



Dr. James W. Clark Jr.

WRITE WHEN YOU ARE READY

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY

May 21, 2026

Dr. James W. Clark Jr.

WRITE WHEN YOU ARE READY

May 21, 2026 • George Watts Hill Alumni Center • Chapel Hill, NC

2026 SOCIETY AWARD

2025 SOCIETY BOOK AWARD

2026 WILLIAM S. POWELL AWARD

Videos of the celebration in Chapel Hill on May 21, 2026
can be found on the Society's website www.ncsociety.org.



ABOVE: North Caroliniana Society Book Award:

Book Award honorees' names are engraved on the base of the silver bowl, housed in the North Carolina Office of Archives & History in Raleigh, NC.

William Stevens Powell Award: *Powell Award honorees' names are engraved on the plaque, housed in the North Carolina Collection at the Louis Round Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.*

North Caroliniana Society Award: *Society Award honorees' names are engraved on the base of the silver cup, housed in the North Carolina Collection at the Louis Round Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.*

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY IMPRINTS

Number 67

Lynn Roundtree, Editor

Copyright 2026 • North Caroliniana Society
P. O. Box 20632 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27619
www.ncsociety.org

All rights reserved • Manufactured in the United States of America

Printed by letter5design

Designed by Linda J. Noble

Photographs by Jerry Cotten, Jan Hensley, and Ed Funkhouser

Introduction

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY

P. O. Box 20632 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27619 • Telephone: 919.230.1524
www.ncsociety.org

Chartered on 11 September 1975 as a private nonprofit corporation under provisions of Chapter 55A of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the North Caroliniana Society is dedicated to the promotion of increased knowledge and appreciation of North Carolina's heritage through the encouragement of scholarly research and writing in and teaching of state and local history and literature; publication of documentary materials, including the numbered, limited-edition *North Caroliniana Society Imprints* (see a list included in this publication) and *North Caroliniana Society Keepsakes*; sponsorship of professional and lay conferences, seminars, lectures, and exhibitions; commemoration of historic events, including sponsorship of markers and plaques; and through assistance to the North Carolina Collection of UNC-Chapel Hill and other cultural organizations with kindred objectives. The Society's motto is "Substance, Not Show."

Founded by H.G. Jones and incorporated by Jones, William S. Powell, and Louis M. Connor Jr., who soon were joined by a distinguished group of North Carolinians, the Society was limited to a hundred members for the first decade. It elects from time to time additional individuals meeting its strict criterion of "adjudged performance" in service to their state's culture — i.e., those who have demonstrated a continuing interest in and support of the historical, literary, and cultural heritage of North Carolina. Presently, the Society has 275 members.

The Society, a tax-exempt organization under provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, expects continued service from its members, and for its programs it depends upon the contributions, bequests, and devises of its members and friends.

In addition to its continued support of the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill, the Society administers a fund, given in 1987 by the Research Triangle Foundation in honor of its retiring board chairman and the Society's longtime president, from which to date approximately 479 Archie K. Davis Fellowships have been awarded for research in North Carolina's historical and cultural resources. NC History Day and the *North Carolina Historical Review*, both administered through the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, receive continuing support from the Society.

In 2016, committed to supporting our state's K-12 teachers, the Society and the Carolina K-12 Fund of Carolina Public Humanities developed the

c o n t i n u e d

William Friday Teacher Education Initiative, with the goal of equally educating and appreciating our state's hard working educators through free, high-quality professional development events.

The Society also sponsors the North Caroliniana Book Award, recognizing a book that best captures the essence of North Carolina; the William S. Powell Award to a student who, during the student's career at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has done the most to develop an interest in, and understanding of, the history and traditions of the nation's oldest state university; and the H.G. Jones North Carolina History Prizes for winners in the NC History Day competition, an affiliate of the National History Day program.

A highlight of the Society's year is the presentation of the North Caroliniana Society Award to an individual or organization for long and distinguished service in the encouragement, production, enhancement, promotion, and preservation of North Carolina's heritage.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MAY 21, 2026

Officers:

- Bland Simpson, *President*
- Alice R. Cotten, *Vice President*
- Terry Roberts, *Vice President*
- Patrick S. Wooten, *Secretary-Treasurer*
- C. Edward Teague III, *Assistant Treasurer*

- *Directors:* Margaret D. Bauer, Catherine Bishir, Kevin Cherry, Tom Earnhardt, Georgann Eubanks, Emily Williamson Gangi, Rebecca Godwin, Anna R. Hayes, Eric L. Johnson, Leslie Dula McKesson, Richard Y. Stevens, Thomas E. Terrell Jr., and Mike Wiley
- *Directors ex officio:* Vicki Rovine, *Director*, Carolina Public Humanities; Lisa Gregory, *Curator*, North Carolina Collection; Darin Waters, *Deputy Secretary for Office of Archives and History*, NC DNCR; Jason Tomberlin, *Chair & Facilitator*, Archie K. Davis Fellowship
- *Presidents emeriti:* William S. Powell (1919-2015), Archie K. Davis (1911-1998), William C. Friday (1920-2012), Willis P. Whichard (1940-2025), and James W. Clark Jr.
- *Vice President emeritus:* H. David Bruton (1934-2023)
- *Secretary-Treasurers emeriti:* H.G. Jones (1924-2018) and Martin H. Brinkley
- *Directors emeriti:* Timothy B. Burnett, Jeffrey J. Crow, and Dana Borden Lacy

President's Report: Annual Meeting of the Membership

Bland Simpson, President

Good afternoon, my friends, and welcome to the *first annual* meeting of the North Caroliniana Society in its *second* half century, the Society having been chartered fifty years ago this past September — on 11 September 1975 by H.G. Jones, Louis M. Connor Jr., and William S. Powell, with the strong backing and endorsement of UNC President William C. Friday and Wachovia Bank Chairman Archie K. Davis.

For an *as-complete-as-possible* portrait and assessment of the history of our sea to mountains group, I refer you to our website, ncsociety.org, and in particular to the close of the 2010 to 2025 *General Overview* in *SO FAR: North Caroliniana Society at Fifty*, which reads in part:

*We are even more dedicated to protect, to preserve,
and to tell about this most remarkable state that we have inherited:
for all the people who are here now, and for all those
new North Carolinians who are on the way.*

So who and what are we, here two-thirds the way into our fifty-first year?

Given our mission declaration — to promote increased knowledge and appreciation of North Carolina's natural and human heritage — we are an assemblage of friends from across this great state who are authors, educators, archivists, ecologists, preservationists of all stripes, publishers, musicians and songwriters, lawyers, doctors, business folk, citizens all...

We are organized as a non-profit "public charity," which means we support programs and preservation and *elevation of knowledge* efforts in keeping with our primary interests in "all things North Carolina" — by which we mean we are *funders*, very *focused* funders of such efforts — and we will shine a light this evening on our core collaborators...

c o n t i n u e d



Bland Simpson

Through careful stewardship of our funds, we have seen them grow substantially, particularly in the past twenty or twenty-five years, as you will learn from our secretary-treasurer Patrick Wooten, of Maple Hill and Durham, shortly. Our ability to provide meaningful support to a group of varied institutions is a serious, beneficial part of the leadership and legacy of our immediate past two presidents: the late Justice Willis Whichard and Professor James Clark, who served our Society as presidents for 20 years and 10 years, respectively — we shall hear more from Professor Clark in moments mere.

In short, we are an assembly of creative hearts and minds gathered in support of the knowledge of North Carolina, knowledge of the social and natural heritage and health of this state, and nothing less. We are:

- mindful of its history and the preservation of its records and its arts and a deepening understanding thereof,
- mindful of the evolving international human society that we are today and of the sense and the fact of the freedom and equal justice that should *and must* accrue to every single one of us,
- mindful too of the health of every bit of our natural world, from the smallest trout in a mountain stream to the clams and oysters in our sounds to the bluefish that go running up and down our coasts, from the newest dwarf trillium to the oldest bald cypress — we hold all of these creatures, and their health, sacred to our cause, worthy of our study and care, now and always.

Thank you.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: • Anne Zahlan, Jan Hensley

- Robyn Hadley, Chancy and Keith Kapp • Maury York, Kevin Cherry • Lynn and Terry Roberts
- Doug Dibbert, Martin Brinkley, Ed Wilson • William McCarter, Thuan Truong and Thao Truong,
- Mary Ann Browning • Ned Cline, Richard Stevens, Lynn Blanchard
- Mary Hunter, Richard Hunter, Tim Mull

Dr. James W. Clark Jr.

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY AWARD 2026



Dr. James W. Clark Jr.

Dr. James W. Clark Jr., English Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University, earned his AB in English PBK at UNC-Chapel Hill (1965) and a Duke MA and PhD by 1970. His undergraduate degree was supported by a national 4-H scholarship in entomology; a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship paid for his graduate study at Duke. In 1967 he joined NC State's faculty in English. There he spent his entire professional career, except for a 1972-73 leave at the University of Rochester. Through 2005-06 he focused his academic career primarily on the cultural geography and literary history of North Carolina, his native state. In addition to on-campus teaching and research, for twenty years Dr. Clark led NCSU's Humanities Extension/Publications Program, as he and his staff produced

numerous video treatments of contemporary North Carolina writers, primarily in a series called *Talk About Writing*. This innovative outreach program also produced social studies textbooks with video ancillaries for grades four through seven in North Carolina public schools. In 1992, Dr. Clark edited and wrote an introduction to Thomas Wolfe's novella *The Lost Boy* for UNC Press. German and French editions of this work of fiction subsequently appeared.

James Clark has served as president of The Thomas Wolfe Society as well as The North Carolina Literary and Historical Association and The Paul Green Foundation, winning the R. Hunt Parker Award for this service. In addition, he published an expanded edition of his 1984 social history of North Carolina's 4-H youth development program. This new book entitled *Clover All Over: North Carolina's First 4-H Century* appeared in 2010. In 2012 the William C. Friday Award for Distinguished Service in Retirement was presented to him for this work plus his *gratis* instruction in NCSU's Encore/OLLI Program beginning in 1992. At senior centers and continuing care assisted living centers in the Raleigh area, life writing workshops continue today under his volunteer leadership.

Dr. Clark completed a decade as president of The North Caroliniana Society in 2024. During that time he won the John Tyler Caldwell Award from the NC Humanities Council in 2020. He had become a member of the National 4-H Hall of Fame (2017) and the NC Literary Hall of Fame (2018). That year he published a social and political history about that portion of his native Warren County of which his hometown has occasionally been the center. This work is entitled *Finding and Keeping Vaughan, North Carolina: Our Hometown*. One of seven children in a family that farmed tobacco and grain, he clerked in his father's service station/general store on US 158 from age nine until graduation from Littleton High School in 1961. Working behind the counter was his best preparation for eventually teaching in university classrooms.

Professor Clark has served on the board of Carolina Public Humanities at UNC-Chapel Hill. On University Day in 2023, he was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus. He remains a strong advocate for the professional development of public school teachers and 4-H agents, having also chaired and co-chaired the North Carolina 4-H History and Learning Center Committee at Camp Millstone. This Center was dedicated in April 2016. In larger service to his community, he served for a decade as secretary to the board of Habitat for Humanity of Wake County. Earlier this year The Order of the Long Leaf Pine was conferred on him by Governor Josh Stein.

ABOUT THE AWARD

A highlight of the Society's year is the presentation of the North Caroliniana Society Award for long and distinguished service in the encouragement, production, enhancement, promotion, and preservation of North Carolina's heritage.

Write When You Are Ready

Dr. James W. Clark Jr.

Good afternoon, Society members and friends. Thank you for attending the 2026 annual meeting of the North Caroliniana Society. We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Society as a charitable non-profit while the United States observes its 250th birthday. Both our republic and this organization have proud heritage and legacy stories to share during these memorable if unusual times.

I have enjoyed a long career as an educator and cultural geographer in North Carolina. Years before and since my retirement in 2005 as a faculty member in the UNC System, I have voluntarily taught in public *lifelong learning* and *learning in retirement* programs across our state. Over the years, this informal educational interaction with citizens fifty-five and older has taught me a powerful lesson; many retirees are capable writers, alert researchers, and critical readers who welcome an opportunity to reflect upon and preserve their own personal memories and experiences, learning from and teaching their peers during this dynamic process.

Rather than limiting themselves, for example, to reading and discussing in other groups the works of established authors such as Mark Twain and Shakespeare, these adults write about and frankly discuss their own lives in a workshop program I call "Life Writing." In this term I include both *memoir* and *autobiography*. For life writing comprehends both a writer's very own inner or private life as well as memories of lifelong interactions with other people, places, and events. Life writers have their own stories to tell. They are having their say!

I sincerely thank the North Caroliniana Society for recognizing my professional and public service both before and during my active retirement. As a volunteer I have come to admire most especially elderly writers in Raleigh's large continuing life care and retirement communities, including the Garner Senior Center. Significantly these men and women now spend much of the creative time and energy remaining for them in writing the penultimate or ultimate versions of their life stories. (I am not referring to obituaries.)

