play in her life.

The book is filled with literary and musical references that will take children of the early 1970s right back to their teenage years. The entire book save one crucial chapter is written in first person present tense, giving the story an immediacy and forward momentum. The author has a good ear for Southern dialog and her descriptions of family dynamics are spot-on. Her treatment of issues such as interracial dating, alcoholism, and teenage sex is both sensitive and realistic.

Karon Luddy's first novel, *Spelldown* (the prequel to *Bewilderment of Boys*), was published by Simon and Schuster and won the Parents' Choice Silver Award. The author's second novel will

appeal to anyone who's ever opened a "get me out of this small town" savings account at the local bank. The book is set in South Carolina, since Luddy grew up in Lancaster, SC, but it could easily find a place in North Carolina fiction collections since Luddy grew up in Lancaster, South Carolina. She now resides in North Carolina and is an adjunct professor at UNC Charlotte. Although most young adult readers won't be able to directly relate to the musical and political references that ground the book, they – and all other readers who have had to make difficult choices at a young age – will certainly understand Karlene's struggles with sexuality, loss, and love.

Arleen Fields
Methodist University



Badass Civil War Beards

By Anna Hider and Julia Hider.
Winston-Salem: John F. Blair Publisher, 2014.
92 pp. \$12.95. ISBN 978-0-89587-637-9.

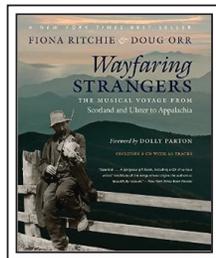
When one thinks of Civil War photography, Matthew Brady and his photographs of battlefields come to mind as do the many portraits of soldiers of the Union and Confederacy. Anna and Julia Hider have collected portraits of Civil War beards from various Library of Congress collections. *Badass Civil War Beards* looks at the wide variety of facial hair stylings (or lack thereof) of the war. Using humorous quips and puns, Anna and Julia Hider provide a light-hearted look at the beards of the day.

The book began as a blogging

project but quickly grew. Anna (Syracuse University) and Julie (Ohio State University) finished the book during their final college semester. This book does not end the sisters' examination of Civil War beards as they continue profiling Civil War beards at <http://badasscivilwarbeards.tumblr.com/>.

This book is recommended for all who can grow facial hair or appreciated facial follicle creations. It provides both historical and hirsute information about the men who wear the beards. This book will be especially helpful to men who want to grow a beard but whose significant other objects to facial hair. After the men have pointed out some of the more extravagant styles and promised to maintain a carefully groomed beard, the significant other should relent in no time.

Robert Arndt
University of North Carolina at Pembroke



Wayfaring Strangers: The Musical Voyage from Scotland and Ulster to Appalachia

By Fiona Ritchie and Doug Orr.
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014.
384 pp. Includes a CD with 20 tracks.
\$39.95. ISBN 978-1-4696-1822-7.

The people of the southern Appalachians have a strong sense of family and place. Central to this identity is their music. In this visually stunning book, authors Fiona Ritchie and Doug Orr tell the story of the Scots-Irish, their migration to the valleys of the southern Appalachians, and the music they brought with them. The authors are respected scholars of Celtic

music. Scotland-born Ritchie founded and hosts the acclaimed *The Thistle & Shamrock* on National Public Radio. Doug Orr is president emeritus of Warren Wilson College, where each summer he hosts the Swannanoa Gathering, a traditional music workshop.

The book is divided into three major sections. *Beginnings* deals with the old country origins of Appalachian music, *Voyage* covers the migration of many Scots to Ireland, and *Singing a New Song* follows the migration to North America and examines the continuing evolution of the music in the southern Appalachians.

The story begins in medieval France with traveling ballad singers who often sang of romantic love and morality. Other early influences were the minstrels, known for skillful improvisation to fit the needs of each audience, and later the broadside peddlers who sold sheets of ballad lyrics on the streets and at the fairs. Music notation was rarely included, so the buyer sang the words to a familiar melody. Both lyrics and music had many variations. While many of these orally shared songs have disappeared, there are estimates that more than three hundred Scottish and English ballads from the twelfth to sixteenth centuries still survive in one form or another.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries there was a massive migration from Ireland to America. Many of the immigrants landed in Philadelphia and traveled southward through the mountain valleys along the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road, which terminated initially in the Yadkin Valley of North Carolina and later extended as far south as Augusta, Georgia.

Early song catchers such as Cecil Sharp and Maud Karpeles, Olive Dame Campbell, and Bascom Lamar Lunsford visited the remote mountain coves to record songs passed down orally from generation to generation.

While their efforts were important, they often romanticized the people they recorded, and overlooked or ignored songs that did not mesh well with their concept of the unspoiled English and Scots-Irish musical heritage. In more recent years song collectors like Jean Ritchie, Alan Lomax, John Jacob Niles, and David Holt have continued to capture songs of the Appalachians.

