

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

In offering this volume to those friends and acquaintances of the commercial world and to those who feel an interest in the affairs of our city, a few preparatory words appear desirable, if not to introduce the subject matter, yet to outline the publishers' intention. Too frequently editions of newspapers are issued as a mere pretext for self-laudation, and the most extravagant terms employed to set forth the virtues of their localities, with scant regard for the intelligence of the reading public, who quickly perceive the fallacy; they appear to the conservative mind an attempt to overdraw the truth, which in fact does not even deceive, and thus they not only fail in good results, but bring discredit upon their promoters.

In the descriptions and illustrations that follow it has been the writers' highest aspiration to treat of the various subjects of industrial import in a manner that will convey a comprehensive idea of their present status; to tell a true story of the city of Greensboro and Guilford county, with its various towns and hamlets, and the possibilities here awaiting the judicious investment of capital and labor; to deal with the facts in a manner commensurate with their scope, yet without statement or implication—that has been more earnestly avoided.

The end of enterprise and development in its march toward the sea has found in the foothills of the Blue Ridge a resting-place prolific in the endowment of natural advantage. The converging of the highways of traffic and transportation have found a common centre. The industrious toilers have set about to build a city—not a great metropolitan emporium of literature and art—but a city of manufacture and trade, where they have built their homes and stately edifices—a good place to live, and a good place to make a living.

Such a city is Greensboro of the present day. Just as in Nature, the slowest processes are those which culminate in greatest energy, so in the domain of Trade—the solidity requires time in which to eventuate. Greensboro has not at a single bound leaped into its present commercial prominence, but its builders have wisely taken the surer way. A proper tribute to the general sagacity, courage and integrity of its business men and their commercial achievements, this publication has been conceived, wherein the artist should supplement description of those institutions that constitute and create wealth in our community. The text is more than a citation of bare facts. It is a portraiture of the living process in the building of a great and prosperous commercial centre, with contributed editorials by leading men in the various lines of trade.

It is our cordial wish that the reader may participate, in some degree, in the pleasure experienced by the several writers of this volume, that we solicit for the following pages perusal.

GUILFORD COUNTY.

PAST, BOUNTIFUL PRESENT, LIMITLESS RESOURCES.

Among the ninety-seven political divisions of North Carolina, stretching from the briny shores of the Atlantic to the summit of the Blue Ridge, there is none more rich in natural resources than Guilford. Within its borders occurred during the Revolutionary struggle events which were potent in shaping the destinies of the young Republic. In all the conflicts at arms from Lexington to Yorktown, the sons of Carolina stood shoulder to shoulder with their fellow patriots of other colonies, and when the Britons under Lord Cornwallis invaded the soil of North Carolina, most nobly did her sons do battle for the liberty of man. Guilford County has been the theatre of the example of self-sacrifice and devotion which has been emulated by their posterity.

ERECATION OF THE COUNTY.

The county of Guilford was erected in 1770, being taken from a part of Rowan and Orange counties, and was named in honor of Lord North, who was Earl of Guilford.

In 1805 the county seat was removed from Martinsville to Greensboro (named in honor of General Greene) the miles southeast of the site of the battle ground, where on March 15th, 1781, transpired one of the most important engagements of the Revolu-

tionary war, and where a monument now stands commemorative of the culminating victory.

THE TOWNSHIPS.

Guilford is divided into eighteen townships, sixteen of which are penetrated by its 111 miles of railroads, radiating out from the center, Greensboro, which has a population of about 13,000. A glance at the map reveals in Guilford county characteristics rarely if ever seen elsewhere in the United States. It is laid out almost perfectly square and in the construction of the townships the same uniformity is observed, giving it the appearance of a veritable political chess board.

INDUSTRIES.

Guilford county has four nurseries, producing hundreds of thousands of fruit trees and vines which are sold in dozens of states; terra-cotta works, which supply sewer pipe for neighboring states, cities and railroads, drain pipes, chimney flues, etc., on a large scale; two spoke and handle factories, twelve furniture factories using our native woods, and shipping North, East and South into more than twenty states, several foundries, machine shops, implement factory, etc., besides the great cotton and tobacco growing and manufacturing interests and other diversified manufacturing industries for which the county is noted.

POPULATION.

The population of the county is about thirty-five thousand, of which about one-fourth is colored. The latter as a rule are good citizens, sober, frugal and industrious, and far above the average in many other communities, readily embracing the opportunities afforded them for moral and in-

tellectual training by such institutions as the Agricultural and Mechanical College, supported by the State and nation, the Bennett College for the Colored Race, supported by philanthropy, and the High Point Normal and Industrial School, supported by the New York Yearly Meeting of Friends, as well as numerous public primary and graded schools throughout the county.

No racial trouble or embroilment has ever taken place in Guilford county, the negroes are good and faithful servants, glad to find employment at reasonable wages, and have never permitted their political affiliations to disturb their accustomed quiet.

AGRICULTURE.

