

Things You Want to Know About Scotland County

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a net work of over 500 miles of fine highways which place the farm in easy reach of shipping points.

Market Accessibility
Through the service given by the railroads named above, the market is easily accessible. Laurinburg is only 15 miles from Hamlet, where direct connection is made with the main line of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. It is only 17 miles from Pembroke, where connection with the main line of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad is made. In freight, due to the Laurinburg and Southern, there is no changing of cars, all products being sent straight through to destination. Norfolk is within 10 hours—Washington 11 hours—Atlanta 11 hours—Jacksonville 12 hours. Charleston and Richmond and other cities are easily accessible. The other towns of the county are in the above schedule with only a half hour or so difference either way according to their location and the road used.

Raw Material Proximity
Scotland county being one of the richest counties, it thus gives manufacturing plants the background of abundant supplies of raw materials. The transportation service being as it is, means an easy way for securing raw materials not close at hand.

Equable Climate
Scotland county is a county of equably clement weather with an average temperature for the year of about 61 degrees which seldom drops to zero or reaches 100 degrees. The county has a mean annual precipitation of about 51.0 inches evenly distributed throughout the year. Out-of-door work is practical nearly the year around, a condition which largely enters into the consideration of a location.

Fuel and Power
Electricity is obtained from the Yadkin River Power Company who run transmission lines through this territory from their hydro-electric plant at Blawitt Falls in the adjoining county of Richmond. Electric power rates are reasonable. Coal can be easily obtained also.

Unlimited Water Supply
A new water works and filtering station is being constructed in Laurinburg and that community will have a supply sufficient to last for 50 years at the present rate of growth. The county is well supplied with water which meets the standard tests for drinking and is good for boilers.

Desirable Factory Sites
Throughout the entire county there are many exceptionally good manufacturing sites. Some of them contain as much as 25 acres of good land in close proximity to the railroads to which a spur track can be laid. Other lands directly on the railroads named above. The chamber of commerce in no way acts as agent for these properties, but is always ready and anxious to act as a medium for information concerning them or any information that may be desired on the available labor, proximity of homes to properties, assessed values etc., in fact anything which will assist in arriving at a suitable and proper location for any reliable enterprise.

Superior Banking Facilities
There are seven established banks which have combined resources of over \$3,500,000 and these banks have adequate facilities which are a necessary adjunct to manufacturing concerns and general business as well as to the community at large. The banks of the county have the highest standing and are in a flourishing condition.

Ample and Satisfactory Labor
Scotland county has an abundance of native efficient labor obtainable at a very reasonable wage.

Ideal Living Conditions
The homes to be found in the county rank among the best of the entire country. In the towns are to be found sufficient water, electric lights, telephones as is the case all over the county and in Laurinburg, concrete sidewalks, adequate sewerage, and paved streets. The public schools of the county and towns are of a particularly high standing under the able management of the county superintendent and superintendent respectively. These schools are a source of pride to the entire county. There are 43 schools with 129 teachers, school population 5,636 or 36 per cent of the entire population of the county. The value of the school property is \$379,400 with \$75,000 in process of building and a private negro industrial school valued at approximately \$100,000. In recreation Laurinburg has an enclosed ball park, golf links and other means of enjoyment. Bathing in this section is a great sport. The women have their home demonstration work and other recreational activities. There are churches of all leading denominations, and social, business, civic, literary and music clubs and fraternal lodges minister to the religious and social life of the people.

Public Utilities
The telephone system is maintained by the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, while electricity is furnished by the Yadkin River Power Company.

We believe that we have briefly covered those things of which a prospective commercial enterprise or industry desires information upon and we will now turn briefly to the agricultural aspect of the county.