With these life writers, to say it again, I have turned the lifelong learning tables. Rather than saying “Let me teach you something about the life and writings of Thomas Wolfe, Bernice Kelly Harris or Randall Kenan, I began saying to workshop participants: “Let me learn about your life from you, and you, and you.”

In oral and printed versions, often shared with family and friends, life writers proudly read their compositions in two-hour workshops of no more than a dozen participants. They provide each other feedback. Teaching and learning from one another, life writers are in the process of curating their own archives - their very own North Caroliniana, if you will. Often their efforts to describe and preserve their personal narratives frustrate them. The downsizing that preceded the big move from home to a senior living community, for example, inevitably included the disposal of artifacts that would be ever so useful in prompting or bolstering memory now: especially such things as old letters, family photographs, and videotapes. Moreover, few life writers have ever previously thought of themselves as writers, but in retirement life writing becomes second nature to them. They become their own muses. They ask questions. They inspire others as well as themselves. They bond with each other by sharing recollected experiences that had been lost sight of but have now come back into view through their opened windows of memory. (This metaphor for remembering, reflecting upon, and recollecting one's life I borrow from Richard S. Kennedy's Thomas Wolfe scholarship.) The window of memory poetry or prose may preserve pain as well as pleasure from the recent or distant past. It is not unusual for these workshop compositions to interpret old facts in new ways, perhaps setting a family record straighter as memory changes its mind. Life writers become aware that in the next stages of life, memory may lose its mind altogether.

Here let me set forth three principles of life writing that have established themselves during this project:

First: ***What you write about will find you.*** You become your own muse and can prompt yourself, recollecting having been aroused or awakened. Initially many life writers question this first principle. “What do you mean?” they ask. “Wait and see,” I reply. “What you write about will find you.” Like aromas in the ambient air, life experiences flow inward through memory's window, waiting to be written down.

Second: ***Write when you are ready.*** Wherever you are, follow your own sense of when your inflow of inklings through the window of memory is ready to be expressed in a poem or essay. You can share part or all of your draft text in an upcoming workshop. By sharing you can learn how to improve your work while you may stimulate memories similar to yours in other life writers.

c o n t i n u e d

And: *Always remember your audience.* That's the third life writing principle. For instance, are you writing about your life for your grandchildren, your new spouse, your workshop companions, or your caregiver? Keeping your audience in mind allows you to focus.

To these three life writing principles I add three corollaries:

1. Learning to write by writing and rewriting works wonders for most writers.
2. Teaching each other by sharing techniques and texts in workshop is a good way to learn.

3. Preserving in print or a digital file what you have written and shared brings credit to you, becomes a model for colleagues, and lives on as a treasure to your intended audience — as well as future ones. These workshop publications can include work by a single life writer or be a collection of compositions by an entire workshop. A lasting benefit of these productions, especially in residential settings, is that copies archived on site enable caregivers and professional staff as well as doctors and nurses to read what a resident, perhaps now lost in dementia, wrote when life's daily associates and experiences were remembered clearly and written down.



Examples of Life Writing Workshop publications

I have permission to share with you a preserved sample of life writing by an elderly resident of Raleigh. She has been active in life writing workshops at Springmoor and The Cardinal for well over a decade. When she moved from one life care community to the other, she asked me to start a life writing workshop at the new place. I obliged. The title of her story from the fall of 2021 is “A Clothesline and Cucumbers.” This writer was graduated from Duke University with a degree in economics in the early 1950s. Hear her life writing in her own words:

There is something contagious about an old story. Once it's told, it inspires others to tell theirs. As so it was this past week around The Cardinal in North Hills in Raleigh. Almost everyone I saw had a story about their old clotheslines. In listening to so many, another one of my own came back to me that I also want to tell. It

happened when Woody and I were living in our very first apartment in Raleigh after we were married in June 1953.

As we had hoped, we started our family during that first year. An older single woman lived behind us and she had a clear view of our outdoor clothesline. After she spotted the maternity top I was wearing while hanging out our laundry, she came rushing over, rang our doorbell, and thrust a large cucumber into my hand. “Here,” she said, “this is the very best food for a woman in the baby way.” She walked in without being invited, and she never sensed when to leave. After many such days, I was feeling desperate to put an end to her visits — and to the cucumbers.

As a former NC State star tackle, Woody had been asked to help referee weekend high school football games that fall. So every Monday morning, his black and white striped referee shirts were hung on our outdoor clothesline after my trip to the laundromat. Our nosy neighbor lady took one look at those shirts and mistook them for a prisoner’s striped shirts. She made great haste to my door — without a cucumber — to express her deep sympathy and to say in a sanctimonious voice: “Maybe this time he’ll go straight now that he’ll soon be a father.”

I played right along with her misconception, and thankfully, her cucumber visits abruptly ceased. The few times I saw her in our neighborhood afterward, I made a point to emphasize how encouraged I was that my husband was going straight this time. She always gave me a very sympathetic nod.

Through all the years I passed by those apartments after we bought our first home, I glanced across Fairview Road and remembered... that spot and the little old lady with a cucumber in her hand for the young woman “in the baby way” who was married to an “ex-con.”

This life writing sample is so wonderful because it is so typical, being bewildering or maddening and believable at the same time. Having recalled and chuckled over it many a time, Woody’s wily wife, the real referee, here hangs the cucumber neighbor out to dry one last time. Wonder what the cucumber neighbor will write if she has the opportunity... .

From my own experience I now illustrate two potential life writing resources from the paternal side of my family. I am the only surviving family member who witnessed these episodes. In a round-about way, my late father was named for a woman, and I was named for him. She was his daddy’s sister: Miss Willie James Clark. We called her Aunt Jim. When she sensed that she was too old to teach school and then too old to work as a seamstress or as a companion to elderly relatives and acquaintances, she retired — to the Home for Baptist Ladies on Grove Avenue in Richmond, Virginia. Shaded in summer by huge sassafras trees, this venerable facility was actually called the Home for Baptist Women, but in my family the resident women became ladies in the telling and retelling.

Back in Warren County, North Carolina, Aunt Jim had grown up on a farm,

continued

studied music at Louisburg College for Young Women, and taught in rural North Carolina public schools for many years before and after the Great War. Until her death at the age of ninety-five in February 1977, I occasionally visited Aunt Jim at her Richmond retirement home. Our visits became briefer and briefer as she grew harder and harder of hearing. She could still see very well, though, so I would sit directly in front of her wheelchair. Using a pencil and a spiral notepad, I began each visit by writing out my name and our relationship. She would take the pad and examine it. Sometimes she responded with her jolly laugh, then wrote a word or two before handing the pad back to me so I could write a few additional facts about my own life. She was pleased, for instance, that I was a faculty member at North Carolina State University.

Our scripted dialogues always took place in the front parlor of the Home for Baptist Ladies. It was a large room as grand as the majestic sassafras trees outside. Other elderly women sat or dozed nearby us, and the more alert ones sometimes joined me in visiting with Aunt Jim, as if we were family and I had come to see all of them.

One Sunday afternoon — I was driving back to Raleigh from Washington — I waited a good while in the parlor for my elderly relative to be brought to me. I wondered if she were ill. Had the staff had to awaken her, I wondered. When Aunt Jim finally sat before me in her wheelchair, I handed her our notepad as usual, having put my name on it. She smiled and gave it back, and I wrote a few lines of family news. She read the message but did not immediately return our pad to me. Something was different. Not wrong, just different. I waited as she looked directly at me. Her lips fluttered when she leaned forward. Eventually, as if she wanted her class to come to order, she asked in a loud voice: “Who is the student and who is the teacher here?”

Aunt Jim’s unexpected question acknowledged something basic about us two educators that memorable afternoon. Having long since retired from teaching, she remained a student of her own experiences. She knew that I had been teaching English at State for almost ten years. In our different career paths both of us had learned that teaching is the best way to master a subject by always remaining a student. I now know personally, as she did then, that we can be both teacher and student all our lives — especially if we are lucky enough to grow old in good health and at home with our books and devices, or in a licensed community that provides mental and physical care as well as security. Life writers, whatever their former careers, have been learning that lesson too. What one elderly storyteller reads to the workshop becomes instructional to the other life writers in the room. The distinction between teacher and student changes according to who is teaching whom at the moment.

There is a difference between listening in student mode and telling in teaching mode: between, if you will, being the student and being the teacher. Yet these roles are not fixed. They switch back and forth. They can be reversed. In our elderly care and living communities, for example, residents share what they know from their

own personal experience as they write and then read to each other, in the process teaching and learning from each other during life's golden years.

Before I share with you another life writing story by the elderly Raleigh woman who so kindly tolerated her bewildering neighbor, I want you to go back with me to an earlier family visit I made to the Home for Baptist Ladies in Richmond. This visit has become a family legend, and the redoubtable teacher/student Miss Willie James Clark, for once, sat in the background.

On this particular summer Sunday, my parents and two of Daddy's female cousins, Lillian and Gladys, made the 200-mile-round-trip with us. Aunt Jim had been told in a letter to expect us at 1:00 pm. So we stopped for our mid-day meal — we called it dinner — ahead of the church crowd at Shoney's not far from the Home for Baptist Ladies. The waitress took our orders, and we were served in no time. I noticed that all of us chose fried chicken and iced tea with soft rolls and two vegetables. We ate in silence after Daddy said grace, the food itself being our focus. I did notice, however, that Lillian and Gladys did not eat their chicken. They ate around it.

When our waitress came with extra tea and then with our check, she asked if the two cousins wanted a box to go. They simply said "No." Daddy paid the bill, and we left to visit Aunt Jim.

In the car Mother asked Lillian and Gladys if they did not feel well. Neither spoke until we were in the street. "What kind of chicken was that they served us? Where did the pieces come from?" Lillian asked. "Whoever dressed our chicken didn't know how to cut it up." "I could not eat mine either," said Gladys. "I did not recognize what part of the chicken I had been served." Mother offered her opinion that Shoney's chicken had probably been cut by a machine, not a person. Neither cousin responded. In the front seat Daddy smiled at me as I drove toward Grove Avenue. There we had a good family visit with Aunt Jim, notepads passing back and forth, and no one mentioned our strange experience at Shoney's. Enroute home to Warren County those odd pieces of uneaten fried chicken were not mentioned either. Over the years since then, though, these puzzling and unrecognizable pieces of chicken will not go away. They have life writing potential.

The life writing workshop participants I have interacted with during my retirement have written, heard, and enjoyed many, many family stories such as "A Clothesline and Cucumbers" and Lillian and Gladys' fried chicken tale. Tragic or funny, some pieces of our lives just do not fit our expectations or live up to the imaginations of others. Yet writing about our puzzles may bring to life odd pieces lying about in the lives of our workshop mates. As always, the life writer is in the dual role of teacher and student.

Whatever the subject or literary form, here is the typical life writing workshop procedure. Each group is limited to a dozen writers. Participants write when they are ready wherever they may be, *their topic having found them*. To the workshop meeting lasting no more than two hours they bring a sample of their work to read

continued

aloud for the enjoyment of others and for the benefit of any feedback that may be offered. Essays or poems in progress as well as final drafts are welcome. If a member has nothing to share on a given day, simply being present to listen may suggest topics for future life writings until personal memories come to mind.

My colleague James Michael Grimwood, a scholar of William Faulkner, has reminded me that our memory can operate both involuntarily and voluntarily. Our past can find us even when we are not expecting it. Especially involuntary or unconscious remembering may engender new understanding and perspective as a life writer explores it in an essay or poem. Thomas Wolfe believed that remembering, whether involuntarily or voluntarily, is a precondition of knowing. We remember in order to know. These epistemological matters engage the life writer who has come through practice to believe that “What you write about will find you.” Sharing this belief allows members of the workshop to bond with each other: to trust each other enough to share their most personal experiences, which are accessed again through the window of memory.

Much credit for my focus on life writing for myself and others in retirement is due to North Carolina State University’s learning in retirement or lifelong learning program called Encore, in which I taught a broad range of literary topics as a volunteer faculty member for over two decades. Encore dates from the early 1990s and is today called OLLI, the acronym of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, also found on other North Carolina higher education campuses and nationwide. This rewarding experience was allied to my salaried leadership role in the statewide Humanities Extension/Publications Program at NCSU from 1983 until 2003.

The first two invitations I accepted to lead life writing workshops as a volunteer after my early retirement in 2005 came from Springmoor Life Care Community (a CCRC) and the nonresidential Garner Senior Center. I continue to volunteer at these two sites today. In addition I have led workshops this spring at The Templeton of Cary, a retirement community, and Glenaire, also in Cary, a CCRC. Rounding out my monthly commitments are The Cardinal at North Hills in Raleigh, a senior living community; The Cypress, a gated senior living community in North Raleigh; and The Oaks at Whitaker Glen near Five Points. Schedules are flexible, shaped to fit the programmatic needs of each site: once a month at three places, twice a month at three others, and a variety of times and places for the Garner Senior Center. At each place I volunteer, a local resident or member serves as my liaison with the administration. She or he makes sure the classroom sound system is working and that the schedule of meetings is distributed regularly. My most experienced liaison, herself an excellent writer, is Margaret Toman. Of her life writing experience, she wrote recently: “We are building a community of writers with interesting lives that result in compelling stories and sturdy friendships.”

