

New North Carolina Books

By WILLIAM S. POWELL

THOMAS P. HARRISON, editor. *The First Water Colors of North American Birds*. Austin: University of Texas Press, (1964?). 59pp. \$5.00.

John White, artist of the Roanoke voyages in the sixteenth century, painted more pictures of birds (and other wildlife) than have survived. Contemporary or near-contemporary copies of some of his paintings have survived, however, and it is those with which this book is concerned. Some are to be found in the Sloane Collection in the British Museum (perhaps made by a relative of White's) and others are in a manuscript by Edward Topsell, "The Fowles of Heauen," now in the Huntington Library in California. These are reproduced in very good color with an interesting explanatory text and very useful notes and a selected bibliography. Handsomely printed in England, this is a book which should be in every library of North Caroliniana.

JEAN CRAWFORD. *Jugtown Pottery: History and Design*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1964. 127pp. \$8.00.

Any North Carolinian who doesn't know what Jugtown pottery is stands in immediate need of this book. Those who do know will simply appreciate it all the more. It is a complete and carefully documented account of the world-famous pottery in Moore County. Potters were in the vicinity quite early, and their story forms an introduction to the more elaborate account of Jugtown proper. The efforts and the success of Jacques and Juliana Busbee in reviving and publicizing this ancient North Carolina industry are related in detail. Many illustrations, including a dozen in color, add greatly to the usefulness of the book. Facts about the efforts to preserve the kilns and other features of the Jugtown pottery and the confusing reports sometimes published in the state newspapers at the time concerning these efforts are made quite clear in the book.

IRWIN R. BLACKER, editor. *Hakluyt's Voyages*. New York: The Viking Press, 1965. 522pp. \$8.50.

Professor Blacker, of the University of Southern California, has selected the most choice travel accounts collected by Richard Hakluyt (whose lifetime almost exactly coincided with that of Raleigh). They are presented in an attractively bound volume and in a readable type. There is some modernization of spelling and punctuation, but enough of the old style remains to give the reader a real feeling of reading Elizabethan English. All of the documents relating to the early English efforts to explore and colonize the North Carolina area are present from Queen Elizabeth's charter to Sir Walter Raleigh through John White's letter of February, 1593. This is a choice edition which should appeal to both the researcher in need of contemporary documents and to the reader who enjoys the literature of the Elizabethan Age.

ALLAN CARPENTER. *North Carolina, From Its Glorious Past to the Present*. Chicago: Childrens Press, 1965. 93pp. \$3.50.

A volume in the Enchantment of America series, this is a most attractively illustrated book with many full color paintings and maps. It is intended for the 10 to 14-year-old, but its style will not be found distracting by even more advanced readers. The whole sweep of North Carolina history is covered from the days of Indians and the earliest explorers to the development of the Research Triangle. We would take issue with the author's statement that the town of Edenton came into being about 1658 (p. 22); we commend him for very properly making no mention of the fictitious "Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence"; and we admire him for devising still another name for old State College: "the State University of North Carolina at Raleigh." There as a number of careless errors (Lawson's "history" was not written in 1710 — it was published in 1709 and written several years earlier — as stated on page 58, for example), but these will distract only those who demand absolute accuracy in their history. The author has also produced similar volumes on eleven other states.

BEN STAHL. *Blackbeard's Ghost*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1965. 184pp. \$3.50.

A combination of pirates, ghosts, history, and mystery make this novel for young people one which will hold the reader's interest throughout. Set in a small Carolina town (Edenton?) with some historical characters (Blackbeard, of course, and Governor Eden and Tobias Knight) and some fictional characters of today, the story recounts Blackbeard's efforts to prevent the destruction of his favorite haunt of the past and present, the Old Boar's Head Tavern. It should be on every school's fiction shelf for young Tar Heels who would like an encounter with a mischievous pirate's ghost.

RICHARD BENBURY CREECY. *Grandfather's Tales of North Carolina History*.
ALEXANDER GREGG. *History of the Old Cheraus*.

Facsimile reprints of these two long out-of-print works are now available from The Reprint Company, 154 W. Cleveland Park Drive, Spartanburg, S. C., for \$10.50 and \$12.50, respectively. The former, first published in Raleigh in 1901, contains 301 pages, and the latter, originally published in New York in 1867, has 546 pages. Both are in good clear type on substantial white paper with black fabric bindings.

ROBERT W. RAMSEY. *Carolina Cradle, Settlement of the Northwest Carolina Frontier, 1747-1762*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1964. 251pp. \$6.00.

Like Merrens' *Colonial North Carolina in the Eighteenth Century* published last year by the University Press, Ramsey's book is a new and a careful study of a section of North Carolina. Both books make new use of local records and it is to be hoped that they will serve as good examples for similar studies to follow. This is a careful account of the movement of Scotch-Irish, German, and other settlers into Rowan County and vicinity between 1747 and 1762. The origin and destination of many settlers, all cited by name, are given. In many cases their occupations are indicated (though this

information, regrettably, does not always show up in the index), and for many of these people the original spelling of surnames is given.

North Carolinians who live in the region described in this book or who are descendants of people who lived there will find it to be of a great deal of personal interest. Others should find it to be a book well worth reading for the detailed account it gives of the problems encountered in settling on the American frontier when it was in North Carolina.

KATHERINE WOOTEN SPRINGS. *The Squires of Springfield*. Charlotte: William Loftin, Publisher, 1964. 350pp. \$6.75.

This is a family saga to end all family sagas. The Silversteen or Silvers family came to America from Holland in 1652 and descendants now live in various parts of America, including the two Carolinas. The author, a resident of Charlotte, has drawn on extensive files of family correspondence for this volume of social history. The index is a model of completeness and should be checked by historians of the Carolinas for references to numerous persons and subjects of importance and obscurity. Some of the text will be of interest to general readers of history and biography, some to genealogists, all to members of the Springs family, but some of it will puzzle the uninitiated (who, where, or what is "Voisin" on page 321?). And it's a handsome book, as might be expected from William Loftin's press.

THOMAS C. PARRAMORE, F. ROY JOHNSON, AND E. FRANK STEPHENSON, JR. *Before the Rebel Flag Fell*. Murfreesboro: Johnson Publishing Company, 1965. 132pp. \$3.00.

Represented here is an original idea which might well be taken up by local historians in other parts of North Carolina. Civil War diaries, journals, or recollections of a plantation housewife, two soldiers, an infantry officer, and an artillery officer are reprinted in part to make a most pleasing little book. The unifying theme is that all five were from the same section (the Albemarle) of the state and shared hardships common to all. There are brief biographical notes on the writers of these documents but no index. The book is intended to be read for information and pleasure (as it can at this point in time, removed from the sufferings of a century ago) but not for serious or scholarly research.

RICHARD L. ZUBER. *Jonathan Worth, A Biography of a Southern Unionist*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1965. 351pp. \$7.50.

In an extremely readable style the author leads the reader rapidly through fact-filled pages about a native North Carolinian who has frequently been the subject of controversy. Worth, just before the Civil War, was a strong Unionist, but during the War he was State Treasurer and by 1864 was advocating almost any honorable terms of peace. After the War, from 1865 to 1868, he was governor.

This biography includes material on Worth's ancestors and covers his life from his birth in 1802 in the Quaker community of New Garden in Guilford County to his death and burial in Raleigh in 1869. Because of Worth's wide interests it is also, in many respects, a history of North Carolina for much of this period.