

NEW NORTH CAROLINA BOOKS

By WILLIAM S. POWELL

F. ROY JOHNSON. *Witches and Demons in History and Folklore*. Murfreesboro: Johnson Publishing Company, 1969. 262pp. \$7.50. Illus.

Roy Johnson has done a splendid job of collecting traditional tales of witches and devils in North Carolina, and they are related in a very readable style. Many of the occurrences he relates are set in identifiable places, and they will be of considerable local interest. Extensive chapter notes credit the sources for the information given, and a good index reveals the variety of matter to be found in the text. This is a book which will delight a wide variety of readers.

THOMAS C. PARRAMORE. *The Ancient Maritime Village of Murfreesborough, 1787-1825*. Murfreesboro: Johnson Publishing Company, 1969, 96pp. \$4.95

Combining local history, tradition, and scholarly research, Dr. Parramore has produced a book of the Hertford County Town of Murfreesboro which must have something for everybody. The thread of the history is woven about the lives of three men of the Murfree family, but there are other characters as well. As a center of trade and commerce, Murfreesboro attracted people from distant places and much of this book is devoted to the connections of local residents with people of importance elsewhere. An adequate index makes it easy to find the references to people and subjects in the text.

JANE COREY. *Exploring the Seacoast of North Carolina*. Raleigh: The Provincial Press, 2007 Nancy Ann Drive, 1969. 40pp. Illus. by Claude Howell. \$2.50 pa.

The recent decision of The University of North Carolina Press to let the old stand-by *North Carolina Guide* go out of print would not be so sad if we had a dozen or so regional guides like this one for the seacoast. In a very attractive paperback format with delightful drawings by Tar Heel artist Claude Howell and map illustrations by Jeanette Shirley, the text by Jane Corey is concise yet adequate. A dozen and a half places up and down the coast from Shallotte to Elizabeth City are included. The maps are detailed enough and the hints in the text complete enough that this little book will serve a real need in the hands of all coastal travellers. It deserves to be promoted widely and authors with any interest at all in using this as a model for application to other regions should be encouraged to set to work.

MANLEY WADE WELLMAN. *Frontier Reporter*. New York: Ives Washburn, Inc., 1969. 148pp. \$3.95.

Manley Wellman's latest book for young people tells the story of a young North Carolina lad from Northampton County who goes to southwestern Kansas as a newspaper reporter in the 1890's. Local events included the choice of a town as county seat, the finding of prehistoric bones, and legal and political matters. One of the characters, Judge Campbell, is based on an old friend of the author.

G. WALTON WILLIAMS. *The Best Friend*. Dunwoody, Ga.: Norman S. Berg, Publisher, 1969. (53)pp. Illus. by John Kollock. \$3.50.

The author is a member of the English faculty of Duke University while the illustrator divides his time between Atlanta and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Together they have produced a little book which will delight both adult and child. The attractive, humorous illustrations contribute greatly to the story, but the story is so cleverly written that the reader rushes along like "The Best Friend" running with the wind. "The Best Friend" was the first locomotive built in America for service on a railroad; the line on which it ran lay between Charleston and Hamburg, S. C., and this is an account of some interesting events in the early history of the railroad.

BLACKWELL P. ROBINSON. *The North Carolina Adventure*. Durham: Moore Publishing Company, 1969. 210pp. Illus. \$5.95.

