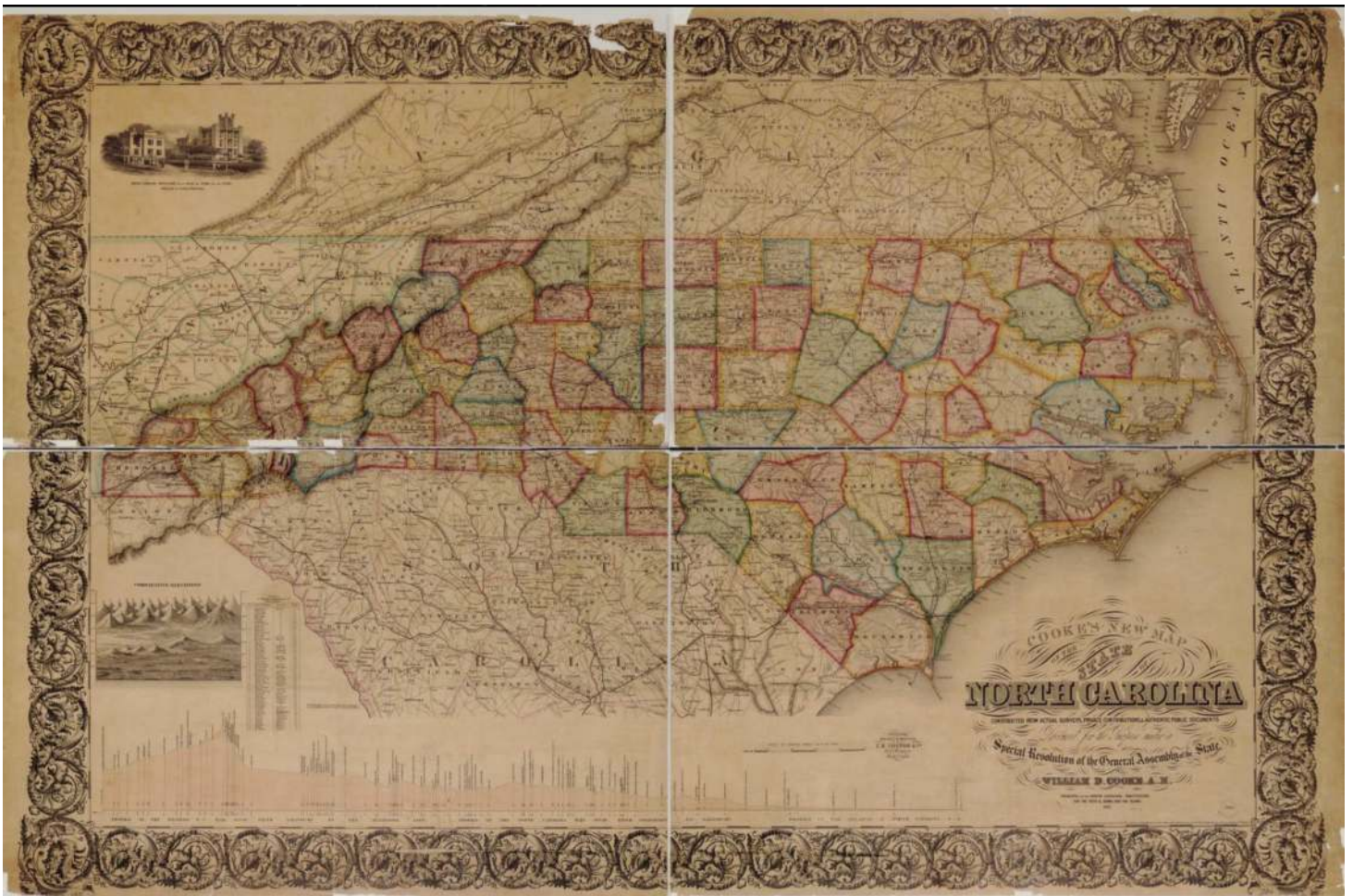


1857 Map of North Carolina
by
William Dewey Cooke



By 1852, the MacRae-Brazier map of North Carolina, published in 1833, was out of date and scarcely available. A new map of the state was needed. Three North Carolina residents, *W. D. Cooke, Samuel Pearce, and C. H. Wiley*, made a formal and legal agreement to publish a “Map of North Carolina together with a book of reference.” It was to be at their joint risk and each was to have an equal share in the copyright and profits. Wiley was to prepare the book of reference, “consisting of a statistical work to accompany the map,” on railroads, canals, plank roads, rivers, cities, schools, colleges, productions, and general topography. Cooke was to construct the map and prepare it for the engraver. He was also to act as secretary and central agent. Pearce was to solicit subscribers. Wiley did some work on his part of the undertaking, ...but withdrew in 1854 and the undertaking was carried on by the remaining members.¹

