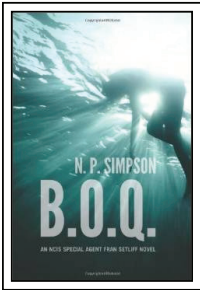


# North Carolina Books

Al Jones, compiler



## ***B.O.Q.: An NCIS Special Agent Fran Setliff Novel***

By N. P. Simpson.  
Winston-Salem: John F. Blair Publisher, 2014.  
323 pp. \$26.95. ISBN 978-0-8958-7616-4.

In Simpson's first novel, Ann Buckhalter, a freelance journalist for the local civilian newspaper and wife of a retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel, is found dead in the New River after spending the night at B.O.Q., or Bachelor Officers' Quarters, at the Camp Lejeune Marine Base. Special Agent Fran Setliff (our main character and narrator) is part of the Naval Criminal Investigative Services team called in to investigate. Fresh from her sixteen-week federal law enforcement training, Fran has been assigned to the white-collar crimes division, where she has been dealing with shoplifting, bad checks, and computer crimes. However, whenever there is a high profile crime such as this one, it is all hands on deck, and Fran is in way over her head. Her two years as a member of the Sylacauga (AL) Police Department and growing up as a daughter of a marine have not prepared her for the politics and lies she is about to come up against. Almost everyone in this case—a wronged husband, a possible rapist, a general with a discrimination case

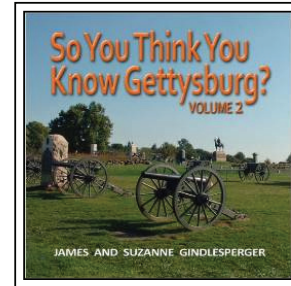
pending, a therapist with a scientific trial to keep secret, a sleazy newspaper reporter, and others—have something to hide and motive to want Ann dead.

This is a quick glimpse into military life with lots of hostility and suspicion between Navy, Marine and civilian characters. The dialogue and characterization are believable. Fran's thoughts help bring her to life; and she is blunt, suspicious of people, naïve about personal danger, and extremely likeable. By turns suspenseful, funny, romantic, and engaging, this is a good book with lots of North Carolina atmosphere.

N.P. Simpson began her professional writing career by submitting freelance articles to the *Globe*, the base newspaper at Camp Lejeune, during her former husband's first tour. She was then hired to be a writer for the Jacksonville (NC) *Daily News*, where she eventually became editor. Her first book, *Tunnel Vision: A True Story of Multiple Murders and Justice in Chaos at America's Biggest Marine Base*, a case study of a murder investigation at Camp Lejeune, was published in December 1993, by Down Home Press. Simpson makes her home in Raleigh.

Recommended for public and academic library popular fiction collections, this is a must-have for libraries with military communities.

*Laurie Baumgardner  
Gardner-Webb University.*



## ***So You Think You Know Gettysburg? Volume 2***

By James Grindlesperger, and Suzanne Grindlesperger.  
Winston-Salem, NC: John F. Blair Publisher, 2014.  
270 pp. \$19.95. ISBN: 978-0-89587-374-3.

Interest in the American Civil War is flourishing amid the current sesquicentennial of the conflict. Of all the battles of that great struggle, perhaps none has captured the popular interest quite like Gettysburg. Fought over three days in July 1863, the battle was a pivotal point in American history. Hundreds of books have been published on the subject and new titles appear regularly. This book, and its earlier companion volume, focus on some of the 1300 monuments dotting the battlefield by telling the stories behind each marker. The authors, long-time Gettysburg visitors and historians, want visitors to understand that there are unique, important and very human accounts behind the silent stone memorials.

Volume 1 covered many of the most prominent monuments. The current volume adds additional markers, some requested by readers of the earlier work. Like the first volume, the book is arranged according to section of the battlefield. Each section surrounds key locations such as Culps Hill, the Peach Orchard, Seminary Ridge, and the Round Tops. A map

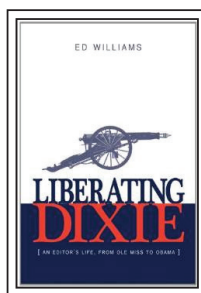
at the beginning of each chapter identifies the location of each monument and places it in context with its surroundings. Individual entries describe each monument along with other selected locations, such as the cupola of the seminary building that was used as an observation post by both sides during the battle. Most of the entries are between a half and a full page in length and include an accompanying color photograph. Information includes the dates of the monument's creation and dedication ceremony along with information about the sculptor, if known.