Prepared, hopefully, for adoption as a textbook when North Carolina history is dropped from the seventh to the fourth grade, this book is reminiscent of an early candidate for a like post. It deserves the same fate unless author and publisher revise it. The late Jule B. Warren in 1941 wrote a book that was so filled with errors as to be ridiculed into oblivion. Dr. Robinson's book does not have quite the same number of errors, but it has enough to warrant its dismissal from serious consideration for the purpose for which it was designed. A page-by-page citation of errors would serve no useful purpose except perhaps to convince librarians in no uncertain terms of the truth of my accusation. A few rebuffs will suffice: John White's surviving pictures depict more than Indians, not *just* Indians as this book tells us. Sir Richard Grenville did not remain with the Ralph Lane colony for nearly a year. Dr. Robinson has given an incorrect name to the company which founded Jamestown; he has given an incorrect date for the Comberford map; he is unaware of the most recent discovery of a land grant earlier than Durant's of 1622; there were five towns in North Carolina by 1729, not two as the author tells us; the Battle of Alamance was fought in May, not April; North Carolina had three colonial newspapers, not just one as Dr. Robinson relates. In addition to factual errors, there are grammatical or typographical errors (it is difficult to determine which), and some inappropriate illustrations, apparently just stuck in for decoration as they are neither mentioned nor described in the text; an illustration of a mirror, for example. A chapter entitled "The Black Man Progresses" appears to have been added as a sop to those who demand that textbooks treat of "black history." This chapter is woefully inadequate and, I would judge, insulting to those with any interest at all in the subject. The inclusion of a full-page picture of the incumbent Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction and of Governor Scott, we suspect, were intended to serve a purpose which can be easily guessed.

ELTON GREENE. *The Tuscarora Language*. Murfreesboro: Johnson Publishing Company, 1969. 16pp. \$1.00 pa. \$3.75 hard cover.

Chief Greene of the Tuscarora Indian Nation, Sanborn, N. Y., has prepared a 372-word vocabulary of his native tongue, and he has also written the Lord's Prayer in Tuscarora. There is a brief introduction, and by way of conclusion a one-page sketch of the Tuscarora has been supplied. This little book can do little more than serve as a curious piece to satisfy a bit of the curiosity some North Carolinians may have about the language of one of the most powerful tribes of Indians ever to live in North Carolina.

It is a book on an important period in American history, and it should be in every library in North Carolina. It will appeal to the scholarly reader for its authoritative tone, but the general reader with even the slightest interest in the subject will find it pleasantly written.

THOMAS HARIOT. *A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*. Murfreesboro: Johnson Publishing Company, 1969. 46pp. \$4.50.

Only seven copies of Hariot's little book, first published in 1588, are known, but it has been issued in facsimile a number of times. With this reprint an opportunity is again afforded those who do not own a copy to acquire one. It is a foundation stone of any collection of North Carolina as it contains an account of Hariot's discoveries and observations while a member of the Ralph Lane colony based on Roanoke Island in 1585-86. This printing, in hard covers, contains an introductory note prepared for a 1903 facsimile.

ROBERT M. BENDER, editor. *Five Courtier Poets of the English Renaissance*. New York: Washington Square Press, 1969. 671pp. \$1.45 pa.

This paperback might well merit inclusion in North Carolina libraries without any reference to its special interest to the state. The fact, however, that Sir Walter Raleigh is one of the five Renaissance poets included should assure it a place. Pages 597-651 are devoted to an introductory survey of Raleigh's life and his poetical works. The selections here printed are interesting in that they serve to represent Raleigh as a writer of the times in which he lived; His rank with others is established.

GUY OWEN. *The White Stallion and Other Poems*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1969. 67pp. \$4.50.

These are good, understandable, readable poems, mostly on North Carolina subjects. They say what many Tar Heels feel but cannot say. They are moving, descriptive, honest. They should be widely read. They will be enjoyed and appreciated. They are timely. Witness:

SOLDIER'S RETURN

I saw them shun my face's scar
And I saw as I searched the street
Not one man worth the dying for
Nor one worth living to meet.

THAD STEM, JR. *PTA Impact, 50 Years in North Carolina, 1919-1969*. Raleigh: North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., 1969. 267pp. Illus. \$3.00.

Thad Stem is such a skillful and understanding writer that he provides a sparkle and interest to any report, prose or poetry, to which he turns his hand. To any parent who has survived several years of local PTA, one of the bright prospects of the future is "no more PTA." The accomplishments of this organization, however, can be appreciated best by an examination of this fifty year history. While it is not a book for "light" reading it will, nevertheless, prove enlightening. The treatment is chronological — probably no other

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