

North Carolina Libraries

Volume 21, Number 3

Spring, 1963

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Shown on the cover is the map, "A New Description of Carolina," prepared for John Speed's atlas, *The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain*, published in London in 1676. Speed was one of the foremost cartographers of the seventeenth century and is best remembered for his English county maps and the beauty of the hand-coloring given to them. There are original copies of this Carolina map in the North Carolina Collection in Chapel Hill and the State Department of Archives and History in Raleigh.

Published four times a year by North Carolina Library Association Membership dues of \$2.00 per year including a subscription to *North Carolina Libraries*. Subscription to non-members: \$2.00 per year and fifty cents per issue. Correspondence concerning membership or subscription should be addressed to the Treasurer, Mrs. Pattie McIntyre, P. O. Box 86, Chapel Hill, N. C.

TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION — EDITORIAL



During 1963 North Carolina is marking the 300th anniversary of the granting of a charter by King Charles II to eight Lords Proprietors. Many of the events scheduled for the year are the result of plans laid down by the Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission in Raleigh.

A number of publications have already been issued. Many of them are directed at approximately the eighth grade level, but their subject matter and the scarcity of other sources for the information which they contain insure a broader field of readers. Five paperbacks, each selling for fifty cents, have already appeared:

Upheaval in Albemarle, 1675-1689, The Story of Culpeper's Rebellion, by Hugh F. Rankin. 87 pages. Illustrated. An account of a little known and less understood episode in North Carolina's early days.

The Lords Proprietors by William S. Powell. 70 pages. Illustrated. Biographical sketches of the eight Lords Proprietors to whom the Carolina Charter of 1663 was granted, together with brief biographical notes of their heirs and assignees. A genealogy of the Charter is included.

The Indian Wars in North Carolina, 1663-1763, by E. Lawrence Lee, Jr. 80 pages. Illustrated. An account of the struggles between the European settlers and the various Indian groups of colonial North Carolina, both east and west, during the colony's first century.

A Selective Music Bibliography From the Period 1663-1763, by James Pruett and Lee Rigsby. 53 pages. Illustrated. A bibliography of Old World music, including vocal and instrumental works, solo and ensemble, some of which may have been known to the early settlers of North Carolina.

Songs of the Carolina Charter Colonists, 1663-1763, by Arthur Palmer Hudson. 82 pages. Illustrated. A catalogue of songs the "Carolina Charter Colonists 'sung, or would, or could, or should have sung,'" with synopses and comments by one of North Carolina's foremost folklore scholars.

Soon to be published are *The Highland Scots in North Carolina* by Duane Myer, *The Royal Governors of North Carolina* by Blackwell P. Robinson, and *Colonial Architecture* by John Allcott.

In addition to these pamphlets, the first volume of the projected republication of *The Colonial Records of North Carolina* was published early in 1963. This volume, edited by Mrs. Mattie Erma Parker, contains the text of the charter issued by English

sovereigns between 1578 and 1665 for the North American territory including present day North Carolina, as well as the Fundamental Constitutions of 1669, 1670, January, 1682, August, 1682, and 1698. Appropriate editorial comment is added to this collection which presents these organic documents in readable form for the benefit of the layman without sacrifice of their quaintness and usefulness to scholars. A limited number of copies are available at \$5.00 for the buckram bound volume and \$10.00 for leather.

A growing list of leaflets on subjects of general interest delights the reader who seeks information on Carolina in the seventeenth and early eighteenth century. "Colonial Coins and Currency" appeared first, followed in rapid succession by other leaflets entitled "Carolina Colonists' Costumes (men)," "Carolina Colonists' Costumes (women)," "Colonial Carolina Sports," and "Colonial Carolina Cookery." Others undoubtedly will be appearing from time to time as the year progresses.

An essay contest among high school students on the subject "The Carolina Charter of 1663: A Milestone in the Advance of Democracy," created widespread interest throughout the state. First, second, and third prizes of \$250, \$100, and \$50 were offered in the junior high school and the senior high school categories. Local winners were announced on March 24 and state winners on May 20.

As a part of the scholarly activities in the state to mark the Tercentenary of the Charter, three national historical or related organizations will hold their annual meetings in Raleigh in October, and the Southern Historical Association will hold its annual convention in Asheville in November. Full details of these meetings will appear in the public press as the time approaches for the meetings. In most cases the sessions will be open to the public.

More in the artistic vein was an important art exhibition in the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, in March and April. A symphonic composition by Hunter Johnson to mark the celebration was scheduled for its first performance in Durham in April when the North Carolina Symphony appeared. A TV Music-Drama by Carlisle Floyd is in preparation and is to be produced in December, probably at East Carolina College. Poems in honor of the Tercentenary are being sought from notable poets, but the announcement of a literary competition has failed thus far to evoke much interest.

Numerous local events have been scheduled throughout the state for the year. An impressive cake cutting at the Governor's Mansion on January 4 officially opened the celebration. The month of March was made the occasion of a variety of events in Transylvania, Wilkes, and Halifax counties. Other county celebrations are scheduled for later in 1963. Special ceremonies in Edenton on April 6 marked the first day of sale of a commemorative stamp taking note of the 300th anniversary of the Carolina Charter. The Azalea Festival in Wilmington in April and the Rhododendron Festival in Bakersville in June featured the Tercentenary theme.

A GUIDE TO READING
17TH CENTURY NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY

By WILLIAM S. POWELL

It is hoped that one of the results of the year-long celebration of the anniversary of the 1663 Charter of Carolina will be a renewed interest in colonial history. An essay contest in the late winter created a demand for source material among pupils in the public schools of the state. Young people and adults will be reading the publications of the Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission, including the new *Colonial Records of North Carolina*. Public events designed to call attention to the anniversary will probably create some demand in the libraries of the state for information about Carolina in the seventeenth century.

Almost any history of North Carolina will contain *something* of the colony in the seventeenth century, but there is no detailed account of the colony during that period. We have nothing comparable to Thomas J. Wertenbaker's *Virginia Under the Stuarts, 1607-1688* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1914), or Edward McCrady's *The History of South Carolina Under the Proprietary Government, 1670-1729* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1897). Many North Carolinians, however, continue to quote such early state historians as Francis L. Hawks, John H. Wheeler, and Hugh Williamson whose sources were unfortunately limited and whose conclusions consequently were not always valid. Following the publication of the ten-volume set of *The Colonial Records of North Carolina* (Raleigh: various publishers, 1886-1890), edited by William L. Saunders, a whole new source of original documents was at hand for the use of the historian of the seventeenth century. Samuel A'Court Ashe for his *History of North Carolina* (Greensboro: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1908) made the first use of this collection in writing a general history of the state. It is not without factual error, however, and Ashe lacked the historical training necessary for careful interpretation of many of the documents at his disposal.

Better histories of the state, but naturally with only a proportionate share of their contents devoted to the seventeenth century, are R. D. W. Connor's *North Carolina, Rebuilding an Ancient Commonwealth, 1584-1925* (Chicago: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1929, 2 volumes), and *North Carolina, The History of a Southern State* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1954) by Hugh T. Lefler and A. R. Newsome. Both are readable and based on both original documents and monographs and special studies of limited scope. The former devotes approximately 43 pages to the seventeenth century, while the latter has some 26 pages. An occasional minor error in a name or a date may be found in these two histories, but even so they are better than anything else we have relating to the North Carolina region for this period.

Probably the most detailed study of the whole region of Carolina in the seventeenth century is a two-chapter section in Volume III of Charles M. Andrews' *The Colonial Period of American History* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1934-1937, 4 volumes). These chapters, entitled "Carolina: The Beginnings" and "The Two Carolinas: Later Years," occupy 86 pages, the last few of which hastily cover the period between the end of the century and the surrender of the Proprietors' charter in 1729. Our chief complaint with this account is one which must be repeated for others as well: an undue stress is laid on the Ashley River settlement. In Andrews' favor, however, it should

be noted that he indicates more familiarity with European sources, and particularly with those in England, for Carolina history than any other of our historians. Andrews, thanks to the broader scope of his history, is better able to relate the events in Carolina with events in other colonies, both on the continent and in the West Indies. His citation of sources can be an excellent guide for further reading and research.

