Material has been gathered from Dr. G. W. Paschal's books, *History of Wake Forest College*, Volumes I, II, and III (1834-1943); from newspaper clippings in the Office of Communications and the Library; from Faculty Minutes; Bulletins or Wake Forest College; from records in the Baptist Book Collection including *Biblical Recorders*; from Commencement programs in offices of the Dean of the College Provost, President Registrar, Library, and Treasurer. The bound copies of the Bulletin in Mr. Williard's office were especially useful, as were material in the Baptist Book Collection. Mrs. Bagby in the Speech Department helped fill in some of the gaps, as did letters to the individual alumni who were the orators in 1945 and 1972. Some of the orations in 1972 did not have titles but Jane Tolar O'Connor and Susan House David kindly reviewed their orations and came up with suitable titles for the record.

Wake Forest Institute was founded in 1834 (16 students registered in February, 1834, and before the end of the year 72 students had enrolled). In 1839 the Institute was rechartered as Wake Forest College. The history of Wake Forest divides naturally into three main periods: (1) from the beginning of the institution in the early 1830's to the early 1860's when the Civil War forced its temporary closing (1861-1865); (2) from 1865 to the early 1950s, when the movement of the college campus from Wake Forest to Winston-Salem was organized and carried out; and (3) from 1956 when the school began operation in Winston-Salem to the present.

In the first year of the Institute (1834) students organized a debating society. Soon after the opening of the second session in 1835, students organized two groups, the Euzelianians and the Philomathesians. These two literary societies promoted debate and oratory at all special occasions of the college.

At first, all members of the senior class were expected to speak, unless excused by the faculty. In the early 80's the number of speakers was fixed at ten; others in the class wrote a thesis. In 1899 the number of speakers was reduced to eight, in 1909 to six and in 1924 to four. In 1973 the Dean of the College reduced the number of speakers to three.

Ending with the commencement of 1901 the first speaker as the salutatorian and the last speaker the valedictorian. Some years the salutatorian and the valedictorian gave senior orations in addition to the salutatory and valedictory. Until the commencement of 1889 in awarding these distinctions, the grades of the scholars were not as important as degrees so that Master of Arts had precedence over Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Arts over other degrees. Beginning with the commencement of 1889 the Valedictory was awarded to the student graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Arts or Master of Arts who had made the highest average grade and the salutatory to the student, who made the second highest grade. From 1868 to 1878 the salutatory was in Latin. In the early years there was often a speech given in German or French; I have not listed these with the senior orations.

Beginning with the commencement of 1909 the speeches by the six selected members of the graduating class, three from each literary society in the earlier years to have been in competition for a medal, the A. D. Ward Medal. This medal was provided by Mr. A. D. Ward, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, who had become a member of the Board of Trustees of Wake Forest in 1904 and continued as such until his death on April 16, 1940. He was President of the Board for the years 1907-10.

In 1923 the faculty voted as follows: "Nominations for Senior Speakers shall be made to the Faculty on the third Monday in April by a standing committee of the Faculty from those who have (a) submitted in writing a proposed address by the first Monday in April and (b) have spoken satisfactorily either before the committee or on some public occasion in
College. The faculty will select four Senior Speakers on the third Monday in April. Senior Speakers shall present their commencement addresses to the Faculty committee for approval by May 25. The President of the College shall be a member of the committee."

The above resolution was amended to limit Commencement speeches of the senior class representatives to one thousand words and to empower the President to appoint the Committee (Standing Committee on Commencement Addresses). (In other years it was called the Committee on Senior Orators.)

