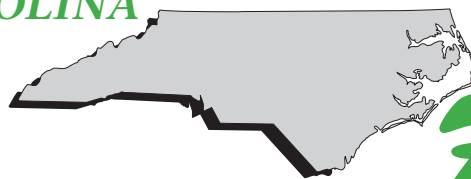


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## NORTH CAROLINA



# Books

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Nicholas Graham, Compiler

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William S. Powell, ed.

### *Encyclopedia of North Carolina.*

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press,  
2006. 1247pp. \$65.00. ISBN

The *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* brings together in a single volume more than 2000 entries on a wide range of events, institutions, and cultural landmarks. The editor, William S. Powell, is a noted historian who has published scores of books and articles on our state, particularly its colonial history. Jay Mazzocchi, associate editor, is an experienced managing editor who has worked with Oxford University Press's *American National Biography*. Representing the culmination of 15 years of work, this massive, wonderful reference work is designed explicitly to be used with the editor's *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* and his *North Carolina Gazetteer*. More than 500 historians, archivists, librarians, and journalists contributed signed entries in their own voices. Nearly 400 illustrations and maps accompany articles, many with references, designed to lead historians, librarians, and students to generally-available resources for further information.

Oriented toward history and the humanities, entries selected for the *Encyclopedia* help capture North Carolina's culture and personality. Major topics treated in the volume include agriculture, business and industry, cultures and cultural influences within the state, education, government and law, the natural environment, transportation, and cultural institutions related to preserving and educating people about North Carolina. Individual entries provide detailed breakdowns of these topics. Articles related to transportation topics include, for example: Indian trading paths, the Great Wagon Road, railroads, the Intracoastal Waterway, and the Dismal Swamp Canal; plank roads are covered in the general entry on Roads; even the "Road to Nowhere" (which lies in Swain County) has an entry. Unfortunately, there is no overarching entry for Transportation to bring together these disparate pieces. Cross-references within entries would also be helpful in identifying related articles. "See" and "See Also" references are included, and are very helpful.

Who lives in North Carolina, and how have we made our living? Extensive entries on African Americans and American Indians (the title used, rather than Native Americans), and shorter entries on Scottish settlers, Welsh, and other groups of people, including specific Native American tribes, Melungeons, and Swiss and Palatinate settlers, provide sketches of people who make up North Carolina. While there isn't a separate entry for the Jewish people, there are related entries—journalist Harry Golden's *Carolina Israelite*, for instance, or the Temple of Israel, the oldest synagogue in the state. Admirably, topics related to ethnic minorities are generally included, rather than singled out by minority. Textiles, tobacco, furniture, and naval stores are all represented among the entries on business and industry, and so are entries on particular companies which have had an impact on North Carolina. The *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* does not gloss over or exclude negative chapters of our history. The Ku Klux Klan and Thomas Dixon's novel *The Clansman* are represented, as well as the lynching and deaths resulting from the Gastonia Strike. While the primary emphasis is historical, there is a currency through 2005 for entries on the Poet Laureates and community colleges. Entries on biotechnology and homeland security indicate awareness of present and future directions for the state.

Cultural history, the arts, and education are well represented. There are entries for several historic houses of worship and for religious groups and related religious topics: Sunday School, "dinner on the grounds," and Vacation Bible School; Baptists and AME Zion churches among many others. Fiction, folklore, dramatic arts, and poetry provide insight into our state's literary achievements, although this volume does not include individual writers like A. R. Ammons, George Moses Horton, or Paul Green. There are entries on selected texts, including William Bartram's *Travels*, slave codes, John Brickell's *Natural History of North-Carolina*, and some newspapers. Education is treated in extensive articles on adult, public, and private education in North Carolina, and supplemented by shorter articles of a narrower focus. There are entries on individual campuses within the University of North Carolina system; these are supplemented by sketches of many of the state's private schools, the state's community colleges, selected grade-school academies, and the Biltmore

Forest School. Entries also include cultural institutions and bodies dedicated to preserving and educating the citizenry about the state's history, including Horne Creek Living History Farm and the North Carolina Humanities Council.

