

(p. 180). Conway expresses mild disagreement with the C. Vann Woodward thesis that thoroughgoing racism and segregation were developments of the late nineteenth century: by 1870 in Georgia "Woodward's 'capitulation to racism' had already taken place and, *faute de mieux*, accepted" (p. 99). Conway also advances the provocative but thinly documented argument that the supposed contrast between the kindly, paternal attitude of upper-class whites toward the Negro and the virulent, violent racism of the rednecks is largely a myth: "Hatred, fear, resentment, and distrust of the Negro, in their many forms, came . . . from all quarters and from all sections of society" (p. 63).

This book treats all facets of the comparatively short Reconstruction period in Georgia (the state was fully "redeemed" by 1871), but it focuses particularly on the problems of the transition from a slave labor to a free labor agricultural economy. Sharecropping, tenancy, and the crop-lien system were the unhappy solutions to this problem. The absence of an agrarian reform effort to bring widespread land ownership to the freedmen has been viewed by some recent historians as the key to the failure of Reconstruction. Conway expresses qualified agreement with this view, but argues that land ownership alone would not have overcome the lack of incentive, capital, and training that both races, but especially the Negro, inherited from slavery. Conway concludes that the problems of Reconstruction, and especially the intertwined issues of race, poverty, and agriculture, were virtually insoluble: "In part the bitterness of Reconstruction was the bitterness of a people left to grapple with a racial problem to which there was no solution—left, moreover, to grapple with it in an environment of economic stagnation" (p. 228). This is a sobering conclusion, for it suggests that the failures of Reconstruction were not the fault of human error but of the very nature of the race problem itself, a problem that is timeless and perhaps as insoluble today as a century ago.

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For History's Sake: The Preservation and Publication of North Carolina History, 1663-1903. By H. G. Jones. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1966. Pp. xvi, 319. Notes, illustrations, selected bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

As archivist of North Carolina during the past decade, H. G. Jones has contributed to the development of one of the outstanding state record collections. His efforts, and those of his predecessors, were rewarded in 1964 when the Society of American Archivists awarded its first Distinguished Service Award to the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History. Unfortunately, the state has not always been so diligent. In the years before the establishment of the archival department there was no systematic collection of the records. This book is a meticulously researched account of one state's sporadic concern for its documentary heritage.

Jones makes no attempt to deal with the private manuscript holdings in North Carolina; his concern is the public record. The scope

of the subject is broad, spanning the years from 1663, when the colony was chartered, to 1903, when a permanent archive was created. Dividing the book into three parts, the author first discusses the public records and their keepers, then several nineteenth century historians who tried to preserve and publish these records, and finally the historical societies which sought to collect the public manuscripts.

The organization of the volume is its greatest weakness, as there are numerous instances of repetition. Members of the state government were often either amateur historians or worked with the followers of Clio and also took part in the activities of the historical societies. Thus, they are involved in the narrative in three different places.

The surprising discovery in the first section of the book is the desperate attempt by some public servants to maintain their records and the multiplicity of laws passed by the state to aid in this endeavor. The author concludes in the second portion that the historians of the state made a vital contribution not only in publishing and collecting archival materials, but also by urging elected officials and the public to help safeguard the history of the state.

The author has not allowed the pursuit of dusty, dry documents to leave his prose in a similar condition. There are several colorful incidents in the narrative: in 1791, some of the colonial records were taken by wagon to Tennessee to prevent their capture by the British, and in 1865 the records were dispersed as General Sherman's army advanced on Raleigh. Jones' Holmes-like sleuthing to trace the course of lost manuscripts is interesting, though somewhat tedious when many pages are devoted to one such adventure.

This is the first history of a state's attempt to preserve its public archives. The publishers claim that it is a contribution to "archival science," and the author suggests the need for similar monographs for the other states. This reviewer doubts the value of such studies given the limits of the topic. The omission of private holdings and the collections of universities and other historical agencies severely reduce the significance of works of this type.

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The History of the United States of America from the Discovery of the Continent. By George Bancroft. Abridged and edited by Russel B. Nye. [*Classic American Historians*. Edited by Paul M. Angle.] (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1966. Pp. xxvi, 386. Notes, illustrations, bibliographical note, index. Paperbound, \$3.45; clothbound, \$8.50.)

Bancroft's volumes, the golden eagles on their covers brown with age, have long stood neglected on library shelves. Historical specialists and busy laymen have no time to follow Bancroft's stately prose as it flows majestically from the vision of Columbus to the apotheosis of the Constitution. The *Classic American Historians* series has rescued Bancroft for our hurried generation by issuing a volume of selections