There are other general histories of the colonial period which devote a portion of their contents to Carolina. Wesley F. Craven's *The Southern Colonies in the Seventeenth Century, 1607-1689* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1949) is a specialized study with much good material on the Carolinas. John A. Doyle's *English Colonies in America* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1889, 3 volumes) cites manuscript sources in England in many cases, yet in others there are references to such questionable secondary accounts as George Chalmers' *Political Annals of the Present United Colonies* and Hugh Williamson's *The History of North Carolina*. Doyle, too, lays excessive emphasis on the Charles Town settlement in the southern part of the province.

Herbert Levi Osgoods' *The American Colonies in the Seventeenth Century* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1904-1907, 3 volumes) has a lucid chapter on Carolina which contains useful references to both manuscript and printed sources.

Oliver P. Chitwood's *A History of Colonial America* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1931) has an acceptable 23-page chapter on "The Founding of the Carolinas." It is documented, and there is a list of "Selected Readings," though most of them deal with the eighteenth century.

Two volumes in the *Original Narratives of Early American History* series have material on Carolina. Charles M. Andrews' *Narratives of the Insurrections, 1675-1690* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1915) contains edited documents relating to Culpeper's Rebellion. *The Narratives of Early Carolina, 1650-1708* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1911), edited by Alexander S. Salley, Jr., contains several of the early promotional tracts, as well as some other contemporary accounts.

An account of the various promotional schemes will be found in the Brown University doctor of philosophy dissertation of Hope Frances Kane, "Colonial Promotion and Promotion Literature of Carolina, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, 1660-1700." An abstract of this dissertation was published in 1948 by Edwards Brothers, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Anyone seriously interested in the details of our seventeenth century history must eventually come to study some of the numerous monographs and articles in historical journals. The annual bibliography, *Writings on American History* (Washington: various publishers, 1902-date), will serve as a guide to much useful and interesting material. New discoveries of fact, reinterpretations based on recently found sources, and corrections of earlier writings often appear in these forms. It frequently takes years for their revisions to be incorporated in histories published in book form. Often some monographs and articles deal with such minute subjects or are of such limited interest that what they report is never recorded elsewhere.

A random selection of useful monographs and articles on seventeenth century Carolina subjects, by way of illustration, follows:

Charles M. Andrews, "Captain Henry Wilkinson," *South Atlantic Quarterly*, XV (July, 1916), 216-222.

John Spencer Bassett, *The Constitutional Beginnings of North Carolina (1663-1729)*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1894.

Kemp P. Battle, "The Lords Proprietors of North Carolina," *The North Carolina Booklet*, IV (May, 1904), 5-37.

Ernest Taylor Bynum, "Seven Years of Unwritten History of North Carolina, 1669-1676," *Trinity Archive*, V (May, 1892), 314-319.

William P. Cumming, "The Earliest Permanent Settlement in Carolina, Nathaniel Batts and the Comberford Map," *American Historical Review*, XLV (October, 1939), 82-89.

_____, "Naming Carolina," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XXII (January, 1945), 34-42.

Junius Davis, "Locke's Fundamental Constitutions," *The North Carolina Booklet*, VII (July, 1907), 13-46.

Shirley Carter Hughson, *The Carolina Pirates and Colonial Commerce, 1670-1740*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1894.

Hugh T. Lefler, "A Description of 'Carolana' By a 'Well-Willer,' 1649," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XXXI (January, 1955), 102-105.

Paul M. McCain, *The County Court in North Carolina Before 1750*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1954.

Lawrence N. Morgan, "Land Tenure in Proprietary North Carolina," *James Sprunt Historical Publications*, XII (1912), No. 1, 41-63.

North Carolina Under the Proprietary Government, a 42-page pamphlet presumably prepared by William L. Saunders, but without publisher or date. A note on the first page says that it was "Not printed for circulation but for convenience of examination, correction, &c."

Stephen B. Weeks, "William Drummond, First Governor of North Carolina, 1664-1667," *The National Magazine*, XV (April, 1892), 616-628.

The seeker after seventeenth century Carolina history can seldom afford to be selective. Sources are so scarce that all possibilities must be combed with care. John Bennett Boddie's *Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight County, Virginia* (Chicago: Chicago Law Printing Company, 1938) is an example of an unlikely sounding title which actually is extremely useful for our purposes. It has much on the early Carolina settlers who moved down from Virginia. Other Virginia county histories are worth investigating, as is much of the genealogical material pouring from the presses and the duplicating machines these days. They must, of course, be used with caution, and the source of the information they contain should be taken into consideration.

Such Virginia sources as the *Legislative Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia*, *Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia*, and the *Journals of the House of Burgesses* (Richmond: Virginia State Library, various dates); and William W. Hening, *The Statutes at Large; Being A Collection of All the Laws of Virginia From the First Session of the Legislature, In the Year 1619* (New York and elsewhere: Printed for the Editor, 1819-1823, 13 volumes) are all extremely useful for the very early period of settlement. E. G. Swem's *Virginia Historical Index* (Roanoke: Stone Printing and Manufacturing Co., 1934-1936, 2 volumes) is a valuable detailed index to a number of Virginia historical publications.

The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, edited by J. R. B. Hathaway of Edenton, was published quarterly between 1900 and 1903. The three volumes include large numbers of seventeenth century documents printed in full, and there are abstracts of many official records of the period.

Ye Countie of Albemarle in Carolina is a collection of documents covering the period 1664-1675. Edited by William S. Powell and published in 1958 by the State Department of Archives and History, these documents throw new light on a number of points in early Carolina history. There are lengthy notes identifying many of the people who played a role in the affairs of the colony during these years.

J. Bryan Grimes' *Abstract of North Carolina Wills* (Raleigh: E. M. Uzzell, 1910) and his *North Carolina Wills and Inventories* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1912) both contain much that throws light on the everyday lives of early Carolinians. Location and descriptions of real property are sometimes given, and there are numerous lists of personal property including household goods and books.

A few original seventeenth century records survive in at least two courthouses in North Carolina. The Chowan County courthouse in Edenton has deeds dating from 1699, Minutes for the General Court of 1684, and an Act of the Assembly of Albemarle dated 1689. The Perquimans County courthouse in Hertford has deeds dating from 1685.

Perhaps some seventeenth century manuscripts are privately owned in North Carolina. Among those at "Hayes" in Edenton are a number for the period 1676-1865. The Cupola House, also in Edenton, has manuscripts for the period 1695-1884.

The Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina Library has microfilm of the manuscripts at "Hayes" and at the Cupola House. Among various other collections of family papers there are seventeenth century documents, both originals and copies, in the Chapel Hill depository.

The Library of Congress has the John Archdale Papers, 1694-1706, and the New York Public Library has some manuscripts relating to the Daniel Coxe claim to Carolina.

Finally, English sources should, by all means, be explored by anyone seriously seeking information about Carolina in its earliest days. The extensive series of volumes in the *Calendar of State Papers Domestic* (London: various publishers, various dates) and *Calendar of State Papers America and West Indies* (London: various publishers, various dates) are essential and extremely fruitful sources. In the same category is the long run of reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission which began in 1870 and is still being issued. There is an index to the reports issued during the period 1870-1911.

Certain standard reference works can make the way of the researcher easier. *The Dictionary of American Biography* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928-1944, 21 volumes), the *Dictionary of National Biography* (London: Oxford University Press, 1949-50, 22 volumes), and the *Biographical History of North Carolina* (Greensboro: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1905-1917, 8 volumes) are extremely useful for biographical information. The *Manual of North Carolina* (Raleigh: E. M. Uzzell, 1913), compiled by R. D. W. Connor, has a special section of historical information which includes a register of colonial officials, but it is badly in need of revision based on information which has come to light since 1913. A perpetual calendar frequently can be of real service in trying to untangle dates prior to 1752. A good general history of England during the seventeenth century, and another one of colonial America, both well indexed, will often come in handy.