Calvin Wiley (1819-1887) was born in a part of Guilford County that is now in Alamance County. He graduated from the University in Chapel Hill, practiced law, became a Presbyterian minister, and a prolific author of textbooks, novels, and a variety of other publications. He was instrumental in the formation of the North Carolina Public School System and became its first Superintendent. Wiley has frequently been referred to as the “Father of Public Education” in North Carolina.



William Dewey Cooke was a native of Vermont. He arrived in this State in the mid 1840s as the first Principal for the State's newly established School for the Deaf in Raleigh, an institution he had promoted to Governor Morehead and the State legislature with an overwhelmingly positive response. Amongst the many industries developed at the school in Raleigh was a print shop, and Cooke served as editor of some of its publications, including the *Carolina Cultivator* and the *Southern Weekly Post*.



Immediately prior to his arrival in North Carolina, Cooke had been at the Virginia School for the Deaf in Staunton. He left North Carolina for a similar position in Georgia in 1860, but that school was closed during the War Between the States. Cooke moved to Maryland, and was the first Principal of the Maryland School for the Deaf, 1868-70. He returned to Staunton, where he served as Principal for the Virginia Institution for the Education of the Deaf, Dumb & Blind, 1871-1884.²

Samuel Pearce was born in England but moved at an early age to the United States. Pearce became a Methodist minister in Virginia, an occupation he continued upon being transferred to Hillsborough, NC in the early 1840s. In the late 1840s he may have given up his pastorship to remain in Hillsborough. He pursued other interests, including a boarding school which operated for just a few years. I have also found reference to him as a bookseller and as the local agent for the Freemason's Monthly Magazine. During the War Between the States, he offered his ministerial services to the soldiers of the Confederate Army.³

**A NEW AND COMPLETE
MAP OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

THE undersigned will publish in the course of the year 1853,

**A NEW, LARGE AND COMPLETE
MAP OF NORTH CAROLINA,**

Five feet by three, well engraved and finished in the finest style.

It is admitted on all sides, that such a work is a great desideratum in our State, and it is in consequence of the frequent enquiries on this subject, that the undersigned have embarked in the enterprise.

The only attempted work of this kind is that of McREA, published in ; and since then the Counties, Towns, Roads and Post-offices have increased in number, and all our works of Internal Improvements, with small exceptions, been set on foot.

It is intended that the NEW MAP, now proposed to be published, shall contain, accurately laid down, all the Natural Features of the State—the

**INLETS, HARBORS, SOUNDS, LAKES, RIVERS,
CREEKS, MOUNTAINS, AND GAPS :**

Also; the public improvements, and artificial divisions, the **COUNTIES, COUNTY-TOWNS, CITIES, VILLAGES, COLLEGES, PUBLIC ACADEMIES, POST-OFFICES, POST-ROADS, TURN - PIKES, PLANK - ROADS, RAIL-ROADS AND CANALS.**

THE rates of all incorporated Roads, Canals, &c., &c., whether begun or not, will also be given ; and to render the work more attractive and interesting, it will contain the **STORES, DWELLINGS, FACTORIES AND**

SCHOOLS,

of all those subscribers who furnish the necessary information. Accompanying the **MAP** will be

A STATISTICAL REGISTER,

in the nature of a

GAZETTEER,

containing statements of the population, trade &c., &c., of the principal Towns, descriptions of improvements, products of different sections, &c., &c.