The catalog of 1937-38 lists the Committee on Literary Societies and Debates. This committee recommended the Senior Orators to the faculty from 1938 to 1956. In 1956 the faculty was reorganized and the Committee on Literary Societies and Debates was deleted. Dr. Franklin R. Shirley became the chairman of the Committee on Literary Societies and Debates in 1951 and for many years he handled the selection of Senior Orators, continuing after the Speech Department was created in 1960 until 1972. The Student Life Committee selected the Senior Orators for 1972, 1973, and 1974. In 1975 the Dean's office along with the Assistant Chaplain took over this task. The format was changed considerably at this time, with top students being invited to a Senior Colloquium, where they presented short speeches, and the best three of these were selected. The speeches are now given on Sunday afternoon at an Honors and Awards Convocation. Judges are invited from the Winston-Salem community to select the winner of the award.

During World War II the college enrollment dropped considerably. In order to meet this crisis, in 1942 Wake Forest became a Coeducational institutional. The first female senior orator was in 1946. The present day ratio between male and female is about 50-30. ---

On the following pages is a list of Senior Orators and their topics from the present back to 1868 (the opening of the school after the Civil War.)

Ethel Kanoy
Secretary to Dean Mullen
Completed March 14, 1977

Wake Forest University
Senior Orations

1997 *Leslie Ann Jackson
*Charlotte Anne Opal
*Donald Richard Pocock
Finding Comfort in the Uncomfortable
Accident or Destiny
1996 *Rose Erin Caldwell
* Jennifer Lynn Fowler
* Ann Mary Leist
Serene Science
Paris Metro
Southbound on the Northern Line
1995 *Loraine Vera Fuller
* Joy Lizette Goodwin
*Kathryn Patricia Huyvaert
Knowing Angels
An Education and Criticism
Becoming
1994 * Anna Kathryn Richardson
* John Kenneth Stuckey
* Aaron Benjamin Tomlin
Equipped to Care
Finding Poetry in Motion
Beginning
1993 *Lisa Michelle Shannon
*Nancy Paula Sherwood
*Stephanie Spellers
Reflections on My Rich World
As a Disabled Student
Coming to Life
1992 Hannah Evelyn Britton
Eric Ashley Hairston
Douglas Hamilton Nesbit
I Had to Go To South Africa Before I Could Go To East Winston
Childhood's Echo
Trying out With Herman Melville
1991 Anne Elizabeth Barnard  A Dehumanized Existence
Craig Macaulay Martin  Stretched-out Hands
*Kellie Elizabeth Tabor  Fourth of July - Siloam, North Carolina
1990 Edwin Hemphill Clark  Within a Story
*Michael H. Monroe  Impressions of a Monastic Sojourn
Grace Elizabeth Murray  From "The Tube" to the Canvases
1989 *Karen Baynes  Decisions
M. Lou Brown  Kaleidoscopic Vision Lisa Jean Yarger Lights
1988 Amy Scherr Childs Oothoon's Lament
*Scott Edward M. Graham  Entropy and My Existential Education
Wendy Ellen Pohlig  Thinking Out of Turn
1987 Milena A. Cvijanovich  I Am an Architect
Maria Weston Merritt  The Lesson: A True Story
James Francis Toole, III  Playing With Mirrors
1986 *Raymond Benjamin Farrow, III "Strange Task. Strange Hope": The Language of self
Gina Rae Grubbs  The Moral Imperative of a Liberal Arts Education: Reflections on a Scholar
H. Lane Wurster, Jr.  Thoughts on Trains and Trees
1985 Linda Ruth Boone  Spanish & Identity: The Crisis of Knowing Two Languages
*Angela Michele Patterson  White, Unlike Me
Matthew Gray Styers  To Keep the Romance
1984 *Kathy Janette Allen  Something Worth Knowing About the Self
James Furlong  Revolution and A More Perfect Union
*Jennifer L. Womack  Crossing Bridges
1983 Steven Randal Catron  Success, Failure and Altiora Peto
