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or care about the games? Did the era of racial integration alter the discourse around the big game? These questions are beyond the scope of *NCA&T vs. NCCU*, but for any scholar of the state's history of race and sports, it is surely an essential resource.

Aram Goudsouzian
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Naomi "Omie" Wise: Her Life, Death, and Legend. By Hal E. Pugh and Eleanor Minnock-Pugh. (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2022. Acknowledgments, preface, introduction, appendices, notes, bibliography, index. Pp. ix, 208. \$29.95, paper.)

This is a gem of a book—meant both as a compliment and as a metaphor for the volume itself, in which coauthors Hal Pugh and Eleanor Minnock-Pugh fastidiously polish each facet of their narrative until it gleams. The story they tell is small, and at first hardly seems worthy of such extensive treatment: On April 5, 1807, Naomi Wise was murdered in Randolph County, N.C. by her lover Jonathan Lewis, who escaped, was recaptured, and was ultimately acquitted, only to meet his own end a few years later. The murder has been remembered in ballad, and most significant U.S. folk musicians of the past century have recorded their version of “Omie Wise.” A popular account published by Braxton Craven in 1874 was also widely circulated. Filtered through these oral and written traditions, however, the events surrounding Wise's murder have been clouded by romance and misinformation. Holding the crime and its aftermath to the light, the authors reveal the truth in all its detail, while vividly illuminating the religious communities, social hierarchies, and legal systems in which these events unfolded. The result is a captivating narrative clearly presented in a book that is hard to put down.

The authors have long been fascinated by Wise's story. She met her end just two miles from their home, and they share ties of kinship with individuals directly involved in her life. However, it was not until a long-lost piece of documentation came into their hands—a handwritten narrative poem, based on testimony given at the coroner's inquest and preserved in a commonplace book—that they were able to undertake this detailed study. While Craven's account was put to paper over half a century after the events took place and contains errors, omissions, and exaggerations, the poem documents an eyewitness report. Taking the poem as their principal source, the coauthors set out to verify each detail of the relationship, murder, and subsequent legal proceedings, drawing from a staggering range of historical documentation in the process.

The volume is soberly organized into ten chapters, each of which scrutinizes one stage of the narrative. Chapter 1 details the Quaker community of Randolph County, complete with maps indicating the properties of individuals involved with Wise. Readers are also provided with an overview of North Carolina law as it pertained to impoverished persons and children born out of wedlock—both essential ingredients in Wise's story—and learn that the Lewis family was well-known for violence. Although

portrayed as an innocent teenager in song and story, the authors establish that Wise was in fact older than Lewis and already had two children, whose subsequent lives are explored in chapter 7. Chapter 2 takes the reader from Wise's pregnancy through her rendezvous with Lewis, while chapter 3 outlines Lewis's movements following the murder, the discovery of Wise's body, the coroner's inquest (in fascinating detail), and Lewis's imprisonment and escape. Photographs of Deep River and the rock where Wise was laid out for the inquest bring the story to life. Chapter 4 addresses Lewis's escape to the Indiana Territory, while chapter 5 hypothesizes convincingly about the details of his recapture, and chapter 6 draws on court records to reconstruct his trial and acquittal. Chapter 8 turns the lens on Craven as the authors seek to understand how he came to write his version of the story, while chapter 9 offers a close analysis of significant ballad texts and chapter 10 reflects on Wise's legacy in the region, with a focus on mythologizing and tourism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Five fascinating appendices fill the remainder of the book's pages. They include a short biography of every player in the story, full transcriptions of legal documents, the complete text of the narrative poem, Craven's published account, and a thorough discography.

"Once a story is at large in the oral tradition or in print," write the authors, "mistakes can be repeated so consistently that their accuracy ceases to be questioned. It has therefore been our purpose . . . to correct the errors that have been made, as well as to add new information" (p. 7). Pugh and Minnock-Pugh have most assuredly set the record straight. They leave no stone unturned in this breathtaking historical investigation, which establishes the facts of Wise's story, provides fascinating insight into life in early-nineteenth-century North Carolina, and sets the standard for future research.

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Cracks in the Outfield Wall: The History of Baseball Integration in the Carolinas. By Chris Holaday. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2024. Illustrations, author note, introduction, acknowledgments, notes, bibliography, index. Pp. vii, 269. \$25.00, paper.)

In *Cracks in the Outfield Wall*, Chris Holaday—an adjunct instructor in history and writing at Duke University and author of eight previous books on baseball—traces the slow, too often painful, integration of baseball in North and South Carolina from the late 1930s to the mid-1960s at all levels—Little League, American Legion (AL), semi-pro, minor league (ML), and barnstorming major league (MLB) players and teams, with occasional forays outside those borders and decades. His primary focus, though, is the myriad '50s and '60s Carolina MLs and their teams, both of which folded often and occasionally reappeared years later, and how, why, and when they