BOOKS AND LIBRARIES OF THE CAROLINA CHARTER COLONISTS 1663-1763

By NOBLE J. TOLBERT

The reading habits of early North Carolinians were probably very poor compared with present day standards. The greatest reason that can be attributed to this literature-deficiency was the lack of anything to read. There were, of course, books among the first colonists of North Carolina as evidenced by the prominent place given to their disposal in wills and inventories as early as 1676 and 1680. This mention of books, however, would certainly indicate that they were scarce, and considered of great value for the owner to take the trouble to make specific reference to them in his will.

Probably the most widely used books in early Carolina were the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer. George Durant, one of the earliest known settlers in this State, brought with him a copy of the Geneva Bible printed in 1599. Bibles and Prayer Books were not, however, found in adequate number as seen from a letter written by Giles Rainsford, a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in "Pastotank" County, to the Lord Bishop of London on January 19, 171(5). He wrote, "I wish I had some small Tracts remitted me with Bibles & Prayer Books wch are very much wanting here."

In 1723, Edward Moseley, a prominent political figure in North Carolina, offered the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel seventy-six volumes, largely theological in nature, for the purpose of starting a library at Edenton. The oldest book which appears on this list was Thomas Bilson's *The true difference between Christian subjection and unchristian rebellion*, printed in 1585. There are only five known copies of this book in existence today, and only one in the United States, at the Huntington Library.

Another book from this list also found in the Huntington Library was printed in Latin in 1640 with the title of *Sacrarum exercitationum ad novum testamentum libri XX. Editio secunda*, by Daniel Hensius. The other four known copies of this work can be found in the British Isles.

Probably a more valuable book which appeared on the Moseley list was the one written by Simon Birckbek in 1634, entitled *The protestants evidence*. Only two copies of this book are known to exist, one in the Bodleian Library in Oxford, and the other in the Cambridge University Library.

These are only three of the seventy-six books offered by Moseley to start a library at Edenton. There is no record that this library was ever accepted by the missionaries, and it is presumed that these books remained part of the Moseley library which contained over four hundred volumes at his death. This library, containing so many valuable books, has since disappeared.

The beginning of the eighteenth century saw parish or public libraries brought into the colony by church missionaries. The first parish or public library of which we have any account dates from 1700. This library, valued at 100 pounds, was sent to North Caro-

lina by the Reverend Thomas Bray, founder and secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. The subject matter probably leaned very heavily toward religious subjects. The library, finally established at Bath-town which was incorporated in March 1705, was a source of pride, and it is hoped pleasure, for the people of Bath, but it proved useless to the clergy since it was far removed from the center of population. It was suggested that the library should have been located at Queen Anne's Creek, now called Edenton.

An act passed by the Assembly for the preservation of the library at Bath in 1715, was the only such act during the proprietary period encouraging literature and the use of it in Carolina. The act made provisions for a "Library-keeper, to be elected, nominated, and appointed by the Commissioners . . ." Books could be taken out of the library " . . . with a promise to return the said book or books, if a folio, in four months time; if a quarto, in two months time; if an octavo, or under, in one month's time; upon penalty of paying three times the value of the said book or books . . ." We do not know who the Library-keepers were, nor do we know to what extent the people used this library, nor in fact do we know what ever became of this library.

A surprising number of individuals in North Carolina also owned their own libraries. Frederick Jones from the Chowan precinct, in his will dated April 9, 1722, left his library to his three sons to be equally divided.

William Little, from Wilmington, must have had a very valuable library judging from his will dated June 25, 1734, which read, "Also, I will that my books lent out, be got in, & all my books sold, & out of ye produce two negroes to be bought, viz: one field negro woman likely for breeding. . . ."

An example of the gift of a private library for public use occurred in 1759, when James Innes from near Wilmington, bequeathed his real and personal estate including his books for a free school for the youth of North Carolina.

James Caraven of Edenton must have had a rather large library, for his will dated September 28, 1755, left his wife " . . . Fifty Volume of Books to be chosen by her out of all my Books I may Dye Possessed of."

Sarah Allen from Wilmington gave some very wise advice in her will dated January 28, 1761. "I give all the books of Modern taste which I shall die possessed of to my grand Nieces before mentioned . . . to be divided between them as equally as setts can be. And it is my further Request that the books thus bequeathed may be kept for their use and behoof (behalf) only, not to be lent out and by that means the Sets may be broke before they can use them."

The missionaries of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel were almost wholly responsible for supplying books to those early Carolina Charter Colonists who could read, but were unable to afford books. The people of early Carolina owed a great deal of thanks to those missionaries in general, but to Thomas Bray in particular for his zeal not only in securing books for the clergy, but in securing books and money from the nobility, clergy, and tradesmen in England to supply libraries " . . . of more Universal Learning, for the Service and Encouragement of those who shall launch out farther in the pursuit of Useful Knowledge, as well Natural as Devine."

THE JOURNAL OF GEORGE LOVICK WILSON FOR 1857-1860

By VIRGINIA T. LATHROP*

In February, 1955, Margaret Ligon, Director of the Asheville Libraries, asked if I would like to look at an old Journal that had been given to the Pack Library. The Journal, she told me, dealt with a hiking trip, taken through the mountains of northwestern North Carolina by a group of students from Chapel Hill, just prior to the Civil War.

She thought I might like to see it for several reasons, and I did—I am interested in the University of North Carolina, in the mountains of western North Carolina, and an old Journal has a devastating fascination for me.

But the Journal was more than the account of a hiking trip. It was one of the most interesting documents I have had access to—the story of the adventures, the hopes, despairs, problems, talents, frailties of a college student—common to students of any age or period—but these of a boy between the years 1857 and 1860—a boy named George Lovick Wilson, of New Bern, N. C.

The gift of the Journal to the library was as interesting as the Journal itself. A patron, who wished to remain anonymous, brought it in one day, saying she had found it in a trunk in her attic. She did not know how it came there, and it had no relation to her family. She recognized it as an old, and probably valuable piece of material, so she had brought it to the place she thought it would be most appreciated. And how right she was!

I took the Journal home with me and read it—it required several days, for it is written in a fine, though legible script, is long and rather disorganized, and it contained, as I began to sort it out: first, the account of the hiking trip taken by a group of students through the mountains in 1858; an autobiography, from which several pages had been cut, and bringing Wilson up, sketchily, to his departure for the University of North Carolina; many poems, a criticism, and one play that he wrote; and a detailed record of his senior year at Chapel Hill (1859-'60), when he really bared to his diary all of the sorrows that weighed on him during that period—despair, I concluded after my research, compounded by ill health, which caused his death at the age of 20.

But this I did not know when I finished reading the Journal. I knew only that he was from New Bern; something of his family; that he hoped to be in turn, a writer, a minister, a teacher, a politician, a lawyer; that he was a good student, and recognized as such, at the University; but that above all, he was torn with emotional problems—unhappy, embittered, frustrated. The last entry in his Journal was written on July 26, 1860, and stopped in mid-sentence.

The boy felt himself a genius, and as I closed the Journal I was prone to believe him—but what had become of him? Had he become a writer? A lawyer, a politician? Or most likely—remember the date was 1860—had he died in the Civil War as did so many of the South's promising young men? How had the Journal found its way to the attic of someone in Asheville who had never heard of him?

I was stirred by the boy's ambitions and abilities and I was intrigued by the mystery.

*Presented at an In-Training Workshop of Western North Carolina Librarians in Asheville, October 4, 1961.

So I started on the search for George Lovick Wilson, already dead these long years. I don't know if I were more interested in the mystery, or in the boy himself—certainly, I knew more about his thoughts than I did about his whereabouts—but I felt a challenge—some of the poetry wasn't too bad—certainly he was ambitious—and maybe, almost 100 years later I would be the one to write his epitaph.

And so started the research that I have pursued at intervals—as I found myself in New Bern or Raleigh or Chapel Hill—for six years. I have been to New Bern three times, and with a very patient husband have searched records, trudged through old cemeteries. I have carried on voluminous research in the library in Asheville; the State Library in Raleigh; the office of the Register of Deeds in Craven County and Orange County; the Southern Collection at Chapel Hill; and spent many hours and days seeking out individuals in Asheville, New Bern, Orange County, who might give me some clue to the fate of this boy who disappeared from my ken on the 26th of July, 1860, and to the other persons mentioned in the Journal.