*James Theodore Gentry  John Stuart Mill. and Pac Man
Mercedes Maria Teixido  The Nude as the Most Perfect Beauty. or Expose Your Real Self. .
1982 *Martha Faith McLellan  After the First Death: Reflections on poetry and Emergency Room Experience
Dennis Walter Hearne  Toward an Ethical United States Foreign Policy
Catherine Mary Frier  In Cautious Praise of Impetuosity
1981*John E.R. Friedenberg  Art vs. Sport as an Imago for American Society
Stanlee Parks Greene, Jr.  Education at Wake Forest: Myth or Reality
Lennis Louise Pearcy  The Story
1980 *Joseph C. Davis. Jr.  The Minor Third
John Marc Gulley  Taking Time to Pause
Jane Cornwall Jackson  Education: A Plea for Something Different
Evelyn Byrd Tribble  In Defense of the Trite
1979 *Jeanne Preston Whitman  Look Homeward
Linda Lou Crocker  Revelation for a Skeptical Conservative
James Richard Saintsing  If, Zen
Kathryn Ann Webb  The Oedipus Complex
1978*Mark Wayne  Leuchtenberger Rungless Ladders
Emily Jane Owens  Yes, Virginia. There Is Life After College
Michael Jac Whatley  Between Two Points
1977 *Katharine Marie Amato  Realizations, Revelations, and Rainbows
David William Kunz  In Defense or Sheep
Katherine Ann Meiburg  Physics and the Fine Arts
1976 Judith Kay Haughee  On Becoming Real
*Barbara Lou Holland  Thinking for Thinking's Sake
Roberto Jethu Hunter  A Just Distribution of Wealth?
1975 Albert Stanley Meiburg  The Church-Related College: Servant of Reason, Servant of Faith
Ollis Jon Mozon, Jr.  Unfortunately, Still a Black Dot on a White Elephant
*Evelyn Jean West  The Sciences and Humanities: Exploring the Land Between
1974 Steven Alan Grossman  Our Duty to Wake Forest as Alumni
*Brian Scott Linton  Nothing Lasts Forever -- It's Time to Move On
Darian Lance Smith  And Even the Desert Will Bloom
1973 *Janice Lynn Gruber  The Problem of Medical Care in America and a Prescription for Change
John Richard Kendrick, Jr.  Victimless Crimes
John Anthony K. Browning  The Now and Then Generation: Hanging Loose in the Anguish of Language
1972 Linda Jane Tolar  Song of Myself: The Human Potential
William Russell Brantley  Reynolda High School?
Susan House David  Dropping Out: Sometimes a Good Decision
*Keith Watson Vaughn  Our War Against the American Indian--Will it Ever End
1971 Carol L. Clark  A Modern Myth: Peace through Institutions
Freemon A. Mark  Too, Hear the Call of Revolution
F. Kevin Mauney  "The Graduate" and Other Heroes
*Laura A. Stringfellow  The Actors are at Hand—Mid Midsummer-Night's Dream
1970 *Laura Susan Abernathy  Where is "Woman's Place"?
Laura Christian Ford  The Idea of a University
Richard Allen Shoaf  Grace. Speech, and Silence
Wayne Woltz Tolbert  Population. Environment, and Technology
1969 Phyllis McMurry Tate  The Worst Are Full of Passionate Intensity
James Nello Martin, Jr.  What's It all For?
Mary Ann Tolbert  Blearly-Eyed Wisdom Born of Midnight Oil
*Linda Sue Carter  Where is the Renaissance Man?
1968 Ronald E. Bassett  Quest for Values in the University
Frederick L. Cooper, III  The Agony of the Ages
*Kenneth S. Johnson  The Winter of our Discontent
Walter Brooks Stillwell III  Education and Political Life
1967 William Michael Andrew  The Problem of Democratic Education
*Sandra Leigh Myers  The Importance of Christian Training as a Part Total Education
Vicki Lu Tolar  Time and the Student-
Richard Carter Fallis  Light in a Dark Land
Carol Ann Claxton  Truth: Newspaper Style
Robert Kenneth Goodwin  The Developing Nation--A Need for an Attitude for Growth and Change
*Dona Simpson Westray  The Vision of Greatness-
1965 Jerry Attkisson  Reflections of a Senior
*Donia Ann Whiteley  Literature and the Practical Man
