



Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

In *God's Fool* Mark Slouka colorfully tells the story of Chang and Eng, the conjoined twins about whom the term "Siamese twins" was coined. Chang narrates the story of the twins' journey from childhood poverty in Siam (now Thailand) to their adulthood in Wilkesboro and Mount Airy, North Carolina. Unlike the other recent novelization of the twins' lives, *Chang and Eng* by Darin Strauss (Dutton, 2000) which is narrated by Eng, Slouka's novel is a lyrical tale that is based less on fact than the emotions and frustrations of Chang's life.

Mark Slouka.

God's Fool.

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002. 272 pp.
Cloth, \$24.00. ISBN 0-375-40216-0.

As Chang describes the horrors of poverty and cholera in Siam, the lavishness of the palace of the King of Siam, and the drudgery and oppression of working as nearly enslaved performers for Abel Coffin and Robert Hunter, the reader is taken on a fantastic and fascinating journey through the lives of characters who are drastically different from "normal" people. Chang and Eng are eventually abandoned by Coffin and Hunter and left to live in poverty again, only to be taken in and showcased by P.T. Barnum. Gradually the twins begin to gain some self-respect and decide to retire from performing before crowds of derisive and cruel masses.

The most poignant elements of the narrative occur when the twins settle in North Carolina, marry, and have nearly 20 children between them. Eng becomes an almost incidental character as the twins age and become as estranged as two people attached at the abdomen can be. Their animosity forces them to live in two houses, and to spend part of the week in one house with one wife and family and the rest of the week in another house with the other wife and family. Chang's frustration drives him to alcohol as his brother becomes devoutly religious.

Chang and Eng's unbearable situation is complicated by the Civil War, when Chang's favorite son runs away to enlist and Chang (with Eng in tow) sets off to find him. As Chang and Eng search for Christopher they are confronted with fields of dead and bloating bodies, in a scene which directly mirrors their childhood horror of seeing masses of cholera victims in Siam.

God's Fool is expertly written by Slouka, who subtly uses the Civil War as an illustration of the predicament of conjoined twins. His Chang and Eng wish to be separated from each other but cannot, and fight ineffectually to secede from one another. Slouka also notices the irony of the fact that the twins owned slaves, mirroring their own "slavery" as performers in the freak shows. His development of Chang's character lends an uncensored point of view to the story, as his narrator goes through life literally linked to another human being. Eng's character is developed through Chang's view of him, which is appropriate for the first person point of view the narrative employs.

Slouka previously published *Lost Lake*, a collection of short fiction, and here proves that he is adept as a novelist. *God's Fool* is highly recommended for libraries with strong fiction collections. It is a superior companion to Strauss's *Chang and Eng*.

— Alice Mitchell

Appalachian State University

If the only knowledge you have of Bull Durham comes from the 1988 baseball movie starring Kevin Costner, you are a good candidate for a new book by B.W.C. and Snow L. Roberts. Written, published, and marketed by the authors, it is clearly a labor of love.

Durham native Ben Roberts took early retirement in 1988 from the American Tobacco Company, where he had worked as community relations coordinator. With his wife, Snow, he sets out upon a research project that would occupy them off and on for the next 14 years, scouring old newspapers and tobacco trade journals, driving thousands of miles to collect memorabilia, and interviewing

workers and managers of the company in an attempt to capture unique memories before they were lost. As a result *Bull Durham, Business Bonanza 1866-1940* offers a fascinating and readable account of a key player in what was once a vital American industry.

The book begins with a brief history of early Durham tobacco factories, including an intriguing account of an “unfortunate” theft from tobacco manufacturer John Ruffin Green during a historic meeting between Confederate Gen. Joseph Johnston and Union Gen. William T. Sherman at the home of James Bennitt (the correct spelling of what is now known as the “Bennett Place”), at which the generals negotiated a troop surrender. While troops waited for the outcome of the meeting a nearby tobacco factory belonging to Green

was plundered. Green viewed the theft as a disaster until he began to receive orders for Durham tobacco from many different parts of the country, and realized that his misfortune amounted to a valuable, if unintentional, advertising campaign for his product. Shortly thereafter Green’s brand, “Genuine Durham Smoking Tobacco,” began to sport the trademarked label containing a side view of a bull.

William Thomas Blackwell purchased the company, including the trademark, from Green’s estate in 1870. Blackwell was himself an experienced tobacco manufacturer, and W.T. Blackwell & Company became a driving force in the growth of the town of Durham.