Not one of the descendants of either branch of his family remained in New Bern, so there was a dead end at what seemed the most likely starting point. My first inquiry in the Alumni Office at Chapel Hill seemed just as hopeless.

Their records showed that he died in the Civil War.

But there was no George Lovick Wilson in the Confederate records, and so I backed up and started again—and got my first clue in the Southern Historical collection at Chapel Hill, where, in the papers of one of his classmates at Chapel Hill I found a reference to him—that he had died in October 1860! So he had never lived to join the Confederate Army! Through references to the commencement of 1860 I found that he had been an honor student, and through records of the Philanthropic Society, that he had died in 1860 and a tribute of respect had been written and printed in the *Raleigh Register!*

The State Library supplied this, and then came another break—the widow of a distant descendant was found in Raleigh, and she told me that a young woman who would have been this boy's niece, had at one time lived in Asheville. A search of city directories at the Pack Library located her and her husband, both of whom were dead. Their estate had been settled by a local bank, and through the bank I located another distant relative who had the Lovick family Bible—and here, not six blocks from my house—I found the key that unlocked the mystery.

I have unearthed a great deal of information about George Lovick Wilson. He has taken form and come alive to me. I know now that he died the fall after he finished college—probably of tuberculosis, for he complained often in his Journal of a cough and fever. I know that his only surviving sister married (I have found the records of her birth, marriage and death), had one child, a daughter. This daughter married, had no children, and in 1921 moved to Asheville, bringing with her apparently, many of George Wilson's books and papers. I have found some of his books, in a second-hand bookstore. I have a picture of him taken at Chapel Hill. Among his papers, still in possession of a person who bought them from the estate, I found an additional poem written that last summer, only a short time before he died.

I have found family Bibles of both the Lovick and Wilson families, and the latter have been given to Pack Library. I have photostats of real estate transfers of his family,

a report card that was his when he was 12 years old, a book that he owned. I have visited the graves of his great-grand-parents, near New Bern, his mother and two of his sisters. But I have not quite completed my research. I have not yet found the grave of George Lovick Wilson himself. He is not buried beside his mother and sisters in Cedar Grove Cemetery in New Bern. He died long before they did. I still think I will find his grave at the site of one of the family homes in the country—both his mother's family and his father's were wealthy and owned summer places. The Lovicks I have run down, and finally found the old cemetery at the site of the plantation he mentions in his Journal—on the edge of what is now Cherry Point Marine Base. (I spent one whole day, in a Military Police Car searching the Marine Base for the Lovick cemetery.) I did not find either George, his father or the brother and sister who died in early life in the Lovick cemetery. My next project will be to use the records I have of the Wilson family lands, and search for him with the Wilsons.

Many people, and many libraries have helped me in this research. And it is to the libraries that I owe the inspiration for what has become a hobby. George Lovick Wilson has been dead now more than 100 years—but in that long ago time he painted a picture of himself—his thinking, his dreaming, his ambitions, that made him permanently real to me. I call him "my boy"—how tragic that there was not someone at the University in 1860—a counselor, a friend, who could give him encouragement and understanding, who could guide and untangle for him the threads of emotional confusion that made life for him a "sweet agony."

And now—about the boy who has evolved from my research that started with the Journal.

George Lovick Wilson, as I know him now, was a brilliant boy who wrestled with his soul in the pages of his Journal, torn between his ambition to become a writer, his religious opinions which discouraged him from the ministry, and his final decision to study law.

He was absorbed with study and contemplation which cut him off from his fellows and plunged him into loneliness, but paradoxically, he found pleasure in the company of friends. He joined a fraternity (Delta Kappa Epsilon), was a member of the Philanthropic Society, took a summer hiking trip with a group of college friends, was editor of the Carolina magazine, participated in other phases of campus life, and fell in and out of love with many young ladies, to whom he wrote poems.

Young Wilson, a native of New Bern, an honor graduate in the class of 1860, has left a memorable record of his thoughts, his ambitions, hopes, despairs, bitterness, and talents in the thick and beautifully handwritten Journal. He was an outstanding student at the University, runner-up for valedictorian of his class, and praised highly by the Raleigh *Standard* for his senior oration, which won first place. He is mentioned several times in Battle's "History of the University of North Carolina."

It seems to me tragic that the young man, so fired to be a writer that he was sending his verses to the *Atlantic Monthly* while still in college, should have written, in one entry in his Journal:

"I began to write the history of my life with the firm intention of finishing it; but as I proceed, I am so greatly impressed of the vanity of my task, that I am ashamed to

continue it longer. If I ever rise to greatness, let another write my epitaph, and tell of my fame—I cannot be guilty of so much self-consequence.”

It is tragic, too, that young Wilson's Journal should have remained unacclaimed for almost a hundred years, and that his verses—one of which was recently compared by a North Carolina critic with Wordsworth—should never have been published, but remained, in his beautiful script, in the yellowing Journal. And equally tragic, that of the 15 or 20 students and tutors mentioned in the Journal, almost all, including himself, were dead within five years. Most of them joined the Confederate Army, and most of them died in action, or of wounds.

The Journal presents many facets of interest to the historian, the literary critic, the traveler, the student of family and youth problems, the educator, sociologist, and above all, to those who love North Carolina history. Young Wilson had a wide vocabulary, and used it well in his illuminating observations on the customs of the period. He was a student of Latin and French, and employed the accepted usages of the day in speech and punctuation. He was indeed free with commas and capital letters!

He has written his every thought and observation, happy or bitter, his family background, his travels through the State. He describes his friends, lists his reading, and comments on it; writes criticisms of some of the lectures he attends at the University, describes the habits of students who waste their time, and his, in idle chatter; recounts, in daily entries, the summer hiking trip of a group of Chapel Hill students calling themselves "Mountain Rangers" from Chapel Hill to Ashe County in 1858; and includes his verses, a number of them to young ladies whom he loves hopelessly; critical reviews and one play.

It is most revealing as the thinking of an intelligent young man of 100 years ago—it is all written when Wilson was between 17 and 20 years of age. It portrays a young man struggling to find himself as any boy does in any generation, a young man further handicapped in his search for security by a vivid imagination and a creative urge. He says of himself as a child:

“I was ever a dreamy child. Often when in bed, and all around me was still, I indulged in fancies more pleasing and acceptable to me than the dull details of life. Even in the school room, while fearful of my mistress, I had my eye upon my book, but my thoughts were in another and imaginary land. . . . Mistress Wallace, my teacher, consumed her time and her valor in vain, when the desire of imagining came over me. . . .

“My mind, readily susceptible to any impulse, was alternately at the very height of joy, or the lowest depth of despair. At one moment I loved the world, and at the next hated mankind and myself. Feeding upon my own thoughts increased my mental disease.”

The Journal begins in the summer of 1858, with the Mountain Ranger trip, continues with his autobiography, and includes the diary of his senior year at Chapel Hill, 1859-60, and the summer following, when he is faced with choosing a vocation. The literary efforts, interspersed through the Journal, date from 1857, and continue through the last, "Lines on My Twentieth Birthday," which was September 19, 1860. And one, found among his papers, written when he knew he was dying.

According to the autobiographical section of the Journal, and to other notes scat-

tered through his writings, young Wilson was born in New Bern, N. C., on September 19, 1840, in the second story of the Merchant's Bank of New Bern, which was the home of his banker grandfather, George Wilson.

Young Wilson's father, Dr. Charles Wilson, was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1832, and when he was 25 years of age married Sarah Lovick, a wealthy young orphan, who was his father's ward. (In a New Bern paper I found a notice of his setting up practice.) The Charles Wilsons had a country home as well as a town place, and young George records a happy youth until the death of his father when he, George, was eight years old. His one brother died in infancy, one sister died in her youth, so that George, his mother, and two sisters were the remaining family. He makes no mention of his mother after his father's death, except that her brother, Henry Lovick, came to live with the family and took care of his mother's affairs.

George was educated by tutors and in the schools of New Bern and the county, and in his Journal describes the pleasure he derived from study. At the age of fifteen or sixteen, he entered the University.