Agriculture
Only a few words will be herein given as agriculture in Scotland county is a large subject covering considerable ground and therefore is one that cannot be treated in detail in a short space. More should be said upon this one phase of the community inasmuch as it is the backbone

financially, but Scotland county is well known all over the eastern half of the United States, especially in the south and we have therefore dealt more upon the industrial advantages. Soil analysis—elevations in various sections of the county—drainage conditions in certain areas—and other pertinent factors—all of these are things that must be dealt with in response to specific inquiries. The county has 223,369 acres of land of which 51.5 per cent is cultivated. The total approximated assessed valuation of all property in the county in 1923 was \$23,000,000 on taxable properties, with a tax rate of 66 cents per \$100. The total value of annual farm products for the county (1920 census) was \$3,995,106 and its estimated that this figure passed the \$10,000,000 in 1923.

Commercial
The commerce of the towns of Scotland county is very brisk, the trade being generally conceded to be a little above normal. There are opportunities for outside commercial business locating in the county and there is further opportunities for the enlargement of the present establishments. Money is spent freely for the necessities of life and all the concerns now located here are in a healthful and flourishing condition. This feature of the community life will have to be treated as like the agricultural phase, specific inquiries as to location must be individually investigated.

General
Population of Scotland county (estimated) 15,000.
206 growing days enabling two or three crops to be grown on the same acre.

One of the leading agricultural counties in North Carolina.
Low tax assessment.
Produces over 2 bales of cotton to every inhabitant.

One of the foremost cantaloupe producing counties in the United States.
Wonderful watermelon raising country.

Excellent county for peaches and tobacco.
Most productive county in relation to size of farm area of any county in the United States.

Laurinburg
Population (estimated 1923) 3,000.
Eight manufacturing plants including 4 large cotton mills manufacturing hosiery yarns, one fertilizer plant manufacturing acid phosphate and seven other brands or kinds, one oil company making a variety of products from cotton seed, one flour and feed mill, capacity 500 barrels flour and 40 tons of feed per day, one ice and coal plant, production ice 12 to 13 tons per day.

Surrounded by one of the richest farming sections in the United States, thus giving manufacturing plants the natural inducements of abundant supplies of raw materials.

Excellent transportation facilities.
Excellent highways.
Commission form of government.
Abundance of hydro-electric power.
White way.
Abundance of excellent water.
Excellent sewerage system.
Concrete sidewalks.
Paved streets.

Excellent school facilities.
Beautiful homes.
Eight churches.
Six schools.
Three banks.
Tax rate \$1.14 per \$100.

The other towns in the county although smaller than Laurinburg are forging to the forefront and will see a great deal of development within the next decade. The citizenship of these towns are awake to the opportunities which they offer and the spirit of cooperation displayed is remarkable.

Information
The Scotland County Chamber of Commerce, Laurinburg, North Carolina, will furnish any information about Scotland county or its towns and inquiries are solicited.

SCOTLAND SUPPLY CO.

One of County's Largest and Most Active Mercantile Concerns Located at Johns

The Scotland Supply Company is really a supply company. It handles every description of merchandise, from notions to heavy hardware, and is prepared to take care of the needs of the residents of the community in which it is located in almost every line of mercantile supplies. Established in 1903, the Scotland Supply Company has had the satisfaction of seeing its business grow steadily and regularly for the past nineteen years.

Occupying a large and substantial building, containing nearly 5,000 square feet of floor space, the Scotland Supply Company finds that it has none too much room for the vast stocks of assorted merchandise that it carries in its warehouses. It could easily utilize additional space, and that may become necessary within a year or two, if the rate of growth enjoyed for the past two or three years continues.

The problem of buying for such an establishment is not an easy one. To select the kinds of goods, and in the quantities suitable for the demands made upon the concern, requires the best of judgment and discretion.

Handling full lines of shoes, clothing, dry goods, hardware, groceries, farm implements, etc., the Scotland Supply Company is exclusive agent in this locality for many leading brands of nationally advertised merchandise. Among these may be mentioned Firestone and Oldfield automobile tires, Avery farm implements, International Harvester Company implements, Auburn wagons, Hunt Club shoes, Central Shoe Company's lines of St. Louis, the Blue fertilizer distributor, manufactured by John Blue at Laurinburg, Dixie Phosphate Company's fertilizer, and many others.

