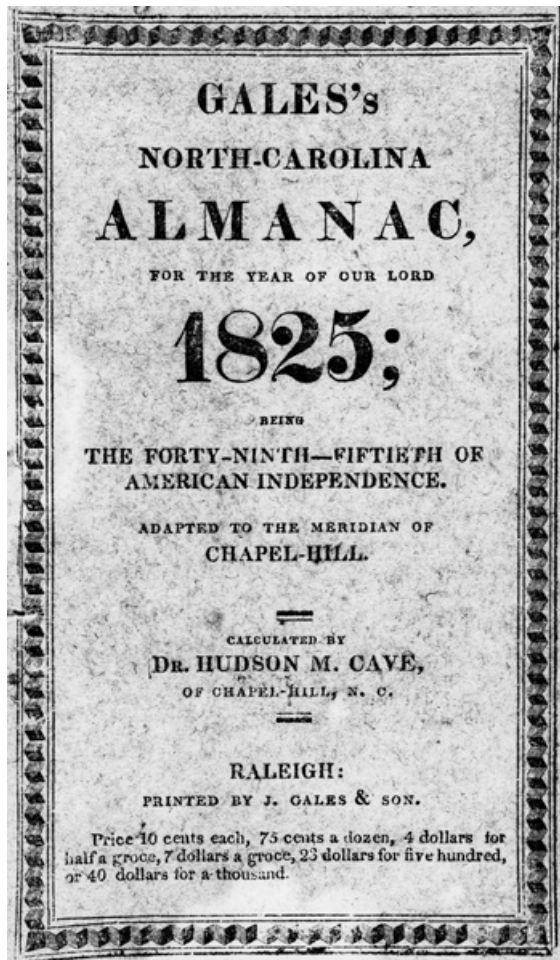


## **Almanacs** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Almanacs**

by [William S. Powell](#) <sup>[2]</sup>, 2006

See also: [Book Publishing](#) <sup>[3]</sup>.



Front cover of Gale's North Carolina Almanac for the year 1825. North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library.

In early North Carolina an almanac and a Bible were often the only publications owned by a family. North Carolina residents relied on almanacs for information on such things as planting seasons, phases of the moon, religious and civil anniversaries, and other subjects. Almanacs also provided an important source of entertainment, as they included essays, humor, and reprinted "news" from other parts of the country and world. The margins or blank pages in the almanac might be used to record important information such as the date of a destructive storm or flood, the breeding of livestock, or even family births and deaths. Extant copies of family almanacs in libraries, museums, and archives offer a valuable source of information on North Carolina, particularly before the twentieth century.

In the [Albemarle](#) <sup>[4]</sup> region of North Carolina, the Taylor family had almanacs from England beginning in 1663. In August 1768 the *Virginia Gazette* in Williamsburg advertised copies of the *North-Carolina Almanack for the Year of Our Lord 1769* for sale by William Scarborough in [Edenton](#) <sup>[5]</sup>. In 1800 John M. Slump of Lincolnton published an almanac in German, while in 1802 [Joseph Gales](#) <sup>[6]</sup> published an English-language one in [Raleigh](#) <sup>[7]</sup>. Other early almanacs that have survived were published by [William Boylan](#) <sup>[8]</sup> in Raleigh (1805), [Francis Coupee](#) <sup>[9]</sup> in Salisbury (1808), and [Thomas Henderson](#) in [Raleigh](#) <sup>[10]</sup> (1812). Most North Carolina almanacs obtained their information from the almanacs of other states, but Philip Brooks, who identified himself as an astronomer of [Richmond County](#) <sup>[11]</sup>, compiled one himself for 1815. Boylan and [Colin McIver](#) <sup>[12]</sup> of [Fayetteville](#) <sup>[13]</sup> (1823) also prepared their own information. In Raleigh in 1828 the American Tract Society published a *Christian Almanac for North Carolina*. Several almanacs were published regularly for many years; for example, the *Blum's Farmers' and Planters' Almanac* <sup>[14]</sup> was published in Salem from 1829 to 1947, when it was absorbed by *Turner's North Carolina Almanac* <sup>[15]</sup>.

#### **Reference:**

Douglas C. McMurtrie, *Eighteenth-Century North Carolina Imprints, 1749-1800* (1938).

### Additional Resources:

"1812 Almanac is Milestone Book for UNC Digitization Program" *UNC Library News and Events* (blog). January 6, 2012. <http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/news/index.php/2012/01/1812-almanac-is-uncs-10k-scribed-book/> <sup>[16]</sup> (Accessed May 5, 2012).

*Turner's Carolina Almanac*, 1838-1922. [https://digital.ncdcr.gov/documents?adv\\_title=Turner's%20Carolina%20Almanac|AND&searchtypes=Full%20text|Metadata&applyState=true](https://digital.ncdcr.gov/documents?adv_title=Turner's%20Carolina%20Almanac|AND&searchtypes=Full%20text|Metadata&applyState=true) <sup>[17]</sup>

"Blum's and Turner's Almanacs Still Printed and Sold in N.C." *The E.S.C. Quarterly* 9. No. 1-2. Winter-Spring 1951. p.36. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/e.s.c.-quarterly-1951-winter-spring-v.9-no.1-2/4239121> <sup>[18]</sup> (accessed September 11, 2012).

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### Subjects:

[Literature](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

### Authors:

[Powell, William S.](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

### From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

1 January 2006 | Powell, William S.

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