Did you ever stir up an ant lion when you were little? We did, my brother and I. We'd take a piece of pine straw or a small stick, poke it in the ant lion's little inverted cone in the sand, and stir until we could see the creature itself, rearing up with its pincers. What does this have to do with the *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*? They're the subject of the entry titled "Doodlebugs." And while we didn't sing any ditty, as the entry says, many North Carolina children do, that memory, drawn while browsing through this book, is one of the very reasons to savor this magnificent reference work. There are many entries that may seem at first a little misplaced in such a specifically North Carolina-oriented encyclopedia—penmanship, for instance, or profanity. Well, the entry on profanity actually includes North Carolina-specific content: the "Clean Language clause" directing funeral directors not to use profanity in the presence of the deceased. These and other such entries help suggest a North Carolina identity—barbecue and basketball, the Hollerin' Contest and the Davie Poplar. Topics like these make the *Encyclopedia* more readable, "browseable", and just plain enjoyable.

This reviewer must confess the enjoyment in browsing the volume led to difficulty in keeping track of particular searches, but this did not undermine my appreciation for the scholarly uses of the book. Don't neglect this gem. The two previous efforts with the same title operate more like handbooks or compendia, while the current offering allows multiple voices to describe the living landscape of North Carolina. As a result of its size, there are sure to be minor lacunae you might quibble over, but the truth is, there's nothing else quite like this *Encyclopedia*. Get it.

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East Carolina University

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LeRae Umfleet.

### 1898 Wilmington Race Riot Report.

Raleigh, Office of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources, 2006. 480pp. Available as a NC State Document: F3 102:W75 2006.

Established by act of the General Assembly in 2000, the Wilmington Race Riot Commission consisted of thirteen members whose terms of office expired at the end of December 2005. The General Assembly appointed six of the members, the Governor three (one of whom was to be an historian), the Mayor and City of Wilmington two members, and New Hanover County Board of Commissioners two members. The Commission was patterned after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission pioneered by Bishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa. The Commission held twenty-three meetings and three public hearings. The Commission's report includes findings of fact about the riot, and fifteen specific recommendations regarding "repair" of the damage caused to the moral, economic, civic, and political fabric of Wilmington and New Hanover County. In addition to a printed report, the Commission also issued web and microfiche versions. The web version may be viewed at: <http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/1898-wrrc/>

The Report essentially documents the only successful coup d'état in United States history. The people of Wilmington were inflamed by a viciously racist political campaign in the summer and fall of 1898, which focused much of its attention on an editorial by Alex Manly, the editor of Wilmington's African American newspaper. On November 10<sup>th</sup> 1898, Manly's press and office were destroyed by armed mobs. Rallied by Raleigh editor Josephus Daniels of the *News and Observer*, former Confederate officers, Democratic office holders, and train loads of whites roamed Wilmington with wagon-mounted machine guns and repeating rifles. Over twenty black and white individuals, who were specifically targeted, along with 2,100 other citizens were banished from town. Many individuals, according to the report, were found shot while trying to escape from trains hustling the banished out of town. The exact number of dead as a result of the riot will never be known. According to Umfleet, Wilmington became a model for the violent white-supremacy movement that culminated in Jim Crow legislation throughout the country. Other riots followed in Atlanta (1906), Tulsa (1921) and Rosewood, Florida (1923), but by the time of these events whites were firmly in control of governments in the South.

The report is well illustrated with a number of photographs, maps, and drawings that add a visual dimension to the stark facts presented by the Commission. There are fifteen appendices that provide useful additional data to the report such as tax lists, city directory analysis, a WLI (Wilmington Light Infantry) Roster, and copies of letters to President McKinley. Eleven maps illustrate boundaries of residential, business and race patterns in Wilmington. The Table of Contents is found after seven leaves of preliminary matter, a minor annoyance if you are trying to find anything. There is no index, but there is a bibliography. Some sources are cited multiple times in the bibliography (For example, the *History of the Wilmington Light Infantry* by Harry Hayden). The bibliography ends with a brief section entitled "Literary Works" not written in standard bibliographic citation format. Nine web sites are listed, but they are general in nature ("Documenting the American South" for example). Some appendices such as the short essay entitled "The Psychology