In addition to its general mercantile lines, the Scotland Supply Company buys cotton and cotton seed, paying the full market prices for these articles, thus enabling the farmers of this section of the county to market their products with a minimum of trouble and hauling expense. Large quantities of cotton and cotton seed are handled by the company each season. In connection with this feature of its operations, the company runs its own ginning plant, with a capacity of about 50 bales per day. Many farmers haul their cotton to the gin and sell both the cotton and the seed on the spot, receiving the money for the crop without further trouble.

Mr. McLaurin originally founded this business in 1901. The Scotland Supply Company was formed by E. W. McLaurin and E. P. Jones in 1905, and succeeded the former business. Both of these gentlemen are well known in the community and throughout this section of the state. They are men of high standing, and have hosts of friends. Both are natives of the county, and have spent their entire lives as residents of Scotland. Mr. McLaurin is a member of the Presbyterian church, and is keenly interested in the development of his section. He is always ready to cooperate in any movement looking to the improvement of the community or the county at large. He is especially enthusiastic in his support of improved highways, regarding this as one of the leading needs of the smaller communities of the south. Mr. Jones has large farming interests, operating a 20-horse farm a short distance from town. He is a member of the Methodist church.

The Scotland Supply Company is a real asset to the town in which it is located, and is well patronized by the citizens of Johns, as well as those residing within a radius of a dozen miles of the town. Its business is continually growing, both in volume and in the territory reached by its sphere of activities.

J. T. JOHN COMPANY

Old Established Mercantile Concern Does Big Business at Johns and in Adjoining Section

There may be people who think the "modern" department store is a modern institution. People living in cities have grown accustomed to the idea that the department store is a development of the past half century, because the larger establishments of this kind have made the impression that they have blazed new trails in mercantile methods.

Practically every man who has lived in the country or the small town knows that the department store is merely a city adaptation of the general store of the cross-roads or the small village. It operates upon exactly the same principle. It is a return to fundamentals in merchandising, rather than a new development. It is a reaction from the highly specialized establishments of the larger cities, and probably if truth were known, it is in response to the demand that has been created in the larger cities. Those who, earlier in their lives, patronized the good old-fashioned general store.

At any rate, Scotland county people may find a country department store in full operation at the village of Johns. It is the establishment of the J. T. John Company, which began business in 1885, and was incorporated about twenty-five years later, in 1910. The John Company was one of the first business concerns to operate in this section of the county, and has had a great deal to do with the development of the section surrounding the town. It has handled a

full line of every sort of merchandise, accommodating every need of the people of the community. Among the leading "departments" conducted by this progressive establishment may be mentioned furniture, clothing, shoes, dry goods, hardware, groceries, farm implements, and the like. It handles many exclusive lines including W. L. Douglas shoes, Stetson hats, Manhattan shirts, Hackney wagons, Oliver plows and farm implements, and the like. It occupies a large building, 50 by 150 feet, and also uses an additional building about half this size as its warehouse. The firm also deals in cotton and cotton seed. It has recently taken over the local agency for the Chevrolet automobile, and carries a complete line of parts for this popular car.

J. T. John, president of the company, founded the first business establishment in this section of Scotland county. He is active in the chamber of commerce, and is a member of the Methodist church. F. A. Kendall, secretary and treasurer, is a native of the county, and has been connected with the concern for the past sixteen years. He is a Shriner and a member of the Methodist church. These gentlemen, and the six or eight men employed by the company, are all popular and well known citizens, and are loyal residents of the community.

Laurinburg Situated

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county and which are maintained at county expense. The county has modern road construction and maintenance equipment and two forces are kept constantly at work on the county roads. Free and convict labor is employed and competent engineers and superintendents are in charge.

The State of New York has 9,000 more students in colleges and universities than the United Kingdom.



J. T. John Co. Store, Johns, N. C.

John Blue, One of Scotland County's Pioneers

Manufacturer of Rex Guano Distributors, John Blue Cotton Planters, Etc.

The story of the development of the business of John Blue, whose plant is located about two and one-half miles from Laurinburg on the Laurinburg-Gibson road, reads like romance. It is of interest particularly as showing how a man of force and energy can forge ahead in any line in which his lot may be cast.