There are many stories of heroism and tragedy associated with the monuments. The authors bring these events to life. For example, the First Minnesota Infantry Monument commemorates a Northern unit that lost two successive commanders in two days of fierce fighting, while taking heavy losses. The Colonel Charles Frederick Taylor Monument honors an officer who singlehandedly formed a Pennsylvania regiment at the war's outbreak and led it until he was killed at Gettysburg while leading a charge across the infamous Valley of Death. A more recent monument honors the remains of Confederate soldiers recovered from an eroded railroad embankment as recently as 1998. The stories are woven together by themes of linked sacrifice and courage. The book also includes a listing of all Union Medal of Honor and Confederate Medal of Honor recipients at Gettysburg. The index is comprehensive and makes it easy to locate individual entries of interest.

This is not a book for one unacquainted with the details of Battle of Gettysburg, as it is not an introductory overview or guidebook to the battlefield. Persons without a general understanding of the battle will not find it here. The book is intended for

visitors who are already familiar with the battle and who want to know more about the monuments covering the area. It will be of relevance mostly to Civil War and Gettysburg enthusiasts. Together with Volume 1, it is a recommended addition for libraries holding extensive collections on the Battle of Gettysburg.

Mark A. Stoffan  
Western Carolina University



***Liberating Dixie: An Editor's Life, From Ole Miss to Obama***

By Ed Williams.  
Davidson, NC: Lorimer Press, 2013.  
288 pp. \$27.95. ISBN 978-0-9897885-1-9.

Ed Williams was an editorial writer for the *Charlotte Observer* for 35 years, and was editor of the *Observer's* editorial pages for 25 of them. His work contributed to the *Observer* being awarded a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 1981 and 1988. He retired in 2008. *Liberating Dixie* collects selected editorials written for the *Observer* and other newspapers and newspaper organizations.

I think it's safe to put Williams squarely in the Southern Progressive camp. He honors commercial giants as Charlotteans of the 20th Century, but also warns of the limits and risks of capitalism. He supported the U.S.'s excursions in Iraq and Pakistan. He's a member of a church that welcomes gay members into its community. But, regardless of what his voting card says, Williams is impatient with the way the citizens and governments

in the South (and elsewhere) have treated racial minorities, women, and gay and working class people. Williams addresses the opinions and actions of his fellow Southerners, writing in hopes of liberating the region from these behaviors. His writings are presented in several thematic sections, like "Mississippi" (his home state), "Mecklenburg History," "Presidential Matters," "Rights" ("Race," "Gays," etc.), "Business and Labor," and many others.

The book is illustrated with several editorial cartoons by Doug Marlette, author of the *Kudzu* comic strip, and Kevin Siers, as well as a number of photographs. Williams, as passionate about newspapers as social justice, includes several engaging editorials where he explains the journalistic value of cartoons.

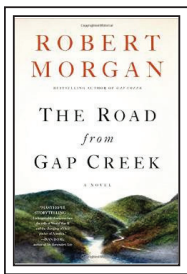
*Liberating Dixie* has only a few small weaknesses. In several of the sections, the writings are not organized chronologically. This, in most instances, is not significant. However, in sections where chronology matters, like those dealing with politics, it does confuse the reader. And, while Williams is clearly supportive of members of the GLBT community and their struggle for equal rights, he can sound a little tinny when writing about homosexuals. I'd also like to read Williams's take on Reagan, but his presidency is not covered in the book. Why? It's a curious omission.

In 1988, Williams published in the *Observer* an editorial titled "A Cranky Man's Credo," which is included here. The collection also includes a caption to a portrait of Williams where he's quoted as saying he's "always been cranky." There's no reason to doubt Williams's word, but that crankiness is not apparent in his writing. The emotion more likely to be seen in Williams's work is compassion. He is a man--a journalist, church member,

husband, and father--who cares about his community and its members.

*Liberating Dixie* should appeal to North Carolina readers interested in journalism and politics. It is thoughtful, entertaining, and very well written. It would be an appropriate addition to collections of public libraries, colleges and universities (especially those with journalism programs), and high schools.

