

North Carolina—Three Hundredth Birthday

BY TERRY SANFORD*

Governor of North Carolina

FOR North Carolinians to welcome members of the Society of American Archivists and the American Association for State and Local History is for us to welcome our friends and relatives to a family reunion, Southern style. To many of you "old-timers" we say, "Welcome back home." To you younger members, we say welcome to a State which has played an important part in the formation and continued administration of each of your organizations and which in turn has benefited from years of association with you.

Every archivist is familiar with the names of Robert Digges Wimberly Connor and Albert Ray Newsome, two of the founders of the Society of American Archivists back in 1936, and of Chris Crittenden, who has played a leading role in your Society for 27 years. Charter members will remember that Newsome served as first president of the organization, from 1936 to 1939; that Connor headed your organization from 1941 to 1943; and that Chris Crittenden was your president from 1947 to 1949. Thus a North Carolinian was leader of your Society for 7 of its first 13 years, and

* Governor Sanford delivered this address on Oct. 3, 1963, at the joint luncheon session of the Society of American Archivists and the American Association for State and Local History, at Raleigh, N.C. Christopher Crittenden, Director of the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, introduced Governor Sanford as follows: "A few nights ago a man from another State telephoned the Governor of North Carolina and said he had an urgent message for him. What was the message? The man said he wanted to tell our Governor 'to do the right thing and to go in the right way.' And what was the right way? The man said he did not know and hung up. I am here to tell you . . . that the Governor of North Carolina does know the right thing to do and the right way to go. . . . He has been 'a man on the go for a State on the go.' His great emphasis has been on 'quality education.' In the first year of his administration alone North Carolina added \$100 million annually to its support of public education—the greatest advance made that year by any State of the Union. This program has been continued on an ever-expanding scale, and this year great increases have been made in appropriations for higher education. During the first two years when he was Governor, more than half a billion dollars was expended for new and expanded industry, providing more than 55,000 new jobs and more than \$200 million in new payrolls. He has been a consistent and unfailing supporter of our programs in the field of archives and history—as is best proved by the appropriation of \$3 million for the new Archives-Library building for which we are to conduct symbolic groundbreaking ceremonies this afternoon. . . ."

Tar Heels have continued to play an important role in your activities. Your present treasurer is our State Archivist, H. G. Jones, and no fewer than five of the Fellows of your Society are North Carolinians.

Members of the American Association for State and Local History know the role that Chris Crittenden played in organizing and leading the Association. He was chairman of the committee that formed the new group and served as your first president, from 1940 to 1942. You know also that W. S. Tarlton, our Historic Sites Superintendent, is now a member of your Council, and that your membership roster contains the names of many Tar Heels.

Fifteen years ago your two associations held a joint meeting in the State Capital of North Carolina. In his report for that year, the then secretary of the Society of American Archivists, your distinguished Lester J. Cappon, paid us a high compliment. He said,

It is most appropriate that the Society of American Archivists should meet in Raleigh where almost a half-century ago the ground work was laid for what was to become one of the leading state archives of our country. It is a privilege to enjoy again the company of our beloved Dr. R. D. W. Connor, past president of this Society and for many years the first secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission and more recently its chairman. His work served as inspiration for archival and manuscript developments in many other states and the program in his own state was continued by Albert R. Newsome, our first president, and subsequently to date by President Crittenden.

So it is that historians and archivists should feel at home in North Carolina. And so it is that our North Carolinians always feel at home with you wherever you hold your annual meetings.

We are particularly glad to have you here this year to help us observe our 300th birthday. It was just three centuries ago that King Charles II of England granted to the Lords Proprietors the vast area of land which now comprises in whole or in part no less than 16 States of the Union and also a part of Mexico. Even before 1663 hearty pioneers had pushed into the northeastern tip of our State. And in the 1580's, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, had occurred the earliest attempts at English colonization in America—on Roanoke Island, North Carolina. The colonies sent there were not permanent, but nevertheless they marked the spiritual and symbolic birth of English colonization in the New World and of the United States of America.

For many years we in North Carolina were more concerned with making history than in preserving the record of our past. In the early years of the nineteenth century several so-called histories of



—State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, N. C.

GOVERNOR SANFORD ADDRESSING JOINT SESSION OF SOCIETY OF AMERICAN
ARCHIVISTS AND AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY



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SYMBOLIC GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR NORTH CAROLINA
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY—STATE LIBRARY BUILDING
Raleigh, October 4, 1963

Left to right: Christopher Crittenden, Director, State Department of
Archives and History; Governor Terry Sanford;
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Hughey, State Librarian

our State were written and published, but none of them was based upon careful and thorough research, and none would measure up to the high standards of present-day historical scholarship.

A century and a quarter ago, David L. Swain, former Governor and at that time president of our State University, organized the Historical Society of North Carolina and—of particular significance—undertook the collection of documentary materials—a collection that today forms the nucleus of the fine manuscript depositories of the State Department of Archives and History in Raleigh and the Southern Historical Collection at the University at Chapel Hill.