TERMS.—The **MAP** and **REGISTER** will be furnished for - - - - - \$6 50
The **Map** alone for - - - - - 6 00
The **Register** alone for - - - - - 1 00

**WILLIAM D. COOKE,
SAMUEL PEARCE,
C. H. WILEY.**

Information from any source, and which may be of service in the making of the above work, will be thankfully received ; and those who wish to subscribe and to have their dwellings, places of business, &c., designated, should state the distance and directions of the proposed localities from the County Town, and mention the names of the Roads and Streams on which they are situated. All communications should be addressed to

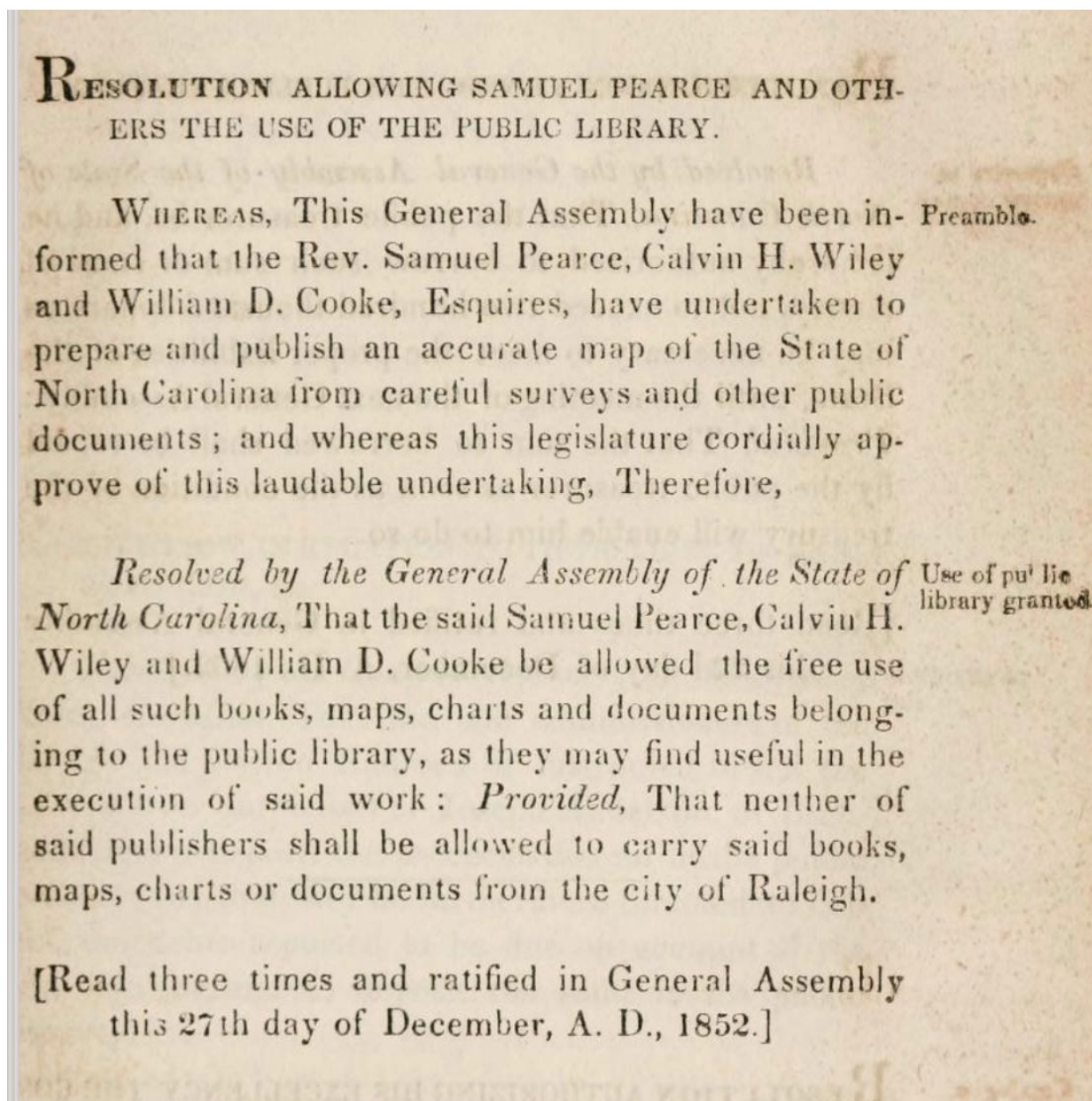
W. D. COOKE, Raleigh, N. C.