Brian Dietz  
NCSU Libraries



### ***The Road from Gap Creek:* A Novel**

By Robert Morgan.  
1st paperback ed. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2014. 331 pp. \$14.95. ISBN 978-1-61620-378-8.

Robert Morgan's novel *The Road from Gap Creek*, newly available in paperback, continues the story he began fifteen years ago in *Gap Creek*. The new novel opens well into the next generation and is told through the voice of Annie Richards Powell, the younger daughter and one of four children of Hank and Julie Richards, whose story in *Gap Creek* ended with their having survived many trials but still essentially newlyweds.

*The Road from Gap Creek* is set in the early twentieth century, in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina and upper South Carolina. The region is remote, without the amenities of indoor plumbing and electricity that present-day readers take for granted. Life centers on family, school, and

church, but external events shape the family's life, including a typhoid epidemic, the economic crash and Great Depression, and the steady approach of World War II. Though fiction, the novel feels like a true rendering of life in the southern mountains less than a century ago. The Richards family survives the depression primarily by growing its own food, and the men of the family find construction work, including building barracks for Fort Bragg's rapid expansion, and also work with the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Morgan creates a compelling and believable world. Though Annie and her brother Troy, their mother Julie, Annie's suitor and eventual husband Muir, and even Troy's German shepherd Old Pat are principal characters, the real story is the interplay of family—its endurance through good times and bad. Repeatedly, Annie observes and finds comfort in the continuity of life: "But things was just what they was. And people was just what they was. Everything just went on as always. And I guessed that far away the war went on as usual too."

The novel opens with news of a family tragedy, then moves to an earlier point to begin the family's story, progressing largely in chronological fashion. Although the story is told in Annie's mountain dialect, it is never cloying. Morgan's writing is pitch-perfect and spare, and the narrator's cadence is perfectly suited to the story being told.

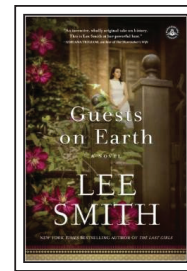
Born in Hendersonville, Robert Morgan grew up on his family's farm in the Green River Valley of the Blue Ridge Mountains. His highly-acclaimed work includes many volumes of poetry, as well as novels, short stories, essays, and non-fiction. Since 1971 he has taught at Cornell, where he is Kappa Alpha professor of English. He has been a visiting writer

at many colleges and universities in North Carolina and beyond.

Much more than a sequel, *The Road from Gap Creek* easily stands on its own. Readers familiar with the earlier novel will appreciate the added dimensions; others will enjoy it for the eloquent story it tells and Morgan's elegant, lyrical writing.

*The Road from Gap Creek* will appeal to adults and older young adult readers. It is suitable for public and academic libraries and for general fiction collections as well as collections of southern or Appalachian literature.

Margaretta Yarborough  
University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill



### ***Guest on Earth: A Novel***

By Lee Smith.  
Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 2013.  
348 pp. \$14.95. ISBN 978-1-61620-380-1.

*"For years I have intended to write my own impressions of Mrs. Zelda Fitzgerald, from the time first I encountered her when I was but a child myself at Highland Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina, in 1937, and then a decade later during the several months leading up to the mysterious tragedy of 1948."*

Thus begins this historical novel set at Highland Mental Hospital in Asheville, during the years 1936 to 1948, as told by Evaline Toussaint, the narrator. In 1948, a horrible fire occurs and takes the lives of Zelda Fitzgerald and eight other women patients. They were locked in a ward

on the top floor for their own safety as they were undergoing a series of insulin shock treatments. Sadly, Zelda was identified only by her charred ballet slipper.

Evaline, the daughter of an exotic dancer and courtesan, was orphaned at the age of 13 after the suicide of her mother. While living with her mother's lover and family, she suffers a mental breakdown. She is sent to Asheville's prestigious mental institution, Highland Hospital, where she spends time as a patient and, eventually, a part-time staff member. Evaline recounts her 12 years with the hospital and tells stories of a variety of characters at the hospital that include not only the doctors and staff, but also other patients who have had an effect on her life. There's Dixie, "a damaged belle from the deep South whose husband has sent her to Highland in hopes she can be turned into a more 'suitable wife'"; Charles Gray Winston II, the shell-shocked veteran and tobacco heir; Pan, the feral boy, who is the hospital groundskeeper; Robert, the first boy to kiss her, who, eventually, commits suicide; and Dr. and Mrs. Carroll, who have a profound effect on her life, helping her to find her love of music and become a piano accompanist, although she never becomes a soloist in her own right, despite her abundant talent.