One of the strengths of *Bull Durham, Business Bonanza* is its coverage of the advertising, sales promotion, and distribution of “Bull Durham” brand tobacco. It was businessman and philanthropist Julian S. Carr who recognized that effective marketing of “Bull Durham” would be key to Blackwell & Company’s success. Until this time, no company had spent so much money on advertising, or advertised so extensively. The brand retained its value to the company through the period of Blackwell’s acquisition by the American Tobacco Company in 1899 and even beyond the dissolution of the tobacco trust in 1911 and subsequent reorganization of the industry. “Bull Durham” remained highly popular through the end of the First World War, after which machine-made cigarettes, introduced by James B. Duke more than a generation earlier, slowly gained ascendancy.

The hard times of the Depression actually caused some smokers of machine-made cigarettes to switch back to the cheaper “Bull Durhams.” The chapter concerning the Depression era is one of the richest in the book, detailing the manufacturing process and daily working conditions in the “Bull Durham” factory buildings during this brief period of the brand’s resurgence. In 1957 the “Bull Durham” production machinery was moved from Durham to American Tobacco’s Richmond branch. There, on August 15, 1988, “Genuine Durham Smoking Tobacco” quietly ceased production.

Bull Durham, Business Bonanza is attractively produced, containing numerous reproductions of advertisements, labels, postcards, and photographs from private collections not otherwise available to the public. Recommended for libraries collecting business history or North Carolina history.

— Bryna Coonin
East Carolina University

B.W.C. Roberts and Snow L. Roberts.

***Bull Durham, Business Bonanza*
1866-1940.**

Durham, NC: Genuine Durham Press, 2002.
224 pp. Paper, \$21.95. ISBN 0-9721107-0-4.



From the first paragraph — from the first bars — of this edited collection of original essays concerning an important aspect of the Civil War, Professor John David Smith of North Carolina State University has crafted a major symphony with opening themes and thirteen recapitulations that orchestrate in steely prose a work of erudition and restraint. Dr. Smith and his contributors represent a new breed of Civil War historians from the United States, Canada, and Australia who have appeared in print, for the most part, in the last decade of the 20th century. Smith spent one year of the lengthy editing process as an exchange professor in Munich, Germany.

John David Smith, editor.

***Black Soldiers in Blue:
African American Troops
in the Civil War Era.***

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press,
2002. 451 pp. Cloth, \$39.95. ISBN 0-8078-2741-X..

For the reader with limited time to spend reading such a tome on almost forgotten military and social history, Smith's opening essay is reason enough to own the work. In this theoretical beginning, he sets out a revolutionary approach to understanding both the American Civil War and President Abraham Lincoln's preliminary and final Emancipation Proclamation that went into effect on Thursday, January 1, 1863. Even the day of the week becomes important to modern readers when they mull over the social implications — truly a revolutionary and liberating date in the history of human beings.

To set the historical background for this work, it is necessary to remember that "some African Americans had fought in the American Revolution" and that "Andrew Jackson had employed black soldiers at New

Orleans during the War of 1812." Yet "federal law since 1792 had prohibited blacks from serving in the state militias and the U.S. Army." Smith concludes (after an examination of contemporary documentation which charged that Lincoln's proclamation was "an abortion wrung from the Executive womb by necessity") that the president acted deliberately, in a planned, restrained, and political manner. Lincoln had to withstand overt criticism of his decision by Union officers, prejudice toward Blacks from the enlisted men in the ranks, and the refusal of slaveholders in the non-rebellious states (Kentucky, Maryland and Missouri) to free their human property. Smith states, and the following essays reiterate, that "Lincoln's proclamation had indeed transformed the war from a constitutional struggle over the maintenance of the Union to one of black liberation." Smith compiles data from sources as varied as the *Official Record* (1880-1901) and an article by Jacob Metzer of Hebrew University in Jerusalem (1981), and summarizes, "By war's end ... the army had raised 178,975 African American soldiers, organized in 133 infantry regiments" "Though most of the black soldiers in blue were ex-slaves, more than 15 percent of the 1860 Northern free black population joined the Union army." "African Americans accounted for between 9 and 10 percent of all Union troops who served in the war." "Sixteen black enlisted men received the Medal of Honor, awarded to U.S. soldiers for the first time in 1863."

