

A Study Of Rowan County

BY DELILAH McGEHEE
Woodleaf, N. C.

Rowan county was formed in 1753 from Anson and named for Matthew Rowan, a pre-Revolutionary leader. It is bounded by the counties of Davie, Davidson, Stanly, Cabarrus and Iredell. Rowan lies west of the Yadkin River and South of its principal tributary, the South Yadkin and resembles the typography of Davidson.

When Rowan was first formed it was almost an empire within itself. It included more than thirty counties, all of the state of Tennessee and as far west as the South Sea Island. Many counties and states have been formed. She is one of the largest counties in the state.

The first settlers who came into the territory that was to be the county of Rowan arrived about the year 1737 and were of the Scotch Irish descent. They had come down the Shenandoah Valley into Virginia, on into what is now Guilford, Davidson, Rowan and Mecklenburg.

These people settled to the west of the ridge on which Salisbury was afterwards built where Woodleaf and Mill Bridge are now located. Scotch Irish are the most numerous and leading people in the settlement. To the east came the great stream of German people. The first came in 1745 but a greater body came five years later. They settled beside the Scotch Irish. The two great people, the Presbyterian, Scotch Irish and the German Lutheran lived side by side and worked industrially to make a civilization in the wilderness. They felled the trees, built their homes and provided for their families. In every community early provisions were made for the worship of God. West of Salisbury stand Presbyterian churches. In Salisbury is St. John's Lutheran church, the oldest and largest, Lutheran church in North Carolina.

Salisbury sprang up in 1753 between the two settlements. It was named Salisbury after a town in England situated on the banks of the Avon and near the Salisbury Plain, a dry chalky surface which accounts for the origin of the Saxon name which means "dry town."

Salisbury was incorporated in 1755. No protecting laws were made until 1770. Then some of the laws were that no hogs should be allowed to run at large in the town. Each family should keep a ladder and two good leather buckets for fire protection.

In 1880 Rowan was the most populous county in the state, the population being 20,060. The next largest county was Orange with a population of 16,362.

There has been a steady growth from early beginning until the present day. A period of 100 years has marked a great change. Wheeler says, "The prudence of the German, the sagacity of the Scotch and the fiery ardor of the Irish were here united and were fit materials to form an industrious thrifty gallant nation."

Rowan is still an agricultural county; with the exception of Salisbury and Spencer there are no large cities. She is third in North Carolina in im-

proved machinery, sixth in the number of acres per farm cultivated, twenty-first in the value of farm lands, twentieth in the value of live stock owned. Its entire surface is drained by the tributaries of the Yadkin which traverses its territory in a southeasterly course. The middle and northern section which lie for the most part above the level of 800 feet, rising at one point above 1,000 feet, are characterized by an abundance of red clay soils and heavy oak forest, interspersed with hickory, walnut, dogwood, persimmon and sweet gum. The higher the part of the water shed has a good growth of short leaf pine and much virgin pine forests. The southeastern corner of the county is quite broken and traversed by low ranges of high hills, some of which rise in places to 1,000 feet and more above the sea.

The culture of cotton occupies a secondary place in Rowan county. While the county is adapted to the culture and growth of cotton, still her farmers go in for "safe and sane" farming by diversifying and producing grain, grasses, and livestock. Rowan produces annually around 10,000 bales of cotton, which is a very small percentage of her farm crops, taking into consideration her vast area. Some tobacco of the highest quality is produced in upper Rowan. This is also one of the finest grain growing counties in the state. The products from the farms are staples; corn, wheat, tobacco, oats, potatoes and livestock. Rowan is a fine wheat county and many of the farms are under a good state of cultivation. The kinds of fruits produced in Rowan are apples, peaches, pears, cherries, berries and other small fruits. The timbers are oak, hickory, ash, walnut, maple, poplar and pine.

Rowan county is noted for her pure-bred livestock. It leads the state in Aberdeen-Angus, Hereford and short horn beef type cattle, while the Guernsey cow predominates in the dairy line. Dairying is one of the big features of the county, it being especially adapted for this purpose, mild, even climate and long grazing periods being decidedly in its favor.

