



hough many readers of American history are familiar with the basic story of Sir Walter Raleigh and the Lost Colony of Roanoke Island, few realize that the island was later to become an important landmark in the history of African American freedom from slavery. Patricia Click, in her book *Time Full of Trial: The Roanoke Island Freedman's Colony, 1862-1867*, traces the history of the freedmen's colony on Roanoke Island during and after the Civil War. Drawn from many areas of North Carolina and beyond, liberated slaves made their way to Roanoke Island where they were promised a home and protection.

This is a story of a refugee people caught in, as Click notes, "a complex and intriguing mixture of evangelical, traditional republican, and abolition sentiments that were tempered by the crucible of the military experience." Click's book is more than the story of the freed slaves; it is also the chronicle of northern evangelical protestant missionaries struggling to perform their benevolent work while being frustrated by the military administration. Though the military had the ultimate authority in the "contraband camps," religious missionaries took an active role in many of the human services, especially education. Amid "wretched and chaotic conditions" fraught with administrative corruption, lack of food, unpaid wages, and abuse of the colonists by the very soldiers who were meant to protect them, many of the refugees from slavery nevertheless gained useful literacy and other skills from the missionaries while on the island.

Patricia Click, an associate professor in the Division of Technology, Culture, and Communication at the University of Virginia, and author of *The Spirit of the Times: Amusements in Nineteenth-Century Baltimore, Norfolk, and Richmond*, delivers a well-documented, much-needed history of a little-known aspect of the Civil War and Reconstruction in North Carolina. She employs numerous primary resources, such as unpublished diaries and private papers, as well as records from the National Archives. Her book includes copious endnotes, a thorough index, a bibliography, and an appendix of key documents, lists, and letters. *Time Full of Trial* is an essential addition to North Carolina public and academic libraries, as well as libraries that seek to have a more complete picture of the American Civil War and the African-American struggle from slavery to freedom.

— Allan Scherlen
Appalachian State University

Patricia C. Click.

***Time Full of Trial: The
Roanoke Island Freedman's
Colony, 1862-1867.***

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Cloth, \$49.95. ISBN 0-8078-2602-2.
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n 1885 John Haymes Mills founded the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage to provide a Christian environment for children, most of whom were very young and had lost one or both parents. The original intent was to keep the children for a short time, but most ended up living there to adulthood.

From these beginnings, Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina has changed its focus many times and grown from a single location to campuses and group homes from the mountains to the coast. A photograph on every page greatly enhances the telling of this broad and yet very personal history. It is the hope of the author that *A Place for Miracles* will share the "map of our journey, our learning, and our successes," so that readers will find "both inspiration and models" for similar endeavors.

—Beverly Tetterton
New Hanover County Public Library

Michael C. Blackwell.

***A Place for Miracles:
Baptist Children's Homes of
North Carolina.***

Boone, NC: Parkway Publishers, 2002.
238 pp. Cloth, \$19.95. ISBN 1-887905-50-2.
Paper, \$14.95. ISBN 1-887905-49-9.