The Blue family is one of the oldest and best known in this section. It has been resident of Laurinburg for 120 years, and its members have been known as honest, industrious men and women, given to handling their own business in their own way, while offering the spirit of neighborly kindness and friendly help to all in their community.

Some thirty-five years ago, John Blue began the operation of a blacksmith shop. It was a crude little shop, containing only the crudest and most primitive tools and apparatus. It was 16 x 20 feet, and there was little room for more than the owner of the shop inside. Horse-shoeing was an important part of his work, but this was necessarily done outside the shop, because there wasn't room inside. Here, also, was invented and manufactured the first cotton stalk cutter.

The practical and inventive mind of John Blue took hold of the things he had at that time, however, and began to construct improvements. There were many little attachments and appliances that he evolved from the operations in his shop, some of them for his own convenience in operations, others for the use of his neighbors or his own farm or garden needs. It soon began to be apparent, especially to John Blue himself, that he was able to do many things in an improved way and by improved methods, thought out himself.

From this stage of his activities he developed gradually, learning more and more about the possibilities of his

Some Recollections of Rev. John Monroe

Known to Everbody as Uncle John Monroe One of Greatest Religious Leaders of His Day.

(By LIVINGSTON JOHNSON)

One of the first men, and certainly the first preacher, I remember was Rev. John Monroe. The first church services I attended were at old Spring Hill and the venerable man about whom I am writing was the pastor. He was, when I can first remember, an old man with white hair. He was of commanding appearance, bearing a striking resemblance to George Washington. For a man of his age he was remarkably careful about his dress, wearing in the pulpit a Prince Albert suit of broadcloth, with immaculate linen, a large folded collar with the old-fashioned stock as a tie. When he drew out his handkerchief it was always of a snowy whiteness and carefully folded.

He rarely ever preached less than an hour, and frequently ran over that time. The benches in the old church were high and my feet could not touch the floor when I was first carried to church with my mother. There was no stove in the church at that time as the old people seemed to have an idea that one could get more out of a religious service if he endured it in a house without fire when the thermometer was reaching down to

ward zero. And there was no organ in the church in those days. The leader of the choir manipulated an old tuning fork. Hymn books were scarce and the preacher gave out the hymns two lines at a time. Modern congregations would rebel at the length of the service. But the old people in that community attended church more regularly than they do now and enjoyed the services immensely. For them it was real worship.

Perhaps a few incidents I remember about Uncle John Monroe, as he was called even by those who were not related to him, may be of interest. He visited around among his people occasionally, trying to reach every home in the community once a year. It was a notable event when he drove up just before dinner time to break bread with some family in his congregation. He did not confine his visits to his own flock, but called on the members of the Presbyterian church as well. There were but two churches in the community at that time—the Baptist and the Presbyterian.

In the fall of the year, on one occasion, his corn had been hauled up and, as was the custom, placed in a long row before the crib door preparatory to a community shucking. The neighbors gathered there one night, shucked the corn and put away the sheaves, leaving the corn out in the yard to be put in the crib next day. Going out early in the morning Uncle John Monroe found a hat which had been dropped by some one who had carried away a good turn of corn the night before. One of his daughters went out and saw him putting a pole in the ground with the hat on top of it. When asked why he was doing that, he replied "The poor man will come back tonight after his hat and I want to put it where he can find it."

When I was a boy, perhaps ten or twelve years of age, my younger brother, Arel, and I were sent one Saturday to Malloy's Mill with a turn of wheat to be ground. We went in a cart and were returning late in the afternoon when we noticed a dark cloud looming up in the west. The lightning began to flash and the thunder to roar. As we approached Uncle John Monroe's house he saw us coming down the lane, and going out to the lot he opened the gate and without saying a word caught the bridle of our horse and led him into the lot. The flour was safely deposited in the barn and the horse put up in a stable. Just about the time we got into the house it began to rain, and three or four others arriving at

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Scotland Supply Co. Store, Johns, N. C.