Of importance to Carolina readers is A. W. Bergeron's account of the Battle of Olustee in Central Florida where the 1st N. C. Colored Infantry "suffered heavy casualties." E. S. Redkey's biographical sketch of Henry McNeal Turner, a free man from Newberry, South Carolina, chronicles the rise of a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. Beginning as a minister at Washington's (D.C.) Israel AME Church on Capitol Hill "near the heart of government," Turner was appointed as chaplain of the 1st U.S. Colored Troops, "becoming the only black officer" in the regiment. His journalistic accounts of life among Black troops on the battlefields were known for their "vivid descriptions of the action." Turner, like President Lincoln, sought "full rights and opportunities" for African Americans, not just freedom from slavery. When his regiment occupied Raleigh in April 1865, Turner preached and organized an AME Church in the city; later in November he visited Charlotte.

R. J. Zalimas captures the mood in Charleston, South Carolina, when Black soldiers of the 21st USCT liberated the city, February 18-19, 1865: "four square miles of the city had been burned" by the retreating Confederates. Zalimas should be commended for includ-

ing Major General Sherman's remark concerning Charleston: "Anyone who is not satisfied with war should go and see Charleston and he will pray louder and deeper than ever that the country may in the long future be spared any more war."

Richard Reid's treatment of U.S. Colored Troops in and around Wilmington and eastern North Carolina demonstrates that Black soldiers who joined the Union Army had become "free, a man." Some had achieved literacy, developed leadership skills, and broadened their personal worlds; they had "earned the rights of citizenship."

Smith should be commended for defining the experience of African American soldiers who served in the Union Army: "for men of talent and ambition, the army flung open a door to advancement and respectability." Recommended for academic and large public libraries.

— Stewart Lillard

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Sheriff Will Alexander has spent close to twenty years trying to forget an unsolved disappearance that he *knows* was murder, clear as day. Secrets fester and grow wild in the Appalachian hamlet of Jocassee, South Carolina, in this tale of love betrayed and destiny fulfilled. Did Billy Holcombe murder Holland Winchester all those years ago? If so, where is the body? Was Billy's young wife Amy involved? The truth has bound the clannish families together through generations, but will it be revealed before a way of life is gone forever?

One Foot in Eden is poet Ron Rash's first novel, and it won the 2002 Novello

Literary Award for its ominous lyricism and haunting themes of passion and guilt in a cloistered mountain world doomed by its own isolation. Rash is the author of collections of poetry including *Eureka Mill* and *Raising the Dead*, and short fiction including *The Night the New Jesus Fell to Earth*. He is the recipient of an N.E.A. Poetry Fellowship, and teaches English at TriCounty Technical College in Pendleton, South Carolina, and poetry at the Queens College M.F.A. program in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Ron Rash.

One Foot in Eden.

Charlotte: Novello Festival Press, 2002. 214 pp.
Cloth, \$21.95. ISBN 0-9708-9725-1.

The novel recalls Thomas H. Cook's tales of twisted transgressions, but what gives *Eden* its distinctive flavor is Rash's Appalachian ear. His regional nuances transform familiar motifs into a haunting southern tableau with a

singsong voice all its own. The mountain world of the Holcombes and Winchesters is already an anachronism as the story begins in the 1950s; it slips away piece by piece until a final rush obliterates its heritage and sends the families' tightly kept secrets bobbing to the surface.

Rash tells the tale in first person from the points of view of the sheriff, Billy, Amy, and a participant bound up in the web beyond his will. The voices are authentic in their desperation, and each supplies a piece of the gothic puzzle. If the novel has a weakness it lies with the final narrator, whose accelerated denouement feels somewhat forced after the careful layering of characterization and regional tone.

One Foot in Eden opens with a selection from Edwin Muir's 1956 poem of the same title, lamenting fields planted "with crops of love and hate." The novel is imbued with regret for a world ingrown with lies, and for the lives that suffer the consequences.

Recommended for public libraries and academic libraries with regional fiction collections.

— Susannah Benedetti

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

If you made minimum wage at a company like Loomis Fargo, where you handled millions of dollars each day, would you think about stealing some of that money for yourself? *Heist!* is the story of a group of people who answered “yes!” to that question. In Charlotte in 1997, a Loomis Fargo employee named David Ghannt and his accomplices stole \$17 million from the company’s warehouse. What followed was a comedy of errors, the story of ordinary people whose greed, passions, and vanity led them into a situation that quickly got out of control.