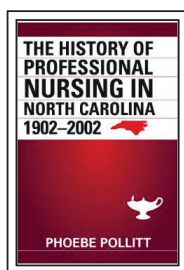
The most famous of the patients that Evaline meets is Zelda Fitzgerald, a talented dancer, writer, and visual artist and the wife of novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Lee Smith, in telling this story of the hospital and its patients, creates a plausible cause of the famous fire that affected so many lives. By telling the story of Zelda Fitzgerald through the character of Evaline, Smith has been able not only to give the reader a little of history of Asheville and events at

the hospital, but also to expose the lives of southern women during that time.

The title of the book is based on a letter F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote in 1940 to his daughter, Scottie, "*The insane are always mere guests on earth, eternal strangers carrying around broken decalogues that they cannot read.*" This carefully researched novel reveals that Smith had personal knowledge about the hospital and its history because both her father in the 1950s and her son in the 1980s suffered mental illness and were hospitalized at this hospital.

*Lua Saunders Sua*  
East Carolina University



### ***The History of Professional Nursing in North Carolina, 1902-2002***

By Phoebe Pollitt.  
Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2014.  
256 pp. \$32. ISBN 9781611631630.

Stepping back in time is often eye opening. An experienced historian and nurse educator, Dr. Phoebe Pollitt skillfully intertwines information from a variety of sources, including letters, diaries, and personal interviews, as she walks readers through the development of professional nursing in North Carolina. Broadly addressing the development of our modern-day healthcare system from a nursing perspective, *The History of Professional Nursing in North Carolina 1902-2002* brings this tumultuous century to life using a combination of historical facts,

figures, and personal accounts, often including details history generally fails to recount. North Carolinians who lived through these years, especially those involved in nursing, will find this work particularly engaging.

The years between 1902 and 2002 were times of great change in the United States, and North Carolina was not immune to the nation's pain. While physicians are often given the credit for advances in healthcare, nurses also, often quietly and with little glory, fought tirelessly to improve sanitation, provide quality patient care, and assure adequate training of nursing professionals. North Carolina was the first state in the country to require registration for nurses (1903), offer publicly funded family planning services (1937), offer a clinical master's program in nursing (1957), and to have a State Board of Nursing with members elected by nurses (1981).

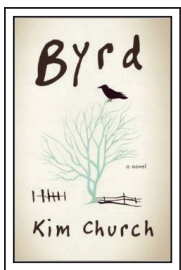
Over the 100 years addressed in this work, nurses from North Carolina served on multiple battlefields, provided care through the Great Depression, and dealt with racial and gender integration of society and healthcare. They fought to improve treatment for the mentally ill, advanced nursing education, expanded nursing roles, and supported patients diagnosed with AIDS, a terrifying new disease promising almost certain death and viewed by many as a punishment from God.

Descriptive chapter and section titles, as well as extensive indexing and referencing, make this book a useful tool for researchers, while the gentle tone and flow of the writing keep it accessible to lay readers. As with any reference work, a few sections of *The History of Professional Nursing in North Carolina, 1902-2002* are not light reading and may be best skimmed by the pleasure reader. Researchers, however, will find the

quantity of information astounding. Dr. Pollitt did her homework.

This book is suitable for advanced readers interested in nursing or healthcare in North Carolina. It is recommended for both public and academic libraries. High school libraries supporting health sciences or North Carolina history programs may also wish to acquire this work.

*Gina Cahoon Firmhaber  
East Carolina University*



### ***Byrd: A Novel***

By Kim Church.  
Ann Arbor, MI: Dzanc Books, 2014.  
239 pp. \$14.95. ISBN 978-1-938604-52-2.

