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## Book Reviews

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

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POLITICIANS, PLANTERS AND PLAIN FOLK, by Ralph A. Wooster (University of Tennessee Press, \$9.75)

NORTH CAROLINA ATLAS, edited by J. W. Clay, S. M. Orr, Jr. and A. W. Stuart (University of North Carolina Press, \$17.95)

Here are two "must" books for aficionados of Southern history and life.

Ralph Wooster of Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, has produced a most important book on the ante-bellum South. Here he covers political life in the upper South from 1850 to 1860, having covered the lower South in his "The People in Power", published in 1969.

During the period 1850-1860 the upper South served as a great border between the states of the lower South and the free states of the North. At first the political leaders of the upper South attempted to preserve the Union through compromise between the lower South and the North. But when compromise failed they withdrew from the Union and joined their sister states to uphold the political, social, and economic structures of the South.

This book provides many of the reasons for the actions of these political leaders. Probably the most important thing Wooster does in this book is give us the major differences between the upper and the lower South. Far too many people still regard the South as one region, with no internal differences. Wooster certainly proves otherwise.

Many state presses have recently produced atlases of their states, but I have seen none better than "North

Carolina Atlas."

It is broken down into six sections: "Introduction", "Human Settlement and Profile", "Physical Resources and Environmental Quality", "The Economy", "Services and Amenities", and "Retrospect and Prospect".

The atlas is beautifully illustrated, with maps, charts, tables, photographs, and etchings. Each section is concluded by a bibliography that will enable further study by those interested in doing so.

The University of North Carolina Press is to be congratulated for this lavish production.