Gold mining operations in Rowan county were once carried on extensively. The seat of the chief industry was of Salisbury. Shafts ranging from 300 to 800 feet deep, to linear distance of 1,500 have been credited with a production of more than \$3,000,000. This included the return from several mines in Gold Hill. The county also contains much fine granite. It is known far and wide and is used for roads, buildings, monumental work, engine beds, millstone, etc. The Rowan granite of which three kinds are produced, white, gray, and pink, has been used in many of the principal cities construction of the government building in Raleigh.

The Southern Railway runs through the county and at Salisbury, the Western North Carolina Railroad, making connection with the west, begins. Salisbury is the gateway to the west. The Yadkin Railroad connects Salisbury with Badin, Norwood and Albemarle, this giving the county railroad con-

nections in all directions. Salisbury, the county seat, has a population of 16,000 and is admirably situated for trade and manufacture, having unequalled railroad facilities for handling freight and passenger traffic. The southern railroads principal shops are located here, where all classes of repair work is done.

Rowan County is dotted with prosperous villages and towns, among them are Spencer, East Spencer, Granite Quarry, Gold Hill, Cleveland, Barber and China Grove, Landis, Kanapolis, where are located several cotton mills and other industries.

STATISTICS

Rowan county contains 315,028 acres of land, valued at \$3,494,834, 14 mills grinding wheat, 39 cotton gins, 7,259 bales ginned in 1920; 64 miles of improved railroad, 2,515 bee hives; 4,819 horses, valued at \$329,789; 3,218 mules valued at \$248,490; 10,187 dairy cattle, valued at \$488,073 12,192 hogs, valued at \$130,000 in 1920.

Salisbury graded schools were opened in 1880 where the first Baptist church now stands.

The first graded schools were established in Greensboro in 1875.

The schools of the city of Salisbury were revised in 1897. Later a graded school was established at Spencer.

In 1919 the number of rural white schools was 80 and in 19 of them 728; 430 sheep valued at \$1,390; 143 dogs valued at 1,307.

The state tax for property \$15,358.34; pension tax from polls \$835.80; income tax \$8,687.09; county tax from property and population—white: male, 17,559; female 17,270; colored: Dwelling 8,703; families 9,217.

Rowan has made a marked progress in education for the white illiteracy was reduced 8 per 1000 persons in 1910 to 6.4 in 1920; Rowan today stands high in comparison with other counties in state of all things which are valuable and worthwhile.

The first attempt at establishing schools was in 1768 by petition signed by 30 members, but it failed; another was tried in 1770, but failed also.

The first German teacher to come was Gottfried Arndt, who came to teach near the neighborhood of Argan church. He came about 1773 with Adolph Nussau, a Lutheran minister. Nussau resigned and Arndt entered the ministry and took his place in 1775. He served as preacher and teacher until 1786 when he moved across the Catawba into Lincoln county. There he stayed until the end of his life. This German was anxious to build schools for they sent home for their teachers or people to come into the wilderness to build or teach their children.

Carl August Gotlio Storch taught and preached at three Lutheran churches. He taught Hebrew in an academy in Salisbury which was organized at this time. Through all these many years the Germans kept up their schools. Teachers had been educated in the Universities in Germany. Until 1800 German language was the only one taught in the schools.

The Scotch Irish established several important schools. David Caldwell opened a school in that portion of Rowan in 1767, which was afterwards cut off in Guilford county. He was a native of Pennsylvania. He founded the college. An academy was established in Salisbury about 1785.

Little is known of its early history.

Rowan with seven other counties voted for schools between 1840 and 1846 but Rowan failed to get the bill across in her country for the people thought it awful to have to pay tax to educate their children and worse still to have to build fine schoolhouses, as they said. Rowan finally voted on the school plan in 1846 by a large majority.

Calvin H. Wiley first state superintendent in 1853 said Rowan had been divided into 47 districts and schools were being taught in 46 districts. The length of the school term was 4 1-2 months.