The account of the mountain trip, and of his senior year at Chapel Hill and the summer following, is valuable as source material on the period, but more revealing is the spiritual struggle of the talented but unhappy boy who tries to find himself and his destiny in the "classic shades" of the University, and in extensive reading and self-analysis.

He rises to the heights of optimism when he sends his first poem to a magazine and falls into despair when he receives a rejection. He is equally depressed when he is refused a tutorship at the university; when one girl he has loved dies, and another marries, and when he concludes that his religious views do not permit him to study for the ministry. Many—indeed most—of his verses are concerned with death, and much of his thinking through his senior year dwells on death or disappointment, though there are occasional periods of high hope, as when he sets his sights for a literary career. Writing in his diary on February 13, 1860, he says:

"This day I have made my first *great* effort for a literary reputation by sending my 'Scenes in the Death-land' to the *Atlantic Monthly*, published in Boston. Sometime in last October I sent to the *Southern Literary Messenger* the first piece that I ever ventured to send to a stranger, accompanied with a very impudent, gasconading letter to John R. Thompson, its Editor. Whether the letter insulted him, or the poetry—'The German Soldier'—was nonsensical, and commonplace, I know not; but this I know, that it never has appeared in his Magazine. I know, moreover, that the poetry was at least equal to much of the flimsy stuff which comes out in every edition of his periodical. But I think that 'Scenes in the Death-land', is far superoir to my former effort, both in point of composition and originality. And besides, I have formed a resolution never to confess that I am a fool, and never to cease from writing rhyme. I have the vanity to believe that I shall acquire a reputation at last, particularly when such men as Longfellow, Holmes, *et omne id genus*, are esteemed as poets!"

A few days later, on February 17th, he writes:

"I am rather fearful for the fate of my poem—I had not calculated the chances against it . . . I shall hope for the best till I learn definitely . . . There is certainly a pleasure

in indulging hope, and it practically cancels the subsequent disappointment, which would otherwise be too severe. *Voila ma philosophie.*"

On February 19th:

"I know a beautiful woman, Miss Ella Harrell, whom in certain contingencies I will marry. If I succeed in making a reputation as a poet, obtain a tutorship in the University, and if she remains unmarried till that time, and will accept me—I will marry her and be happy. If I succeed in my rhymes, and fail to get a tutorship—still, if she accept, I will marry her and be happy. If I fail as poet I will marry somebody else, and be miserable. At any rate, whatever God hath ordained, will happen to me; and God make me thankful for whatever he gives me—weal or woe." (Records show that Ella Harrell married William B. Jordan, both of them from Orange county, in May 1860.)

He later applied for a tutorship but lost to three other applicants: George Burgwyn Johnston (class of 1859, of Edenton who joined the Confederate Army and was killed in 1862); George Pettigrew Bryan (class of 1860, of Raleigh, a Captain in the Confederate Army who was killed in 1864); and Iowa M. Royster (1860, of Raleigh, wounded at Gettysburg and died of his wounds, 1863). This rebuff brought a bitter entry in his diary in which he declared that the faculty allowed "influential friends" of the three successful applicants to overshadow his own scholastic record.

He is just as bitter when his poem is rejected by *The Atlantic Monthly*, and writes on February 23rd:

"I have received an answer to my letter to *The Atlantic Monthly*. The Editors said the poem was hardly adapted to the Magazine, and begged permission to decline printing it—*immortalitatis spec sic volitat*. I am sure that there *is* poetry in the composition; and that a want of reputation on my part alone prevented its reception and publication. At any rate I have failed in this effort, but if I am no poet, there are some who shall feel the force of my rhymes—Ho! for satire. Shades of Horace, Juvenal, Pope and Byron, be with me; and inspire me with some of your satirical *furor*."

The next morning at 7 A.M. he continues:

"None know of my failure but God, the Editors of *The Atlantic Monthly* and myself; but every rogue in America shall feel the effects of it. The shaft has pierced my side, and I will dip my pen into the clotted gore exuding, and write bitter, stinging words. I have bethought me of a name for my Satire: 'The Republican Eutopia, A Satire, On Present Men and Manners'."

A short time before being inspired with this Satire on Men and Manners, Wilson made an entry in his diary which showed a poor opinion of them already formed:

"February 18th, 1860. 10 minutes to 4 o'clock P.M. Many persons believe in sociability, as one of the civilizers and softeners of mankind—Give me a savage life, then; for, from the bottom of my heart I abominate visits, visitors, and society generally—unless they all conform themselves to my habits, and permit me to enjoy my own thoughts, or my books. When friends visit me I desire them to amuse themselves the best they can, in a quiet way; and let me enjoy myself in my own way; and to bid me *vale* whenever I begin to write—this the only two intimates I have, Tom Cooper and Bill Nicholson, do. (Tom Cooper was Thomas Watson Cooper, of Bertie county, class of 1860, killed at

Gettysburg; Bill Nicholson was William Thomas Nicholson, Halifax county, 1860, killed at Petersburg, April 2, 1865.)

Poems which Wilson included in the Journal are: "Scenes in Death-land", which was refused by *The Atlantic Monthly*; "Lines on Seeing a Burial Without an Attendant"; "Sonnet to Laura"; "Sonnet to Delia Haywood"; "To Ella Harrell"; "Epigram Upon Miss Ella Harrell"; "A Midnight Vision"; "The New England Witch"; "The Pictures"; "Lines on My Twentieth Birthday"; "The Death of King Gryffyth"; "The Mexican Prisoner"; "The Ancient of Days", a dramatic poem in four scenes between Man and Spirit; "Lines for Mim's Autograph Book" (This was probably Thomas S. Mims, member of the class of 1860); "Lines for Guilford Nicholson's Autograph Book" (Guilford Nicholson, class of 1861, a lieutenant-colonel in the Confederate army, who survived the war and died in 1884); an untitled poem written upon receipt of the news that Ella Harrell was marrying someone else; and "The Hermit of the Mountains", a ballad.

He read prolifically, and listed books, with some criticism, as he read them. At some length he wrote a review and criticism of a lecture by Dr. Wayland on "Conscience". He gives one complete digest of a lecture on the circulation of the blood. Among the books he read during his senior year at Chapel Hill were:

"Paradise Lost"; Boswell's "Life of Johnson"; "Pilgrim's Progress"; "Fielding's Joseph Andrews" (which finds 'though a tolerable piece of wit, it is unworthy the reading . . . for an unmarried woman such books would never do . . . I doubt whether I would marry a woman who would read them—I would fear for her virtue'); "The Conversations of Lord Byron" by Thomas Madwin ('the book is far inferior to Boswell, but upon a subject of greater interest to me'); Burke's "Vindication of Natural Society" ('a very effectual argument against those men, who can find fault with Christianity, but who never propose any better code of morals'); "Georgia Scenes", by Judge Longstreet, president of South Carolina College ('This book is far superior to any contemporary novels I have read, inasmuch as it is intended for an admirable purpose; and will answer admirably for that purpose; while the present novels are intended for nothing but drawing money from the pocket of some soft-hearted buyer; for if they are intended for anything else they signally fail.')

At this point in his Journal, after reading "Georgia Scenes", Wilson defines his conception of the mission of a novelist:

"I can conceive of but two worthy objects which a novelist can propose to himself: One of them is—to paint accurately the manners of his own, or some other age—as has been done so well by Sir Walter Scott—for the benefit of the historian: And the other—to inculcate principles of morality, to educate and refine the taste of mankind, and to give precepts that will raise us in the scale of living—as has been done by Goethe alone, of all the authors I am acquainted with. In the first case, it would be happy for mankind if but a single novel were permitted to be written in each succeeding age: In the other case, it would improve the world incalculably if each week gave birth to a Wilhelm Meister . . .

"Petty novelists do *pretend* to inculcate some moral, but after struggling through some hundreds of duodecimo pages of bad English and sickly sentiment, expecting each moment to find a moral, I am finally compelled to throw away the book in despair. I am so constituted, that it is impossible for me to read six hundred pages to discover a

moral, which I either knew before, or which could be stated far more distinctly in six lines. I count the man, or woman either, who would make such a small repayment for so much time devoted to his service, as no better than a thief. It is very rarely the case that those who pretend to give even this scanty moral, are competent to teach their readers; they are self-constituted teachers, and remind me of a booby trying to instruct his master. Modern novels—bah!—I have done with them!”