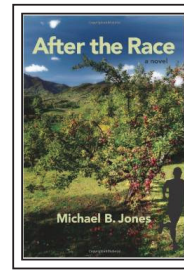
Addie Lockwood first encounters Roland Rhodes in 1965 when they are in the same fourth grade class in a small town near Greensboro. A quiet, introspective child, Addie watches Roland from afar for years before they become friends in high school and have a brief romantic relationship that leaves Addie wanting more. After high school, they go their separate ways, with Addie going to college in Greensboro and working in a used bookstore, and Roland going on the road with his band and ending up in Los Angeles. Years later, Addie calls Roland on a whim and goes out to visit him in California, where she accidentally becomes pregnant. After a botched abortion, she gives birth to a child she calls Byrd, who she gives up for adoption without telling Roland or her family about her pregnancy. The chapters of the book are

interspersed with letters that Addie writes to this lost child.

In the years after Byrd's birth, Addie goes on with her life, moving to Raleigh and opening her own bookstore and eventually getting married, while Roland marries and has a son. The novel is told mostly from Addie's perspective, with occasional chapters from the point of view of Roland or other characters. Perhaps most remarkable about this short novel is how emotionally invested the reader can become in the characters after getting to know them only briefly. Characters whom we know primarily from someone else's point of view, such as Addie's alcoholic father and Roland's troubled wife, come to life in the brief chapters told from their perspectives. Nothing especially dramatic or out of the ordinary happens in the novel, just people going about their everyday lives, but the characters' struggles ring true to life. Though the novel covers a period of over 40 years in a short span of pages, the characters feel fully realized at each point in their lives.

Kim Church has published short stories and poems in various periodicals, but *Byrd* is her first novel. However, she has the self-assured style of a more seasoned writer. This novel would be a good choice for book club discussions because it does not provide easy answers for the characters' choices. It is not obvious why Addie is so drawn to Roland, or why she chooses to give her baby up for adoption, only to spend decades longing to communicate with him. *Byrd* is recommended for public and academic libraries that collect literary fiction.

*Michelle Cronquist  
University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill*



### ***After the Race: A Novel***

By Michael B. Jones.  
Chapel Hill: Lystra Books, 2014.  
432 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 978-0-988864-0-7.

*After the Race*, the first novel by Chapel Hill author Michael B. Jones, is a dark exploration of the events that lead a Virginia family--already broken--to go further to pieces.

The story meanders and rambles around various tangents and diversions while centering on the contentious relationship between Wayne Reed and his son, Charles. Emily Reed--Wayne's wife and Charles' mother--plays a smaller role. The story's third person perspective shifts among these three characters.

Wayne is an abuser of substances and people; and when Emily leaves him, she abandons Charles in a powerless position, at the mercy of his mentally ill and narcissistic father. Wayne struggles with his addictions, his relationships, his search for happiness, and the world at large. Charles fights to find himself while stuck in the confines of a deteriorating family situation that he is unable to change. He has a neglectful and violent father, an absent mother, and he faces injury and illness that impact his running career and his life. Emily figures heavily in the first third of the story, but fades away as the novel progresses. Many of the story's events hinge on Emily's absence, but she reappears when it is convenient for the plot--such as to tend to Charles when he is ill--before disappearing again. Emily suffers mental and physical abuse at

the hands of her husband, but somehow reasons that it is more important for her son to have a father than it is for him to have any stability or safety in his life. Readers may question the believability of her character arc and actions, especially when it comes to the choices she makes for her son.

The story is set in and around Woodbridge and Winchester, Virginia. Descriptive passages allow readers to easily envision the settings of the book--the orchard in Winchester, the bars where Wayne drinks away his days and nights, the river where Wayne goes fishing. Jones is skillful at drawing these pictures with words, though at times these sections slow the pace of the story. But readers who are looking to settle in may enjoy the opportunity to linger.

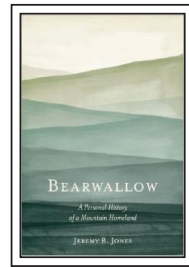
While descriptive scenes flow, conversations between characters sometimes feel like they are being used as soapboxes from which to spout off personal opinions on topics that include academic life, public education, sororities, and parenting. These conversational opinion sections--even if held by the characters and not the author--feel forced and do not help move the story along. Additionally, Jones' writing relies heavily on sentences with comma splices, and readers may find this stylistic choice to be distracting.