In December, 1852, Cooke, Wiley, and Pearce issued a prospectus for the map, indicating that it would be published in 1853. (This date was extended to later years in subsequent ads.)

Cooke solicited “information from any source, and which may be of service in the making of the above work.” Acknowledgement of such assistance was made on at least one occasion in the Southern Weekly Post: “We are indebted to Dr. W. M. Johnson of Alamance county, for a sketch of part of that county for our Map of North Carolina. He will please accept our thanks.”⁴

At various points in time, the map was to be “embellished with a view of the harbor of Wilmington, of the University, and other places of importance,”⁵ and “engravings of the Public Buildings, Colleges, and Academies, to embellish... the borders of the map.”⁶

The General Assembly granted the three partners access to maps and other pertinent materials in the State Library.



From (page 639) LAWS OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, at the Session of 1852.

Published agreeably to the fifty-ninth chapter of the Revised Statutes.

RALEIGH: WESLEY WHITAKER, Jr., PRINTER TO THE STATE;

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE " SOUTHERN WEEKLY POST,"

(Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind.) 1853.

<https://archive.org/details/lawsstateofnor1852nort/page/639/mode/1up?view=theater>

NEW MAP AND GAZETTEER OF NORTH CAROLINA.—We ought heretofore to have mentioned, that Messrs. W. D. Cooke and Samuel Pearce propose to publish a Map of North Carolina, and that Mr. Cook proposes to publish a Gazetteer of the State. They solicit information necessary to the completeness of both, from gentlemen in all parts of the State, to be addressed to Mr. Cooke at Raleigh.

Fayetteville Observer, September 25, 1854

By 1854, Calvin Wiley had withdrawn from the partnership due to the burden of other duties. Cooke and Pearce advertised their intent to proceed with the project. Other ads stated that they “are preparing and will publish as soon as the necessary survey,

etc, can be obtained, a new, large and complete MAP of NORTH CAROLINA, five feet by three, well engraved, and finished in the best style.”⁷ They go on to describe all the details to be included on the map, then provide the terms. The “best style” includes the first impressions on gilt rollers at a price of \$10. “Plain style” on black rollers would be available for six dollars. (The map had initially been priced at \$6 in the 1852 prospectus.)

In May 1855, Pearce visited Wilmington, where the newspaper reported that “owing to difficulties in getting full and accurate surveys of the different Counties for Cooke & Pearce’s new map of the State, they will be delayed some months in getting it out.”⁸

Wellington Williams, a map engraver and publisher based in Philadelphia, apparently learned of Cooke et al’s plan, and due to the latter’s delay, beat them to the market. Williams had acquired the outdated copper plates for the 1833 MacRae-Brazier map and, with minimal updates, published the map in 1854 and 1855. This forced Cooke to call attention to the imposter. Of his own map, Cooke advertised, “This is no COPY from other Maps, but is emphatically a NEW MAP, constructed by W. D. COOKE, of Raleigh, from State, County and Coast Surveys, and other data”. In reference to

Wellington Williams's map, Cooke stated, "...another map purporting to be the one advertised by the forementioned parties, has been sold in some parts of the State already, to the great detriment of their interests and the deception of the public."

By June 1855, Cooke had procured the assistance of Russell D. Van Deursen, a twenty-five year old "practical engineer and accomplished draftsman."⁹ The letter to the editor cited contains additional information that makes it worthy of inclusion in its entirety on the following two pages. Van Deursen was a native of Virginia, had spent the prior two years working for Virginia and North Carolina railroad companies, and was destined to become a Presbyterian minister in the Midwest.¹⁰

From the Weekly Post.

THE NEW STATE MAP.

MR. EDITOR:—As I take a deep interest in everything that pertains to the Old North State, and having seen no recent notice of the Map of the State which I understood was in progress in Raleigh, I embraced the opportunity a few days since afforded by the invitation of a friend, to drop into the office, where the Map is in progress.

And I know it will be a pleasure to all who take any interest in it, to know that we may now look forward with certainty to the time when we may enjoy the possession of a *true* Map of the State.