Martha Swain  Toward the Prize of the High Calling
Neal Tate  Democracy in America
1964 Ronald Treadwell McIntyre  The Uber Scientist
*John Leslie Rosenthal  An Absurd Negligence and Discovery
C Frank Balch Wood  Can Wake Forest College Become a Christian University
David Maier Zacks  What Price Security?
1963
John Glenn Blackburn, Jr.  Never Imitate
Susan Elizabeth Fulkerson  Women in a Male Stronghold
*Dua Val Gaskins, Jr.  The Fall of the Empire 1962
Douglas James McCorkindale  Education and the Open Mind
1962
*Alfred Lee Baker  The United Nations in World Affairs
Susie O. Jones  That Man May Know Love
Anthony William Packer  An Institution Within an Institution
Sammy K. Williams The College and the Faith
1961
*Richard F. Curlee  A New Humanity
Sheron J. Dailey  The Shruggers
Betty Bruce Hoyard  To Never Understand
George Williamson, Jr.  Seeds of Discontent
1960
*John A. Alford  The Worth of Creation
*Janet M. Binkley  The Academic Shell
Richard L. Burleson  The Defacement of Honor
Donald O. Schoonmaker  Wake Forest, 1960; An Inventory
1959
*Charles B. Deane, Jr.  Equality of the Heart
Jane Gilbert Freeman  A New Alphabet
Dinah G. Gattis  Who Shall Restrain Us?
Charles S. Rooks  The College Professor
1958
*David F. Hughes  What Should Be
Rowland Hayes Thomas, Jr.  Where Do We Go from Here?
Linda Carol Willard  The House that Jack Built
Larry Corlis Williams  Pilgrimage to a Sacred Shrine
1957
*Marjorie L. Thomas  The Sleep of Death
Martha Cook Gentry  No More Lab
Fred Simpson  War and Peace
Charles Richards  A School is for Students
1956
Kenneth David Freeman  Academic Freedom
E. Pauline Binkley  In Quest of Life's Meaning
*C. Richard Day Understanding  The Cornerstone of Peace and Progress
*Harry Thomas Frank  Insignificant Significance
1955
Carwile LeRoy  Can We Go Home Again?
*Joseph C. Hough, Jr.  Democratic Obsession.
Wilfred Winstead  Forging Ahead
Isabel Quattlebaum  A More Perfect Union
1954
James Young Greene  The Crisis of the Christian College
Gordon Eugene Boyce  At the Crossroads Anne Marie Fuller A Dream on Trial
*Betty-Jo Usher  Fingertips  Through the Clouds
1953
*Virgil H. Moorefield, Jr.  Out of Darkness...Light
Joe B. Mauney  This I Believe
Clara Ellen Francis  Builders of Men
Brightie E. White, Jr.  Our College Generation
1952
Lloyd Abernethy, Jr.  Preface to a Creative Humanity
*Doris Anne Link  Whoso Would Be a Man
Betty Jo Ring  The Wake Forest Woman
Roy E. Shell  The Freedom to Live
1951
David M. Clark, Jr.  The Only Thing We Have to Fear
*Carol Oldham  Her Greatest Opportunity
Julian C. Burroughs, Jr.  A Challenge to Reynolda
Lucius Pullen  Training for Peace
1950  T. Lamar Caudle III  As A Mighty Oak
      Edgar D. Christman  The Major Assumption of our Representative Government
      *DeLeon T. Murphy  The Forgotten Man
      Elizabeth Pringle  In Defense of Women
1949  Henry B. Huff  War or Peace
      *William H. Wagoner  The Vanishing American Statesman
      Hugh C. Dover  Liberal Education
      Robert M. Winecoff  The Whole Man
1948  E. M. Britt  The best of Whatever You Are
      Hubert B. Humphrey  Learning to Live
      Elwood R. Orr  Today I am a College Graduate
      *Dorothy Haworth  Today I am Twenty-One
1947  John Dixon Davis  What of Tomorrow?
      William Marcus McGill  The Challenge of Higher Education in America,
      *James Arthur West, Jr.  America: The Champion of Freedom
      William Edward Poe  One World and Democracy
1946  Nancy Hyde Easley  Clod or Continent
      *Frank Eugene Deese  The Death of a Nation
      Harold Prestwood Coston  One World or None
      James Oda Mattox  Our Noble Heritage
1945  J. W. Chandler  Heirs or Custodians?
      William Thomas Smith  Heroism and World Peace