An important value of the life writings produced in these workshops is the diverse backgrounds of the participants at the different sites. One example will illustrate the wide appeal of life writing to retirees at the Garner Senior Center. Unlike the residents of continuing life care communities such as The Cardinal and

Springmoor, the Garner seniors still live at home. Here are brief career labels for the citizens registered there in May 2023: comedienne; Army, Navy, and Marine veterans; caregiver and activist; psychiatric social worker; master woodcarver and photographer; beekeeper; church music director; kindergarten teacher; optometrist; and, quote, “a Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientific photographer, who is familiar with witches and the mind games used to train spies.”

I'll now illustrate life writing with another prose example written by the same elderly, longtime resident of Raleigh who wrote the cucumber story. This Proustian piece entitled “The Miraculous Sense of Smell” is preserved in a 2024 sampler produced with a limited distribution at The Cardinal in North Hills. She wrote it in her apartment and read it to her life writing workshop during Easter Week of 2024.

Alongside the miracle of the Cross, Easter also takes me back to another miraculous Easter memory. Our five-year-old daughter Willa had run a temperature hovering around 104 degrees all weekend. Despite two house calls each day, our pediatrician Bill Farley had no definitive diagnosis of her illness. He worried that she may have encephalitis, a serious inflammation of the brain.

Woody and I had snatched a few short naps caring for her in isolation and juggling the care of our one-year-old daughter and our son, age six. When I shared our family news with my Dad, he immediately drove the 90 miles between Suttontown in Sampson County and Raleigh to check on us. The very second he stepped inside our home, he became as motionless as a stone and appeared to have been transported back in time.

“Dad! What’s wrong?” I exclaimed. His expression gradually softened. He blinked his eyes and declared in a booming voice, “There are measles in this house!”

“Measles? Dad, our doctor has ruled out measles because Willa does not have any Koplic spots inside her cheeks!” But he continued, “Well, he’s dead wrong! Spots or no spots! I remember the odor from boyhood when seven of us children all had measles in a small farm house. I know this smell. I guarantee you that my granddaughter has measles, and I know how to make her well.”

We nodded our permission. True to his nature, he rolled up his sleeves and took charge. “Go get a small glass with one teaspoon of bourbon diluted with one tablespoon of water. Bring a chair by her bed for me and put a teaspoon in the glass. She’ll let me spoon all of the mixture in her mouth. In one hour she’ll break out in measles and her fever will go down.” Woody and I almost tripped over each other filling Dad’s demands. With watches set and high hopes, we kept the vigil for that hour. We soon heard Dad’s voice ring out: “You can come in now! She’s breaking out with measles, and she’s sweating! Her fever will soon be down and she’ll begin to get well.”

As Easter approaches, my memory slips back in time over the past sixty-three years of being blessed with a precious daughter whose grandfather recalled the

c o n t i n u e d

distinct odor of measles from his own childhood and also the remedy for them.

And so we wonder, what is so much more distinct about our sense of smell than our other four senses? Scientists tell us that the distinct odors are stored in a completely separate place in our brains known as the olfactory bulb. It connects to sensory neurons.

Our lasting memories of pungent, sweet, unusual and overpowering aromas lie dormant until triggered even many years later. At a moment's notice, they're as real as our first encounter. As I've written this piece, I'm feeling almost breathless from the heavy, overpowering fragrance of blooming wisteria vines that canopied my grandmother's outdoor swing! And also the memory of her small Rockfish Presbyterian Church laden with overwhelming gardenias on the end of every pew and on the altar of boiling hot summer weddings.

What aromas are you smelling from your past?

As you ponder her closing question, I am again addressing you in my own voice to bring this long reflection on life writing to a close. Fifteen years before I retired, I was teaching American literature on campus at State as well as using the Agricultural or Cooperative Extension model to present humanities seminars across North Carolina. Some of these seminars I conducted myself. Others I employed NCSU colleagues including Dr. Carmine Prioli to develop and present. This traditional informal educational activity was transformed by a new phenomenon that came to be called the Scholarship of Engagement. In short, in 1990 former U.S. Commissioner of Education Dr. Ernest Boyer (then serving as President of the Carnegie Endowment for the Advancement of Teaching) published *Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate*. Traditional research and the scholarship of discovery needed to be broadened and made more flexible, Dr. Boyer argued. He convinced me that public humanities scholars should engage in two-way conversations with their youth and adult audiences rather than simply extending information to them as in the customary land-grant model. Boyer said that rigorous intellectual engagement was called for. The participating citizens were not empty minds to be filled with book talk. These engaged people had important life lessons to share. In other words, what Aunt Jim had learned as a teacher in one-room public schools before World War I and the scholarship of engagement stressed the same thing. Students can be teachers as they learn from the educators who, in turn, become their students. It was a transformative experience all round. Gradually the humanities scholar became a learner as well as a teacher and the public citizens assumed a dual role as well. My Aunt Jim and Dr. Ernest Boyer agreed: educators learn from our students as we teach. Moreover, I think she and he would agree that the legacy of good teachers and their best students is their clear enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

Life writing for elderly retirees as it now exists for me was born and has grown based on this simple but dynamic enlargement of the traditional land-grant model of adult education. Engagement turned extension into a two-way venture

of teaching and learning. I learned as much from my seminar and workshop participants as they learned from me. This change in off-campus pedagogy also had a powerful impact on formal educational practices on campus, as professor-student roles moved back and forth to mutual benefit.

The windows of memory have been opened. One Wake County life writer recently commented to me that life writing had saved her life. I pointed out that her statement conveyed a two-fold truth. While creating her essays enriched her life in retirement, preserving them saved her recollections and reflections for posterity.

The North Caroliniana Society was founded 50 years ago and organized to be a support fund for expanding the North Carolina Collection's preservation of our state's heritage in Wilson Library at Carolina. I challenge our Society, its members and friends, to add life writing and its preservation to our personal habits and programs. Discover in your own story what Thomas Wolfe in Chapter 8 of *Look Homeward, Angel* calls "the line of life, that beautiful developing structure of language." Find or found a life writing group where you live. Share what you write about your life with your workshop mates and your family. Preserve your life writings by publishing or digitizing them. Donate a copy to your local public library. Fifty years from now, students and teachers alike will be glad you wrote when you were ready.



Betsy Clark, Jim Clark

Life Writing and Creativity in Older Adults: Write When You Are Ready

Dr. Jim Clark Jr.,
English Professor Emeritus, NCSU

“What you write about your life will find you!” This simple statement is not easy for some professional memoirists to believe. It is almost unbelievable to older adults who have not thought of themselves as writers. They also may not have imagined that their lives are worth writing about. Yet when they enroll in life-writing workshops where they now live — or in senior centers, OLLI, or churches that organize workshops — I open and close the first session by saying: “What you write about your life will find you!” For as William Faulkner wrote in Chapter 6 of *Light in August* (1932): “Memory believes before knowing remembers.”

As soon as the pressing episode or experience finds the workshop writer, the energizing creativity of setting out to live again on paper or a computer screen is released. The first two or three pages will bring into focus any number of other memories or individuals to be subjects in subsequent writings. It does not matter if the first topic that has found each writer comes from early or late in life. It is always possible to fill in the years between the pages that have been written. As this surge of memories comes forth (some happy, some very sad), the life writers will be encouraged to forget that their memory — the ability and will to recollect — had seemed to be going away, leaving life empty and frightening. As rewarding as the experience of getting life down on paper is the realization that this new-found creativity has restored a certain grasp on memory itself. Confidence rebuilt! That’s fantastic.

In the sessions of each workshop — usually two-hour meetings every week or every other week for six weeks — what each writer reads to the group will have the effect of bringing additional life experiences to mind for each other member. Soon it is clear that where each writer started is less important than that the impulse to do so was honored. Now there could be a flood of keen recollections. If someone in the group reads a selection that makes tears and sobs come forth in the reader and in others, that shows that the subject needed to be faced and put into perspective. Creativity itself has been successful in making the episode effable: something essential, something important to be shared — even with relative strangers. Of course, each writer who joins a life-writing workshop knows the work is self-assigned. So it is also self-censored. Every single memory is never said or written down. Nor should it be.

No one can be forced or fooled into life writing. But all who take up the task need an audience. Options include a new spouse, the offspring, grandchildren, a caregiver, or friends. Knowing the audience with certainty helps any life writer focus. This achievement of focus — writing for someone in particular — is another way for confidence in the creativity of writing to be realized by the writer. Just as in building confidence in the life writer's faculty of memory (which had seemed to be weakening), pursuing in writing for the benefit of loved ones a life already experienced is life affirming in and of itself.

The writer who finds life worthwhile again through writing is enriching the intended audience, whoever it is, and also showing the way for other older adults who may doubt their capacity to remember the past or to recreate it. Thus the writing done by each workshop participant should be preserved as each writer sees fit. If census documents, kinship charts, photographs, letters, and other forms of documentation have been used in bringing the writing to life, include them too. It's very nice to give copies of the result to family and friends and especially to the intended audience. All feel enriched as they read.

*The writer who finds life worthwhile again through writing
is enriching the intended audience, whoever it is,
and also showing the way for other older adults who
may doubt their capacity to remember the past or to recreate it.
Thus the writing done by each workshop participant
should be preserved as each writer sees fit.*



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: • Anne Mingis, Richard Clark, Jim Clark, Betsy Clark, Mary and Worth Roberts • Carlton King, Jim Clark • Elizabeth Osborne, Daniel Ayers, Emmaline Bouchillon • Howard Covington, Jack Betts • Ann Simpson, Martha Betts • Jeff Crow, Ann McColl • Eric Johnson, Jess Aylor • Jack Betts, Tom Terrell, Martha Betts, Maria Henson

In Tribute to Dr. James W. Clark Jr.

Terry Roberts

Good evening.

President Simpson, North Carolina friends / friends to North Carolina.

I'd like to begin with a complaint. Jim Clark and I have been friends for over thirty years, so that initially I welcomed the idea of leading our celebration of his life and work this evening. But as soon as I began to outline my remarks, I realized I had a problem. It's common practice in events like this to list some, many, all of the contributions and achievements of the distinguished recipient. But in Jim's case, the list went on. And on. My complaint, Jim, is that you've done too much!

I realized that it would take something like 24 hours to run through even a summary list. I'm not kidding, ladies and gentlemen, we're talking the 24 hours of LeMans. So, I called Copie, our Executive Director, and asked about keeping the bar open...or at least reopening it tomorrow evening, same time. But she claimed we couldn't afford that and so I will have to summarize.

continued



Terry Roberts

So, I thought further about Jim and how his life has brought us together this evening, and I realized that there is a common theme to Jim's spirit, his gift, his sharing that a mere list can never fully address. There is something at the core of his life as a teacher, a man of letters, a humanist that no catalogue can capture. I began to see that while what he's accomplished over the years is important, it's the spirit in which he's done so that matters. Whether you realize it or not, he's touched the lives of just about everyone in this room, and the fact that you may not realize it suggests who he is.

Let us begin at the beginning. In so many ways, Jim's origins bespeak North Carolina as a largely rural, Southern state. At his 2018 induction into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame, he described growing up as one of seven children in Warren County. In particular, he recalled Mr. Eugene Sadler, who clerked for his family in Clark's Store on US 158 in Vaughan.

"You don't want anything else, do you?" [Mr. Sadler] would impatiently ask shoppers who couldn't make up their minds, which confused them even more. Yet he trained young Jim to greet all customers, whether they were regulars or strangers, sure or uncertain, by saying "May I help you?"

Jim went on to say that, in retrospect, that experience was "the most useful lesson I ever received in conducting myself in public."

This, then, is our first clue in understanding Jim. His relationships with other people invariably begin and end with "may I help you." In no way is this a sentimental or romantic notion of self-denial. Rather, it has to do with the bonds of community and the realities of friendship. And from the earliest years of Jim's life, this meant living in community with rural farm families, both Black and white.

With the help of a national 4-H scholarship (UNC-Chapel Hill) and successive Woodrow Wilson Fellowships (Duke University), the boy from Vaughan pursued a stellar academic career which brought him finally to apply for what he calls "the only professional job [he] ever had": teaching English at NC State University. He began at that college over in Raleigh in 1967 and would continue there for almost four decades. But, as always with Jim, he turned that one "professional job" into a role that expanded to touch every corner of the state.

His one "job" grew organically in at least two directions. The first, which honored his deep roots in 4-H youth development and rural life, led to the creation of the nation's first Humanities Extension Program (based on the model of Agricultural Extension). Jim eventually became the co-director and then director of this unique program as it grew in both scope and depth, whereby faculty members from the humanities began leading seminars about great works in literature and the arts in every corner of the state, rural as well as urban. (Sound familiar, Lloyd? Christie?) This led in turn to the development of video and textbook materials, as well as the cutting-edge use of technology to make culturally advanced materials available to schools across the state.