Mr. Cooke has secured the services of Mr. R. D. VanDeursen, a practical engineer and accomplished draftsman, to assist him in preparing the Map for the Engraver's hand, and it already gives evidence of superior taste in its execution, and I have no hesitation in saying that the compiler has facilities for furnishing the most minute and accurate Map of the State that has ever been attempted.

From almost every section, drawings of County Lines, Rivers, Mountains, &c., (most of them taken from actual survey,) have been sent in from time to time, affording much valuable information that has been unrecognized in previous works of the kind. Drawings of all the Railroads finished and in progress are at hand, as well as numerous Plank Roads, &c.

A faithful portrait of the coast is furnished from the surveys recently made under the supervision of Prof. A. D. Bache, and of course, known to be the only complete one that has ever been made.

The scale of projection is a large one, the sheet being about six by four feet, and the Map will embrace Virginia as far North as Petersburg, and South Carolina as far South as Kingsville, showing the connections with these two sister States.

These gratuitous additions, so desirable, have been previously neglected—"Old Rip" seemingly having been ashamed of his poor relations. I am glad to note that even in his growing opulence and wakefulness he has laid aside his former pride and seclusion.

The public will be happy to learn that Mr. Cooke intends to have the Map issued from the press this fall; and its appearance will be welcomed not only as a home production, but as an addition to the literature of the State.

JUVENIS.

In the latter half of 1855, Cooke's early manuscript map was circulated by Pearce to several towns, with local newspaper editors providing positive reviews. The 1855 State Fair in Raleigh, held in October, provided Cooke an opportunity to display his manuscript map, solicit input for corrections or additions, and procure subscriptions. The report of the Committee on Discretionary Premiums, included Cooke on their list of premiums.¹¹

↓ Map of N. Carolina, W. D. Cooke, to which special attention is called.

Cooke advertised that the map “will embrace Virginia as far North as Petersburg, and South Carolina as far South as [Columbia]...”, with no mention of an embellished border.¹² As mentioned earlier, initial plans for the Cooke map included a border embellished by important public buildings, colleges and academies, etc. At various times, views of the harbors of Wilmington and Beaufort were also mentioned. Such plans very likely originated with Samuel Pearce, and Cooke's rejection of that design may have been a factor in the dissolution of their partnership. (In late 1859, Pearce published yet another reincarnation of the MacRae-Brazier map, this time with upper and lower borders embellished with North Carolina scenes and buildings.¹³)

Finally, in 1856, an ad was printed in the Carolina Cultivator from April to October, stating that the map “is now in the hands of the Engraver, and will be ready for delivery in a few months.” Cooke also stresses, by way of italics, that “No maps will be sold except by subscription.” The listed price for the “early” impressions is now given as \$8, a drop of \$2 from the price quoted in 1854. Given the scarcity of surviving copies, one could easily assume that production never made it past “early” impressions.

The 1856 advertisement included two appended recommendations, one from Governor Bragg, and the other from William Graham. The latter, in a letter dated January 26, 1856, and addressed to William Cooke, states:

Dear Sir: - I have examined, with as much care as my limited opportunity would allow, your Map of the State of North Carolina, and am gratified, in expressing my conviction, that, as to the sections with which I am best acquainted, it is almost minutely correct... render it, in my opinion, of much greater value than any work of the kind, that has yet appeared.

This is a dramatically different opinion of Cooke than Graham expressed just *five days* earlier. In a letter to UNC President David Swain, Graham made the following statements, in reference to the University Magazine, edited by Cooke and printed at the North Carolina School for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind:

...the typography is so wretchedly mean and insignificant, that I fear it will bring discredit on anything appearing in it. In many parts it is nearly illegible, blanks standing for letters and even syllables. Besides this, there seems to be an abandonment of the use of Capital letters... besides other violations of the elementary rules of Composition, which render the Magazine any thing but the emanation of a Literary Institution. I have sent back the paper, calling these things to his notice, but whether he can improve, I know not. **He is likely to make blunders in his Map also**, from his statements to me. I have written him that I will be in Raleigh the last of the week, to remain some days, and hope to have a conference with him, on both subjects.

Apparently, Cooke's skills as a cartographer were much more impressive.