The usual crops per acre are one to five tons of clover hay, twenty-five to one hundred bushels of corn, five to thirty-five bushels of wheat, and ten to sixty bushels of oats, according to the energy and judgment of the farmer.

Agricultural lands sell from five to twenty-five dollars per acre, according to fertility and proximity to the market. Guilford county has 400,760 acres of land valued at \$2,285,700, and 2,264 town lots valued at \$2,033,952. Of domestic animals there are: Horses, 4,021; mules, 1,703; cattle, 10,707; hogs, 12,842; sheep, 4,862. No organized effort has yet been made to induce the immigration of farmers, and there are large tracts of valuable farming lands capable of raising tobacco, cotton, or any of the cereals or fruits grown out of tropics, that can be had at exceedingly low prices, and the farmer who comes to Guilford will find himself surrounded by hospitable neighbors, a congenial climate, and a fertile soil.

TOPOGRAPHY.

The area of Guilford county covers 24 by 28 square miles. It lies near the middle of the Piedmont plateau region, with its higher part on the watershed between the Cape Fear and Dan rivers, which crosses its territory nearly midway in a west and east direction, at an elevation of eight hundred to one thousand feet above the tide.

Its forests consist mainly of oaks of various species and hickory, with a subordinate growth of pines, scattered quite uniformly over its area.

Along its river and creek bottoms, which are in many parts of the county extensive, and in the southeastern section of the county, even on the uplands, are heavy forests of oak, intermingled with hickory, walnut, poplar, maple, etc. These lands are generally a reddish clay loam soil.

The soil of the higher and broad backed ridges and swells is quite uniformly a yellowish sandy and gravelly loam, underlaid by a yellowish and red clay subsoil.

The cotton zone touches the southern border, the chief crops of the county consisting of grain, grasses, fruits and tobacco. Cherries, except in 1893, have not failed in the past fifty years. Gold, copper and iron are found in many places, and have been mined on a considerable scale.

CLIMATE.

The climate of Guilford county is equable, the mean temperature being about 50 degrees. The thermometer rarely climbs above 90 degrees, and then only for a short period of one or two days at a time. Ice seldom forms to a greater depth than one inch, perhaps once in two or three years it may be slightly thicker. Roses bloom out of doors for nine months in the year, while magnolias and other trees and

shrubs of this character are abundant. The expression often used here, "A climate of perpetual spring," is not overdrawn.

EDUCATION.

Guilford county is the educational center of North Carolina, and embraces in this capacity a large portion of South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee.

Two graded school systems are supported nine months in the year in Guilford, by public tax. No other county in the State enjoys this distinction. Among the other institutions are the State Normal and Industrial College for Girls, at which 500 are now in attendance; the Greensboro Female College, a large institution under the control of the Methodists of the State, the Agricultural and Mechanical college for the Colored Race, also Bennett Seminary, a high-grade institution of learning for the same race. Besides these there are four other colleges of high grade in the county. Guilford College, six miles west of Greensboro; Oak Ridge Institute, Oak Ridge; Whitsett Institute,

Whitsett; and the High Point Institute (colored), High Point. All of these schools are well managed and prosperous, they are under the direction of educators of the highest type, while the tuition and other charges are usually lower than elsewhere. Several academies throughout the county add materially to the educational facilities enjoyed by our people.

This brief sketch of Guilford county is intended only as one broad sweeping glance over the natural resources and advantages, the development of which have already made it one of the wealthiest in the Old North State, and as prefatory to the descriptions and illustrations that follow. Details as to the possibilities here awaiting the merchant, the manufacturer, and the farmer are discussed on other pages in numerous scientific and technical articles contributed by men of recognized authority on these subjects.

Suffice it to say that nowhere in the broad realm of nature are inducements more enticing, a people more hospitable, and a climate more delightful, than here in Guilford county.



H. GILMER,
Sheriff.
Sheriff of Guilford, is a native of Guilford county, having first "seen the light" on October 15, 1848. He attended the "old field" schools, but was given a liberal education at an early age. He worked on the plantations, then in manufacturing, and served as justice of the peace in Jefferson township. He died while in office, and was elected by the voters to fill the unexpired term of this office. He was elected in 1888 he was elected coroner and served until the expiration of his term. During the legislative session of 1892 he was elected a member of the State Board of Health, and was second vice-president of the State Board of Health. He served until the expiration of his term. He was elected a member of the State Board of Agriculture for the year 1893. He served until the expiration of his term. He was elected a member of the State Board of Health for the year 1894.

ected to the office of sheriff. In addition to discharging the duties of his office Mr. Gilmer is treasurer of the Globe Plow Manufacturing Company, a concern engaged in the manufacture of a cultivator of superior construction and device which is fast winning popularity among the farmers.

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PIEDMONT FLOUR.
GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.
A leading house dealing in groceries and provisions is that of J. N. Ingram, 530 South Elm street. While the business has only been established since January, 1898, the house has by adhering to the motto "best goods at lowest prices" built up a large patronage among an appreciative public.
Mr. Ingram was formerly engaged in the lumber business at High Point and is one of those progressive men who have been attracted to Greensboro by her possibilities and advantages. He is assisted by his son, H. O. Ingram.



