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WILLIAMSTON

Situated at the Head of Navigation on the markably low and will compare most prosperous of her citizens and favorably with that of the highlands who derive the greatest profit from Roanoke, It Occupies a Commanding Location For Commerce and Manufacturing

AN AGRICULTURAL AND TRADING CENTER

The Destined Metropolis of the and of Agriculture, Entering Upon a New Era of Progress Development --- Opportunities for the Investment of Home Seeker---Pen Pictures of Her Past and Present, Prophetic of Her Future---Market in the World.

BY EDWARD L. CONN.

rapidly growing East that are being metamorphosed into prosperous, thrifty cities, none presents more striking evidences of the transforming power of industry and judicious enterprise than Williamston, set upon a hill, the most beautiful town on the Roancke river. It occupies an advantageous point for commerce, its industrial position is commanding, and as an agricultural center it is without a rival in this section. The population of the town is 1,800, but it will be multiplied in

Hawks, the North Carolina historian, relates the adventures of an expedition in 1536 from Sir Walter Raleigh's colony at Roanoke Island under the command of Sir Raiph Lane which ascended the Roanoke river, then bearing its original name of Morotoc, to explore the country and to search for gold. A landing was made where Williamston now stands, so that it was here that the soil of Martin was first pressed by the feet of the conquering race. It was many years thereafter before settlements were established by the white men. Emigrants from the Chowan and Perquimans precincts, coming across Albemarle Sound, located in Martin and the adjoining coun-ties. Prior to the War of the Reve-the northern boundary of the county. lution many of the wealthy citizens The town is on a high elevation, overof the town of Edenton and the county of Chowan owned large plantations on the Roanoke in Martin and Bertle counties, among them being Governor homes in Martin county. The annals counts of the distinguishing services it in buying the peanut firsthand from plary, and their scions are today France. The mortality rate is re-

Williamston was incorporated in 1779, and was made the county seat of Martin just after the ratification of the charter of incorporation, taking its name from Asa Williams. In its early history it was the center of extensive lumber and naval stores interests. Its merchants exported tar, staves and shingles to the West Indies and imported sugar, salt and molasses. Being the farthest inland point Roanoke, the Seat of Industries its trade with the surrounding counties these commodities was large and profitable. Among the prominent merchants of that day were the Hunters, Yellowbys, Bagleys, Johnsons, and Mc-Kenseys, and in a later period Asa Williams, Kader Biggs, C. B. Hassell and Rhodes Brothers. Among their contemporaries in the legal profession Hon. Asa Biggs was the most highly distinguished, having served as a member of the National House of Repre-Capital, Advantages Offered sentatives, United States Senator and Federal judge. A widely known and revered man of that period was C. B. Hassell, an elder in the Primitive Baptis church and moderator of their association. His influence was so dominating that he was frequently called by his friends "the Baptist Pope." In his old age at the demand of the people, oppressed by the enforcement The Largest "Spot" Peanut of laws placed upon them by the Canfor the Constitutional Convention, in tin being the only Republican county Among the dominant towns of the electing a Democrat, giving the Democrats a majority of one in the convention. He began the writing of the history of the Primitive Baptist Church, but death claiming him before its completion, the work was finished by Elder Sylvester Hassell, Many say that C. B. Hassell was the greatest man Martin county has produced.

There were no "Buffaloes" in Martin county during the Civil war. Her gallant men and noble women were all loyal to the Stars and Bars. The first company raised in Martin safled for Hatteras Inlet on the 20th of May 1861, commanded by Captain John C. Lamb. Other companies were subsequently mustered and the county furnished her full quota of troops. The largest numbers of her soldiers served in the brigades of Martin, Kirkland and Clingman, in Hoke's division, and establishing the imperishable glory of the incomparable Army of Northern Virginia. Among those who served the Confederacy bravely are Col. Wilson G. Lamb, J. A. Whitley, N. S. Peel, J. A. Hobbs, W. H. Robertson and Stanley Leggett.

Location and Health.

Williamston, the county seat Martin, is located on the south bank of the Roanoke river, about 35 miles looking the river, and is blessed with a perfect natural drainage. It is the heart of one of the most productive regions in the country, one of its disof these patriots. In both civil and the producer. The climate of this military life their conduct was exem- section responds to that of Southern

of the Piedmont. The water is pure form a free filter, giving the water a crystal clearness and purity.