      J. S. Fentress  A Panorama of Death
      *Clarence Bowen  A Hero Dies
1944  *Elbert Wethington  The Fundamental Foundation of a Lasting Peace
      Bruce Whitaker  Education and Stability
      Leo Hawkins  The Working Man and World Society
      Earl Parker  An American Paradox
1943  W. Burnette Harvey  War---Prelude to What
      Lawrence Highfill  A Powerful Idea
      Edwin G. Wilson  Let us Dare to Do our Duty
      *John J. McIlilnan  Look to the West
1942  *Ralph Brumet  Marble and Slate
      George Thomas Watkins III  Shattered Altars
      Charles Maddry Freeman  Goodness is Not Enough
      Robert Lansing Hicks  The Sin of Indifference-
1941  Weston P. Hatfield  Commencement of What?
      *James S. Potter  Religious Liberty--Bulwark of Democracy
      G. W. Bennett From  Campus to Camp
      John T. Spencer, Jr.  The Cultural Chemistry of a Deacon
1940  *T. Eugene Worrell  Liberty that Enslaves
      G. Thomas Lumpkin  Ambition is but an Empty Dream
      Adlai Hoyle  In Defense of Youth
      James Copple  The Christian Optimist
1939  *Robert M. Helm, Jr.  On the Threshold of What?
      W. S. Hicks, Jr.  New Frontiers for Youth
      T. Sloan Guy, Jr.  Visions
      Cyrus M. Johnson  Eve Still Rules Adam
1938  Archibald M. McMillan  Fickle Youth's Consistency
      *Albert E. Simms  Lights and Shadows Joel Francis Paschal Our Opportunity
      Jack Benjamin McDuffie  We Go Forth
1937 J. E. Lawrence  Let us Pause and Reminisce
   *J. A. Martin, Jr.  Flaming Youth: Retrospect and Prospice
   J. D. Beale  Whither Education?
   J. H. Blackmore  The Church: Hold-over or Vital Force?
1936 H. A. Matthews  Cooperation or Chaos?
   *G. E. Copple  Education at the Crossroads
   J. C. Murchison  Through a Graduate's Eyes
   C. E. Hobgood  A Rational Nationalism
1935 *Charles U. Harris, Jr.  The Cause of Peace
   Millard R. Brown  Back to First Principles
   Carl L. Ousley  Social Security
   J. Glenn Blackburn  Wake Forest Faces the Future
1934 W. Scott Buck  The Lawyer and the New Deal
   G. Carl Lewis  Individualism in a Cooperative World
   *Donald G. Myers  New Times--New Virtues
   W. O. Rosser, Jr.  Our Obligation to Wake Forest
1933 Irby B. Jackson  The Test of Education
   *E. L. Smith  A New Internationalism
   Zon R. Robinson  A Federation of the World
   Clyde W. Glosson  Our Glorious Heritage
1932 *William H. Ford  Vision
   Harold H. Deaton  Pledged Responsibility
   Thomas Carl Brown  Through the Eyes of a Senior
   Braxton L. Davis  Character
1931 Harry L. Bridges  The Challenge of the Age
   James M. Early  Our New Universe
   Nathan C. Brooks, Jr.  Followers
   *Clarence H. Patrick  Man's Mightiest Movement
1930 *C. A. Maddry  A Heritage to Sustain
   B. M. Tomberlin  The College Man and His Civic Adjustment
   W. H. Bostick  A Plea
   E. B. Whitaker  Have we Abolished Slavery?
1929 E. C. Shoe  The Abiding Work of Christian Schools
   W. L. Cohoon  The Mission of our Alma Mater
   R. P. Caudill  A New Aristocracy
   *Joe L. Carlton  Our Standard Man
1928 *O. T. Binkley  A Plea for Idealism
   J. Elmer Cloer  The American Plan
   G. N. Ashley  Right and Wrong in Latin America
   G. M. Griffin, Jr.  Youth and Young America
1927 D. S. Haworth  The Challenge to America
   *C. R. Tew  War
   B. W. Walker  The Citizen and His Government
   R. E. Wall  Education for Democracy
1926 A. S. Gillespie Matthew T.  Yates
   J. S. Hopkins  A Plea for Moral and Religious Education
   *C. B. Earp  Our Thought-World
   F. H. Malone  The Need of Moral Progress in Society
1925 D. S. Haworth  The North Carolina Family
   F. L. Paschal  The New Progressivism or North Carolina