DR. J. PINKNEY TURNER,
Coroner of Guilford County.
Dr. Turner was born in Cool Spring, Iredell county, North Carolina, December 18, 1871. He received his early education at the Oak Institute, Mooresville, N. C., after which he attended Trinity College. In 1893 he entered the University of Maryland at Baltimore and in 1896 graduated from that famous medical school. During his senior year and the first year subsequent to his graduating he was resident physician at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. In 1897 he began the practice of his profession in Greensboro.
The duties devolving on a coroner are of such a nature as to render it particularly desirable that a physician should fill the office. This fact has been recognized and where members of the medical profession have administered the duties of the position there has been a notable improvement in the management and a corresponding elevation of the office.
Dr. Turner was elected coroner of the county of Guilford in 1898, and during his incumbency of the office the truth of the foregoing has been demonstrated.
He is a member of the Maryland Medical Society of Baltimore, Md., and the Manufacturers' and Merchants' Association of Greensboro.

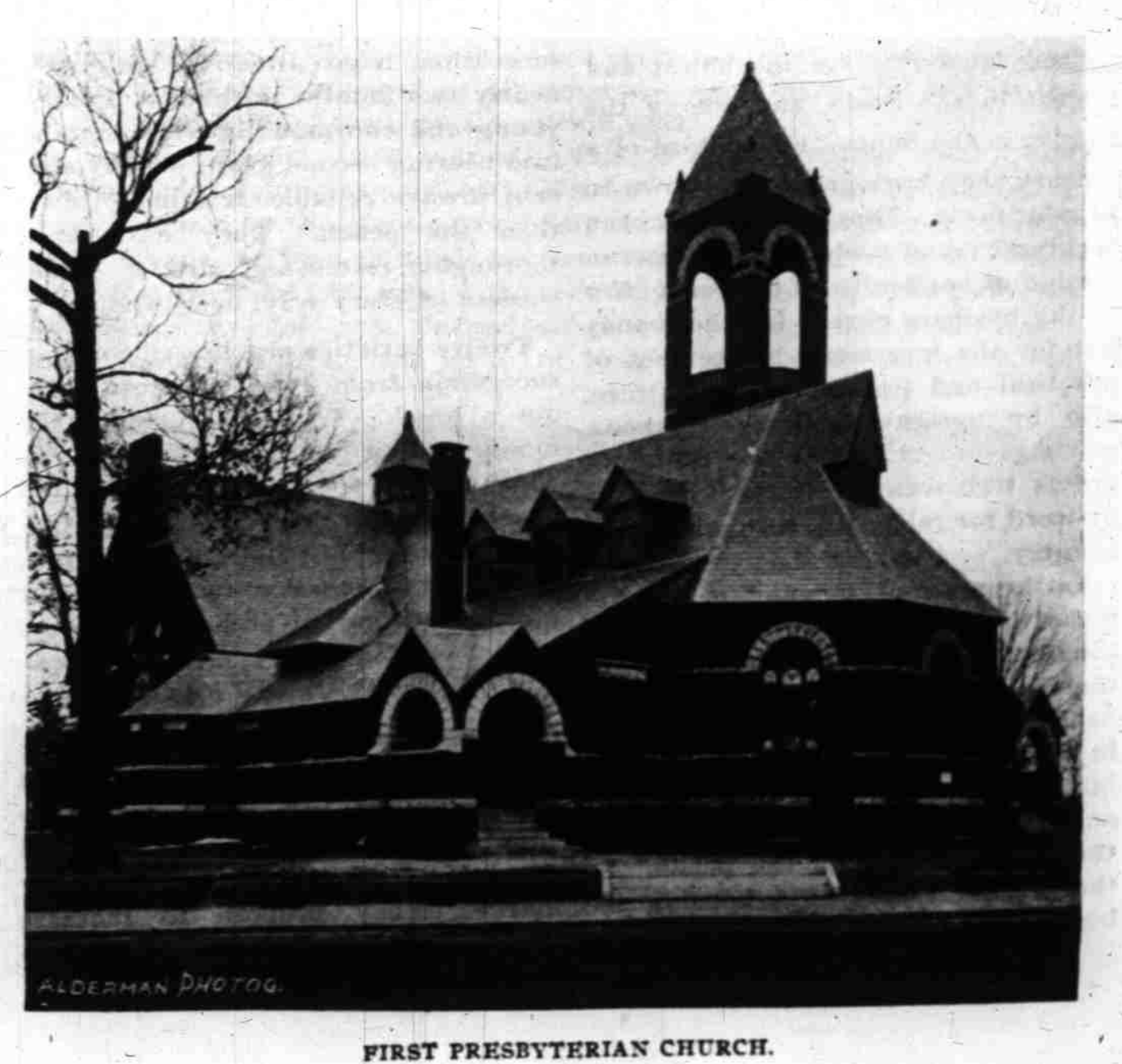


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