In addition to expanding his "job" to reach as far as Camden and Currituck in the Northeast, Columbus and Brunswick in the Southeast, Graham

and Cherokee in the West, he also began to dig deeper into the literary heritage of the state. Following in the footsteps of his mentor at State, Richard Walser, he studied, wrote about, and lectured about an incredible range of North Carolina writers.

Before I delve into the list, however, I'm reminded of once hearing John Ehle reading aloud a journal entry by Paul Green in which Green wrote a long paragraph, listing basically everything he knew about a certain plant, which included just about everything there is to know about that plant, including its Latin name. At the end of this recitation, John looked up over his glasses at the audience and intoned: "And apparently, that's all he knew about that!"

In Jim's case, he followed Walser's lead into the vastness of North Carolina's literary achievement, beginning with a lifelong study of Thomas Wolfe and progressing into the work of Paul Green, Guy Owen, Inglis Fletcher, Doris Betts, George Moses Horton, John Ehle, Fred Chappell, Sam Ragan, Reynolds Price, Lee Smith, Charles W. Chesnutt, and Wilma Dykeman. (Catch your breath, ladies and gentlemen.) Apparently, that's all he knows about that.

This work led in turn to Humanities Extension producing video programs about these and other writers in two series, *Talk About Writing* and *Their Native Earth*. And trust me when I say that those interviews are profoundly interesting to this day and serve to introduce our astonishing literary talent to the world.

When you regard Jim's work during these years, another pattern begins to emerge. Not only was he engaged in countless organizations that supported literature and the arts, he almost always, in a quiet and unassuming way, became a leader in those organizations. President of the Thomas Wolfe Society; President of the Paul Green Foundation and the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association; leader in the creation of the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame.

Do you see a pattern? Director, President, Chair? If Jim was involved in something, he almost inevitably assumed the role that asks the most of an individual while often providing the least reward. And that includes, of course, his ten years of service as President of this august body, the North Caroliniana Society.

In recognition of these and the many other roles he has played, he was awarded the 1999 Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal of Excellence from North Carolina State; the 2012 William C. Friday Award for Distinguished Service in Retirement from the NC State Association of Retired Faculty (which I think must be a joke... as if the man ever really retired); the John Tyler Caldwell Award from the NC Humanities Council in 2020; and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill just last year (where we meet this evening in celebration). But enough... .

That's just about all I know about that.

But all of this (the decades of service, the catalogue of achievements) does not tell us who Jim Clark is unless we look further in. Unless we examine not *what* but *how*.

c o n t i n u e d

Because of my former day job as Director of the National Paideia Center in Asheville, I had the pleasure of working closely with Bill Friday for a number of years. When we were in the thick of something challenging, Bill loved to say, “You know, we can fix this, so long as nobody cares who gets the credit.” Every time I pause to remember that the maxim of the North Caroliniana Society is “Substance, Not Show,” I can hear Bill’s voice: “We can accomplish anything so long as we don’t care who gets the credit.”

The most important thing you should know about Jim Clark is that over time, he has done truly monumental work in a quiet and unassuming way that deflects credit to others without drawing attention to himself. His is never the loudest voice in the room. Rather, his is the voice of patience and of reason. He goes about the work without fanfare or press release. You just witnessed a perfect example of this: it was Jim who requested that tonight be about the work we do together rather than about him alone. That’s why we invited the panel to the stage earlier.

Those of you who know him, know this: He is the secret agent for culture in the state of North Carolina.

Two more things you should know. The first is easy enough. Despite everything I just said, the man is not a saint. He has a truly wicked sense of humor. So wicked in fact that I can’t think of a single example that would be appropriate for me to share in this setting. You’ll just have to trust me.

The second thing you should know: as distinguished as he is in public life, he is even more thoughtful in private. He has often served as a second father to my son, Henry (his godson), especially during those days when Henry was trying to find his footing in the world.

On September 27, 2024, my wife Lynn and I saw the world come crashing down around us when a tornado generated by Hurricane Helene swept down the mountainside a hundred feet from our house north of Asheville. After several days, we were able to cut our way out far enough so that we could join a neighbor at his home on top of Baird Mountain. For the first time in days, we had cell service, so we could reassure our children that we were alive. In between calls out to frightened, even desperate family members, my phone buzzed with an incoming call, the first sound of that sort from the outside world in almost a week. Who was it?

By now you know. It was Jim, calling to be certain that we were alive and to ask us what we needed. I can hear Mr. Eugene Sadler in that phone call, Jim: “May I help you?”

This, then, is a man who gives. For over fifty years he has asked us that question. And by *us*, I mean all of us here tonight.

And so, I turn to each corner of the room when I say this. The Jim Clark we honor is a man who gives [name], and gives [name], and gives [name]... .

Because he cares.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: • Jim Clark, Lloyd Kramer • Jim Clark, Patrick Ngoma
 • Karen Lovelace, Debbie Dibbert • Laurie Wilson, Maya Musselman
 • David Radavich, Anne Zahlan, Alice Cotten • Leoneda Inge, Allison Adams, Bobby Allen
 • Kay Wyche, Joe Mobley • Jo Ann Williford, Leona Whichard, Jennifer Ritz, Debbie Dibbert



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: • Ansley Wegner • Devra Thomas, Karen Ipock
 • Karen Vaughan, Ginny Vinson • Joanna Flynn, Paul Bonnici • Roby Sawyers, Julia Reese,
 Brian Jackson, Carlton King, Jim Clark, Jim Alchediak, Ed Funkhouser, Chris McKittrick, Kathleen Currin
 • Kristen Merryman • Margaret Bauer, Lynn Roundtree

Collaborator Booths

As part of the afternoon and evening festivities, we welcomed the following collaborators from the last decade to join us at the annual meeting to share information about the organization with the attendees.

- East Carolina University — The North Carolina Literary Review
Devra Thomas, Digital Editor of The North Carolina Literary Review
- Elizabeth Vann Moore Foundation — Hayes Farm
Benbury Wood and Ginny Vinson, Board Members of Elizabeth Vann Moore Foundation
- The Friends of Historic Halifax
Karen Vaughn, Chair of The Friends of Historic Halifax
- North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Ansley Herring Wegner, Director of the Division of Research and Publications
- North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Karen Ipock, Associate Director of Education, Office of K-12 Education & Outreach
Adrienne Berney, Outreach Coordinator, State Archives of North Carolina
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — North Carolina Digital Heritage Center
Kristen Merryman, Head of the North Carolina Digital Center
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — University Libraries
Jason Tomberlin, Head, Research & Instructional Services
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — Carolina Public Humanities
Joanna Flynn, Associate Director for Statewide Outreach & Strategic Collaborations
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — Carolina Public Humanities
Paul Bonnici, Special Projects Coordinator, Carolina K-12

c o n t i n u e d



Terry Roberts and Collaborator Panel participants

Collaborator Panel Presentations

Moderator: Terry Roberts, Vice President

The eight people you see seated here on the stage are our colleagues from the North Carolina Collection, the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Carolina Public Humanities, and the Archie K. Davis Fellowship. The reason they're here is that Jim Clark requested that tonight's program not be about him.

These pairs, as they come up to speak, are going to talk about their program and how that program protects, preserves, and tells the story of North Carolina: our ambitions and our dreams. They're also going to talk about what we, as a community — the North Caroliniana Society — can do to support their program.

LISA GREGORY

Speaking for the North Carolina Collection

Lisa Gregory is the North Carolina Collection Curator in Wilson Library at UNC-Chapel Hill. Prior to assuming this position full-time in November 2025, she worked for the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center. The Center partners with cultural heritage institutions throughout the state to digitize and share their North Carolina related special collections online. Prior to joining UNC-Chapel Hill she managed digital collections of North Carolina publications at the Library of North Carolina. She has an M.A. in English Literature from the University of New Mexico and an M.S. in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was a Digital Curation Fellow. She is passionate about preserving North Carolina local history and will talk to you for longer than you'd probably like about newspaper preservation in North Carolina. Gregory works with the North Caroliniana Society as they support the North Carolina Collection through project grants. She lives in Mebane with her fiancé and son.

Good evening. My name is Lisa Gregory and I am the Curator of the North Carolina Collection, located in Wilson Library at UNC-Chapel Hill. While I have only been in my new position since November of last year, I have worked full-time in Wilson Library since 2013, and also worked there as a graduate assistant when I was pursuing my Library Science degree. During that entire time I was situated either within the North Carolina Collection or closely adjacent. I am passionate about providing access to North Carolina's history and culture.

When I think about what it means to work at the North Carolina Collection (NCC), I keep coming back to one word: inheritance. North Carolina has given us something extraordinary — a history that is complicated, complex, and deeply human. My job, and the job of everyone at the NCC, is to make sure that inheritance is honored.

In case you are not familiar with the North Carolina Collection, let me tell you a little about where we come from.

There is the oldest collection of its kind in the state. It was founded in 1844, under the leadership of David Lowry Swain, who was then president of the University of North Carolina. Swain understood something that still holds true today: preserving and sharing the history of a place is critical for understanding...

Today, the North Carolina Collection has grown into the largest collection in the nation centered around a single state. We hold books, maps, manuscripts, newspapers, and ephemera that document North Carolina life across centuries. We are home to a photographic archives approaching 4 million items, where images of North Carolina people and places — some dating back to the earliest days of photography — are preserved for future generations. And we have the North Carolina Collection Gallery, a public exhibition space in Wilson Library, where our collections are contextualized for visitors.

But preserving the past is only part of our mission. We are equally committed to making that past accessible — not just to scholars and researchers, but to anyone who is curious about this state and its stories.

We serve University students, faculty, and staff every day, bringing primary sources into instruction and supporting the kind of research that produces new knowledge about our region. We work to broaden access to our collections through digitization, so that a student in Robeson County or a retired teacher in Ashe County can explore our holdings without ever setting foot in Chapel Hill. And we do not work alone. We are proud partners with the NC Digital Heritage Center, a statewide effort to bring the collections of libraries, museums, and historical societies across North Carolina into a shared digital space. When we work together, we are all stronger.

This is our commitment going forward: to collect, to preserve, and to provide access to North Carolina's histories — in all their complexity and richness — for the generations that come after us.

Now, I was asked to speak about what members of the Society can do for the North Carolina Collection. The honest answer is: quite a lot. *continued*

The most direct thing you can do is to engage with us. Use the collection either in person or online. Come visit the gallery. Every time someone walks through our doors or holds some of our materials in their hands, it demonstrates that this work matters.

Attend library events. Tell your friends and neighbors. Be ambassadors for what we are trying to accomplish. If you are in a position to contribute financially to the Collection, we are grateful for that support. It makes a tangible difference in what we can do.

But I want to ask something of you that goes a little deeper than that. Please advocate — loudly and often — for cultural heritage organizations across this state. Libraries, archives, and museums are the places where history is protected and made available to everyone. That work is not guaranteed. It requires sustained public support and sustained public will.

And please advocate for higher education and the values that underlie it — critical thinking, the study of history and the humanities, the belief that understanding where we come from makes us better equipped to face what lies ahead. These are not luxuries. They are, I would argue, exactly what North Carolina needs most right now.

Thank you!

ALICE COTTEN

Speaking for the North Carolina Collection

Alice Robinson Cotten is a native of Anson County and was one of sixteen students in the last graduating class of Morven High School there in 1967. She received a B. A. in History from UNCG and an M. A. in History from UNC-CH. In 1973 she began her career with the North Carolina Collection in the UNC Library as a Library Assistant, and in 2002 retired as Reference Historian there. She is currently a Vice President of the North Caroliniana Society. She and her husband, Jerry Cotten, received the North Caroliniana Society Award in 2019.

Good evening. I'm Alice Cotten, and I worked in reference in the North Carolina Collection from 1973 to 2002. It was my dream job! I'll add just a few comments to what Lisa has said so well.

The first named "North Carolina Librarian" (later called "Curator") was Mary Lindsay Thornton in September 1917, followed by William S. Powell, H. G. Jones, Robert G. Anthony Jr., and, since last November, Lisa Gregory. All of these leaders were/are tenacious collectors of North Carolina materials, ranging from books and pamphlets to maps and broadsides and newspapers, photographs, and museum objects, all of which helped build the Collection into the extensive treasure trove it is today. It is a remarkable resource for citizens of our state — and indeed, for anyone interested in the histories and cultures of North Carolina.

After identifying and acquiring items, a library must protect, organize, and

provide access to these materials. Technology helps. Online catalogs and finding aids can be accessed from anywhere with an Internet connection, for example. Also, as Lisa said, more and more of these items are being made available digitally, so that those who cannot come to the library in person may have access from wherever they are. Some exhibits may be viewed online, and some are loaned for display in other parts of the state. One can imagine former UNC President Edward Kidder Graham beaming (or at least smiling) in approval at the way technology helps make a reality of his oft-quoted observation that “the boundaries of the University are co-terminus with the boundaries of the state” (and, we might say in this case, even beyond the state). The importance of outreach in general and the extent to which it reflects positively upon the library and the University should not be underestimated.

