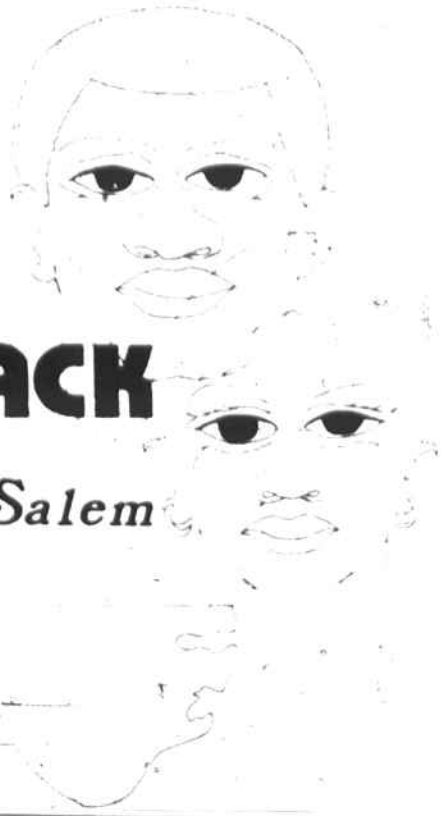


The Early 20th Century

ROOTS OF BLACK Winston-Salem



The year 1900 marks a watershed in both the history of blacks in Winston-Salem and in the development of our society.

By that year, the outlines of the black community had begun to take shape. Institutions were in the process of development and the former farm workers began to become city dwellers.

From a historical standpoint, that year marks the beginning of a broadening of the resources available. One deficiency of the written accounts and other information which survives the early Salem days, and the time of slavery is that the black perspective on anything was rarely to be found.

That situation does not improve much in later years. However, beginning with the turn of the century, we are able to draw upon the collective memories of people living today who go back that far.

Use of what is known as oral history provides unique insights into the history of any period. Such use also

perpetuates the oral tradition which our ancestors brought from Africa.

On the mother continent, the memories of the oldest members of the community were relied upon as the source material for griots, or storytellers, who were able to, in single sitting, tell the accumulated history of a people.

We have such people here, in whose minds lie the untold story of our history in the Twin City. We'll be using more and more of the stored oral heritage of the city this week and in weeks to come. You will likely find it as fascinating as we have.

We'd like to acknowledge this week the assistance we've received from Joseph Bradshaw, Rev. and Mrs. William Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Odell Clanton, Myrtle Stepp, Mrs. Mary Green, Hampton Haith, Fambrough Brownlee, Mrs. Louise Hamilton and Thomas and Laura Hooper.

We also note Mrs. Pomasue Crockett, who called us

on Monday to let us know that the history of the Belview community is a very interesting one. She led us to other persons whose memories are a valuable treasurehouse of information.

Mrs. Mary L. Fair wrote us this week to tell us of the scrapbooks she has kept about black history in the city.

It is heartening to us as a newspaper and as individuals that our efforts have moved so many of the people we have encountered. We invite more reader participation in the Roots of Black Winston-Salem. If you have pictures or other old records of black life in the city, call the Chronicle Newsline at 723-9863.

This week, we are publishing a list of the 59 black grocers in the city in 1910. If you have information about any of them, call the Newsline.

We hope you enjoy this week's installment of the Roots of Black Winston-Salem.



The Smoker's Home, owned by Abe M. Long, was one of a number of service establishments which sprang up in the black business district between Church and Chestnut Streets and 3rd and 4th Streets. According to Joseph Bradshaw, owner of this picture, the Long store

was at one time a bar and served the last mixed drink in Winston-Salem when the state prohibited alcohol in 1909. Right, is the 1920 annual report for the Forsyth Savings and Trust Company, the first black bank in Winston-Salem. Note the \$12.4 million figure for the bank's total business between 1907 and 1920.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF FORSYTH SAVINGS & TRUST CO. Statement at the close of business Dec. 30th, 1920.