The pace starts to pick up in the second half of the book, after Wayne and Charles move to live on an orchard in Winchester. The events that take place there drive the conflict to a head and force the story to its resolution. Wayne's alcoholism worsens, and he does not see the dominoes start to fall around him as he grasps at things, people, and substances that he thinks will bring him contentment. Charles narrowly escapes death from appendicitis, which leaves him

unable to do the one thing he loves--run. The men reach a point where they can no longer run--neither literally nor figuratively--from their problems.

Libraries that collect fiction from North Carolina authors will likely want to add *After the Race* to their collections. For general fiction collections, collection managers may prefer to wait and see what the author produces next. Jones is a writer with many ideas, and with the benefit of more experience and stronger editing, he will be one to watch in the future.

*Anna Craft*  
*University of North Carolina at Greensboro*



### ***Bearwallow: A Personal History of a Mountain Homeland***

By Jeremy B. Jones.  
Winston-Salem, NC: John F. Blair, 2014.  
263 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 978-0-89587-624-9.

Jones's narrative is a personal one and begins with his return to Bearwallow from a teaching position in Honduras. He is back in his hometown elementary school teaching alongside teachers he used to call ma'am and sir. Supported by his international experience in teaching, his memories from his days as a student, and now as a teacher in this school give him an interesting perspective. He, like so many others before him, has returned drawn by "the Pull," the pull being a term coined by one of his childhood friends who noted that everyone always comes back to the

mountain. "Mountain-folk" can't seem to move away and actually stay away. He paints a picture of life for Bearwallow "mountain-folk," from the perspective of his international experiences and as an educator and former student. He evokes images from school that almost anyone could identify with and think about with a mix of nostalgia and angst. Because of the descriptive and personal approach Jones takes in telling his tale, readers may well remember and reflect upon thoughts and images from their own past. Geography and dialect, with the timeless Bearwallow Mountain in northeastern Henderson County always in the background, are the essence through which Jones examines the history and culture of mountain folk using his own "bird's eye view."

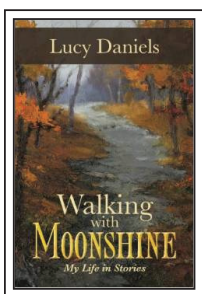
Reflecting over time and knowing how things were, he recognizes continuing evidence of change. Developers have discovered the beauty of Bearwallow, with an eye for profit and fortune. Small town politics reflect the greed and turmoil found in larger places. The students he teaches are not all from the old mountain families but include migrant children, new arrivals, creating a different mountain community with new and different art, music, and language. These changes have impacted, and will continue to impact, the culture of the mountain-folk. It is inevitable, and much of it is good. Bearwallow may not have sought the world, but the world sought and found Bearwallow.

Bearwallow is not a book to be rushed through, but one to be read at leisure with time for contemplation and thought. Jones shares historical fact, folklore, family drama, and unsolved mystery. There is also allusion to social class and family status that readers may find interesting to

consider from an historical viewpoint. This book is recommended for anyone interested in autobiographies or biographies colored by historical fact from the southern Appalachian region. Public and academic libraries that collect North Carolina or Appalachian history and folklore should definitely have *Bearwallow: A Personal History of a Mountain Homeland* in their collections. High school libraries may wish to acquire this book as well.

Jeremy Jones is a clear example to support the old adage, “you can take the boy out of the country (in this case, mountain), but you can’t take the mountain out of the boy.” After his return to Bearwallow, and a subsequent move to Charleston, South Carolina, Jeremy Jones is now teaching in the English Department at Western Carolina University. Jeremy Jones has tried and proven the phenomenon of “the Pull” in this well-written, historically accurate narrative.

Kaye Dotson  
East Carolina University



***Walking with Moonshine:  
My Life in Stories***

by Lucy Daniels.  
Bloomington, IN: IUniverse, 2013.  
175 pp. \$16.95. ISBN 978-1-4917-0148-5.

Growing up in a prominent newspaper dynasty in Raleigh, Lucy Daniels became aware at an early age of “the prestige and exclusivity of being a writer.” Her family, headed

by political figure Josephus Daniels, owned and edited the *News and Observer* from 1894 to 1995. As one of four daughters in a family “where children, especially female, were not valued,” Daniels sought in her writing the personal success and approval she longed for. By the age of twenty-two, Lippincott had published her best-selling novel, *Caleb, My Son*, the story of a father-son conflict associated with the Brown decision to end segregation, for which she received a Guggenheim fellowship. Despite this achievement, Daniels struggled for decades with feelings of worthlessness. *Walking with Moonshine: My Life in Stories* traces Daniels’s journey from troubled child and anorexic teen to accomplished writer and clinical psychologist.