The original conspiracy consisted of Ghannt, a former Loomis employee named Kelly Campbell, and a small-time crook named Steve Chambers, who had been a high school friend of Campbell’s. The plan was that Ghannt would steal the money and then flee to Mexico, while his partners would hide the loot and keep a low profile until the investigation died down. Though Ghannt had never met Chambers he trusted that his partners would deliver his share of the money, and that Campbell would make good on her promise to join him in Mexico. The temptation of all that money was too much for Chambers and Campbell, however. They brought in spouses, friends, parents, and cousins to help hide the money, and each took their cut of the profits. No one could resist enjoying their new wealth conspicuously. They bought large houses, new

cars, diamond jewelry, even breast implants — and paid for most of it with cash. The reader will not be surprised that the FBI eventually caught up with the thieves, but the stupidity of the gang and the conclusion of the case make an enjoyable story.

Author Jeff Diamant is currently a reporter at the *Star-Ledger* in Newark, New Jersey. At the time of the crime and the trials, he was the lead reporter for the story at the *Charlotte Observer*. He interviewed almost all of the participants, attended the trials, and of course wrote and read the press coverage. This is his first book.

The story is told chronologically, and is occasionally difficult to follow because there are so many characters to remember, and so many events occurred concurrently. The author’s frequent reminders about who people are make for long sentences and some repetition—fewer details might have made for a clearer story. Nevertheless, this book is a readable contribution to the true crime genre. It will certainly be of interest to North Carolina readers who remember the news stories, especially those in the Charlotte area. Suitable for academic, public, and secondary school collections.

— Shannon Tennant
Elon University

Earl J. Hess, associate professor of history at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee, deserves a 21-gun salute for mustering the fortitude to write this extensive history of one of North Carolina’s most important units in the Civil War. No doubt seasoned by previous forays into the history of the war, including seven other monographs published by university presses, Hess marshals an impressive array of letters,

diary accounts, memoirs, and other primary sources as he traces every step taken by the brigade from the time of its organization in 1862 until the end of the war and beyond. More importantly, perhaps, the author describes in great detail the day-to-day experiences of soldiers, their attitudes toward the war, and the relationships between the unit and the homefront.

Organized by Brigadier General James Johnston Pettigrew, a native of Tyrrell County, North Carolina, the brigade included the famous 26th North Carolina Regiment commanded at various times by Zebulon Baird Vance, Henry King Burgwyn, and John Randolph Lane. The Moravian brass band recruited by Vance for this regiment served until the

Earl J. Hess.

Lee’s Tar Heels: The Pettigrew-Kirkland-MacRae Brigade.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press,
2002. xvii, 437 pp. Cloth, \$39.95.
ISBN 0-8078-2687-1.

end of the war. Pettigrew's brigade spent a number of months protecting supply lines in North Carolina before moving north to participate in the Battle of Gettysburg as part of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. There Pettigrew's men suffered horrific losses. During Lee's retreat from Gettysburg, Pettigrew was wounded at the Battle of Falling Waters on July 14, 1863, and died three days later. Subsequently commanded by William W. Kirkland and William MacRae, the brigade participated in major battles in Virginia until Lee's surrender at Appomattox. The unit's massive losses during the war underscore the tragic nature of the conflict.

Thoroughly documented and well-indexed, *Lee's Tar Heels* includes 19 useful maps, 30 photographs of varying quality, and an appendix that profiles the men who served in the Pettigrew-Kirkland-MacRae Brigade. Of particular interest is a chapter that describes the subsequent lives of survivors and their roles in perpetuating the memory of the brigade's service.

Although it addresses a subject of great interest to many students of the Civil War, Hess's book is by no means popular in tone or content. It is recommended for academic libraries with strong collections pertaining to this sad period of American history.

— Maurice C. York
East Carolina University

North Carolina has more than its expected share of mysteries and legends, ranging from the Brown Mountain Lights to the Devil's Tramping Ground to the disappearance of Theodosia Burr off the coast. None are more compelling than the mysteries associated with the treacherous coast of the state. One of the most celebrated of these coastal mysteries is that of the "ghost ship" *Carroll A. Deering*, found wrecked on Diamond Shoals off Cape Hatteras in January 1921. The *Deering*, a five-masted

schooner built in Maine in 1919, had left Barbados en route to Hampton Roads, Virginia, when it ran aground on Diamond Shoals. When found, the vessel had all sails set and a meal in the galley, but there was no sign of the captain or crew of ten.

The investigation of the wreck of the *Carroll A. Deering* eventually involved the daughter of the captain, a North Carolina fisherman, a federal investigation, countless newspaper articles, a note in a bottle, and speculation of pirates and involvement of foreign governments. It was a whale of a story. Remains of the shipwreck long lay half-buried at Ocracoke, but in 1955 hurricanes pushed the "ghost ship" from Ocracoke across the inlet to Hatteras

Bland Simpson.