**COOKE'S NEW MAP OF NORTH CAROLINA.
SIZE, SIX FEET BY FOUR.**

THIS Large and Beautiful MAP of North Carolina is now in the hands of the Engraver, and will be ready for delivery in a few months. Persons wishing an early copy of the work, should send in their names without delay to "W. D. COOKE, Raleigh, N. C." *No Maps will be sold except by subscription.* The price will be *Eight Dollars*, payable invariably upon the delivery of the Map. The author of this Map has been engaged for about four years in its construction, and has had access to Surveys, Documents and other data accessible to no other compiler of a Map of this State; and it is believed to be one of the most *minute* as well as *accurate* Maps that has ever been published of any State in the Union. We subjoin two recommendations from Governors Bragg and Graham, who have examined the manuscript.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Raleigh, Jan. 26, 1856.

MR. WILLIAM D. COOKE has for some time been engaged in the preparation of a Map of North Carolina which he is about to publish.

In preparing the Map, Mr C., by authority of the last General Assembly, had free access to all the Maps, Surveys and Documents in the different departments of the State Government. I am satisfied too, that he has very carefully and industriously collected all information that would aid him in his work from other sources, both public and private.

He has lately exhibited to me his Map, which I have examined, and it gives me pleasure to say that he has, in my opinion, executed his work well, and that it is by far the most accurate Map of the State that has ever been published.

THOMAS BRAGG.

DEAR SIR:—I have examined, with as much care, as my limited opportunity would allow, your Map, of the State of North-Carolina, and am gratified, in expressing my conviction, that, as to the sections, with which, I am best acquainted, it is almost minutely correct: and that from the opportunities enjoyed, and pains taken by you, to acquire information, there is no reason, to doubt, its general accuracy.

This, with the attention bestowed, in delineating new Counties, Towns, Works of Public Improvement and places famous in History and Tradition, render it, in my opinion, of much greater value, than any work of the kind, that has yet appeared.

January 26th, 1856.
Wm. D. COOKE, Esq.

Very Respectfully,
WILL: A. GRAHAM.

TO AGENTS.

AGENTS are wanted for every County in the State. None need apply who will not agree to canvass the territory they undertake *thoroughly*.

All applications for agencies or letters of any kind in regard to the Map must be addressed
WILLIAM D. COOKE, Raleigh, N. C.

Raleigh, March 29, 1856.

N. B.—The copartnership heretofore existing between W. D. Cooke and Samuel Pearce in the proprietorship of the Map has been dissolved by mutual consent.

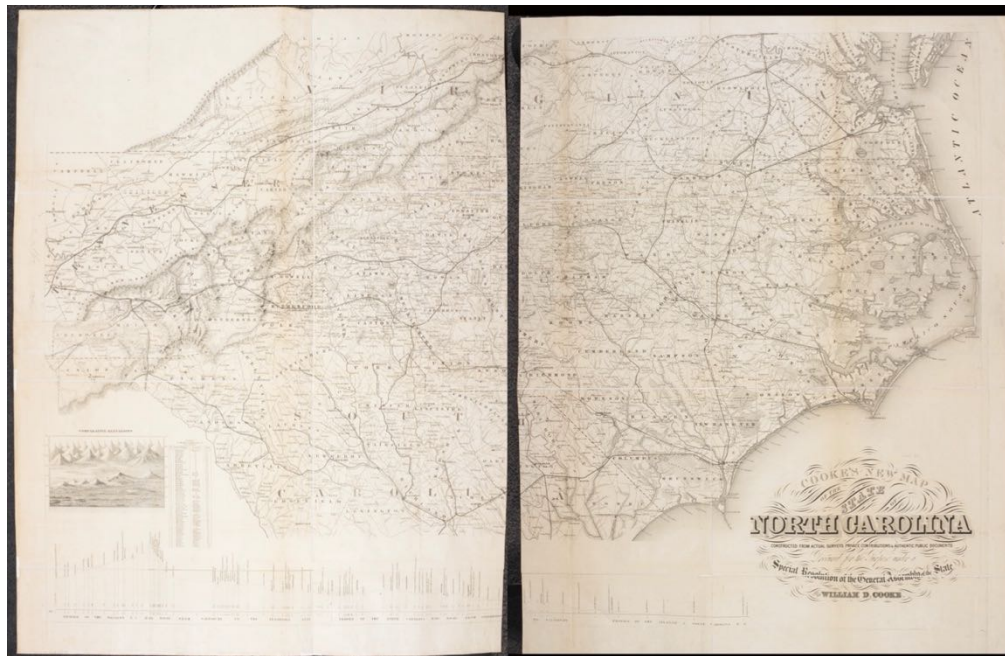
Did you catch the nota bene at the bottom of that ad? “The copartnership heretofore existing between W. D. Cooke and Samuel Pearce in the proprietorship of the Map has been dissolved by mutual consent.”