The sixteen stories in this fiction/nonfiction volume include autobiographical sketches, early articles and stories, and pieces inspired by the experiences of Daniels’s patients. Many of these were previously published. The thread that connects the writings is Daniels’s personal journey as a writer and her lifelong struggle to attain emotional well-being.

Stories such as “Golden Wedding” focus on Daniels’s memories of her childhood in a privileged but dysfunctional family. Key members of the Daniels family are introduced, including her parents, siblings, extended family members, and the children’s African American nurse, Bea. In “Legacy,” Daniels references the anorexia that further distanced her from her father, Jonathan. “Crazy” briefly recounts her treatment for that disorder in a mental hospital, a regimen that included electric shock treatment but no psychological counseling. “On the Way to Salvation” features Daniels in 1997, a divorced grandmother, attempting to negotiate relationships with offspring with

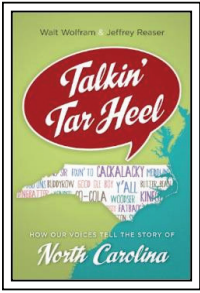
different outlooks from her own. By this time Daniels had gone through years of psychoanalysis, and had herself become a clinical psychologist.

Daniels includes some of her early short publications as part of this collection. Her first, “Good-bye Bobbie,” published in *Seventeen* magazine at age fifteen, was inspired by her sense of loss at the marriage of Bibba, the headstrong half-sister she worshipped as a child. Daniels’s longtime interest in the plight of African Americans in the South is reflected in “Half a Lavender Ribbon,” a moving story about a disabled boy. Also included is the article Daniels wrote that same year for *Coronet Magazine*, “Blackout in Prince Edward County,” about that Virginia county’s refusal to integrate schools.

Many of the stories in this collection are absorbing and leave the reader wanting more. Characters are fully developed. It is interesting to note that most of the sympathetic characters in this volume are children, which fits in with Daniels’s interest in their mental health, and her founding in 1989 of the nonprofit Lucy Daniels Center.

Some of the stories in *Walking with Moonshine* contain adult situations and profanity, and may not be suitable for children under sixteen. This book will be of interest to writers; those struggling with creative block or depression; and people interested in psychology, women’s studies, or social history in the mid-twentieth-century South. Readers looking for a traditional biography, or more information about Daniels’s struggle with anorexia or depression, may prefer to read her memoir, *With a Woman’s Voice* (Madison Books, c2001).

Linda Jacobson  
University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill



### **Talkin' Tar Heel: How Our Voices Tell the Story of North Carolina**

by Walt Wolfram and Jeffrey Reaser.  
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014.  
xv, 331 pp. \$30.00. ISBN 979-1-4696-1436-6.

Manifestations of language diversity are everywhere in North Carolina. We all know it when we hear it but, perhaps, until now have lacked the knowledge to describe it and talk about it knowledgeably. There's g-dropping, as per the title of the book under review. There's r-loss, as in "well, I decla-uh." There's the gliding i, as in "whaht rahs" instead of white rice. That last is typical of natives of western North Carolina or the Coastal Plain, but not of those in the Piedmont.

Regional variations are many in a state that stretches from Manteo to Murphy. Wisely, the authors dedicate half the book to chapters about the Outer Banks "brogue," "mountain talk," African American speech, the Cherokee language, and Lumbee English. The book is the summation of over two decades of work by the North Carolina Language and Life Project, a program based in the English Department at North Carolina State University. The senior of the two authors is Walt Wolfram, the distinguished linguist and author of *Hoi Toide on the Outer Banks*. His co-author is Jeffrey Reaser, long his partner in linguistic investigation.

Fieldwork is at the core of their work. In addition to racking up thousands of miles crisscrossing the state,

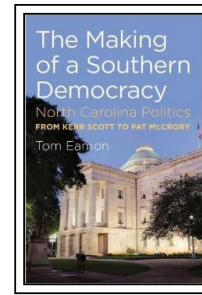
they annually have kept a booth at the North Carolina State Fair. They have carried their tape recorders into homes, diners, and hotel lobbies across North Carolina. Neither is a native of North Carolina but they generally have been welcomed and have repaid their debt to those they met with this scholarly, but very accessible, study.