Ghost Ship of Diamond Shoals: The Mystery of the Carroll A. Deering.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002.
256 pp. Cloth, \$24.95. ISBN 0-8078-2749-5.

Island, where the owner of a gas station arranged the capstan and timbers as a tourist attraction at his business.

Bland Simpson, native son of the coast, head of the Creative Writing Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, professional musician, and author of *The Great Dismal*, *Heart of the Country*, *Into the Sound Country*, and *The Mystery of Beautiful Nell Cropsey*, tells this fascinating story in a "nonfiction novel" using the voices of the captain's daughter, a fisherman who claimed to find a note in a bottle, and a newspaper editor from Elizabeth City, as well as official reports, ship's logs, newspapers, and correspondence. It's a grand tale, and a compelling way of telling it.

The book includes illustrations, maps, a chronology, and acknowledgements. It will appeal to readers who love the coast, who are interested in mysteries and legends, and who are interested in sailing and the sea. School libraries could use this "nonfiction novel" to help students learn to distinguish fact from fiction—the epilogue tells about students at Cape Hatteras High School doing research for a school magazine in 1973, including interviewing a local man who remembered seeing the wreck. Recommended for public libraries and for school libraries, and for any library with a North Carolina collection.

— Alice R. Cotten
Chapel Hill



realtor who advertises a home to a prospective out-of-state client may forget to mention that North Carolina claims 19 of the 27 orders of birds in the world. Instead the agent mentions North Carolina's affordable colleges and universities or high tech jobs. Yet diverse natural resources are some of the valuable features that make North Carolina a desirable place to live. Margaret Martin, the Director of External Affairs for the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences within the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, provides a portrait of the wealth and complexity of animal species and geologic resources available here in her book *A Long*

Look at Nature. She fascinates readers with attention-grabbing stories such as the acquisition of Mayflower, a 50-foot long right whale skeleton and the first specimen in the Museum's mammal collection. She carefully interweaves scientific data, historical explanations, and accounts by key collectors and curators with spectacular color photos of animals in nature and museum specimens to create a story that brings these organisms to life.

Although the book is divided into various chapters based on the rocks and minerals, fossils, and animal species indigenous to the state, Martin shows how all things are connected. She comprehensively describes

how human activities such as stream channelization, urban development, and pollution, as well as environmental factors such as geologic change, have impacted specific animal species. She acknowledges the role hunting played in obtaining original museum specimens but also notes hunting's effects on diminishing species. By including paintings, photos, and historical descriptions of now-extinct animals such as the passenger pigeon, she offers readers an intimate look at these creatures and the loss of their species to entire habitats.

Interspersed throughout the book are quotes and examples of research by museum curators, including C.S. Brimley and H.H. Brimley, so that readers have a sense of the enormous contributions the Brimley brothers and other curators, collectors, and conservationists made to museum collections and to preserving the state's natural wildlife. Martin also acknowledges the roles of hunters, fishermen, legislators, universities, and everyday citizens in accumulating scientific research and developing the museum's previous and current collections.

Martin uses a balanced approach to explain the basis of early museum collections and animal research. Early exhibit collections promoted natural resources for commercial and entertainment purposes. Gradually the focus of exhibits moved towards a natural science perspective, showing animals in natural habitat dioramas to help visitors learn about animal adaptations and behavior. The museum exhibits have continually adapted to reflect state attitudes about natural resource conservation.

A Long Look at Nature is as an excellent choice for North Carolina collections in libraries. School and university librarians would consider it an essential component of their science materials. Whether they consider themselves naturalists or novices, readers will also seek this book in public libraries to explore North Carolina's natural history.

— Melanie Buckingham

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Library

Margaret Martin.

A Long Look at Nature.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001. 174 pp. Paper, \$19.95. ISBN 0-8078-4985-5.

Additional Item of Interest

Now available: CD-ROM of transcripts of census and tax records with maps to accompany *Shuttle & Plow: A History of Alamance County, North Carolina*, by Carole Watterson Troxler and William Murray Vincent, which was reviewed in *North Carolina Libraries* 58 (Fall 2000): 78. All proceeds go to the Trading Path Preservation Association (TPPA), a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to preserve, promote, and study the Trading Path of the Southeastern Piedmont. Send check for \$50.00, payable to TPPA, to Dr. Carole W. Troxler, 2748 Amick Road, Elon, NC 27244.