The North Caroliniana Society has partnered with the North Carolina Collection to help protect, preserve, and promote the story of our state. These efforts include providing grants to the Collection for special projects such as preserving photographic images (including some made by Bayard Wootten, Hugh Morton, and Colvin M. Edwards), digitizing microfilm of North Carolina newspapers (a wonderful resource that should be shouted from the rooftops!), creating exhibits based on Collection holdings that travel to other parts of the state, and offering fellowships to create digital primary educational resources about North Carolina for teachers. Some of these projects may not seem glamorous, but they are essential to the preservation of the history and culture of this state, which we all care about deeply. I hope that the North Caroliniana Society and the North Carolina Collection will continue to devote human and financial resources to the identification, acquisition, preservation, access, and promotion of these materials.

On the question of what members of the Society can do for The North Carolina Collection — Lisa has spoken eloquently and fully to this. I speak wearing my other hat now, as a Board member of the North Caroliniana Society. I have two suggestions about what members can do for the Society: 1) we can support its work by being willing to serve on its committees and task forces; and 2) we can contribute to the Society financially. Member engagement is crucial to the success of the Society and the advancement of its mission.

Thank you for your participation in this work, and for your presence today.

KAREN IPOCK ***Speaking for NC History Day***

Karen Ipock is the Associate Director of Education for the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), where she connects schools across the state with high-quality educational resources and leads North Carolina's National History Day program. For the past decade, she has partnered closely with the North Caroliniana Society, whose generous support helps ensure that teachers

c o n t i n u e d

statewide can guide students in developing strong research, critical thinking, and presentation skills.

Karen's career with DNCR began in 2007 at Tryon Palace, where she served as a Historic Interpreter before becoming Curator of Education. She later managed Historic Edenton State Historic Site before moving to the Triangle to coordinate cultural heritage and nature programming as a park manager for West Point at the Eno and Leigh Farm Park. She returned to DNCR in 2016 to join the Office of K-12 Education and Outreach, where she continues to support statewide initiatives and public engagement efforts.

Born and raised in New Bern, Karen's love of the state's history was shaped by family trips to historic sites across the region. She is a graduate of Craven County Schools and holds a B.S. in History from Appalachian State University and an M.Litt. in Visual Culture from King's College at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland.

Tonight, I'd like to share a story that I think shows the impact of North Carolina History Day through the determination of one sixth grader.

Last summer, I received an email from a mother and daughter who had just moved to North Carolina from China. They were both learning English and adjusting to a new place. The daughter, Annette, had just learned about History Day and was ready to get involved.

Annette chose to investigate the American Revolution in North Carolina to connect to this year's theme, "Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in History."

She broke through language barriers, asked tough questions, and challenged herself at each step. She also picked one of the toughest project categories for herself: documentary filmmaking. This category not only requires the careful research and historical analysis of all History Day projects, but also relies on skillful narration in English.

In March of this year, Annette was ready. She attended her regional competition and presented her documentary to the judges. Even though she didn't walk away with a ribbon, she left the competition confident, and immediately emailed me with her topic ideas for next year.

She hadn't just finished a project; she had found a way to learn about her new home.

For me, Annette's story answers the question you've asked us to think about tonight:

How will our program protect, preserve, and tell the story of this remarkable state we've inherited?

We'll do it, one student and one teacher at a time.

We will continue to support educators with professional development on how to engage students with primary sources. When teachers feel empowered to use these materials, students learn not just how to study history, but how to truly investigate it.

We will continue to create resources, like our annual North Carolina topic

list, to help students discover the wide range of stories held in our state's archives, museums, and local historic sites.

Most importantly, we will continue to support students at every stage. We will help them dig deeper, research more carefully, and see how their history fits into our larger story.

Each year, we ask students at the state competition what they learned. Their answers remind us that students not only learn history, but the key skills needed to become more engaged citizens.

One of our students this year wrote: "I learned the importance of persistence and how constructive criticism helped me improve my project and my work ethic."

Another said: "Participating in History Day taught me how to think more critically about historical events and how they connect to the present."

And my personal favorite, from a middle schooler who had just discovered the history of the Battle of Hayes Pond in Robeson County: "I learned the importance of learning about local events, that people may consider to be small, but have big impact!"

In these student responses, in Annette's story, and in our engagement with the hundreds of students and teachers that we work with each year, I see the future of how North Carolina's history will be preserved and shared — not just through the museums, archives, and historic sites that we treasure, but through the curiosity, scholarship, and creativity of students who are taught to see themselves as historians and as part of the story.

Your support for this program — whether it's your time judging, your advocacy, or your funding — makes this all possible.

Together, we're ensuring that the next generation doesn't just simply inherit North Carolina's history, but learns to question it, interpret it, and, most importantly, carry it forward.

JO ANN WILLIFORD ***Speaking for NC History Day***

Jo Ann Williford is a graduate of Meredith College with a BA in history and holds an MA in American History from UNC-Greensboro. She spent 33 years as an employee of the North Carolina Office of Archives and History where, among other things, she worked with the Historic Preservation Office, the State Capitol, Historic Stagville, and the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies. In 1996 Archives and History took on sponsorship of National History Day in North Carolina, and she was assigned to be the state coordinator, a position she held for 15 years. During her tenure, she served as chairman of the Executive Council of State Coordinators and on the board of trustees for the national organization. As the program evolved within the state, the North Caroliniana Society became and continues to be a valued partner in supporting the History Day program.

c o n t i n u e d

In 1996 when the Office of Archives and History began sponsoring National History Day in North Carolina, I was assigned to organize and operate the program within the agency. I had never heard of "History Day", much less actually seen how it operated, so I contacted the national office for ideas. One thing they did at the national level, in addition to recognizing the medal winners, was to provide special monetary prizes for outstanding projects related to particular topics. This arrangement allowed them to recognize student achievement in history on a wider scale. I thought this was a good idea, so I began to think about particular topics for which we could find sponsors. The most obvious prize for the North Carolina Office of Archives and History to offer was one for a project on some aspect of our state's history. For me the most obvious potential sponsor for this prize was the North Caroliniana Society — even though at the time I was not yet a member of the Society. I contacted Dr. H. G. Jones to ask if the Society would like to sponsor the prize. His response was almost immediate. "Absolutely," he said. And so the Society became the first sponsor of a special prize. In those early years, a number of Society members helped to pick those recipients, including Bill and Virginia Powell, Bill Whichard, and others — including some of you sitting in this room. Eventually the prize was renamed in honor of Dr. Jones.

This year the H. G. Jones Prizes for North Carolina History were awarded to two young North Carolinians: middle school student Bode Smith for his documentary, "Prohibition to NASCAR: How Moonshiners' Reform Built a National Sport"; and to high school student Reginald Bess II for his individual performance, "From Colony to Courage: North Carolina's Stand for Independence." These are the latest in a long line of students whose scholarship on North Carolina history has been recognized and rewarded by this organization. In addition, there are also members of the Society (some who are with us here today) who personally fund special prizes in other categories. Moreover, several members regularly give of their time to serve as category judges on National History Day.

Within a few years of becoming involved with National History Day, the Society made the very welcome decision to provide additional monetary support for the program. I recall being at a meeting of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association with Jim Clark when he was president of this organization. During a break he mentioned that the board of the Society was getting ready to meet to set the budget, and he said to me, "How much money do you need?" I thought to myself, "That's a brave man to ask that question of someone who operates an education program dependent on state funding." I don't recall my response, but History Day was and continues to be grateful for the generosity of this group. Society presidents (or their designees) have attended most History Days to encourage the students and to help give out awards. When he was president of the North Caroliniana Society, Jim Clark not only represented the Society at the awards ceremony but also often served as a run-off judge. He has read more than his share of National History Day historical papers.

I say all of this to make the point that the Society has supported National

History Day in many ways since 1996 — and all of those opportunities still exist today. I also want to invite members of the Society to become ambassadors for National History Day, talking to teachers and students you know about this program, which not only promotes the teaching and learning of history but also champions critical thinking. Such skills have never been needed more than they are now. Thank you for all you have done and all that you will continue to do.

CHRISTIE NORRIS
Speaking for Carolina Public Humanities

As the Director of Education for the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Christie Norris brings an unwavering passion for K-12 teaching, learning, and community outreach to the Department. In her role, she is dedicated to advancing the Department's "Learning Happens Here" initiative, connecting teachers, students and communities in all 100 counties to our state's natural, cultural, and historical sites and resources - while enhancing the extensive educational opportunities provided across the Department's 100+ locations and programs. Her work includes designing and implementing cross-departmental professional development programs and teacher fellowships, supporting outreach to rural schools and underserved populations, designing curriculum, and fostering collaboration across the Department's hundreds of education staff members to ensure the Department is consistently supporting and affirming our state's teachers and students. Born and raised in Randolph County, NC, Christie is a proud product of North Carolina's public schools, making this work especially meaningful to her.

Before joining the Department, Christie served as the Director of Carolina K-12 at UNC-Chapel Hill for twelve years, where she had the privilege of working under Dr. Lloyd Kramer and with Dr. Jim Clark to design and facilitate the William Friday Retreat for Teachers — work that remains one of her fondest and most impactful collaborations.

Lloyd Kramer and I are both honored to be here today for the same reason: because of a partnership we were witnesses to — an alliance born under the leadership of Dr. Jim Clark and the North Caroliniana Society, one which I still consider to be some of the most meaningful and impactful work I've ever engaged in. So, I want to center these remarks on that one essential word: *impact*.

Here the Society finds itself, at fifty years, reflecting on your call "to protect, to preserve, and to tell the stories of this most remarkable state." I believe that your most powerful and enduring way to fulfill that mission is through public education, notably through the William Friday Teacher Retreats, which have touched educators in every region of this state.

If you haven't witnessed a Friday Teacher Retreat, let me make clear that teachers don't just learn history. They experience the story of North Carolina

c o n t i n u e d

woven into their minds and hearts. Over three days, in some of the most beautiful places in our state, the Retreats explore North Carolina's people, history, heritage, and culture, with some of our best teachers learning from our most brilliant public historians, authors, performers, and citizens.

To date, 421 North Carolina teachers from 90 counties have participated in twelve Friday Teacher Retreats. Collectively, these teachers reach approximately 60,000 students in classrooms all across the state each school year.

To be clear these Retreats are about much more than just some of the best lectures teachers say they've ever taken part in. Something extraordinary happens in these Retreats. Teachers walk away standing taller. They feel seen. They feel valued. They feel renewed. As a former middle school teacher myself, I can tell you this kind of genuine respect is rare. And it is transformative.

As one teacher from Guilford County wrote in her November 2019 evaluation: "My heart cannot express the gratitude that I have for the North Caroliniana Society. From start to finish, the William Friday Teacher Retreat was unlike any professional development I've ever attended. We were treated like professionals. Every speaker poured a love of North Carolina straight into us. We were made to feel important, valued, and treasured... something I will carry with me for many, many years."

That is the work of the North Caroliniana Society. That is the living legacy of Dr. Jim Clark, who would always offer inspirational remarks over the Retreat's flagship Teacher Appreciation Dinner.

During those dinners, Jim would always tell the teachers about Weymouth, the beautiful Southern Pines home of James and Katharine Boyd built in the 1920s, which became a haven for North Carolina greats like Thomas Wolfe and Paul Green. A place where deep conversation shaped literature, ideas, and, certainly, hope.

Jim would recount to the teachers Paul Green's words about his friend James Boyd, that together they would sit many a night in that hospitable home and "talk the darkness away." There was a lot of darkness in the 1930s and 40s. And there is a lot of darkness today, so much of which our teachers are on the front lines of.

Jim would use these words by Paul Green to issue teachers a challenge, imploring them to teach the darkness away.

And that is what the William Friday Teacher Retreats empower every attendee to do. That is why your investment is not just important; it is essential to preserving and protecting this state. Every teacher you lift up becomes a guardian of North Carolina's story. Every student they reach becomes a bearer of our shared heritage. And every classroom becomes a place where light, truth, and curiosity push back against the darkness.

A Retreat participant from Ashe County stated: "Teachers, more so than any other profession, are constantly barraged with criticism from the public. Professional development like this is essential to boost morale for teachers who are in the trenches. I've seen firsthand that excellent teachers are leaving because of a lack

of respect and support. Just one word from someone expressing heartfelt thanks, legitimizing the work we do, or acknowledging our standing in the professional world could be the difference in that excellent teacher staying in the classroom and impacting the lives of students.”

So, if you ask what more the Society can do? My answer is simple: continue. Continue what you started under the leadership of education champion Dr. Jim Clark. Continue investing in the William Friday Teacher Retreats and North Carolina History Day.

Continue giving teachers the knowledge, the community, and the dignity they need to teach this state’s story with accuracy and heart. There is no better way to fulfill your mission. And there is no better tribute to Dr. Jim Clark.

