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**NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS OF RANDOLPH COUNTY**

The county taxes for the year 1923 are now past due. All who have not paid should do so at once and thereby save costs and embarrassment.

A. C. COX,  
 Sheriff Randolph County.  
 At 4-17-24

**NOTICE**

Having qualified as administrator on the estate of George H. Lineberry, deceased, before D. M. Weatherly, Clerk of Superior Court of Randolph County, all persons having claims against said estate are notified to present them to the undersigned, duly verified, on or before the 30th day of April 1924, or this notice will be placed in bar of their recovery, and all persons owing said estate will make payment and make immediate return.

This 12 day of April 1924.

W. H. L. L. L.

**HISTORY OF RANDOLPH COUNTY**

(By W. S. Lineberry.)

Randolph county is a daughter of Guilford. In other words Randolph was formed out of a part of Guilford. At a session of the general assembly which met in New Bern, April 14th, 1778 and adjourned to meet at Halifax January 19th, 1779. The county of Randolph was formed out of a part of Guilford because of the large area of the latter county.

The act of the legislature directed that the first county court should be held in April, 1779, at the home of Abram Ruse. Thereafter court was held at William Bell's now known as Brown's Cross Roads until the new court house could be built. The old story goes that at one time when court was in session a man who was outside was called into court. He rode his horse into the court house and said, "Judge here I am".

The legislature appointed Thomas Owen; John Collins, John Adineal and Jacob Shepperd commissioners to run the dividing-line between Guilford and Randolph.

Abram Tatom, William Cole, John Hinds, John Collier and William Bell were appointed to fix the site for the court house and jail as near the center of the county as practicable, and to contract for the work on building, etc. To pay for the latter a tax of two shillings on the hundred pounds value of taxable property was levied for three years.

The county was assigned to Hillsboro Superior Court and was allowed three jurymen at the court. The first court met in March 1779 and elected Abraham Tatom, Clerk; William Bell, Sheriff; William Cole, land entry-taker; and John Colline, Surveyor.

The general assembly in 1779 added James Martin, John Pesleys and William Dent to the commissioners to survey the county line.

The county was named for John Peyton Randolph, one of Virginia's greatest statesmen, who was President of the first Continental Congress. I visited his farm which is still owned by his descendants some two years ago. It is one of the most handsome country residences I ever saw, Thomas Jefferson's at Monticello not except, and like the Jefferson farm, with its thousands acres of the most fertile land in Albemarle county. Here I saw a pasture of five hundred acres of blue grass with 200 two-year-old calves and an adjoining pasture with as many grown cattle.

In 1783 the Assembly directed that the commissioners appointed to fix the place for the court house had failed to discharge the trust reposed in them so a new commission was appointed at follows: Abram Hill, James Dougan, Zebedee Wood, Robert McLaine and Samuel McLaine. They bought 5 acres of land from Stephen Rigdon and the court house and jail was built thereon. The place was called Randolph court house, and a town was laid off into streets and was later named Johnstonville in honor of Samuel Johnston of Edenton, a notable Patriot. In 1789 Randolph was placed in the Superior Court District of Salisbury.

The U. S. census of 1790 gave the county 7276 inhabitants of whom 1682 were white males over sixteen, under sixteen 1962, free white females 3266, other free persons 24, slaves 452.

The name of the county seat was in 1796 changed to Asheboro in honor of Governor Samuel Ashe, who was chief executive from Nov. 19th 1795 to Dec. 5th, 1798.

Fifty acres of land was bought of Jesse Henley and he and Phineas Nixon, Samuel Trogdon, Henry Ramseur and Joseph Brown were directed to lay it off as a town with lots for the court house and jail. The second court house was built there in 1835. The present court house was built in 1908.

In 1782 the Revolution was on. The county was infested with Tories, led by the daring and cruel David Fanning, who commanded a company of Tories who continually raided the country from Fayetteville to James town up and down Deep river, and they were assisted by many citizens on their beat as there were many Tories in Randolph, Chatham and Cumberland counties.

