

### **William S. Powell, Editor**

Bill Powell is widely considered the "dean" of North Carolina historians. Born in 1919 in Johnston County and raised in Statesville, Powell attended Mitchell College for two years before transferring to the University of North Carolina. He graduated in 1940, entered the U.S. Army, and served in the military intelligence branch in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He returned to Chapel Hill after the war to earn degrees in history and library science. After one year as a librarian at Yale University, in 1948 he became a full-time research historian at the North Carolina Department of Archives and History.

In 1952, Powell became assistant librarian at the North Carolina Collection at UNC, and in 1958, he was promoted to curator. In that capacity he helped build what is now regarded as the premier research collection on state history. In 1973, he became a professor of history at the university, teaching more than 6,000 students before his retirement in 1986. Many of his students and protégés have gone on to hold significant positions at the state's libraries, archives, colleges, and universities.

Powell has volunteered his service on nearly every important historical board or association in the state, including the North Carolina Historical Commission, the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, the America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, the editorial board of the *North Carolina Historical Review*, and the Historical Society of North Carolina.

While he has written or edited numerous volumes of state and local history, Powell's most important contributions are reference works that have long been regarded as foundations for North Carolina history and as models for similar works in other states. *The North Carolina Gazetteer* (1968) is a geographical dictionary that lists the names, founding date, and a snippet of history on every notable place in the state. The *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* (1979-1996) spans six volumes and contains almost 4,000 biographies of people who made significant contributions to North Carolina history. Over the course of many years, Powell collected and edited entries from volunteers, as well as writing hundreds of entries himself. His *North Carolina Through Four Centuries* (1989) remains a standard college textbook. The scope and quantity of his writings are unmatched and include documentary volumes on the Regulators and William Tryon, an illustrated history of UNC, a biography of John Pory, and a history of Caswell County. The library catalog at UNC-Chapel Hill lists some 112 books and articles by Powell. For his accomplishments, he was honored with the North Carolina Award for Literature in 2000.

Powell celebrates his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. He lives with his wife and research partner, Virginia, in Chapel Hill.

### **Jay Mazzocchi, Associate Editor**

Jay Mazzocchi was born and raised in the Washington, D.C. area. He holds a B.A. from UNC and M.Div. from the Duke Divinity School. He worked as a managing editor for a number of trade publications and later worked as a developmental editor and writing fellow for the *American National Biography*, a 24-volume reference work published by Oxford University Press.

In 1998, the University of North Carolina Press hired Mazzocchi to work part-time as assistant editor to Bill Powell. His responsibilities with the project grew substantially in the following years, and from 2000-2006, he managed the extensive process of review and developmental editing for the encyclopedia as the primary liaison between the "project office" and the Press. Mazzocchi now works at UNC Press as a manuscript editor.

### **William Price, Consulting Editor**

Bill Price was raised in North Carolina and trained at Duke University before earning a Ph.D. in history at UNC-Chapel Hill in 1973. In 1971, he was employed by the NC Division of Archives and History as head of the state's Colonial Records Project. In 1975, he became assistant director of the Division of Archives and History and became director in 1981. At the time of his appointed retirement in 1995, the Division was the largest state historical agency in the nation, operating programs that covered virtually every aspect of public history. In 1995, Price joined the faculty at Meredith College in Raleigh. He became Kenan Professor of History in 2000 and retired from Meredith College this year.

Price's research and scholarly expertise centered on colonial North Carolina, but he has written or edited numerous books and articles on the state's history, including *Discovering North Carolina* (with Jack Claiborne, University of North Carolina Press, 1993). As director of the Division of Archives and History, he also oversaw that agency's work with the Press to publish the original five-volume series, *The Way We Lived in North Carolina*, now available in a one-volume edition (University of North Carolina Press, 2003).

In significant periods in 2001-2002, and again in 2004, Price worked closely with Powell, Mazzocchi, and the Press as a consultant to review and help refine the manuscript. His familiarity with the project from its early days and his ongoing involvement in the field of North Carolina history have brought insights that improved the finished work in countless ways. While Price has not been involved in the day-to-day work of the encyclopedia since 2004, he has remained an important editorial adviser.

### **Jerry Cotten, Illustrations Editor**

For many years Jerry Cotten was the photographic archivist at the North Carolina Collection (NCC), located at UNC-Chapel Hill's Wilson Library. Tapping into a wide range of materials from collections and archives across the state, including the NCC, Cotten selected photographs and maps to accompany many entries in the encyclopedia. The book's nearly 400 illustrations include a number of never-before-published images.