The musical influences of English, Welsh, German, African American, Cherokee, and other cultures were braided into the tunes the Scots-Irish brought with them, enriching the songs they played and sang. Consider the contributions of African Americans to the Appalachian musical heritage. By the Revolutionary War, half of the fiddle players in the South were African American. Their syncopated rhythmic style relaxed the stricter Scots-Irish rhythm into what is now termed “old-time.” Many African American lullabies, call and response work songs, and spirituals entered the Appalachian songbook. A. P. Carter, Doc Watson, Bill Monroe, and Jimmie Rodgers, among many others, acknowledged the influence of African American musicians.

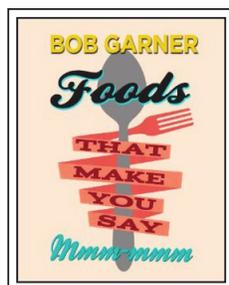
There are so many wonderful extras in this volume. First is the accompanying CD containing twenty tunes; you’ll want to listen to it as you read. Then there are the many sidebars: excerpts from interviews with significant musicians like Mike Seeger and David Holt; brief expositions of topics such as bagpipes, the Carter family, and the differences between old-time and bluegrass; and evocative artwork including maps, paintings, photographs, and line drawings. The informative appendices include brief profiles of individuals consulted; a glossary of less-familiar musical terms; a contextual time line running from 8000 B.C. to 2013; a list of resource centers for those

interested in further study; a discography; and a bibliography.

This lovely volume is a rarity in academic publishing. It is painstakingly researched but its pages are not cluttered with footnotes, which are instead in a notes section at the end. The text is a flowing narrative, not dry prose. The sidebars and illustrations beckon the reader to stop awhile and savor them.

Wayfaring Strangers tells the story of the roots, development, and continuing evolution of Scots-Irish/Appalachian music in a package that is equally satisfying to casual browsers and serious researchers. The eye-pleasing layout is underpinned by solid scholarship. This book belongs in every library.

Suzanne Wise
Appalachian State University



Foods That Make You Say Mmm-mmm

By Bob Garner.
Winston-Salem: John Blair, 2014. 187 pp. \$26.95.
ISBN 978-0-89587-629-4, ebook 978-89587-630-0.

If you like the Food Network’s *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*, Guy Fieri’s travelog of eateries featuring down-home food (no flower petal garnishes or anything you have to say in French), you will love this book.

The author is a familiar name to foodies through his restaurant reviews, magazine articles, and appearances on such television shows as *Good Morning America*, *FoodNation*, and *Paula’s Home Cooking*. In his latest effort, which I’ll

refer to as *Mmm-mmm*, Garner takes readers on a food-centric cultural tour of North Carolina. He introduces us to a fascinating variety of foods and settings. In LaGrange, where fish stew is an art form, many residents carry bowls and spoons in their truck toolboxes just in case a fish stew breaks out. He explains how to make Moravian spice cookies and tells us what is REALLY in liver mush (you may not want to know).

By the time you are twenty pages into *Mmm-mmm*, you will probably be ready to sample the goodies. Fear not, Garner has provided recipes and dining-out suggestions aplenty. In the eastern part of the state the focus is on gifts of the sea: trout, catfish, and flounder; oysters; and clams. Follow his recipes or enjoy the food at a fish camp/fish house/fish joint, such as Love’s Fish Box in King’s Mountain or Holland’s Shelter Creek Fish Camp in Burgaw. Top off your feast with a slice of Down East lemon milk pie, also known as Harkers Island lemon milk pie and Atlantic Beach pie.

Then there are grapes: native scuppernongs and muscadines. Your reviewer grew up carrying a big brown paper bag of scuppernong grapes to snack on at Friday night high school football games. Given my extensive experience with the treats, I can confidently say that Garner’s detailed instructions for eating them are right on target. Try his recipe for muscadine grape hull pie, a dessert with true presence. As a little circe, check out the homage to muscadines and scuppernongs in the October 2014 issue of *Our State: Down Home in North Carolina*.

The real meat of this volume is the chapter on barbecue. Garner is a master of North Carolina barbecue and has written three books on the subject. Did you know that early English settlers discovered Native Americans

barbecuing pigs, the little porkers having descended from pigs brought over by the Spanish? He discusses the variations across the state and explains how to cook mouth-watering pulled pork. Sauces also receive star status. Dining out options include Lexington Barbecue in Lexington and the Skylight Inn in Ayden.

I could go on. There are pimento cheese, brunswick stew, country ham, collard greens, banana pudding, and peach cobbler.

Each section features food festivals, from the North Carolina Ramp Festival in Waynesville to the Grifton Shad Festival.

Garner has not forgotten the commercial products born in the state. He tells us about barbecue sauce in its many guises; hot sauces like Winston-Salem's Texas Pete; Cheerwine, which first saw the light in Salisbury in 1917; Mt. Olive pickles; Krispy Kreme, which has locations in twenty-two foreign countries; and many more.

Foods That Make You Say Mmm-mmm is a cookbook, food travel guide, and food history in one convenient package. Keep a copy in your car, another one in your kitchen, and one by your Barcalounger for pure entertainment. It is recommended for all public libraries, as well as school and academic libraries that collect books on North Carolina foodways.

Suzanne Wise
Appalachian State 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 Carolina 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/>.