There is no sewerage system, but the town is well drained naturally. The business houses are lighted with acetylene gas and a plant is to be installed for lighting the homes and the

Agricultural Advantages,

Martin county contains an area of 500 square miles. The soil is generally light and especially adapted to the growth of peanuts, tobacco, berries, grapes and truck, but in every sections cotton and corn are successfully grown . There are no natural rock formations, one of the elements that farmers in parts of the country must battle against, and the cultivated lands are well and easily drained. The tile lands known to exist.

ton, corn, peanuts, and tobacco, but been remarkable. Land that was hardly a crop that is cultivated in formerly worth \$4 an acre is now the State may not be seen here. The worth \$30, and this is but one innatural home of the grape is Martin stance that I cite which comes under county. Nearly all kinds of truck my immediate observation, and alcrops and fruit grow to perfection though there are others yet the counthe importance of producing enough farms now for sale that can be im-

no conditions are more favorable with the varieties of crops he would be able to grow here. He could arrange his rotations and labor so that he would be employed the year round

Martin county has a great number of small farmers who are among the favorably with that of the highlands who derive the greatest profit from their efforts. The peanut is especialand is taken from near the surface out ly adapted to cultivation by the small of open wells or through the drive farmers because it is easily cultivated pump process. The sand and soil on suitable soil and is picked by ma-

> The Tobacco Planter's Bonanza. Williamston is located in one of the

best bright tobacco belts in North Carolina, and produces more fine wrappers, cutters and export leaf than any other territory in the State. The soil of Martin county is especially adapted to the culture of fine tobac-Nature has so endowed it with all the necessary soil, climate and seasons. It has a fine loamy sand soil with a clay foundation. The land is well and easily drained, and level, and one man and a team can tend as much tobacco here as two men and two teams can tend in Piedmont Carolina.

Williamston is surrounded by a well-to-do class of farmers, full of en-68 square miles of swamps in the ergy, kind and accommodating, honcounty are so situated as to make their est, straightforward and progressive, drainage feasible and profitable. They who have made greatest progress in form a vast field for successful de- this section of the country, where velopment, being among the most fer- the soil is better suited to the growth of tobacco. Since 1902 the progress Martin produces as staple crops cot- of the farmers in Martin county has The county is awakening to ty is large and there are many good meat, corn and hay for home supplies proved and increased in value by the

cessfully, I would say that no soil and have to exceed six grades and these grades almost invariably conform to the time of housing. The farmers house their tobacco by stripping the cured leaves off the stalk in the field; these leaves are stripped every week to to days as they ripen until the whole crop is housed. takes upon an average of four to six weeks. In this way grading is facilitated, because each stripping is practically a grade to itself and is thus kept together, handled in bulk together, bleached together and marketed together, whereas the old method Piedmont section

whole cure the whole stalk at one time, making every grade come in one bulk. Another advantage in this method of curing tobacco is that the farmer has a longer time to grade and if labor is short he can extend his grading through the whole year, beginning immediately after curing the first barn. Many small farmers take advantage of this and when the pack house with their families and the increases will be still greater. every member of the family can do some part of the work.

tobacco of all this section and is well equipped for the handling of large There are three warehouses, three prize houses and a well equipped steam plant for redrying tobac- three livery stables, two hotels, a sent to Wash. & Charles R. P. O. Tr. co; and a hogshead factory, with excellent transportation boat lines and railroad.

The Williamston market is fortunate in having tobacco warehousemen who know how to get the best prices banks, for their patrons, in that they know the crop, the market conditions and the value of the tobacco. This mar-



weather is bad, grade tobacco in their next year and the years to come!

Miscellaneous Enterprises. mico Lumber Company, the last being local mail was sent to Parmele ment stores, a hardware store five on the train on Sundays. general supply stores, two drug stores,

There are six physicians, six lawyers and one dentist in Williamston. Postal Statistics.

year ending March 31st,

year ending March 31st,

Allowance for clerk hire,

Allowance for clerk hire,

1909

-1904

1904\$2,459.06

The money order business has more than doubled since 1904. The Enterprise, in 1904, was dispatched in three Besides the tobacco market enter-prises Williamston has a peanut fac- Messenger, in 1904, used 10 sacks, now tory, Woolard Cultivator Factory, a 18. In 1904 the postoffice made up buggy and carriage factory, the Wicoa new plant, the mill of which is soon North of Parmele, another pouch was to be erected; a cotton gin, three used labled Norf & Wilm. R. P. O. blacksmith shops, a bottling works, Tr. No. 103. The Sunday mail was wholesale grocery store, two depart- No. 32. Now there is a postal clerk

There are four daily mails on week four retail grocery stores, a newspa-per and job printing office, and two banks.

days, with a mail clerk in charge. The mail going North, South and West leaves at 8:28 a. m. and 4:31

The mail going East leaves at 1:16 p. m. and 6.05 p. m. ket has buyers from all the big man-ufacturers and jobbers of leaf tobac-growth of the town is shown in the co, among which are the American, following statistics from the Williams-New Bern, Beaufort, etc.