Proof sheets for Cooke’s map were likely printed in August 1856. By September 3, the editor of the *Staunton Spectator* had seen the proof sheets. The editor, Lyttleton Waddell, registered the copyright for the map; he was William D. Cooke’s father-in-law.

COOKE'S NEW MAP OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The Editor of the *Staunton Spectator* has seen a proof sheet of the New map of N. C., by Wm. D. Cooke, A. M. It proves to be a most beautiful piece of workmanship, and will certainly be the most perfect and accurate map of the Old North State ever published. The lettering is large and remarkably distinct. The map will be ready for delivery in the course of a few months.

Proof sheets



The pending arrival of Cook's map was advertised by Wilmington bookseller in the March 13, 1857, issue of The Wilmington Journal .

COOK'S MAP OF NORTH CAROLINA.

A LIMITED supply expected soon. Those wanting early copies will please leave their names at the Book Store of
March 9 S. W. WHITAKER.

The earliest confirmation of the published map that has been found thus far is a notice in the April 16, 1857, issue of The North Carolina Christian Advocate (Raleigh, NC), on page 2.

The new Map of North Carolina.

Cooke's new map of North Carolina is, we learn, at length before the public, though we have not yet received a copy. Every man who has a family, and a house to adorn with it, should procure a copy. It will be rapidly distributed by agents, and placed within reach of all.

Mr. Henry Pennington has dropped in to say that he is going, with a supply of these maps, to Halifax county. His visit will enable our Roanoke friends to obtain this *desideratum* for every North Carolina gentleman's library.

Cooke was serious when he said that none would be sold except by subscription. Very few merchant advertisements for the map can be found in 1857 newspapers. Not one advertisement by Cooke for the sale of the map following its publication has been found. In fact, he seems to have lost interest shortly after its publication. E. L. Harding, who owned a general merchandise store on Fayetteville Street in Raleigh, obtained the copyright for the map from Cooke.

By July, 1858, Harding had in stock a “corrected and improved” edition of the map.¹⁴ Sales were sluggish. In 1861, Harding advertised an extensive selection of Spring and Summer clothing for women, men, and children. Appended to the ad, “On hand, as Agent, 50 of COOKE’S NEW MAPS of NORTH-CAROLINA, at half price.”¹⁵ That is the last advertisement I have found for the sale of Cooke’s map. Map publisher Joseph Colton issued a minimally revised edition of the Cooke map in 1865, but no announcements or advertisements have been found.

Current census for extant copies of Cooke’s map includes holdings in the Library of Congress, the British Library, the American Geographical Society Library, State Archives (Raleigh), Duke University (unconfirmed), a private collection, and possibly UNC-Charlotte

The ten (or less) surviving copies exist in six different states, including the proof sheets. Details are provided on the next two pages. One surviving copy has been scanned and is available on line:

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3900.ct001969/>

Any information about the map, surviving copies, or corrections would be greatly appreciated. Please contact via <https://ncmaps.org/contact>

Six States or Variants of the William D. Cooke Map of North Carolina

Note: The annotations on the Library of Congress folders imply more copies than they actually have (four).