In May (this was 1860), Wilson listed several books and articles he had been reading in the past month or so: Orchard's "Baptist Church History from A.D. 33 to 1800"; "Beulah", by Augusta J. Evans ('aesthetic—510 pages'); Emerson's "Essays"; Poe's "Pit and the Pendulum"; Longfellow's "Hyperion"; Dickens' "David Copperfield" and "Nicholas Nickleby" ('till I tired of it'); Johnson's "Rasselas"; a criticism of Perceval's "Clio" ('Mr. Perceval, in my opinion, ranks as high as Bryant, as a poet'); Hawthorne's "Marble Faun" ('as an art critique it is quite a success. But the author makes so many points, that I cannot tell what his intention in writing a book really was. As a defense of Romish religion it is exceedingly lame and weak. If he desired to show that sin advances beings in the scale of creation, it is an absolute failure; and had he thought of the absurdity of the conclusion before he undertook to establish it, he would never have made the attempt...Hawthorne has left upon my mind the impression that he is a cultivated man, with but few fixed principles...'); Irving's "Life of Washington"; Scott's "Heart of Midlothian" ('the conversation is good, and some of the characters are likewise well managed, but the plot is terrible.')

While his first interest lay in a literary career, Wilson's discouragement turned his thoughts to other fields, first to the ministry, then to teaching, and finally to law and politics. He says that he is a Baptist, but believes in predestination. He worries over the questions that arise in his mind about religion, and his attitudes toward the church.

On July 16th, after he has been graduated and returned to his home in New Bern, trying to decide what to choose as his life work, he writes:

"Never since that to me eventful night when I went up to be prayed for, at the Methodist Church, almost two years ago, have I undergone such a fearful conflict between my inclination and my sense of duty. Ambition, pride, revenge for slights, and every other passion which binds man to the world, are calling upon me to study Law; while every holy affection, love of God and hope of heaven, are whispering to me to become a preacher—what wonder that my brain is addled! What wonder that I cannot sleep! May God direct me according to his will. God help me, for I cannot help myself."

Upon receiving news that he had not been awarded a tutorship, he wrote, on June 21st:

"I must study law and politics, and marry—somebody... I am now a man of the world; and I must watch how it wags, and shape my course by its course. The student's happy dreams are mine no longer. I must learn to *act* now—my acquaintances expect it of me justly. I am a man now, and must act as becomes a man, and make myself felt in the world—God grant it may be for good."

March 6th, when applying for a tutorship at the University, he had written:

"After praying for God's direction and guidance, I visited Professor Hubbard to

ask him to recommend me to fill the Latin Tutorship which will be vacated at the end of the session. I will probably have two or more competitors—God decide between us.

“If I am unsuccessful in my application, I know not what I shall do; possibly, marry Eliza Hall, and become a street loafer, or a pettifogging lawyer, although I would hate it exceedingly. This is certainly the turning point of my life; and I have tried to direct the current. I have done my part, and must await my fate.”

The mountain trip, taken immediately following commencement of 1858, is recorded in detail, with almost daily entries, and running to some 19,000 words. The group of boys, most of them students at the University, organized themselves as the “Mountain Rangers”, with formal “laws” regarding their procedure each contributing \$25.00 toward expenses, and each promising to “stand by one another in all difficulties, and to share equally all the labors and troubles that may befall the Company . . . not to ride in the wagon while on our route, unless in case of such necessity as may be caused by sickness, or unfitness for travel . . . take good care of the horses and wagon that we may hire, and that all agree to pay for damages in case we do any.”

Ten boys signed the agreement, and having elected William Sims as Captain the Rangers marched out of Chapel Hill on the morning of June 4th, 1858, headed toward the mountains of northwestern North Carolina.

George Wilson had been elected Journalist, and he describes the departure:

“Set out from Chapel Hill on our mountain tour at 8 o'clock in the morning. We promenaded through the little village, enlivened by the festive crowds and the festive enjoyment of the Commencement. We attracted no little attention marching with our flag in front and a couple of our men beating their drums; the rest of us holding our arms in a soldier-like manner, and inspiring not a few little Negroes with fear at our martial appearance. I have no doubt but that many of the fair damsels, who had graced our commencement, lost their hearts while looking at the bold and manly appearance of our troop, decorated in the finery of coarse, loose duck pants, checked shirts and wide brimmed straw hats, with ‘mountain rangers’ marked on them in distinct characters.”

“Our Captain must have excited no ordinary degree of admiration, since he was distinguished from the rest of us by having his unmentionables striped down the legs with red, and his hat lined with red instead of black ribbon; besides he had the honor of carrying our flag, which was by no means a convenient burden.”

The trip lasted for almost a month. The Rangers marched through Graham, Greensboro, Salem, and on through Surry county, Wilkes county, and into Ashe, where they made their last stop at Jefferson. Returning, they crossed the Brushies, back through Wilkes county, to Statesville, and finally to Salisbury, where the Journal ends with a brawl during the celebration of Independence Day.

The Rangers hiked, camped, went sightseeing, climbed “The Pilot”, serenaded girls, got drunk, got lost, went hungry, went afoul a threat of the law when they killed a farmer’s chicken. They were impressed with the beauty of the girls, and of the scenery, and with the hospitality of the citizens.

Many of the boys were from other states, and to them it was doubly interesting. Of the ten boys who signed their names to the martial laws of the Rangers, seven, within two years, were in Confederate uniform.

The closing record of the mountain trip, written following the Independence Day celebration at Salisbury, notes:

“Arrived at Salisbury, we attracted the attention of people generally, and especially of the ladies by our hats and general demeanor. Dr. Hill, Captain of the Rowan Rifle Guards—long may he live, and may his shadow never grow less—invited us to parade with his Company, but we were forced to refuse owing to the heat of the day. Our next work was to divide into squads of three or four, and parade through town on our own hook. We met all our old friends, and Ed Jones I took with me to show him the beauties of the place.

“In company with him . . . I went through the town, and at last found myself where the orator of the day, W. Lord, was to hold forth. Picking out a comfortable seat we made a glorious trio and a glorious chat we had.

“I had just settled down for a two hour’s stay, when I heard the words ring on my ears, a death knell to my hopes of accommodations: ‘The gentlemen will please make way for the ladies’. I got up mechanically, and walked elsewhere. When I returned the orator had nearly finished—a few sentences more, and he sat down.

“We had agreed to eat dinner at the ‘Rowan House’, and, accordingly, I made my appearance there, good and soon. Louis West, whose gallantry had called him away to the ladies, again came among us. I had been drinking the whole morning, and shortly after dinner began, all memory of things present failed me. Yet I will tell the fortunes of the crowd, as I afterwards heard them. Jarratt fell early in the cause, and was fastened by Captain Sims in a deserted railroad car. In the evening he revived, but soon became drunk as ever—so he continued till night. Nick fell next, and was carried to the woods; where he threw up and slept for an hour or two. Afterwards, he rejoined the crowd.

“None of the rest of us yielded; though I do not remember half that was said or done. I have a faint remembrance of Louis West making a stump speech, in favor of McRae, thereby making an enemy, and thereby getting into a fight with the same individual. I have also a very faint remembrance of cheering on Louis:

“‘Go it Louis—I’ll see you out.’

“In the confusion someone hit me over the eye with a stick. That was the only lick received, and Ed Jones carried me off the field. Mike became very enthusiastic over Louis’ speech—he was pretty drunk—and swore he couldn’t vote, but if he could, d--d if he wouldn’t vote for both candidates for governor, ‘by George’.