RESOURCES	
Real estate loans	\$144,033.04
Furniture and fixtures	3,049.64
Banking house	28,457.06
Deposited in Wachovia Bank & Trust Co.	3,313.08
Cash in Vault	14,146.07
Other loans	40,834.25
Liberty bonds	1,600.00
Total	\$235,434.35
LIABILITIES	
Capital stock	\$ 19,549.00
Surplus funds	115.87
Earnings	6,264.11
Bills payable	2,000.00
Christmas savings	1,965.18
Deposits subject to check	68,893.35
Savings accounts	136,646.84
Total	\$235,434.35
Total receipts from all sources for the year 1920	\$ 1,555,379.99
Paid out for all purposes	1,627,742.69
Volume of business for the year	\$ 3,183,122.68
Total business from May 11, 1907, to Dec. 24, 1919	9,312,928.21
Total business since opening	\$12,496,050.89
Balance earnings on hand Dec. 24, 1919	\$ 5,190.70
Earnings for the year 1920	19,086.81
Total earnings	\$ 24,277.51
EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	
Salary	4,030.00
Taxes	585.24
Paid on Building	4,000.00
Interest on Savings	\$ 5,425.80
Printing, publishing and advertising	626.35
Dividend	1,003.00
Insurance	166.57
Supplies and sundries	460.33
Interest paid on mortgage	130.00
Labor	47.25
Telephone	61.65
Water	24.50
Recording papers	38.75
Fuel and lights	95.21
Janitor	95.00
Interest on Christmas savings	512.22
Bank audit	627.36
Bank examination	83.57
Total	\$ 18,013.40
Balance earnings to Dec. 30th, 1920	\$ 6,264.11

Correct Attest: Geo. W. Hill, J. S. Hill, W. S. Scales.
Richard E. Reynolds, Cashier.

20th Century Opens With Black Business Upsurge

As surely as the prospect of coming to work in the burgeoning industries of Winston had drawn blacks by the thousands on wheels, train and foot, the reality of work in the tobacco factories convinced more than a few blacks to find a new way of earning a living.

Accordingly, the early 1900s witnessed an upsurge of black business activity which, in a relative sense, mirrored the boom taking place among the tobacco and textile firms which dominated the city's economy.

The assortment of tobacco workers turned entrepreneurs, who combined with the existing black professional class, began to make their mark in the supplying of food and other services to the rapidly growing black population.

In the process, they generated the wealth to spawn two banks, two savings and loan associations, an insurance company and real estate ventures which included three office buildings, and more than 100 grocery stores.

Those businesses were among the institutions -- hospitals, churches, lodges, a fair, schools -- which began to make the black community of Winston and Salem a true community.

The first two decades of the twentieth century were not without tragedy. On Nov. 3, 1904, the brick and cement city reservoir at the north end of Trade Street, where a number of black families had settled, burst at five a.m.

Unleashed were 180,000 gallons of water which flowed through a ravine to what was then known as Belos pond, located near the corner of Cherry-Marshall and Northwest Boulevard. (The pond was used by black Baptists for baptizing ceremonies.)

Eight homes were washed away, nine persons killed and scores injured. According to historical accounts, one black couple escaped death almost miraculously. In Forsyth: The History of a County on the March (Fries, Wright and Hendricks), it is noted: "they were carried safely in their bed on the crest of the flood to the bottomland around Belo's Pond."

Fourteen years later, on Nov. 16, 1918, a different kind of flood occurred around the old City Hall at Fourth and Main Streets (on the current site of the Reynolds Building).

A torrent of angry whites gathered around the hall, which also housed the city jail, in the second attempt in 23 years to lynch a black man. The target of the mob was a man named Russell High, who was accused of shooting a white man, raping his wife and also shooting the sheriff.

By the time the mob began gathering at about 3 p.m., city officials had determined that High was probably not the man they were seeking. Mayor

R.W. Gorrell told the crowd at 4 p.m. that officials were quite sure they had the wrong man.

The Home Guard was called in to disperse the crowd. When they began squirting fire hoses on the mob, an outbreak of wild shooting occurred. Hardware stores were looted, and blacks were attacked on sight.

By nightfall, according to the Nov. 17 Journal, a "steady firing" was kept up in the direction of east Winston, where the majority of the black population had begun to settle.

Three black men were counted among the five official fatalities; however, historian Fambrough Brownlee says the actual toll could have been much higher. Black bodies were reportedly stuffed in culverts and other out of the way places.

Long-time resident Mrs. Myrtle Stepp tells how her light-complexioned father, W.P. Hairston,

Reynolds, scion of a Virginia planting family, had become the world's largest manufacturer of plug tobacco. In 1900, Reynolds acquired the tobacco business of P.H. and John W. Hanes (they invested their money in the textile business).