1st State =

- Proof sheets.
- No neat line or lat./long. scale
- No decorative border.
- No printer imprint, no date, no location.
- BRITISH LIBRARY

2nd State =

- Neat line with small font lat./long. scale added.
- Decorative border of grape vine (pasted around map and not part of map?)
- LIBRARY OF CONGRESS (2 copies)
 - North Carolina [1857] 1:510,000 Cooke, William D. RPS 7/2003
 - Copy 1 of 2, Color mounted in 2 parts
 - Copy 2 of 2, Color mounted in 4 parts

3rd State =

- ENGRAVED PRINTED & MOUNTED By J.H. COLTON & Co. No.172 William St. New York (added to left of title)
- William D. Cooke. changed to William D. Cooke, A.M. (and slight change to the associated flourish)
- *Principal of the North Carolina Institution for the Deaf & Dumb and the Blind / Raleigh / 1857* added below title
- *S. Pearce, Hillsboro, NC* added below and right of title
- Copyright imprint added bottom left inside neat line (1857 L. Waddell, Western District of Virginia)
- New bolder lat./long. scale at neat line with larger font
- Wider decorative border with “grapeless vine rings” (I don’t know plants)
- Location of University St[ation] (Orange County) corrected, requiring re-engraving of the place name which now curves upward (was horizontal)
- Tarboro and Tar River both now spelled Tau
- LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
 - Same as the info on this line for 2nd state
 - Copy 1 of 3[sic], Color mounted in 6 parts

4th State =

- View of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind added in blank space of upper left corner
- NORTH CAROLINA STATE ARCHIVES (distressed copy lacking 2 of 8 sections)
- Duke University Library catalog description matches this state. I have not yet seen this copy of the map.

5th State =

- Principal of the North Carolina Institution, / for the Deaf & Dumb, and the Blind. / 1857 (altered line breaks and smaller font date)
- S. Pearce, Hillsboro, NC has been removed.
- LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
 - Copy 1 G3900 1857 .C6 (scanned)
<http://www.loc.gov/resource/g3900.ct001969/>
Numerous manuscript additions in red ink, including Alleghany County (1859) and Mitchell County (1861), and dozens of towns, but not Clay or Transylvania Counties (also 1861)
 - Copy 2 G3900 1857 .C6
- AGSL at UW-Milwaukee

6th State =

- Revised by Colton and published in 1865.
- New extension of map into the top border to include the Richmond area.
- New place names in NC, but Allegheny (1859) and Mitchell, Clay, and Transylvania (1861) counties are not shown.
- Tauboro changed back to its original Tarboro spelling.

¹ United States. 1898. *Report of the Commissioner of Education for the year 1896-97, Vol. 2*. Washington: G.P.O. p1473
<https://books.google.com/books/content?id=91FDAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA1473&img=1&zoom=3&hl=en&bul=1&sig=ACfU3U1YCaskIIDIC7AAiSOhQytEECccUw&w=1025>

The author of the *Report...* uses a few direct quotes, but does not provide any citation for the source. I have been unable to locate the “formal and legal agreement” referred to by the author of the *Report...*

² <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/cooke-william-dewey>

³ <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/pearce-samuel>

⁴ Southern Weekly Post (Raleigh, NC), June 3, 1854.

⁵ The Wilmington Daily Herald (Wilmington, NC), September 27, 1855 p2
(<https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn88067196/1855-09-27/ed-1/seq-2/>)

⁶ The Hillsborough Recorder (Hillsborough, NC), May 21, 1856, p4.
(<https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn84026472/1856-05-21/ed-1/seq-4>)

⁷ Carolina Watchman (Salisbury), August 31, 1854

⁸ Tri-Weekly Commercial (Wilmington, NC), May 8, 1855, p2.

⁹ The Hillsborough Recorder (Hillsborough, NC), June 13, 1855, p2.
(<https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn84026472/1855-06-13/ed-1/seq-2/>).

¹⁰ Norton, A. T. (Augustus Theodore)., Evans, D. Williams. (1879). *History of the Presbyterian church, in the state of Illinois*. St. Louis: W. S. Bryan, publisher, for the author; p623.

¹¹ The North Carolina Standard (Raleigh, NC), October 24, 1855, p3
(<https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn83045450/1855-10-24/ed-1/seq-3>)

¹² 18551124 – NEED SPECIFICS

¹³ <http://blog.ncmaps.org/map-wars-iv-minister-strikes-back/>

¹⁴ Weekly North Carolina Standard (Raleigh, NC), July 7 1858, p1.
(<https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn84045030/1858-07-07/ed-1/seq-1/>)

¹⁵ Daily Ad Valorem Banner (Raleigh, NC) · January 19, 1861, Page 4