

NEW CAROLINA BOOKS

From time to time we will attempt under this heading to review books of North Carolina interest. Many books in this category, we feel, receive scant mention and inadequate reviews, if, indeed, they are reviewed at all in national publications.

Blackwell P. Robinson. *William R. Davie*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1957. 495pp. \$6.00.

Many of the important and interesting details of North Carolina's varied history can never be recorded in the general works to which librarians naturally turn first when a patron presents a research problem in that field. Such valuable works as this new biography of Davie, however, help fill the gap between the raw sources and the survey histories. It's helpful bibliography and notes can direct the librarian and reader alike to further sources.

Davie first came to the turbulent country of the Waxhaws soon after the close of the French and Indian War, and he was just out of Princeton when the Revolution began. He plunged into the Partisan warfare of the Carolina Piedmont and as an officer led his men so successfully that contemporaries ranked him with Pickens, Sumter, and Marion.

He studied law in Salisbury under Spruce Macay, as did Andrew Jackson. In the young state's intense East-West sectionalism Davie's intimate knowledge of both regions gave him a distinct advantage. He belonged to the Piedmont, but when he married the daughter of the aristocratic Allen Jones and settled in Halifax to practice law, he became a part of the social and political life of Eastern Carolina.

Davie, at thirty, was one of the framers of the Federal Convention in Philadelphia and later fought valiantly against Willie Jones's states rights forces to bring about North Carolina's acceptance of the Constitution. The "Father of the University of North Carolina," he was chiefly responsible for its establishment, location, building, and endowment, for selecting its faculty, and planning its curriculum.

His constructive leadership for many years in the state legislature led to his election as governor in 1798, and the next year President John Adams sent him to France as a member of the peace commission. Upon his return, the political scene had changed, and his political fortunes with it. A Federalist in a thoroughly Democratic state, he was forced out of politics by the Jefferson-Macon machine.

This handsomely printed book is written in a very readable style. Adequate notes, a full bibliography, and a detailed index add to the usefulness of this new biography.

William P. Cumming. *The Southeast in Early Maps*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 275pp. \$12.50.

Davidson College Professor William P. Cumming gives us here the results of over twenty years spent in research on maps of the Southeast. It is both a descriptive bibliography and a study of the historical cartography of the region during the period of exploration and settlement before the American Revolution. Dr. Cumming analyzes the manuscript and printed maps of the area, showing the expansion of geographical knowledge through the periods of discovery and colonization, and integrates these primary documents with the other reports and records of the period.

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

The general reader interested in the subject or the region will enjoy the Introductory Essay and will join the librarian in appreciating the clear and useful reproductions of nearly seventy maps of the region dating between 1507 and 1773. The List of Maps describes, locates, and discusses various aspects of 450 maps of the Southeast. A chronological title list of maps and an alphabetical short-title list complete the makeup of this very handsome publication.

○ John Parris. *My Mountains, My People*. Asheville: Citizen-Times Publishing Company, 1957. 259pp. \$2.95.

This book is a heart-warming chunk of homespun memorabilia straight out of the hills of Western North Carolina. Here are unforgettable stories, legends, tall tales, and traditions of a many storied mountain region and its down-to-earth people. With his genius for re-creating the past, John Parris breathes life into the folks and moments that have made Western North Carolina a land cherished and revered by those who dwell there or wish they did. The result is a magnificent collection of folklore and history never before brought together in one place, a book fashioned into a rich storehouse of good reading for the whole family, as welcome for reading aloud as for solitary browsing. It's the kind of book to pull off the shelf first when a new-comer asks for a book "to help me know North Carolina."

∩ Bill Sharpe. *A New Geography of North Carolina*. Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Company, 1958. Volume II, 1114pp. \$5.00.

Sketches and pictures tell the story of twenty-five of North Carolina's counties in this volume. The first, which appeared in 1954, reported on twenty-one counties, and we are promised other volumes, appearing at intervals of about three years, to include the remaining counties. Maps, a summary of facts and statistics, pictures, and text combine to present readable and quick-reference reports on whole counties. Towns, rivers, lakes, and other geographical features also have a place. The index is made even more useful than usual by the inclusion of such general terms as Agriculture, Anecdotes, Industry, Names, Personalities, Schools, and the like, to bring together similar material from the different county sketches.

∩ Emma Lila Fundaburk and Mary Douglass Foreman. *Sun Circles and Human Hands, The Southeastern Indians Art and Industry*. Luverne, Alabama: Published by Emma Lila Fundaburk, 1957. 232pp. \$7.50.

Illustrated with hundreds of pictures, maps, drawings, and diagrams, this book could well be the answer to many a library patron's prayer. It is essentially a picture book depicting the art, techniques of craftsmanship, and life of the Southeastern United States Indians. Beginning with stone tools made by Paleo-Indians some eight to fifteen thousand years ago, the book portrays, in sequence, the durable remains of the four major Southeastern culture periods: the Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippi.

In addition, it includes a map of historic tribes, and describes the long-distance native trade which influenced their craftsmanship and culture. Several engravings

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

of paintings made by sixteen century artists, including some made on Roanoke Island by John White, illustrate native life as observed by the first European colonists.

Artifacts pictured are from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, Virginia, and elsewhere. The book is handsomely printed and bound, and an extensive bibliography and index add to the usefulness of the volume.

Fred A. Olds. *An Abstract of North Carolina Wills, From About 1760 to About 1800*. Baltimore: Southern Book Company, 1954. 330pp. \$10.00.

Worth S. Ray. *Colonial Granville County and Its People*. Baltimore: Southern Book Company, 1956. 128pp. \$7.50. *1945 edition*

Worth S. Ray. *Index and Digest to Hathaway's North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*. Baltimore: Southern Book Company, 1956. 192pp. \$10.00.

These three titles, all reissues of earlier publications of other publishers, will find a cordial welcome in many libraries where replacement or additional copies are needed, but more especially in libraries where the original printings are not available. The first two are "musts" for the local history-genealogy section in which the third also has a place, but it really is more important than may at first seem evident.

The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register was published quarterly by James R. B. Hathaway at Edenton between January, 1900, and July, 1903. Each number consisted of approximately 150 pages filled with abstracts of early North Carolina public records, brief articles on various phases of colonial and early state history, a queries section, and other material. This *Index and Digest* is an invaluable key to the wealth of source material available in Hathaway's publication which deserves a place by the side of the *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina* and similar source books on our shelves.