It's not all about dialect or accents. Capturing their interest as well has been unusual words and their derivations. They begin with the best discussion I have seen of the obscure origins of "cackalacky." From there they move to a wide range of expressions not found in Webster's but perhaps in other works such as the multivolume authoritative *Dictionary of American Regional English*. These include "buddyrow" for pal or friend, "dingbatter" for nonnative, and a personal favorite, "gaum" for sticky mess.

The book features, in addition to illustrations, charts, and maps, QR codes that lead those so inclined to scan the symbol with their smartphone and be guided to a website to hear audiofiles making clear their points. It is difficult to imagine a more useful adaption of this digital innovation.

Anyone travelling outside the South, or encountering newcomers, has heard it said: "I just love to hear you talk." Now, rather than socking them in the face or turning red-faced and walking away, the informed reader can stiffen his or her resolve and enlighten the insulting speaker with an explication of why it is so. This book will be an essential addition to all public, college, and high school libraries.

*Michael Hill*  
*North Carolina Office of*  
*Archives and History*



### **The Making of a Southern Democracy: North Carolina Politics from Kerr Scott to Pat McCrory**

by Tom Eamon.  
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014.  
402 pp. \$39.95. ISBN 978-1-4696-0697-2.

*The Making of a Southern Democracy: North Carolina Politics from Kerr Scott to Pat McCrory* is a tour de force, an engagingly written, masterful analysis of the political history of the Tar Heel state since World War II. Drawing on forty-plus years teaching, researching, and writing about North Carolina and Southern U.S. politics as professor of political science at East Carolina University, Tom Eamon guides his reader through a stunning evolution of a state governed in the late-1940s by one-party rule and white supremacy laws and customs to one of vigorous two-party competition in which African Americans at times vote in higher percentages than whites.

Four principal themes dominate Eamon's narrative—(1) the difficult, conflict-ridden transition from a society of racial segregation and white supremacy to one in which citizens of all races and ethnic groups have equal voting rights and eligibility for public office; (2) the emergence of a two-party system during the last decades of the twentieth century; (3) the importance of elections, with mildly liberal to mildly conservative candidates winning most gubernatorial races and generally leading the state in moderate directions and center-right



to right-wing candidates prevailing in most U.S. Senate races and supporting more conservative policies and philosophy on behalf of the state's citizens at the national level; and (4) the importance of the individual in politics—"that individuals influence the course of history as much as do the underlying social and economic forces." Eamon is often at his best when pursuing this fourth theme, sharing humorous stories and inside-the-campaign anecdotes that provide special insights into the personalities—the ambitions, the passions, the fears and insecurities, the personal strengths and failings—of various players in North Carolina politics during the past six decades.

Post-World War II Tar Heelia has often been described as a place of confused and confusing politics, with simultaneous service in the U.S. Senate by conservative Republican

Jesse Helms and moderate/liberal Democrat John Edwards being cited as a particularly perplexing example. Several decades earlier, Democrat Governor Jim Hunt and his Republican successor Jim Holshouser supported the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution while Senator Helms and his pre-Edwards colleague, Democrat Sam Ervin, strongly opposed it. Through careful examinations of key elections and often colorful descriptions of specific candidates and their leadership styles, Eamon explains how state and national issues and the unique personalities of individual candidates resulted in what at first glance seem like inexplicable ideological inconsistencies in Tar Heel voters' preferences. He concludes with a thoughtful, if disturbing, discussion of how North Carolina has become the scene of some of the nation's most bitterly

contested, divisive, and increasingly expensive campaigns, with ideological lines hardening and partisanship increasing.

*The Making of a Southern Democracy* belongs in all academic and public libraries in North Carolina. Written by a senior scholar and containing lots of electoral facts and statistics and extensive footnotes (but, alas, no bibliography), the book will serve well the serious student of North Carolina politics. But Eamon's writing style is entertaining and lively, and the reader with a more general interest in Tar Heel politics will learn much from this book and enjoy doing so.

*Robert G. Anthony, Jr.*  
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

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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/>.