

The shuttle and the plow, quintessential metaphors for textiles and farming, together evince the very essence of Alamance County. *Shuttle & Plow: A History of Alamance County, North Carolina*, documents over three hundred years of North Carolina history, twice the age of Alamance County itself, which was carved from the western part of Orange County in 1849.

Shuttle & Plow is divided into two parts. Carole Watterson Troxler wrote eight chapters on "Old Allemance," which takes the reader through the Civil War; William Murray Vincent wrote seven chapters on "Recovery and Renewal," the modern-day period after the Civil War. A scholar's dream, this county history includes notes, bibliography, appendices, index, and sixty illustrations, including black-and-white portraits of historic figures and photographs of historic homes and buildings, and county and township maps.

Troxler and Vincent weave a seamless history. Troxler begins with a discussion of the trading paths created by the Siouan tribes that inhabited the area in the early 1600s, and introduces the first white European settlers, attracted to land for sale by Lord Granville. She elucidates the interaction between the sympathizers with the

Regulator Movement and the proud heirs of the Dissenting heritage from the British Isles, that culminated in both groups supporting the Revolutionary War. Her narrative of the years before and during the Civil War and the fate of both free and enslaved African Americans during this bloody period sets the stage for the second part of the history.

Vincent begins with Reconstruction and the growth of the textile industry that was the salvation of Alamance County, and, indeed, of the South. He covers reforms in education, including the founding of Elon College, agriculture, medicine, and the electrical and gas utilities. His chapter on race relations, particularly desegregation and its eventual demise, is a fascinating reminder of how far we have come with regard to political and social reforms, but how far we have to go to reach true equality in civil rights.

Troxler and Vincent show us the interaction between the inhabitants of Alamance County and the natural resources at their disposal, introducing many illustrious personages. Joseph Graham (1759-1836), a Revolutionary War patriot, was father of Governor William Alexander Graham (1804-1875), for whom the county seat was named. William Luther Spoon's (1862-1942) survey maps of the county were indispensable in his planning and supervision of the creation of new roads in the early twentieth century. Sallie Walker Stockard's (1869-1962) 1900 master's thesis at the University of North Carolina became the first book on Alamance County history. John Newlin (1776-1867) was a Piedmont Quaker, who was a long-term activist for the abolition of slavery. Archibald DeBow Murphey (1777-1832) is remembered for his proposals for internal improvements in North Carolina that would lead eventually to the development of a modern network of highways and to a statewide system of standardized public instruction. Giles Mebane (1809-1899), for whose family the town of Mebane was named, was a tireless promoter of railroads. Edwin Michael Holt (1807-1884), whose Alamance Cotton Factory was built in 1837, and James Spencer Love (1896-1962), founder of Burlington Mills in 1924, were leaders in the development and expansion of the textile industry in Alamance County.

Troxler, professor of history at Elon College and a past president of the Historical Society of North Carolina, is the author of *The Loyalist Experience in North Carolina* (Raleigh: Department of Cultural Resources, 1976), and numerous article-length Revolutionary studies. Vincent, executive director of the Alamance County Historical Museum, has served on the Alamance County Historic Properties Commission and is president of the Historic Stagville Foundation of Durham.

One of the finest county histories available, *Shuttle & Plow* will undoubtedly set the standard for future county histories. It deserves a place in all North Carolina collections in school, public, and academic libraries. As the handsome dust jacket synopsis reveals, Alamance County is truly a microcosm of the American South.

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Carole Watterson Troxler and William Murray Vincent.

Shuttle & Plow: A History of Alamance County, North Carolina.

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