The first representative we ever had was Col. Balfour, an ardent Whig and a noble Patriot. He came from Scotland and settled near Gray's Cross Roads, where he and his family are buried in a private grave yard. On March 10th, 1782, Fanning with his cut-throats went to Col. Balfour's house and captured him, took him in his house and in the presence of his wife and children shot him to death and on the same day burned the house of Ben Millikan and also killed Capt. Bryant near New Market. They went to my great-grandfather's house, Jacob Lineberry's. He had come home from the army to get something to eat. They saw Fanning coming and he ran to the woods. Fanning shot at him but missed him. They cut Mrs. Millikan's beds open and threw the feathers in the air and told Mr. Millikan to watch her goose fly. Col. Balfour's wife was appointed postmistress at Salisbury by George Washington, a position she held for several years. Some of the best families in Randolph married in Col. Balfour's family, among them was Dr. John B. Troy, of Gray's Cross Roads, who at one time represented our county in the Legislature. Another daughter married J. M. Drake who ran a hotel for many years in Asheboro. I am told, all of his family are buried at this private cemetery, seven miles northwest of Asheboro.

Randolph has been very good to her mother county. I am told that nearly one-fifth of the business men in Greensboro are from Randolph and all the trade east of Deep river goes to Greensboro. Many of our best men such as the Odells, Ramseurs, Lineberrys, Collinses and many others have moved their homes to Greensboro.

Greensboro our tax books would be very different from what they are.

Steady Creek church was the second church built in North Carolina. Sampson Vickory, my wife's great-grandfather, a Baptist preacher, organized a hardshell Baptist church there and built the house. The old house is still standing, though he has been dead many years.

Back in my boyhood days and before the people of Randolph had to go to Fayetteville for all their merchandise. There were no railroads and but few stores. Sometimes near 1840 a company built a plank road from Mt. Airy to Fayetteville. They ran a stage line on this road to carry passengers. This was considered a great thing. There were toll houses every twelve or fourteen miles where you had to stop and pay your toll or show your ticket. If I am not mistaken David was the first or near the first toll master at Asheboro and James Pages was at Page's toll house.

They drove 4 fine horses to the stage and changed horses about ever 40 miles. When the stage got in one mile of the toll house the driver blew his bugle to give warning if any passengers were there to be ready, and at the stops where they changed horses, a man had the four, harnessed and ready, so it only took a minute to make the change, and off they went again at almost lightning speed.

In the fall after the farmer sowed his wheat he would go to Fayetteville to purchase a supply of sugar, coffee and molasses and other groceries that he needed for the coming year.

Randolph has furnished some able men in her day, one governor, Jonathan Worth; two state treasurers, Jonathan and Dr. John M. Worth, the doctor served two terms; one state auditor, W. P. Wood, who served two terms; two congressmen, Gen. J. M. Leach, and our present representative, Hon. W. C. Hammer.

I can only name a few of our best business men, among the many were: Braxter Craven, Abraham Brower, Isaac Foust, Ben. P. Elliott, Alexander Harvey, J. M. Odell, J. A. Odell, Ben Moffitt, Dr. John M. Worth and many others I cannot call to mind now. Dr. John M. Worth probably done more for the upbuilding of the county than any other man. He commenced life practicing medicine, then entered the mercantile business. He entered the manufacturing business. He owned a good portion of the stock in the Cedar Falls Mills. He built the town of Worthville and built the cotton mill 80 by 250. He later owned the Central Falls mill and built the first knitting mill in Randolph at Asheboro. He told me a short time before his death that he spent ever dollar he ever made (except traveling expenses), in Randolph. He was a great and noble man. He represented our county in the legislature one or two sessions. He also told me that he never took up a poor man but what, when they left him, was able to start a business of their own. We can't say too much for such men as Dr. Worth.

Randolph has had some able lawyers as could be found in the state, among them was Wm. Long, S. S. Jackson, M. S. Robins, B. B. Bulla, J. R. Bulla and Geo. S. Bradshaw.

I would like to give the names of all our representatives that have represented us in the legislature but failed to get a complete list so I will not mention those I remember but will add that we have sent some as able men as any county in the state and men that Randolph should be proud of.

Randolph is one of the best counties in the state. It is inhabited by the best Christian people in the world; honest, capable, Christian, law abiding men and women. Did you ever notice that you never see in the papers accounts of men killing their wives or eloping with some other man's wife; or of wives murdering their husbands or eloping with some other woman's man. These things prove that our people are of the very best type and that they are law-abiding and God serving people.