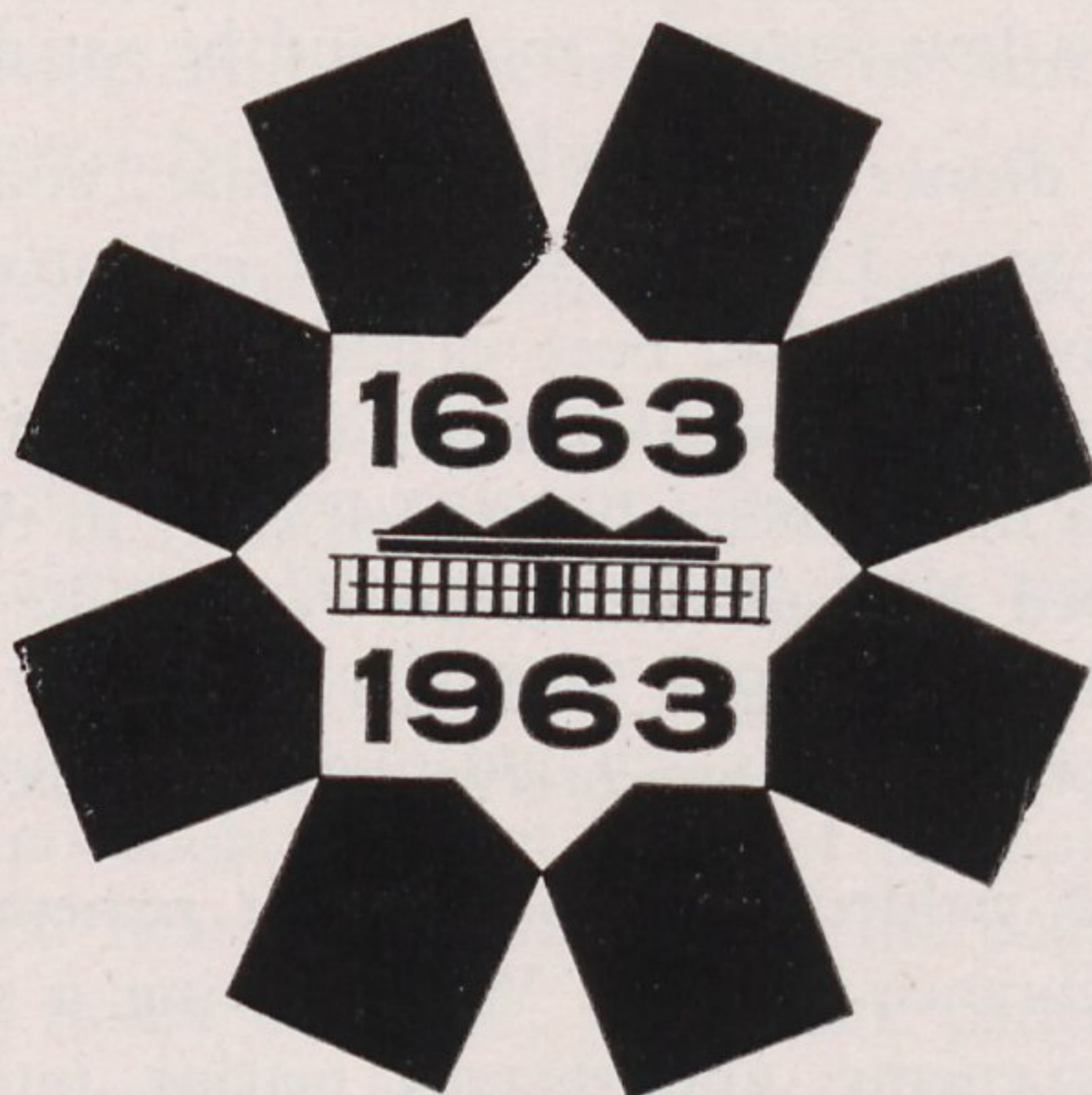
“The remainder of the crowd were more or less ‘under the influence’, but they had a hard time taking care of the other drunken men—Jones and me. In an hour or two I came to a vigorous use of my senses. I collected some of our scattered company, and went in search of the wagon. Having found Eli (the colored driver), we made him **drive out of town to a good camping place**. All of us then returned, taking care to provide ourselves with large sticks as a means of defense.”

The record of the summer trip ends at this point, with no outcome of the Fourth of July celebration, nor of the matter of returning home. On July 2, while at Salisbury, the majority of the Rangers favored abandoning the wagon and walking trip, and taking “the cars”, in order to “get to the Hill as soon as we could”.

The Journal ends in the middle of a sentence in July 1860, upon Wilson's return from Beaufort where he went "for the sea air", and when he mentioned having written to one "J. Graham" (who was probably Joseph Graham, a schoolmaster). Perhaps Wilson was applying for a job as a teacher.

We know now that within three months he had died, and we consider ourselves most fortunate to have two poems that were written after this last entry—"Lines on My Twentieth Birthday" and one he wrote when he knew he was dying. George Lovick Wilson might never have had his epitaph written had the Journal not been found, almost a hundred years later buried in an attic trunk. It but adds to the fascination of the research and to the interest in the boy to feel that the pathetic note he made so many years ago has been carried out:

"If I ever rise to greatness, let another write my epitaph, and tell of my fame—I cannot be guilty of such self-consequence".



A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY CAROLINA JOKE

The August 1, 1682, issue of the London periodical, *Heraclitus Ridens*, printed for Benjamin Tooke, was up-to-date in its comments on current affairs. Carolina undoubtedly was a subject of much interest, and the paper's readers must have been familiar with the promotional tracts issued to encourage colonists to settle there. A joke in this particular issue is just as funny today as it was nearly three hundred years ago.

"I was at a Coffee-house where a certain Collonel (I think he was) commended the Countrey of *Carolina* to the Skies, but not meeting with that belief from his Company which he thought the matter deserv'd, he call'd in a Gentleman who had been there, to attest to the truth of what he had said; The ingenious Gentleman praised the Countrey highly from its Scituation, Fruitfulness, Government, &c. Only (says he) there's one fault in't, that a man is apt to be lousie there. 'That (replies the Collonel) is easily holpen, if a man do but take care to change his Shirts. Ay (quoth the Gentleman) but I can't think any man in his Wits that has two Shirts will go thither."

MANY THANKS TO EVA

To Eva Grice McKenna, who retired in November, 1962, from the University of North Carolina Library staff, go the good wishes and congratulations of North Carolina Library Association members all over the state.

Mrs. McKenna joined the University Library staff upon completion of her library degree at the University of North Carolina School of Library Science in 1946. From the beginning of her work in the Extension Library until her retirement, her wide interest in books and the warmth of her interest in the people the library serves were felt by staff members, the University faculty, and the citizens of the state. The faculty member who recently introduced Eva's author-husband to the University Faculty Club before his speech to that group, paid high tribute from the faculty to Mrs. McKenna for her work as director of the Interlibrary Center.

When the Extension Library service was discontinued, Mrs. McKenna joined the staff of the newly created Interlibrary Center where she continued to do excellent work in extending the library to the people of the state through the interlibrary loan service to other college and university libraries, and through coordination with the State Library, of service to individuals through their local public libraries. Her many years of this type of service gave Mrs. McKenna a keen sense of the needs of the various communities in the state. Her understanding and interest were felt and appreciated by numerous individuals and groups, especially in smaller communities removed from library facilities.

Mrs. McKenna came to the University from Meredith College where she earned the A.B. degree with a major in English. She taught English in the public schools of Franklin County before entering the School of Library Science. Her early experience in libraries while she was still a student was varied. She worked in public, college, and several school library systems. When she retired in November (to assist her husband in his research for writing), Mrs. McKenna was cataloging in the University Library Catalogue Department.

Her retirement will not take Mrs. McKenna away from libraries or from research, because her husband, in his new role as successful author and winner of numerous distinctions, will rely more heavily than ever on Eva's abilities in literary research.

At N. C. State College, the D. H. Hill Library's *Bookmark* of which I. T. Littleton is editor, paid tribute to Eva in its September issue:

"We congratulate Richard McKenna of Chapel Hill and his librarian wife, Eva Mae Grice, for his new novel, *THE SAND PEBBLES*, which has won the Harpers prize of \$10,000 for the best new novel. The novel will be published by Harpers in the Spring of 1963 and will be serialized by the *SATURDAY EVENING POST*. It has already been chosen as a Book-of-the-Month selection during 1963 and the movie rights have been sold for \$200-400,000 depending upon its success. It is based upon an incident which McKenna experienced in China when he was in the Navy. McKenna retired from the Navy after 20 years of service, entered the University of North Carolina, made an outstanding scholastic record there and received his bachelor's degree. In 1956 he married Eva Mae Grice, a librarian on the staff of the University of North Carolina Library and settled down in Chapel Hill to write. Library users and librarians throughout North Carolina know his wife as Eva Grice who worked in the Extension Department of the Library for many years and helped to give the University of North Carolina Library a fine reputation of service to the state."