> Williamston as a distributor of goods for the wholesale and jobbers' trade has no superior east of Rocky Mount. Freight rates are as low a transportation has railroad and boat lines for all points North, South, East and West, the competition by transportation companies between the railros the boat lines being such that in any instance the freight rate is 50 per cent that of its neighboring towns, and in addition to the rate the service and schedule are convenient and inducive

to this class of business.

County Schools, There are 70 schools in Mar average term, rural, is 86 days. There are four special tax districts. the county is \$31,000. The val the school property created by special act of the legislature is \$10,000. The school tax is 18 cents and \$1.50 on the poll, exclusive of special tax districts. In the building of new so houses for the past two or three years the citizens and patrons have been generous enough to give, out of their own pockets, one-half and have not shortened their terms; \$4,600 expended in improving and building a houses last year, about \$2,000 of this amount was contributed by the various districts, and the money coming from private sources, and did not in any way affect the school terms. Postmaster's salary, 1904 . . . 1,200.00 Three of the poorest districts in the Postmaster's salary, 1909.... 1,500.00 county today are contributing onehalf of the expense of a building, and the average school house will cost \$600, exclusive of the school ground. The school fund for last year exclusive of the special tax school districts was year 3,528.00 \$17,510.88. The number of white



LOTUS CLUB'S RECEPTION ROOMS.

Imperial, Continental and a number ton postoffice: of independent order and contract Gross receipts for the official buyers. The warehouses are the Roanke, Dixie and Farmers. Gross receipts for the official Fruits and Grapes. The soil and climate of no country

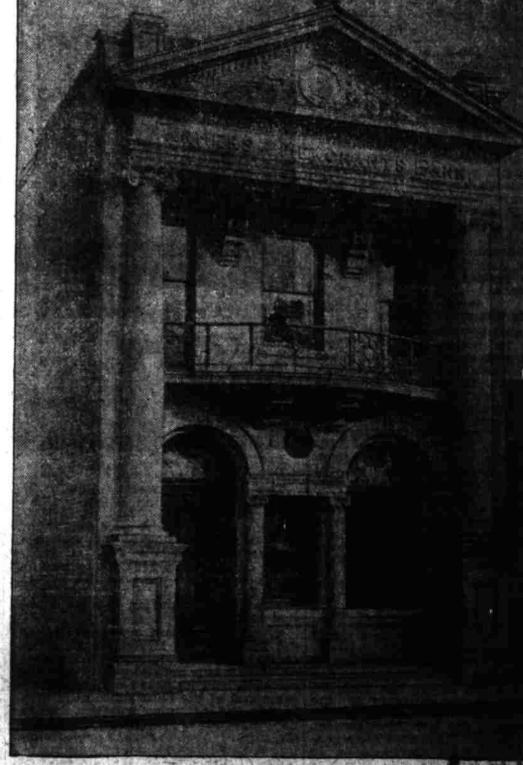
s more suitable to the growth of truit and grapes than that of Martin county. Trees grow rapidly and develop quickly and when properly protected from the insects bear bounteously and luxuriantly and no one traveling through this section can pass Rural carriers' salary, per without observing the great number of fruit trees which are as profitable for the amount of energy and time devoted to them as any phase of agricul-The grape is indigenous and verily a garden of Eden. Great quanitles of wine are made from the Misch. the James, scuppernong and Concord grapes. Every farmer and every person who owns a home with space enough for a back yard has a grape vine. Large equantities of grapes are shipped annually in the uncrushed form, barrelled to wineries in Norfolk and Virginia and some sections of the State. Some of the citizens make large quantities of wine either to sell locally to the retail trade or to ship. There is one firm which makes large quantities of wine and has in store over 9,000 gallons. It took a Maryland man to see the great profit afforded the citizens of this community to squeeze this plentiful grape into a very delghtfu! wine. Any one interested in this business can get full information from Leggatt & Barnes, of Williamston, who are familiar with every phase of the culture and crush-

Live Stock.

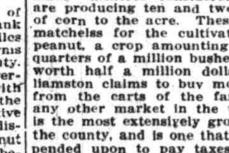
I have had much to say concerning the peanuts and its growth in this in this section can realize the vital ipon the quantity and character of connection between the prosperity of this community and the growth of the peanut. Every part of the peanut vine in all shape and form is an exrellent feed for stock, for work animals and for fattening cattle. There are excellent pasture lands and there are many people who do not feed their stock at all, and some few only during the extreme cold weather of the winter. The reeds of the branches and the low grounds are green the year around. The grasses grow n bundance and stock living entirely on pastures remain in good condition and with a few peanut vines in the winter make excellent meats. The peanut left in the ground at the digging is the chief source of food for the purpose of fattening pork. Hogs thrive, grow and fatten more rapidly upon the peanut than any food that could be fed them. These conditions are inducive to stock raising and dairying and make meat cheaper.