Randolph furnished as many if not more men in the war between the states than any other county; and some as noble, brave officers as ever I saw, such men as Col. McAllister, Col. Bob Gray, Maj. Lahan Odell, Maj. John M. Hancock, Capt. Shubel Worth, Capt. James Marsh, Capt. Van Lamb, Capt. C. Frank Siler, Capt. Y. M. C. Johnson, Lieut. J. W. Pugh, Lieut. James Pounds, Lieut. John Swafford, Lieut. Milton Lawrence, Lieut. Milton Cox, Lieut. H. C. Causey, Lieut. W. B. Ashworth, and many others I don't call to mind just now. These were all good, brave men and were loved by their comrades. But some deserve more praise than our private soldiers. They were the men who faced the shot and shell and stopped the enemy's breast works. It was the private soldier who fearlessly faced death in defense of their country and without them our officers could have done nothing. To them all honor is due. Many of our very best men's bodies are now filling a soldiers' grave. Died for their country—no greater honor could be given them. Sometimes I think I had never have had the honor of being private then, to be called a captain.

The first cotton mill built in Randolph county was built at Cedar Falls in 1822 by Henry B. Elliott and others on lands granted Elliott by the state. This was a wooden building and was replaced by a brick building in 1848. After Mr. Elliott went west, a new company bought the property and it was superintended for some time by the late J. M. Odell and later by Sheriff O. R. Cox. During Cox's administration another mill was built where the old grist mill stood. In 1846 the Ramseur Cotton Mills Company bought the property and built an addition to the old building 60 by 220 feet long, 5 stories high and there is now 12,000 spindles and 116 looms. They manufacture hosiery, jeans and Osnaburghs.

Henry B. Elliott was a very progressive man and did much toward building up the county. I think he moved to Texas sometime about 1825. He was the grandfather of our society

man, Hal M. Worth.

Franklinville factory was the second mill built in Randolph county. In 1801 Christian Morris bought the land of Jacob Skene and built a grist mill. In 1829 Morris conveyed the land to Elisha Coffin, who with Henry B. Elliott, Henry Kivett and John Miller in 1838 built a cotton factory. This mill a wooden structure was soon built in its place and was owned for a long time by Benjamin Moffitt, Hugh Parks, Mrs. E. E. Moffitt and W. S. Russell, but was sold about one year ago to the Erwin Cotton Mill, of Durham, and is now known as the Randolph Mfg. Co., Mills No. 1; and the Island Ford mill which was built by Elisha Coffin, Alexander Horney, Hugh Parks and others and is now owned by the same company and is known as Randolph Mfg. Co. Mills No. 2.

I have been unable to get the date that the Columbia Mill was built and the names of the stockholders but it is now owned by the Watkins and others and is known as the Ramseur Mills.

The Union cotton mill was incorporated and built in 1848 by Samuel Hill, Joseph Newlin, James Dix, Jonathan Winslow, Jesse Walker, David Coltrain, William Clark, C. W. Woolen, Jacob Hodgins, S. S. Bumpass, and William Hinshaw with a capital stock of \$20,000. They manufactured cotton yarn and sheeting. On December 20th 1869 John Randleman, John H. Ferree and William Jacksey bought the mill and increased the capital stock to \$100,000. They at once built a large addition to the old house and built a dye house and many other buildings and commenced manufacturing plaids. Since then it has been known as the Randleman Mfg. Co., until recently a New York Co. got possession of it and call it the Deep River Mills but the place will always be called Randleman in honor of John Randleman who was one of the most progressive manufacturers Randolph ever knew.

Worthville factory was built in 1881 by Doctor John M. Worth. It was a brick building 50 by 250 feet. The Lewis Brothers and Wiley Ward now own it. Last year they built an addition to it 80x160 feet and are now putting in new machinery. Central Falls mill was built about the same time of Worthville by A. M. Diffe and Co., and is now owned by a New York Co.

Before the war between the states

North Carolina had two political parties, the Democrats and the Whigs. The Democrats favored free trade and a law to prohibit those who own no land from voting for a Senator. The Whigs were in favor of protection to practice the infant industry and to allow all males over 21 to a full vote.

After South Carolina, Alabama and several other states seceded, an election was ordered in North Carolina to vote for a convention or no convention, but our people wanted to remain in the Union and it was voted down by a large majority. Randolph which was a strong Whig county only gave 38 votes for secession. Later Virginia seceded and President Lincoln called on North Carolina for 10,000 men to help whip the South back into the Union. So another election was ordered and North Carolina seceded and took sides with her sister states. Had she not done so North Carolina would have been the fighting ground and our state would have suffered all the hardships of the war.

In conclusion I wish to say for the benefit of your young readers that after the Revolution ended it was too hot a place for David Banner to remain in America, so he went to some English island. I don't remember which now and was later hanged for committing rape on a woman.

Better meals and plenty of hot coffee are promised for the Farmers' State Convention this year. A good program is being prepared.

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 —Cassius M. Clay

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