NEW NORTH CAROLINA BOOKS

By WILLIAM S. POWELL

RICHARD HAKLUYT. *Voyages*. New York; Dutton, 1962 (Everyman's Library series)
8 vols. \$1.95 ea.

This set, a standard source book on early English discovery and exploration, has long been out of print and no library or interested individual should miss this opportunity to acquire it. Volume 6 contains thirteen documents relating to the Roanoke Island settlements, 1584-1590. The final volume of the set contains an adequate index while an introduction by John Masefield and a brief "Select Bibliography" form a part of the first volume.

BURKE DAVIS. *The Cowpens-Guilford Courthouse Campaign*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1962. 208pp. \$3.95.

Master military historian that he is, Burke Davis was never more at home than in writing this volume in the "Great Battles of History" series. His home is now the old Hoskins farm cabin at Guilford Courthouse, used by the British as a hospital and headquarters. This history of a phase of the Revolutionary War in the South is both factual and entertaining. Many direct quotations from participants add to the interest of this account. A bibliography and index add to the usefulness of the study. There are three maps and the book is attractively printed and bound.

JAN PHILIP SCHINHAN, editor. *The Music of the Folk Songs*. Vol. V of the Frank C. Brown Collection of North Carolina Folklore. Durham: Duke University Press, 1962. 639 pp. \$10.00

The music of the folk songs presented here was recorded at various places throughout North Carolina from the early twentieth century through the mid-1940's. Extensive information is given about each tune: place and date of recording, name of the singer, relationship to other ballads or tunes, scale, tonal center, structure, and (when applicable) references to other sources, to similar or related tunes, and other miscellaneous information. Dr. Schinhan has almost wrought miracles from the early and imperfect recordings, but lovers of genuine folk music will forever be in his debt for the splendid work he has done with the whole body of recordings.

A. L. ROWSE. *Sir Walter Raleigh, His Family and Private Life*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1962. 348 pp. \$6.95.

Professor Rowse's detailed knowledge of Raleigh and of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries combine to give us here a new view of the fascinating Raleigh. Rowse's readable prose, his frequent use of poetry by Raleigh and others, and his interesting interpretations make Raleigh come to life. He has made use of a newly discovered diary kept by Sir Arthur Throckmorton, Raleigh's brother-in-law, and among other facts presented here for the first time there is information about a hitherto unknown child born to Raleigh and Elizabeth Throckmorton.

LOUIS B. WRIGHT, editor. *Advice to a Son, Precepts of Lord Burghley, Sir Walter Raleigh, and Francis Osborne*. Ithaca, N. Y.: Cornell University Press, 1962. 114pp. \$3.00.

Published for The Folger Shakespeare Library, this is a volume in the series of Folger Documents of Tudor and Stuart Civilization. With a carefully prepared intro-

duction and adequate notes throughout the text, the editor gives us three sets of rules drawn up by prominent men of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as guides for the conduct of their sons. Sir Walter Raleigh's "Instructions to His Son and to Posterity" will be of special interest to North Carolinians. It was first published in 1632 and is described by Editor Wright as "a working plan for success, not an inspirational lecture on ideals."

Archives: Records Schedule, The Woman's College, University of North Carolina. Issued by the Archives Committee of the Woman's College, Greensboro, 1962. 35pp. \$1.00. (Free to North Carolina libraries)

A brief history of the Woman's College here will undoubtedly prove useful to librarians on a number of occasions. The general recommendations of the Archives Committee with respect to the College records and the specific reports developed following a survey of these records will be interest to researchers concerned with this subject. The report also is known to be serving as a guide to other colleges and universities in preparing plans for the better care and use of their own records. The pioneering work done at Woman's College has received high praise from throughout the country.

WILLIAM S. POWELL, supervising editor. *North Carolina Lives, The Tar Heel Who's Who.* Hopkinsville, Ky.: Historical Record Association, 1962. 1359pp. \$17.50.

This collection of brief biographical sketches of living or recently deceased North Carolinians is designed to provide current information about present day Tar Heel leaders. Approximately five thousand persons are included. The biographies are strictly factual and were prepared from information furnished by the subjects. According to the "Introduction," a number of persons who failed to return the questionnaires were, therefore, not included. It is to be regretted that follow-up letters were not considered practical or that some other means was not devised to include some of these people who obviously neglected to supply the requested information. Even so, this volume will provide much useful information not readily available elsewhere and should prove especially valuable in the compilation of information about persons who must be introduced at public functions.

MARY POLK. *The Way We Were.* Winston-Salem. John F. Blair, Publisher, 1962. 242pp. \$3.75.

Mary Polk, of Warrenton and sister of the late William T. Polk, is a good story teller in her own right with recollections going back to the early years of the twentieth century. Many of the stories here, however, are related as her father told them, and they deal with an even earlier generation. Together father and daughter reveal much of the small town life of North Carolina. There are descriptions of homes, recollections of feasts, accounts of visits of politicians, stories of Confederate reunions, and a host of other entertaining and informative sketches of the slow-paced life of an earlier era.

RONALD SYME. *Walter Raleigh.* New York: William Morrow and Company, 1962. 96pp. \$2.75.

This is an excellent brief biography of Raleigh written for the 8-12-year-old. The descriptive passages are vivid, but basically the biography is factual. In many cases Raleigh's own written words appear in the dialogue.

INGLIS FLETCHER. *Wicked Lady*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1962. 256pp. \$4.50.

Wicked Lady is Mrs. Fletcher's fifteenth published book and is a continuation of her "Carolina Series." Many of the historical characters of her previous stories appear again in this novel which deals with the American Revolution. The setting is Edenton, but the time gives the author an opportunity to bring in a number of outsiders. The wicked lady is Lady Anne Stuart from England, wife of the German Baron Von Poelnitz. She engages in unscrupulous experiments in love and espionage.

WALTER OAKESHOTT. *The Queen and the Poet*. New York: Barnes & Noble, Inc., 1961 (i.e., 1962). 232pp. \$5.00.

Prof. Oakeshott has prepared a most unusual study of Sir Walter Raleigh in this book. His Introduction and much of Chapter II tell the very interesting story of an unidentified manuscript which the author purchased at auction in 1935. The manuscript subsequently was identified as a notebook kept by Raleigh and around it the author has developed a study of Raleigh, his poetry, and his relations with his contemporaries, notably Queen Elizabeth. "The Poems to Cynthia" have a separate introduction and make up approximately the second half of the book. Among other interesting and useful items in the Appendix there is a "Time Chart" for both Raleigh and the Earl of Essex. In addition to the general index there is also an index of first lines of the poems.

LUTHER H. HODGES. *Businessman in the Statehouse, Six Years as Governor of North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1962. 324pp. \$4.75.

Just as Governor Hodges is an unusual person so is the book he has written. In a very frank and straightforward manner he relates the events with which he was concerned during his six years as Governor of North Carolina. Among other topics, he writes about the public schools and integration, politics and the Highway Commission, industry hunting, the Henderson strike, the Research Triangle, and the visit of Guinea President Sekou Touré whose friendly reception in North Carolina contributed greatly toward improving the United States' position with reference to the new African nations. The Governor's style in this book is chatty and readable yet the facts are always present. A delightful assortment of newspaper cartoons which appeared during Governor Hodges' administration illustrate the book.

News of the Asheville Public Libraries, No. 6, February, 1963, is a bibliography of "The Southern Highlands." This bibliography lists only the more significant volumes in the Pack Memorial Library dealing with the history, geography and people of the Southern Highlands regions.

The bibliography is published as a tribute to the late George W. McCoy, historian, writer, and lover of the Southern Appalachians.

Copies are available to libraries in North Carolina by writing to Margaret Ligon, Librarian, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville, N. C.