The Civil War and Reconstruction put an end to this development, but only temporarily. Within a few years after Appomattox, our Secretary of State William L. Saunders made a great contribution when he gathered, edited, and had published by the State the well-known 10-volume *Colonial Records of North Carolina*. After Saunders' death the work was carried on by State Supreme Court Justice (later Chief Justice) Walter Clark, who proceeded to bring out 16 additional volumes, the *State Records of North Carolina*, and these were followed by a 4-volume index. This 30-volume series, covering the colonial period and the years of our statehood through 1790, even today, we are told, ranks among the best of such works for any of the Thirteen Original States.

Our real historical renaissance in North Carolina began in the year 1900 with the establishment of our State Literary and Historical Association. Every year since (except during the influenza epidemic of 1918) this organization has met regularly and has done much to promote interest and activity in the fields of history and literature.

In 1903 was established our State agency in the field of history, the North Carolina Historical Commission. The name was changed 40 years later to State Department of Archives and History. In the beginning, under the able and statesmanlike leadership of R. D. W. Connor, this agency quickly came to be recognized as one of the leaders in the field in the entire Nation. It was largely because of Connor's accomplishments in this capacity that he was later appointed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to be the first Archivist of the United States.

In more recent years the Department, without in any way lessening its contributions to the world of scholars, has sought to broaden its direct services to all the nearly five million people of our State. It maintains our State historical museum. It cares for, or cooperates

with other groups in maintaining, our historic sites. It issues a quarterly historical magazine and large numbers of pamphlets and leaflets, especially for schoolchildren.

More and more the Department has become the clearinghouse for historical movements and activities throughout the State. For example, the production of *The Lost Colony*, *Unto These Hills*, *Horn in the West*, and other outdoor historical dramas—a development in which North Carolina has pioneered—has taken place with the cooperation and assistance of the Department. In the commemoration of significant anniversaries of our history, the Department nearly always plays a part. For example, the Department assisted and cooperated with a special State commission to celebrate in 1953 the 50th anniversary of the first powered-airplane flight; and it initiated in 1959 the legislation establishing the Confederate Centennial Commission and the Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission and providing for the commemoration of these respective anniversaries. The Department is now seeking, in cooperation with the Department of Public Instruction, to provide for adequate instruction in North Carolina and local history in our public schools. Efforts are being made to stimulate suitable activities and programs by local historical organizations. In these and in many other ways the Department has become the clearinghouse for the numerous and varied historical activities of our people.

Thus within the past few years there has occurred in our State a veritable historical renaissance. The number of local historical organizations has shown a phenomenal increase, from one or two at the turn of the century to a total of approximately fifty today. We are preserving our historic sites as never before. Our State historical museum has become one of the best of such institutions in the entire South, and creditable historical museums are springing up in all parts of the State. Both at Chapel Hill and at Duke are two large collections of private and unofficial historical manuscripts which draw scholars from many parts of the free world. Our two university presses and our commercial presses are turning out a steady stream of works relating to our history. Our graduate schools draw students from all over the Nation and through research and writing contribute much to the knowledge of our State history. There is a powerful popular movement to secure the more adequate coverage of our State and local history in our public schools. There can be no doubt that, more than ever before, our people are conscious of and interested in their history.

This afternoon at 4:30 you will join us in reaching a new mile-

stone in our history when we break ground for a new building for our North Carolina State Department of Archives and History and State Library. Here in a new, specially designed structure will be housed the vast array of records of our State, counties, and municipalities; manuscripts of individuals, organizations, and churches; historical artifacts; the fine printed collection of the State Library; and workrooms and offices for the specialized functions of both agencies. And, of course, this building will house our "birth certificate"—the Charter of 1663, which you may now view in the Department of Archives and History.

This new structure is North Carolina's birthday present to her own people. It presents renewed evidence that we are conscious of our past. With the State Department of Archives and History and the State Library sharing adequate facilities, with the active programs of the fine historical organizations and specialized depositories that dot our State, and with the leadership of our professional and amateur historians, we believe that the last third of the twentieth century is destined to be a period not only of emphasis upon the preservation of our history, but upon acquiring broader knowledge and understanding of all our great history.

And so, ladies and gentlemen, you are meeting today in a historically-minded State. You are among a people who love to study their past and to preserve the best of it. But, perhaps most important of all, you are among a people who know the difference between studying the past and living in it. We learn from the past in this State, but we do not worship it. Our adversities and mistakes of bygone days help us chart our course for the future. We are a State "on the go," and one reason we are determined to go forward in our program is that we can see that at times in the past we have failed to do so. The North Carolina of 1963 turns its face to the future.

We hope that you will enjoy your stay with us—that you as professionals will see for yourselves our historical institutions, activities, and programs as they are today. We hope also that you will come back again a few years hence and see all the changes and progress that we hope to have made by that time.

Welcome to North Carolina!