LLOYD KRAMER ***Speaking for Carolina Public Humanities***

Lloyd Kramer is a Professor Emeritus of History and former Director of Carolina Public Humanities (CPH) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his PhD at Cornell University and taught at Stanford and Northwestern before becoming a member of the History Department at Chapel Hill in 1986, where he enjoyed a long career before his retirement in 2024. He served as Associate Director of UNC’s Institute for the Arts and Humanities in the 1990s and as Chair of the UNC History Department from 2004 to 2013. He later served as Director of Carolina Public Humanities (2014-2024) — an outreach program that offers humanities-centered programs and seminars for lifelong learners, public school teachers, and community colleges across North Carolina. Carolina K-12 is an educational program within Carolina Public Humanities that collaborates closely with the North Caroliniana Society to serve the pedagogical needs of North Carolina’s teachers and to honor educators for their important public service to our state.

*Professor Kramer also participated widely in faculty governance at UNC, including service as Chair of the Faculty Council during the upheavals of the COVID-19 pandemic. He received several university awards for outstanding undergraduate teaching and for his public-facing work in the Humanities. He has published numerous articles in historical journals and newspapers; and the University of North Carolina Press has published several of his books, including his most recent, *Traveling to Unknown Places: Nineteenth-Century Journeys Toward French and American Selfhood* (2024). He believes that historical knowledge and the humanities are essential for a vibrant civic culture and for a flourishing democratic society.*

The values, talents, and vision of Jim Clark made him the perfect liaison for the partnership between the North Caroliniana Society and Carolina K-12, a collaboration which developed while Jim was the President of the Society. I first met Jim around 2015, shortly after he had become the Society’s President and I

c o n t i n u e d

had become the Director of Carolina Public Humanities (CPH). Carolina K-12 — a program within Carolina Public Humanities — serves public school teachers through professional development workshops, curriculum materials, and special seminars to enhance public education.

One of the members of our CPH Advisory Board, Pickett Guthrie, had worked with Martin Brinkley at his law firm in Raleigh, and she explained that Martin would be interested in programs that supported North Carolina teachers. Pickett's friendship with Martin brought an introduction to Jim, and we soon began developing plans for a new series of teacher retreats for which we would request financial support from the North Caroliniana Society, with Jim's enthusiastic endorsement. Jim understood immediately what we were trying to do at Carolina K-12 because of his own long involvement with public education and teacher programs at North Carolina State University. (This work had been suspended after Jim's retirement from NC State.) CPH and Carolina K-12 thus became ideal partners for the next phase of Jim's service to the public humanities. As in all good partnerships, each side brought important commitments and perspectives to the relationship, and there are four central themes in Jim's own life and work that connected immediately with Carolina K-12.

First, Jim believes strongly in the value of public education as a foundation for both the private lives and public actions of all North Carolinians.

And second — but equally important — he believes that the humanities should be a central component of education at all levels: from elementary schools through universities. This humanities-centered educational work also must include well-informed explorations of history and literature in which students can learn about the conflicts, achievements, and flaws of past generations. This engagement with the past also must examine both the best and most problematic aspects of our state's history.

Third, Jim believes that democracy is the freest and most important kind of political organization because (in contrast to autocracies and oligarchies) democratic systems can respond to public concerns and human needs; moreover, he opposes political systems that ignore or exclude people because they don't have money or social advantages. This belief in democratic systems that serve people from all social backgrounds may come from his early life in rural Warren County, which helped him see how both democracy and social mobility depend on access to good educational opportunities.

Finally, Jim understands that all these essential aspects of civic life in North Carolina — public education, humanities-centered knowledge, and democratic institutions — require talented, knowledgeable, and hard-working teachers in every county of our state. As Jim noted when we began our conversations about a partnership, the North Caroliniana Society had developed the William Friday Fund to support teachers in North Carolina, but the Society lacked a statewide network of teacher relationships and a staff of people who could organize seminars for teachers. While Carolina K-12 had established a network of teachers, created

a great leadership team to develop curriculum materials and creative seminars for teachers, and fostered a deep commitment to public education, we lacked the funds to fully implement our vision. So Jim facilitated a new partnership in which the funding and vision of the North Caroliniana Society was fused with the educational expertise, networks, and vision of Carolina K-12 to develop the William Friday Retreats for North Carolina teachers. These retreats have now enhanced and affirmed the educational work of hundreds of North Carolina teachers over the past ten years — and the partnership continues to serve more educators every year.

Jim Clark is the visionary leader, persistent advocate, and efficient manager who helped to make this ongoing educational work possible for North Carolina's teachers. Therefore, I am pleased to thank him for his service as we recognize Jim's contributions to the state of North Carolina and to this Society. Christie Norris, the longtime, previous director of Carolina K-12 will now explain what Jim's work and the gifts of the North Caroliniana Society have meant to the teachers of North Carolina.

JASON TOMBERLIN

Speaking for the Archie K. Davis Fellowship

As Head of the Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library's Research & Instructional Services Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I lead a team of librarians and staff who work with researchers, instructors, and students to understand and access special collections, including items and collections related to history of the American South, North Carolina, UNC history, folklife and folk arts, and rare books and material. We collaborate on courses with numerous instructors to develop primary source assignments and to introduce students to special collections and their research value.

I have been a librarian here at Chapel Hill since 2003. I have an M.A. in public history from North Carolina State University and a B.A. in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

My main job in participating in this is to get out of the way here in a few seconds and let you hear from Dr. Brandon Winford. But I wanted to tell you about the great pleasure of serving as chair of the Archie K. Davis Fellowship Committee. The greatest pleasure of this appointment is not anything that I do: it's the things that I get to do, and the individuals with whom I get to work. I'd like to thank fellow committee members: Margaret Bauer (who is here tonight somewhere); Mike Wiley; David Cecelski; and in previous years Dr. Clark and Justice Willis Whichard. We worked as a committee this year — the first year that we've been without Justice Whichard — without the benefit of his wisdom and good counsel. We have sorely missed him, as I'm sure many of you do as well. I'd also like to thank Copie Cain, the Society's executive director, for putting things together and thus

continued

making our job much easier. The Society receives anywhere from fifteen to thirty applications a year from scholars for the Davis Fellowship. It is fascinating to be able to read through the applications each year. A long time ago I realized that while I was pretty good as a librarian — one who helps researchers find resources — I was not the greatest writer in the world. So it is really neat for me to be able to work with scholars (like Dr. Winford) to help them find the resources that they need. This year the committee named four Archie K. Davis Fellows. (Each year we award either four \$5,000 grants, or five \$4000 grants.) The Society's membership will hear more about this year's Fellows in the coming weeks.

The Fellowship was established in 1987 through a \$250,000 gift from the Research Triangle Foundation in honor of Archie K. Davis, the Foundation's former chairman and the Society's president in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Over the years the Davis Fellows have produced fantastic work; in fact, a number of you in the room have been recipients of these grants. You'll hear from Dr. Winford in just a few moments about some of the impact that the Davis Fellowship had on his work. Since 1988, nearly five hundred scholars have received funding from the Davis Fund to conduct research that promotes the study and history and culture of our state. It has contributed to numerous books, scholarly articles, and conference papers that many of you have had the pleasure of reading and learning from. I'd be remiss if I didn't get to talk about my experience in working with Dr. H.G. Jones. I used to sit and watch him talk with the scholars as they came in, and I always just wanted to be a fly on the wall when he was talking with them. What were they talking about? What wisdom was he imparting to them? But when I started helping him a little bit more and took over some of those aspects of administering the Davis fund, many of you here will not be surprised to hear that Dr. Jones left very explicit instructions for me: the exact ways that we should advertise the fellowships, the exact ways to share information with the recipients, etc.

Now I'm going to invite Dr. Brandon Winford to come up to the podium. Dr. Winford is an associate professor at the University of Tennessee, which of course is located in Knoxville, the town of my birth. I like to remind my Dad — who moved me here to the Tar Heel State when I was four years old — that the Tennessee territory was originally part of North Carolina, so I count myself as a native North Carolinian. (I admit that I'm kind of stretching it there a little bit.)

Dr. Winford graduated from two of the finest institutions in North Carolina: North Carolina Central University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I first met him when he was at Chapel Hill getting his PhD, when he was working in the Manuscripts Department in Wilson Library. I have enjoyed working with him over the past years, and rather than having a formal Q & A I would just invite him up here to talk just a little bit about the impact of the research. but to talk about what the North Caroliniana Society can do to help future Archie K. Davis Fellows.

Dr. Winford: I'm just going to go ahead and tell you that the funding has been fantastic. But gasoline prices are currently over \$4.00 a gallon, and travel has become so expensive. What I think the Society can do is to continue to fund these wonderful opportunities for researchers of North Carolina's history and culture to produce these scholarly works, which will impact generations of educators and their students.

BRANDON K. WINFORD
Speaking for the Archie K. Davis Fellowship

I am a historian of late nineteenth and twentieth century United States and African American history. My areas of specialization are civil rights and black business history. I regularly offer the following courses: the 1960s in America, the History of the Civil Rights Movement, African American Business History, and Classic and Contemporary Readings in African American History. I am the co-founder of the Fleming-Morrow Endowment in African American History named in honor of Drs. Cynthia Griggs Fleming and John H. Morrow Jr., two pioneer black faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences and Department of History. I am the recipient of the 2019 Junior Diversity Leadership Award from the UTK College of Arts and Sciences and the 2020 Hardy Liston Jr. Symbol of Hope Award from the Commission for Blacks.

My first book, John Hervey Wheeler, Black Banking, and the Economic Struggle for Civil Rights (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2020), combines black business and civil rights history to explain how economic concerns shaped the goals and objectives of the black freedom struggle. The book focuses on the black business activism of banker and civil rights lawyer John Hervey Wheeler (1908-1978). Wheeler graduated from Morehouse College in 1929, and then moved to Durham, North Carolina where he landed a job as a bank teller with the Mechanics and Farmers Bank (M&F Bank), one of the nation's largest black-owned banks. In 1952, he became president of M&F Bank, a sister institution to the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company (N.C. Mutual). Between the 1950s and 1960s, Wheeler was the Tar Heel State's most influential black power broker and among the top civil rights figures in the South.

I am currently working on a book manuscript, provisionally titled Our Good Fortune: A History of Black Banking in the American South.

My initial proposal for the Davis Fellowship in 2017 was a bit ambitious, as it outlined research for a second book of mine to be titled *To Change the Mind of the South: A History of the Southern Regional Council, 1940s-1980s*. Although I had intended to look at several collections in the Southern Historical Collection in Wilson Library related to the SRC (which I had used for my dissertation and first book), at that time I was in the thick of writing my first book, *John Hervey Wheeler, Black Banking, and the Economic Struggle for Civil Rights* (University Press of

c o n t i n u e d

Kentucky, 2020). Mr. Wheeler had been heavily involved in the Southern Regional Council from its inception, and served as the organization's president for five years in the 1960s. So I wanted to come back to those materials with the specific focus on that organization rather than on John Hervey Wheeler. *To Change the Mind of the South* is still on my research agenda. However, I used the Archie K. Davis fellowship to do follow-up research for the first book.

In coming back to the papers that I had consulted before, my main focus was on materials in the Southern Historical Collection. In particular, I reviewed portions of the George Watts Hill Sr. Papers (the namesake of the Watts Hill Alumni Center) relating to the Research Triangle Institute. The materials were a key resource for me in the writing of Chapter 6 in my book titled, "Urban Renewal and the Prospects of a Free and Open Society." Hill Sr.'s son was George Watts Hill Jr., the self-professed white moderate banker and politician who called on John Hervey Wheeler to help end the 1960 sit-ins in Durham by explaining, or cautioning him to consider, "some very real dangers." In Chapter 6, I highlight the relationship between Durham's urban renewal plan and the development of the Research Triangle Park southeast of downtown, which were both major development issues in the mid-to-late 1950s. Urban renewal displaced both Black business and residential areas in order to cut a major highway corridor through the heart of Black Durham (today known as Highway 147, the Durham Freeway). The Durham Freeway ultimately connected the area's major research universities — Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, and NC State — to the newly-established Research Triangle Park in portions of southern Durham County (and western Wake County). While Black Durham was being displaced, room was being made for newcomers to the city, many of them white.