The first teachers association was organized in 1856 and held its meeting in Salisbury. Davis was the first county superintendent in Rowan. The schools closed during the war. They finally reopened after the war. Rowan at this time raised more money for schools than any other of the counties.

In 1878 there were 74 schools in operation in Rowan county. The average teachers salary was \$22.50 per month.

The first summer institute for teachers was held in Rowan in 1881. Guilford had a greater school valuation than Rowan and still has.

In 1919 the number of rural white schools was 80 and in 19 of them there were taught some high school subjects. There were 32 schools which had but one teacher; 36 of which had two teachers. Five schools had three teachers and seven had four or more.

The value of school property was \$271,735. There were 243 teachers in the county in 1920. In 1923 there were 116 schoolhouses in Rowan.

IMPORTANT MEN OF ROWAN COUNTY

Griffith Rutherford associated with Revolutionary history of Rowan fought against the Cherokee Indians. He was a senator from Rowan in 1786; later moved to Tennessee. There are counties in both states named for him.

Matthew Locke devoted friend to the rights of the people was born in 1730, was a member of assembly, member of Congress at Halifax, which formed the constitution. He died in 1801 leaving a large family.

Spruce McCay was judge of Superior Court.

Joseph Pearson, member of House of Commons. Lawyer by profession, member of Congress from 1809-1815. He fought a duel while in Congress over political matters with John J. Jackson. He was married three times, leaving seven children; he died in Salisbury October, 1834.

Archibald Henderson, an outstanding lawyer, had a venerable appearance, excellent character, always polite.

Charles Fisher, a lawyer, was senator from Rowan in 1818, member of House of Representative in Congress in 1820; member of House of Commons in 1821; delegate to help amend the Constitution of the state in 1835.

DEMOCRATS MEET AUGUST 9th

Chairman Odus M. Mull has called the state Democratic executive committee to meet in Raleigh, August 9, to elect new officers and lay plans for the fall campaign.

A Laxative that costs only 1¢ or less a dose

NEXT TIME you need medicine to act on the bowels, try Theodor's Black-Draught. It brings quick relief and is priced within reach of all. Black-Draught is one of the least expensive laxatives that you can find. A 25-cent package contains 25 or more doses.

Black-Draught is made of approved laxative plants, firmly ground so you take the medicine into your system just as naturally as you get nourishment from the food you eat.

Refreshing relief from constipation troubles for only a cent or less a dose—that's why thousands of men and women prefer Theodor's Black-Draught.

Cut Out The Weeds In Lespedeza Fields

One sure way to lower the quality of lespedeza hay and to make it harder to have the seed certified by the North Carolina Crop Improvement Association is to permit weeds to grow in the field without interference.

"Lespedeza has come to be one of our important and valuable crops," says Enos C. Blair, extension agronomist at State College. "For that reason we should give attention now to the condition of the fields. If weeds are allowed to grow, they will certainly lower the quality of the hay and where the lespedeza is to be harvested for seed, the weeds will also be a great hindrance both in making it more difficult to get all the seed and in requiring more recleaning to separate the lespedeza seed from the weed seed."

POLICE CHIEF GETS 14 YEARS

Santa Cruz—Former Chief of Police William J. Walker stood before the bar of justice and heard himself sentenced to from 1 to 14 years in San Quentin for bribery.

Obviously expecting probation, the sentence imposed by Superior Judge Atteridge came as a shock to the former police head, who confessed that he has accepted bribes from bootleggers and gamblers during the past two years.

His wife, who was in court with him, collapsed when the sentence was pronounced.


With Police Commissioner Geyer, Walker was indicted by the county grand jury on evidence obtained by the sheriff, district attorney and the A. J. Kane Detective Agency.

Walker made a detailed confession. Geyer, however, pleaded not guilty.

Subscribe to The Watchman.

If Your Doctor Was Your Cook—You Would Never Need Medicine

Physicians and Scientists Now Know that the Body is Composed of Eleven Minerals and Six Vitamins All of which are Contained in Natural Foods.