In 1907, Reynolds launched Prince Albert smoking tobacco, naming his product after the Prince of Wales.

The firm's real leap forward came with the introduction of Camel cigarettes in 1913 by way of an, at the time unheard of, national advertising campaign. By 1914, one-half billion Camels were sold.

In 1917, 12.3 billion were sold. By 1921, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company had 50 percent of the American cigarette market with a whopping 18 billion Camels sold that year.

The majority of the workers in the plant were

effort to unionize the Reynolds plants in 1918 and 1919.

Clanton said the union effort was going on when he returned from the U.S. Army on March 6, 1919.

"The factory was doing whatever it could to keep the union out and they were fairly successful," he said. "A lot of people lost jobs about the union; a lot lost their homes."

More frequently, dissatisfaction with low wages and lack of advancement was evident on an individual basis, through tobacco workers who decided to go into business for themselves.

Mrs. Stepp recounts the circumstances which led W.P. Hairston to leave the factory in 1913. "Daddy didn't want to work in the factory. He was always dissatisfied; always messy and was making, I think, about \$3 per week with a wife and baby. He couldn't make it."

Hairston wanted to send his five-year-old daughter to school, but his plant boss advised him to bring her to the factory, according to Mrs. Stepp. "Papa said he had to send her to school," she said. So, Hairston went to work for the Winston Industrial Association as an insurance agent.

He was later to retire as treasurer of the firm, which became Winston Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Oftentimes the black entrepreneurs set up businesses on the side while they continued working in the factories.

One such was William S. Scales, who began an "eating house" at 9 East 3rd Street sometime before 1910. According to his daughter, Mrs. Gwendolyn Scales Crawford, he started part-time, using his mother, Hannah Scales and wife to cook meals for the eating house.

Scales, who had the reputation of making money with whatever he touched, used the cafe as a foundation to become the city's first bondsman, to buy two movie theatres and real estate.

Not all the black business pioneers came out of the tobacco factories. J.S. Hill grew up in Jonesville, S.C. and became a school teacher by the age of 18, according to his sons, Edward and Leander Hill.

He raised money for Livingstone College and, then, for Slater Institute (now Winston-Salem State University) in the New England states. Because of his fund-raising efforts, J.S. Hill Hall was named in his honor.

By 1907, Hill decided to settle down in Winston and raise his family in the Hill House, which still stands across the street from the ne-

Winston Industrial Association

HOME OFFICE: Over Jones' Drug Store

J. S. FITTS, President. R. W. BROWN, Secretary
W. A. JONES, V. Pres. J. A. BLUME, Manager
DR. J. W. JONES, Treasurer. J. W. LEWIS, General Agent.

Pays all claims promptly. You pay us and we will pay you. Immediate benefits given

WINSTON-SALEM, -- NORTH CAROLINA

Early Ad For What Became Winston Mutual

escaped injury after being caught downtown in the midst of the riot.

"Papa was a sexton at the white Presbyterian church located where Frank A. Stith is now. He went out to open up and close up the church... When he got outside to come home, he was met by some white men. They said, 'He's white, let him go.' He then changed course, went down through Salem and got back to our house on Ridge Avenue."

In the aftermath of the riot, 15 whites received sentences ranging from 14 months to six years. One black man was executed for murder.

The original target of the lynching was tried, but found not guilty of rape on the testimony of the victim.

The big economic story in Winston-Salem during the early 20th century was the growth of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. By the turn of the century, the firm begun by Richard Joshua

black, recalls Odell Clanton, who went to work in the Reynolds factory for the first time in 1900 at the age of six.

"R.J. Reynolds and Henry Ford had more blacks working for them than anybody else in America," Clanton recalls.

Blacks in the factory performed such jobs as "prizing" or pressing plug tobacco into shapes and "casing," treating the tobacco with flavoring.

"Blacks did everything in the plant, but boss," said Clanton. He said foremen in the factories made \$12 per week, or \$24 each bi-weekly paycheck. "There were very few colored people working in the factories."

"There were two colored mechanics, named Lash and Lawrence, who were there when I went there and there when I left," added Clanton. Lash was the first colored man I saw come out with a check for \$20."

Discontent at the plants opened the way for the International Tobacco Workers Union to make an