As a historian, I cannot overstate the role of organizations like the North Caroliniana Society in providing key research support for scholars. It highlights the importance of archives and archivists, who provide invaluable expertise to help researchers answer the big historical questions they're interested in exploring. It is in the archive that historians get to see how historical figures worked to maintain the ideals of democracy and the institutions that have sustained the United States in its now 250-year history. We get to see figures like the Black banker and civil rights lawyer John Hervey Wheeler work across racial lines with people like Watts Hill Sr. and Watts Hill Jr., in an effort to convince them that significant changes had to happen in order for the professed ideals of this nation to become a reality for all of its citizens. In the archive, we see people like John Hervey Wheeler hold the feet of white leaders to the fire. At the same time, many of those white leaders wrestled with their own convictions and examined their own consciences, taking seriously the extent to which they were upholding those ideals when they were directly challenged in the historical moment. Now, more than ever, it is incumbent upon all of us to do exactly what we witness our historical predecessors doing in the archives by holding our political leaders accountable to the true principles that we celebrate and have too often taken for granted.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: • Lisa Gregory • Alice Cotten • Karen Ipock
• Jo Ann Williford • Christie Norris • Lloyd Kramer • Jason Tomberlin • Brandon Winford

Presentation of 2026 Society Award

Dr. James W. Clark Jr Teacher, Man of Letters, Humanist, and Lifetime Champion of North Carolina's Public Schools and Universities

We'll never forget that this is one of the sweetest moments that I know — this afternoon and this evening and this moment.

We are channeling the great spirits of great leaders that the Society has had, from our founders, H.G. Jones, and President Willis Whichard.

It is an extraordinary honor to bestow this goblet, the North Caroliniana Society Award, to Professor James W. "Jim" Clark.



James W. "Jim" Clark Jr. and Bland Simpson

Becoming Lunsford Lane: The Lives of an American Aeneas

Craig Thompson Friend

2025 NORTH CAROLINIANA
SOCIETY BOOK AWARD

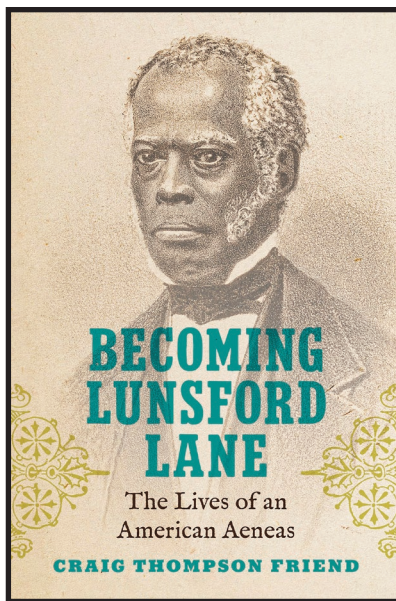
ABOUT THE BOOK

The real life behind the mythical story of Lunsford Lane...

By challenging the rules of enslavement and, later, pushing the boundaries of free citizenship in North Carolina, Lunsford Lane (1803–79) became a folk hero to many enslaved Southerners, as well as a generation of abolitionists. Author of a unique “slave narrative” and a speaking partner with some of the era’s greatest orators, including William Lloyd Garrison, Henry Highland Garnett, William Wells Brown, and Frederick Douglass, Lane became a celebrity who watched as the persona he created gradually faltered and failed him and his family. Yet even as his influence waned, it was still powerful enough to cause many to remake his image for their own purposes: as a fugitive from slavery, an entrepreneur, a Christian minister, and even an abolitionist (an identity he rejected). Lane also made many enemies who tried to silence him — a white mob determined to tar and feather him, reformers who saw his contributions to abolition as a threat to their causes, and a neighbor who attempted to set fire to the Lane home while Lunsford and his family slept inside.

In the first biography of Lunsford Lane based on original and extensive research, Craig Thompson Friend portrays a man who dreamed beyond his enslavement, delivered himself and his family from bondage, and spun a story of his life that brought him lasting freedom and fleeting fame. Friend casts light on Lane’s family origins as well as his complex relationships with his wife, parents, children, enslavers, fellow abolitionists, and nation. Lane’s story is a biography for our times: a man searching to define life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in a changing American society scarred by contentious politics, economic challenges, class tensions, loss of political rights, and racial violence.

c o n t i n u e d



LEFT: Craig Thompson Friend. RIGHT: *Becoming Lunsford Lane: The Lives of an American Aeneas*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Craig Thompson Friend is Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Professor of History and Public History at North Carolina State University. A specialist in early United States history, he is a former president of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic and serves as President-Elect of the Historical Society of North Carolina. He has written four monographs on the American Revolutionary and Early Republic eras, and he has edited or co-edited eight scholarly collections on topics ranging from American manhood to historical interpretations of Southern history to American death culture. He spent over a decade researching *Becoming Lunsford Lane*, funded by fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Antiquarian Society, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History..

ABOUT THE AWARD

The North Caroliniana Society established the North Caroliniana Book Award in 2003 to recognize annually “the book that captures the essence of North Carolina by contributing powerfully to an understanding of the state.” Authors are eligible regardless of residency. However, neither authors nor publishers submit books; instead, a committee privately surveys all books published during the year and chooses the volume that it believes “makes a positive contribution and appears to have the best chance of standing the test of time as a classic volume of North Caroliniana.”

Presentation of 2025 Society Book Award

Michael R. Hill, Chairman, Society Book Award Committee

Hello, friends. This is the fourth time at the podium for me to announce the winner of this year's North Caroliniana Book Award, but the twenty-third such presentation by the Society. Way back in 2003, H.G. Jones and I met to create this honor, one designed to recognize the previous year's best book about North Carolina — the one that deepens our understanding of the Old North State and bids to become a classic.

The book selected this year is Craig Thompson Friend's *Becoming Lunsford Lane: The Lives of an American Aeneas*. The other finalists this time around were Eddie Huffman, *Doc Watson: A Life in Music* (a close second in our balloting); Alice Gerrard, *Custom Made Woman: A Life in Traditional Music*; and Rob Christensen, *Southern News, Southern Politics: How a Newspaper Defined a State for a Century*. Joining me as judges this year were Joe Mobley, Rebecca Godwin, Howard Covington Jr., and Jim Ervin. Each of these books was published by the University of North Carolina Press — though we do always cast a wide net in considering books from various publishers.

Craig Friend teaches history at North Carolina State University, where he serves as Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Professor. He is president-elect of the Historical Society of North Carolina. In addition to writing about the early republic and the antebellum period, he specializes in public history and has trained a generation of M.A. students for work in that field. He completed a Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky in 1995 and is co-author, with James Klotter, of *A New History of Kentucky* (2018).

So, who was Lunsford Lane? One of North Carolina's historical markers states succinctly that he was formerly "Enslaved. Bought freedom in 1835. Nationally known orator, abolitionist, and entrepreneur. Wrote his *Narrative* in 1842. Was born nearby." That marker stands across from Christ Church in Raleigh, between the Capitol and Haywood Hall (where his father was enslaved), two places central to Lunsford Lane's life. It was with his father that Lane produced and sold tobacco, an activity illegal for enslaved persons, but one which enabled him over a decade to save a thousand dollars and purchase his freedom.

continued

Post-freedom, Lane lived in New York and Massachusetts. On a return trip to Raleigh in 1842 he was tarred and feathered by a mob, but afterwards was rescued by some of his white friends in the area. His *Narrative*, detailing how he and his family gained their freedom, proved to be a national sensation, and he often shared the speaking platform with prominent abolitionists at anti-slavery events.

The committee commended Friend's prodigious research, particularly his use of courthouse documents. The early chapters shed new light on antebellum Raleigh and the intertwined Lane and Haywood families. The book deserves its place alongside David Blight's recent biography, *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*.

So, at this point, I call up Craig Friend.



Mike Hill and Craig Friend

CRAIG FRIEND

The North Caroliniana Society truly honors me with this award, adding my work to the list of other fine scholarship recognized by the Society. Foremost, I thank my husband, Rod Turner. His inspiration and support in the writing of this book accounts for just a sliver of the over thirty-two years of love and companionship we have shared. I thank Debbie Gershenowitz, my editor at the University of North Carolina Press, whose support and assistance was immeasurable. And I would like to acknowledge my mentor and dear friend, Theda Perdue, who joined me today.

Researching Lunsford Lane's life took over a decade, and even now I still come across new information. I am most often asked why Lunsford Lane. Not until after publication, however, did I realize what appeals to me about his story. Biography was a waning genre in the 1970s and 1980s, but it made a strong comeback in the 1990s with the rise of what we have called "founders' chic," — placing the roles of specific and familiar individuals at the heart of sweeping national narratives. Washington, Adams, Jefferson and Hamilton each garnered award-winning biographies, and some also got television and Broadway shows. But what did democracy and republicanism, capitalism and labor, spiritual faith and civic religion mean to the common man, to the rest of us? Lunsford Lane's story provided me the opportunity to explore that question, to seek out how a lesser luminary fit himself into the American constellation. For some Americans, Lane embodied the emerging American Dream more accurately and inspiringly than any great founder. As one New Englander phrased it, why couldn't Lane and other Black abolitionists be "the Henrys, and Hancocks, and Adamses of a second American Revolution?"

Finally, as we prepare to celebrate our nation's semiquincentennial, I would like to comment briefly on the serendipity of history. In 1976, I was a ninth-grader at William C. Friday Junior High School in Dallas, North Carolina. My eighth- and ninth-grade teachers, Elaine Jenkins and Betty Clagg, had taught me United States and North Carolina history, respectively. They were inspirational teachers, and they helped me enter that year's National History Day contest with a scale model that I had made of Colonial Williamsburg. After years of family trips to Revolutionary War sites, as a junior high student I already knew that I would spend my life as a historian. Fifty years later, I am honored to receive this recognition from the Society, a valued collaborator with National History Day, the event that helped to form me into the historian that I am. And another Society partner — the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — informed much of the research for this book. So, I am grateful to the Society not only for this award, but for the ways in which it helped make me the historian that I have become. I hope that the members of the Society realize how much they affect, inspire, and contribute to the success of historians and other students of history. Thank you again.

Maya Musselman

2026 WILLIAM STEVENS POWELL AWARD

Maya is graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill with majors in Philosophy and Sociology. She is an ethics scholar in the Parr Center for Ethics, a member of the Carolina Mock Trial team, and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

Maya created an elaborate paper wedding dress constructed of legal statutes and court records, carefully designed in layers that reflect specific elements of the history it documents. Her wedding dress was the final project for her Women and Gender Studies 101 course. The project traces North Carolina's legal history back to its origins as a colony, focusing on North Carolina's spousal sexual assault laws. Maya plans to continue researching and pursuing reproductive justice and women's rights at law school next year.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The William Stevens Powell Award was established in 2002 by the North Caroliniana Society in honor of the Society's first president, long-time vice-president, and distinguished historian. The award recognizes a graduating senior in The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who is judged to have contributed most to an understanding of the history and traditions of the first state university, or who has done the most to develop interest in, and understanding of, the history of the state of North Carolina.

The winner of the award receives an autographed copy of Professor Powell's book, *The First State University*, and his or her name is engraved on a silver plaque that is displayed in the North Carolina Collection's Reading Room in the Wilson Library. The William Stevens Powell Award honoree is also recognized at the UNC-CH's annual spring Chancellor's Awards ceremony.

Presentation of 2026 William S. Powell Award

**Bland Simpson, President,
North Caroliniana Society**

It is a tremendous source of pride and pleasure for this Society to present the 2026 William S. Powell award to Maya Musselman. The Powell Award is given in honor of one of our founders, who was the longtime Curator of the North Carolina Collection in Wilson Library. Many of you knew Bill, and the award recognizes undergraduate work that concerns the history of the University or the intertwined histories of both. I'm going to read to you what I wrote to Maya when I sent a letter of congratulations after she was selected for this award, which was formally presented at the Chancellor's Awards here in Chapel Hill last month.

continued



Bland Simpson and Maya Musselman

BLAND SIMPSON

Maya,

Many congratulations to you upon being named this year's recipient of the North Caroliniana Society's William Stevens Powell Award, celebrating your excellent original scholarship and writing here at Carolina.

At a time when so much of our American populace longs and calls for a return to a supposed simpler, better past, your powerful and compelling work is advising all who listen that there was much not so good about those legendary good old days. And the symbolic and emblematic use of your hand-made wedding dress dramatically drives home the hard-hitting message of your work about injustice and violence within marriage in our state. Better truth than myth inform our present and future.

We salute you and your scholarship, as well as your professor-mentor Dr. Tanya Shields, who we are glad to see here today.

Congratulations.

MAYA MUSSELMAN

Thank you to the North Caroliniana Society; to Dr. Tanya Shields for being such a wonderful professor and memorable lecturer; to my parents; and to my grandma for letting me store a paper wedding dress in her garage for months on end.

This project is very special to me. It's a culmination of so many of my interests — law, gender studies, women's rights, and using a hot glue gun. I can't tell you exactly why I spent months on a capstone project for an introductory-level course. Maybe because the subject matter called to me. Or maybe because I had moved to a state that was so deeply entrenched in the history of America — as one of the thirteen original colonies — that I didn't know how to reckon with it — and I still don't. I don't know how we reckon with the history of enslavement, of eugenics and forced sterilization, of violence and discrimination.

But in light of recent political decisions, I know that we have to. I know that history is a powerful force that shouldn't be ignored and cannot be denied. I know that we will never move forward if we can't look back. And I looked back all the way to North Carolina's colonial history for this project. Spousal sexual assault wasn't even named for hundreds of years, much less made illegal. And when it finally was named, it was to make an exception for perpetrators who were spouses, not to provide protection to victims. North Carolina was the last state to get rid of that exception (in 1993).