Very few horses and mules are raised in the county, but the people are getting into this habit more and more as they realize the ease with which thorough bred colts can be raised and the great cost of a good horse at this time. The number of colts in this county last year was comparatively small, but from an actual record there are at this season 60 per cent more colts, mules and horses, than last year and it is predicted that

Mail messenger service, per rural school teachers employed was year 47', of those 13 have Normal training: Rent paid for office, 1904 33 have had four years and over in Rent paid for office, 1909 300.00 experience"; 7 of them have college diplomas. Ten teachers are employe in the city schools. There are two Total amount paid to run the (Continued on Page Two.)



THE FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BAN



Johnson. Subsequently a considerable tinctions being that it is the peanut the county, and is one that can be de- tobacco, began to appreciate the valcompany of these men made their metropolis of the State, this town be-homes in Martin county. The annais ing the largest "spot" peanut market and create bank account, and fatten rived from the growth of the yellow of the Revolution are replete with ac- in the world, as no other place equals pork and farm animals, as every part weed. Those sections that were at many as 125 bushels to the acre, the most prosperous sections. The peanut is one of the most easily cultivated of crops, as well as being sure and profitable.

Martin county has been producing ern plan of flue curing. The average crop of the bright tobacco is four million pounds. Martin county tobacco won a prize in the international contest. The soil of the county averages 800 pounds to the acre. Some farmers obtain from twelve to fourteen hundred pounds to the acre.

The soils of the county have been improved by rotation of crops and more corn is being yielded than formerly. The 1908 corn crop amounted to 6,400 barrels.

Cranberries and grapes are found to luxuriate in many parts of the county. and could be cultivated for commercial purposes almost without effort. Fruit culture, while not extensive is profitable, and affords excellent op-

portunities for profitable development. One of the best paying investments in the county is bee keeping. There is throughout the county a luxuriant growth of flowering plants and trees whose sweatness that is being washed to the ground might be utilized in honey making. The finest honey in the world is produced here, this fact being attested by two medals, one the Paris Exposition award, the other won at the Jamestown Exposition. The town of Williamston produced honey that was awarded one of the prizes at the Buffalo Exposition. This honey was taken from hives within 100 yards of the court-house.

Labor in Martin County.

The chief essential to the success in farming is labor and the ability to handle it. The man with ability to handle and control labor can get it as easily as the man who has ability can get anything else in life. The successful farmer of today is the man who is successful in handling labor. There are instances coming under the writer's observation where a farmer who were just as well able to pay, who have as good houses, pay as good wages and are as kind to their cmployes that cannot get the labor and control the labor as can his next door neighbor, who may not have such favorable conditions, but who has the ability to manage and control the laborer. To the latter class of men who own farms in this county I can say that there is ample and abundant labor. To the men who cannot handle labor to extent suc- MARTIN COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

THE BANK OF MARTIN COUNTY. and there is a movement among the same method, the proper application farmers to make Martin a corn selling of skill in the growth of tobacco. In instead of a corn buying county, l'arm certain sections of the county, where lands hitherto considered worthless the people formerly depended entirely are producing ten and twelve barrels on cotton and peanuts, farm land of corn to the acre. These lands are was in many cases exceedingly cheap matchelss for the cultivation of the and a burden to those where it was peanut, a crop amounting to three- not especially adapted to the growth quarters of a million bushels per year, of cotton and peanuts. In most every worth half a million dollars. Wil- instance where it is not especially liamston claims to buy more peanuts adapted to these it is to the growth from the carts of the farmers than of tobacco and these people, when any other market in the world. This they had once acquired sufficient is the most extensively grown crop in knowledge and experience to cultivate of the peanut, from the nojule of the the greatest disadvantage before in root to the tip of the leaf can be not having suitable soils for cotton grows wild and when cultivated is utilized. Many farmers raise as and peanuts are now Martin county's

One farmer last year raised 40 acres of tobacco with an average yield of 1,200 pounds to the acre and sold it at an average price of 12 1-2 cents per pound on the Williamston martobacco fifteen years under the mod- ket. There is another instance of a farmer who grows four acres every year and makes an average of 1,000 pounds per acre that sells upon an average of 15 cents per pound. There are many advantages in the cultivation of tobacco in this section that are not enjoyed by other communities, especially in the Piedmont. It is easy to get a sufficient quantity of plants to start the crop and it is easily transplanted because the soil is easily handled, being of a loamy light nature with no rocks. This kind of soil makes tobacco easy to cultivate and its growth is very rapid; therefore not so long at the mercy of the cut worm it develops rapidly, which ing of the grape. makes cultivation fast and soon complete. The farmers begin the housing about the middle of July, and begin selling by the first of August. The quantity produced depends largely the fertilizer used and the skill exercised in cultivation. The method of housing the crop makes it easy to grade. The average farmer does not



THE CITY MALL.