Modern, Refined Foods, Improper Cooking and Poorly Balanced Diet Rob the Body of these Essential Elements so Necessary to Health. Science finds New Way to supply These Deficiencies and Rebuild the Body.

Medical science, constantly searching for ways to prolong life, frequently come forward with startling statements of their findings, but no more astounding announcement has been made in recent years than the statement of an eminent Chemist who now declares that "There is no natural death. All deaths from so-called natural causes are merely the end point of progressive acid saturation." An amazing statement indeed but a warning, that if heeded, should improve the health and well being, increase the joy of living, and prolong the lives of millions of men, women and children who might otherwise drag through a weary life to an untimely end.

ACIDITY KILLS MILLIONS
Health authorities now agree that 91% of all diseases originate in the stomach and are caused by poor cooking, improper diet, and the eating of highly refined foods. Your doctor knows that the 11 essential Minerals and all Vitamins are contained in foods in their natural state and could be live with you constantly, carefully select and prepare everything you eat, you would never need medicines of any kind. This being impossible, science has been searching for years, trying to compound a formula that would make up for the deficiencies of these vital elements—and at last their efforts have been rewarded.

AMAZING NEW COMPOUND
LEE'S MINERAL COMPOUND, a new and revolutionary formula, actually supplies the system with these vital elements so necessary to health and happiness. It contains the eleven essential Minerals in well balanced proportion, together with Vitamins, and is an invaluable aid to nature in the building of blood, bone, nerve and tissue.

LEE'S MINERAL COMPOUND with Vitamins

Supplies the System with a Balanced Proportion of the 11 Essential Minerals Combined with Vitamins.

CONTAINS

- IRON—for building rich, red blood-cells and a tonic upon the nerve centers.
- IODINE—as a stimulant to the thyroid gland and a preventive of rheumatism.
- CALCIUM—for the building of cartilage, bones, tendons and muscles.
- COFFEE—which is a valuable treatment in cases of malnutrition and emaciation.
- CARBON—which is a necessary element in the perfect balance of the body.
- MAGNESIUM—as a stimulant to the glands of the intestinal tract and to eliminate metabolic poisons.
- MANGANESE—a valuable treatment in cases of deficient nerve nutrition and neurasthenia.
- PHOSPHORUS—a valuable aid in treatment of nervous exhaustion, neuralgia and skin diseases.
- POTASSIUM—which has a marked effect upon metabolism and is an essential to vital activity.
- SODIUM—which supplies the deficiency of phosphates and acts as a corrective of constipation.
- SULFUR—as an important element in nutrition and an essential to the health of albuminous organs and tissues.
- SILICA—which appears in every healthy human being and is an essential element of the body.
- VITAMINS—without which, it is believed the body would wither and die.

A Food Vitalizer
NOT A PATENT MEDICINE
CONTAINS NO ALCOHOL

It will rid your system of excess acid, sweep away the dangerous poisons, supply the body with the needed minerals, stimulate the organs of digestion and assimilation, build rich, red blood, clear the skin, give you a keen, hearty appetite, help you to get sound, refreshing sleep, restore health, strength and vitality and enable you to enjoy life to the fullest.

Make This 10 Day Test Convince Yourself!

Stop dosing yourself with "patent medicines," harsh purgatives, oils and cathartics for just 10 days. Go to your nearest Druggist and secure a bottle of LEE'S MINERAL COMPOUND. Take it regularly and watch the results. You'll be amazed at the feeling of renewed strength and vigor that soon appears. No narcotics or alcohol to "boost you up" but a natural method of restoring health and energy.



For sale by PURCELL'S DRUG STORES
SALISBURY, N. C. and good druggists everywhere, or send \$1.25 to Lee's Laboratories, 167 Forsyth St. S. W., Atlanta, Ga., for large bottle postpaid.

We congratulate you on 100 years of

Service

:-:

First National Bank

49 Years of Conservative Banking