I hope that by my project receiving this award, the history of spousal sexual assault in North Carolina will be less easily forgotten — and that the very real implications of it will be less readily denied.

Thank you.

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY AWARD RECIPIENTS

1978 — Paul Green	2002 — Frank Borden Hanes Sr.
1979 — Albert Coates	2003 — Maxine Swalin
1980 — Sam J. Ervin Jr.	2004 — Elizabeth Vann Moore
1981 — Sam Ragan	2004 — W. Trent Ragland Jr.
1982 — Gertrude Sprague Carraway	2005 — W. Dallas Herring
1983 — John Fries Blair	2005 — John Hope Franklin
1984 — William C. & Ida H. Friday	2006 — Betty Ray McCain
1985 — William S. Powell	2006 — Joseph F. Steelman
1986 — Mary D.B.T. & James H. Semans	2007 — William B. Aycock
1987 — David Stick	2007 — Fred Chappell
1988 — William McWhorter Cochrane	2008 — Henry E. & Shirley T. Frye
1989 — Emma Neal Morrison	2008 — Robert & Jessie Rae Scott
1990 — Burke Davis	2009 — James E. Holshouser Jr.
1991 — Lawrence F. London	2010 — Bland Simpson
1992 — Frank Hawkins Kenan	2011 — Lindsay C. Warren Jr.
1993 — Charles Kuralt	2012 — Lee Smith
1994 — H.G. Jones	2013 — Thomas W. Lambeth
1994 — Archie K. Davis	2014 — Myrick Howard
1994 — North Carolina Collection	2015 — Herb Jackson
1995 — J. Carlyle Sitterson	2016 — Willis P. Whichard
1995 — LeRoy T. Walker	2017 — H. David Bruton
1996 — Hugh MacRae Morton	2018 — Catherine Ward Bishir
1997 — John L. Sanders	2019 — Alice & Jerry Cotten
1998 — Doris Waugh Betts	2020 — D.G. Martin
1999 — Reynolds Price	2021 — Howard N. Lee
2000 — Richard H. Jenrette	2022 — William Mangum
2001 — Wilma Dykeman	2023 — Martin Brinkley
	2024 — Kevin Cherry
	2025 — Jo Ann Chavis Lowery
	2026 — Dr. James W. Clark Jr.

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY BOOK AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 2003** — Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern for *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003).
- 2004** — Timothy B. Tyson for *Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story* (New York City, NY: Crown Publishers, 2004).
- 2005** — Joe Mobley for *“War Governor of the South”: North Carolina’s Zeb Vance in the Confederacy* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2005).
- 2006** — William S. Powell for *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006).
- 2007** — Karl E. Campbell for *Senator Sam: Last of the Founding Fathers* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007).
- 2008** — Anna Ragland Hayes for *Without Precedent: The Life of Susie Marshall Sharp* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008).
- 2009** — Mark L. Bradley for *Bluecoats and Tar Heels: Soldiers and Civilians in Reconstruction North Carolina* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2009).
- 2010** — Robert R. Korstad and James L. Leloudis for *To Right These Wrongs: The North Carolina Fund and the Battle to End Poverty and Inequality in 1960s America* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010).
- 2011** — David Silkenat for *Moments of Despair: Suicide, Divorce, & Debt in Civil War Era North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011).
- 2012** — David S. Cecelski for *The Fire of Freedom: Abraham Galloway & the Slaves’ Civil War* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012).
- 2013** — Sarah Caroline Thuesen for *Greater than Equal: African American Struggles for Schools and Citizenship in North Carolina, 1919-1965* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013).
- 2014** — Jeffrey Reaser and Walt Wolfram for *Talkin’ Tar Heel: How Our Voices Tell the Story of North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014).
- 2015** — Jessica Bandel, Michael Hill, and Mark Anderson Moore for *The Old North State at War: The North Carolina Civil War Atlas* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, 2015).
- 2016** — David Silkenat for *Driven From Home: North Carolina’s Civil War Refugee Crisis* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2016).
- 2017** — Larry E. Tise and Jeffrey J. Crow for *New Voyages to Carolina: Reinterpreting North Carolina History* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017).

2018 — Ansley Herring Wegner and Jeff Miles for *This Day In North Carolina* designed by Sheilah Barrett Carroll (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, 2018).

2019 — Howard Covington for *Fire and Stone: The Making of The University of North Carolina under Presidents Edward Kidder Graham and Harry Woodburn Chase* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library, 2019).

2020 — David Menconi for *Step It Up & Go: The Story of North Carolina Popular Music, from Blind Boy Fuller and Doc Watson to Nina Simone and Superchunk* ((Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2020).

2021 — Bland Simpson for *North Carolina: Land of Water, Land of Sky* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2021).

2022 — Lindley S. Butler for *A History of North Carolina in the Proprietary Era, 1629-1729* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2022).

2023 — Drew A. Swanson for *A Man of Bad Reputation: The Murder of John Stephens and the Contested Landscape of North Carolina Reconstruction* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2023).

2024 — Janet McCue and Paul Bonesteel for *George Masa: A Life Reimagined* (Gatlinburg, TN: Smokies Life, 2024).

2025 — Craig Thompson Friend for *Becoming Lunsford Lane: The Lives of an American Aeneas* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2025)

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY
WILLIAM STEVENS POWELL AWARD RECIPIENTS

2002 — Eric David Johnson

2004 — Jonathan Slain

2008 — Eve Marie Carson

2011 — Frank O’Hale

2015 — Isaac Warshauer

2018 — Morgan Vickers

2019 — Jordan Kathryn Jenkins

2022 — Abby Wooten

2023 — Seth Thomas Moore

2024 — Robert Elliot Clay

2025 — Anna Marie Switzer

2026 — Maya Musselman

North Caroliniana Society Imprints Numbers 1-67 (1978-2026)

- No. 1.** *An Evening at Monticello: An Essay in Reflection* (1978) by Edwin M. Gill
- No. 2.** *The Paul Green I Know* (1978) by Elizabeth Lay Green
- No. 3.** *The Albert Coates I Know* (1979) by Gladys Hall Coates
- No. 4.** *The Sam Ervin I Know* (1980) by Jean Conyers Ervin
- No. 5.** *Sam Ragan* (1981) by Neil Morgan
- No. 6.** *Thomas Wolfe of North Carolina* (1982) edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 7.** *Gertrude Sprague Carraway* (1982) by Sam Ragan
- No. 8.** *John Fries Blair* (1983) by Margaret Blair McCuiston
- No. 9.** *William Clyde Friday and Ida Howell Friday* (1984) by Georgia Carroll Kyser and William Brantley Aycock
- No. 10.** *William S. Powell, Historian* (1985) by David Stick and William C. Friday
- No. 11.** *"Gallantry Unsurpassed"* (1985) edited by Archie K. Davis
- No. 12.** *Mary and Jim Semans, North Carolinians* (1986) by W. Kenneth Goodson
- No. 13.** *The High Water Mark* (1986) edited by Archie K. Davis
- No. 14.** *Raleigh and Quinn: The Explorer and His Boswell* (1987) edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 15.** *A Half Century in Coastal History* (1987) by David Stick
- No. 16.** *Thomas Wolfe at Eighty-seven* (1988) edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 17.** *A Third of a Century in Senate Cloakrooms* (1988) by William McWhorter Cochrane
- No. 18.** *The Emma Neal Morrison I Know* (1989) by Ida Howell Friday
- No. 19.** *Thomas Wolfe's Composition Books* (1990) edited by Alice R. Cotten
- No. 20.** *My Father, Burke Davis* (1990) by Angela Davis-Gardner
- No. 21.** *A Half Century with Rare Books* (1991) by Lawrence F. London
- No. 22.** *Frank H. Kenan: An Appreciation* (1992) edited by Archie K. Davis
- No. 23.** *Growing Up in North Carolina* by Charles Kurlalt, and *The Uncommon Laureate* by Wallace H. Kurlalt (1993)
- No. 24.** *Chancellors Extraordinary: J. Carlyle Sitterson and LeRoy T. Walker* (1995) by William C. Friday and Willis P. Whichard
- No. 25.** *Historical Consciousness in the Early Republic* (1995) edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 26.** *Sixty Years with a Camera* (1996) by Hugh M. Morton
- No. 27.** *William Gaston as a Public Man* (1997) by John L. Sanders
- No. 28.** *William P. Cumming and the Study of Cartography* (1998) edited by Robert Cumming
- No. 29.** *My Love Affair with Carolina* (1998) by Doris Waugh Betts
- No. 30.** *A Single but Huge Distinction* (1999) by Reynolds Price
- No. 31.** *Richard Jenrette's Adventures in Historic Preservation* (2000) edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 32.** *Sketches in North Carolina USA 1872 to 1878* (2001) by Mortimer O. Heath; edited by H.G. Jones

- No. 33.** *Roots and Branches* (2001) by Wilma Dykeman
- No. 34.** *Glimmers in the Gloaming* (2002) by Frank Borden Hanes Sr.
- No. 35.** *Coming of Age in North Carolina's Fifth Century*, by Maxine Swalin and *The North Carolina Symphony*, by John L. Humber (2003)
- No. 36.** *Reflections* (2004) by W. Trent Ragland Jr.
- No. 37.** *Photographers in North Carolina: The First Century, 1842-1941* (2004) Essays by Stephen E. Massengill, H.G. Jones, Jesse R. Lankford
- No. 38.** *North Carolina Conundrum* (2005) by John Hope Franklin
- No. 39.** *Poetical Geography of North Carolina* (1887; 2006) by Needham Bryan Cobb
- No. 40.** *The Goodliest Land* (2006) by Betty Ray McCain
- No. 41.** *Hayes: The Plantation, Its People, and Their Papers* (2007) by John G. Zehmer Jr.
- No. 42.** *Center of the Universe* (2007) by Fred Chappell
- No. 43.** *William B. Aycock: Our Champion* (2007) by Judith W. Wegner
- No. 44.** *Nathaniel Macon of North Carolina* (2008) by William S. Price Jr.
- No. 45.** *Robert Scott and the Preservation of North Carolina History* (2009) by H.G. Jones
- No. 46.** *A Historic Occasion* (2009) by Shirley Taylor Frye and Henry E. Frye
- No. 47.** *Surprise of the Century* (2009) by James E. Holshouser Jr.
- No. 48.** *The Colonial Records of North Carolina* (2010) edited by William S. Price Jr.
- No. 49.** *The Grandfathers* (2010) by Bland Simpson
- No. 50.** *A Resumé of Two Historic Adventures* (2011) by Lindsay C. Warren Jr.
- No. 51.** *Faces and Places of My Heart* (2012) by Lee Smith
- No. 52.** *A Love Affair with an Entire State* (2013) by Thomas W. Lambeth
- No. 53.** *Why Historic Preservation Matters* (2014) by Myrick Howard
- No. 54.** *A Place to Dig* (2015) by Herb Jackson
- No. 55.** *David Lowry Swain and the University of North Carolina, 1835-1868* (2016) by Willis P. Whichard
- No. 56.** *A North Carolina Country Boy* (2017) by H. David Bruton
- No. 57.** *Religious Traditions of North Carolina: Histories, Tenets, and Leaders* (2018) edited by Glenn Jonas
- No. 58.** *Reborn Digital* (2018) by Catherine Ward Bishir
- No. 59.** *Camp Bryan and a Tale of Two Letters* (2019) by Jerry Cotten, and *Going Home Again: The Return of Thomas Wolfe* (2019) by Alice Cotten
- No. 60.** *Jim Crow in North Carolina: The Legislative Program from 1865 to 1920* (2020) by Richard Paschal
- No. 61.** *Inside UNC-TV's North Carolina Bookwatch* (2020) by D.G. Martin
- No. 62.** *My Life of Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges, and Making History* (2021) by Howard N. Lee
- No. 63.** *An Artist's Perspective* (2022) by William Mangum
- No. 64.** *An Oboe Memoir* (2023) by Martin Brinkley
- No. 65.** *The Future of Our Histories* (2024) by Kevin Cherry
- No. 66.** *A Woman of the Dark Water: A Pathmaker and A Wisdomkeeper* (2025) by Dr. Jo Ann Chavis Lowery
- No. 67.** *Write When You Are Ready* (2026) by Dr. James W. Clark Jr.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: • Jim Clark, Amee Earl

• Margaret Bauer, Dru York, Jo Ann Williford • Jim Clark, Copie Cain

• Carmen Prioli, Lesley Stanford • Martha and David Warren • Alice Cotten, Brandon Winford

• Bob Anthony, Alex Albright • Carlton King, Roby Sawyers, Julia Reese

The background of the entire page is an abstract, marbled pattern in shades of blue and green. The pattern consists of flowing, wavy lines and swirls, creating a sense of movement and depth. The colors range from deep navy blue to a lighter, almost white green, with various intermediate tones in between.

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY

P. O. Box 20632 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27619 • Telephone: 919.230.1524
www.ncsociety.org