   J. J. Tarlton  The Modern Trend of Education in America
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<td>1924</td>
<td>L. E. Andrews</td>
<td>The Compromise of Justice</td>
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<td>S. N. Lamb</td>
<td>The American Hero of the Twentieth Century</td>
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<td>B. T. Jones, Jr.</td>
<td>A Martyr to a Lost Cause</td>
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<td>*H. T. Wright</td>
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<td>G. H. Morton</td>
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<td>*W. R. Wallace</td>
<td>The Efficiency of the American Government</td>
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<td>1922</td>
<td>T. W. Allen</td>
<td>The Great Delusion</td>
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<td>F. B. Helms</td>
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<td>1921</td>
<td>D. T. Hurley</td>
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<td>C. F. Gaddy</td>
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<td>R. R. Carter</td>
<td>Truths about North Carolina</td>
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<td>*A. R. Whitehurst</td>
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<td>R. C. Brown</td>
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<td>G. R. Sherrill</td>
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<td>1920</td>
<td>McKinley Edwards</td>
<td>The Dynamic Force in Reconstruction</td>
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<td>E. J. Trueblood</td>
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<td>E. D. Banks</td>
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<td>J. I. Allen, Jr.</td>
<td>Woman and the New World</td>
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<td>1918</td>
<td>M. T. Rankin</td>
<td>Heroes at Home</td>
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<td>L. V. Coggins</td>
<td>America's Fight for World Freedom</td>
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<td>*J. T. Gillespie</td>
<td>Our Supreme Debt to the Unborn</td>
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<td>A. C. Reid</td>
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<td>J. B. Rucker</td>
<td>The Liberalizing Influence of the Present War</td>
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<td>I. E. Carlyle</td>
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<td>P. S. Daniel</td>
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<td>*J. Baird Edwards</td>
<td>The Dawn of Universal Democracy</td>
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<td>1916</td>
<td>E. B. Cox,</td>
<td>North Carolina's Imperative Task</td>
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<td>R. H. Taylor</td>
<td>Our Debt to France</td>
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<td>1915</td>
<td>R. L. Brown</td>
<td>The Farmer, the Neglected Citizen in Legislation,</td>
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<td>A. Y. Arledge</td>
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<td>J. M. Pritchard</td>
<td>Shall the Death Penalty be Abolished?</td>
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<td>*B. M. Watkins</td>
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<td>Earle Prevete</td>
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<td>1914</td>
<td>W. W. Walker</td>
<td>The Problem of the City-Law</td>
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<td>George C. Pennell</td>
<td>North Carolina's Legal Relic of Barbarism</td>
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