

The Albemarle Observer.

Only Newspaper Published in Chowan County.

"LOOK FORWARD, AND NOT BACK."

Vol. 5, No 37

EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, SEPT. 11, 1914

State Library

Subscription: \$1.00 a Year

Some Facts About Gates County, N. C., as Gathered by W. E. McClenny, Cashier of the Farmers Bank of Sunbury, Sunbury, N. C.

The Formation of Gates County, North Carolina, 1778.

We give here a part of Chapter 20, Laws of North Carolina, passed in 1778, as by this law the new county of Gates was created:

"I. Whereas, by reason of the width of the Chowan River and the difficulty of the passing of the same, especially in boisterous weather, it is extremely inconvenient for the inhabitants of the north east ends of the said river, to attend courts, and other public business, as also for the ease and convenience of the inhabitants of the north sides of Chowan and Perquimans counties, it is necessary that the same be divided into a district and separate County.

"II. Be it therefore Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby Enacted by the authority of the same, that all that part of Hertford county that lies on the northeast side of Chowan River, and all that part of Chowan and Perquimans counties, that lies on the north side of Katharine and Warwick Creeks, and bounded as follows: (that is to say) Beginning at the Virginia line on the Chowan River, thence down the said river to the mouth of Katharine Creek, thence up the said creek to the mouth of Warwick Creek, thence up the said creek to the Head, thence a direct line to the Head of the Indian Branch in Perquimans County, thence down said Branch to the Great Dismal Swamp, thence a northeast course to the Virginia line, thence westwardly along said line to the beginning, and all that part of Hertford, Chowan and Perquimans Counties included in said lines, shall be and is hereby Established a county by the name of Gates.

"III. * * * And the Courts of said County of Gates shall be held on the first Mondays in May, August, November and February, in each and every year.

"IV. The said Justices to be appointed for the County of Gates aforesaid are hereby directed to meet on the first Monday in April next at the house of Kader Riddick (the Judge Eure Farm) and take oaths appointed for their qualifications.

"V. A tax of three shillings be laid on each Hundred Pounds Value of Taxable property in said County, and also a poll tax of three shillings for each person liable to pay tax, who is not possessed of one hundred pounds value of Taxable property in said County of Gates for two years, for building a Court House, Prison and Stocks therein, which tax shall be collected by the Sheriff of the county aforesaid.

"VIII. And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, that Lawrence Baker, Luke Sumner, Elisha Hunter and John Benton Jr. or a majority of them, be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners, to lay off and appoint the most central and convenient place, where the Court House, Prison and Stock for the use of the said County of Gates shall be built; and there to erect

or cause the same to be erected.

"X. The said County of Gates shall continue, and be considered as part of the Districts of Edenton."

The first courts of the county were held at Kader Riddick's, (now known as the Judge M. L. Eure farm) quarterly. Three courts were held there, or until 1779. The Court House, Prison and Stocks were built in Gatesville in 1780 on the plantation of James Garrett, and stood just across the road from where the present Court House stands. The present building was erected in 1836 and repaired in 1904.

We give here the origin of the name as taken from Wheeler's History of North Carolina. Says he: "It derives its name from General Horatio Gates, who at this time was in the zenith of his popularity, having acquired a brilliant victory in 1777 at Saratoga, over General Burgoyne and the English Army, but whose laurels were destined to fade on the unfortunate field of Camden.

"General Gates was a native of England. He was early trained to arms. He came to America as an officer, and served with Washington under General Braddock in the illfated campaign against Fort Du Quesne in 1755. On the breaking out of the Revolution in 1776, from his attachment to his adopted country, and high military reputation, he was by the Continental Congress appointed Adjutant General of the army in 1777, succeeding General Schuyler in the command of the northern army; to which, after two sanguinary battles, General Burgoyne surrendered with his whole force as prisoners of war at Saratoga on the 7th of October 1777. For this brilliant service General Gates received a gold medal and the thanks of Congress.

"In June 1780, General Gates was invested with the chief command of the southern army. At Camden, 16th August, 1780, he was defeated with great slaughter by Lord Cornwallis. He retreated to Hillsboro, and Congress appointed General Greene to succeed him. He was tried by order of Congress for his conduct at Camden by a special court, and was acquitted. His northern laurels were exchanged for southern willows. In 1782 he was restored to his command, but the war was over, and Gates retired to his farm in Virginia. Afterwards he removed to New York, where he died 10th of April, 1806 without issue.

"From this man, who held the chief command in two campaigns in our Revolution, the one the most brilliant and the other the most disastrous to American liberty, does this County derive its name."

"We will stop here to take a view of the first officers of the new County of Gates.

Lawrence Baker was the first Clerk of the Superior Court of the County, and he was followed by Jethro Sumner, William G. Daughtry, Dr. Rufus K. Speed, John Riddick, N. J. Riddick, H. L. Eure, R. G. B. Cowper and the present incumbent W. T. Cross.

Christopher Riddick was the first Public Register, and those who followed him we have not yet been able to learn.

The oldest Deed Book in the Register of Deeds office is a small book bound in hog skin, and the first deed or grant recorded therein is from Alexander Martin, to Moses Hare, Jr., dated 18th day of August 1788.

In the year 1780 Gates County had its first representatives in the General Assembly of North Carolina. They were James Gregory in the Senate and Jethro Sumner and James Garrett in the House. The next year the same man was in the Senate, and Joseph Riddick appears in the place of James Garrett in the House. General Joseph Riddick (or Beddick as it was then spelled) remained in the House or Senate from the county continuously until 1811, and was again in the Senate in 1815 and 1817. General Kedar Ballard served a long time in the House and Senate, and Wheeler in his sketch of the county gives the names of these two men as being the most prominent men from this section in their day.

By Chapter 25, Laws of 1780, the Gates County Court days were changed to the third Mondays in August, November, February and May.

In the same year one historian remarks that there were no Tories in the Albemarle region. In this year the people of this section became greatly excited at the visit of General Leslie with a fleet and considerable British forces to Hampton Roads where he had orders to land and to cooperate with Lord Cornwallis, but he soon sailed from that point to Charleston, S. C., and General Gregory and his force were relieved from the duty of observation upon his movements. General Leslie on his sailing south had been followed by Benedict Arnold, in 1781, who had been made commander of the British expedition against Richmond, Virginia, and on the death of General Phillips Arnold was in command of the entire British forces in Virginia until the arrival of Lord Cornwallis; and as long as the traitor Arnold was in the vicinity the people of the new county did not feel secure.

In the latter part of June 1781 the British made a slight attack upon General Gregory's force which was successful in driving him back, but he resolutely held his position in the same vicinity until the withdrawal of the British from Norfolk. This was the last time the people of this section were troubled by the British, and Cornwallis soon surrendered at Yorktown, and practically ended the war.

Thus we have seen that during the years of the Revolutionary war this section was comparatively in security most of the time, and the ravages of the war were not felt here as in some sections in the State.

April 13th to May 12th, 1782, the General Assembly of North Carolina was in session at Hillsboro, and General Joseph Riddick of Gates is mentioned as being remarkable for his good sense and strong will, and he lived to see a whole generation pass by while he was a member of the North Carolina Legislature, and by 1784 he is mentioned as being one of the State's greatest men.

Our Site For Federal Building.

To The Editor:

The Government is doing what it can to get a site for a public building; and now that Mrs. Matthew has withdrawn her bid or proposal, it seems Mrs. Wood's lot is the best location that can be secured, if it is not the best in Edenton; for I do not know one equal to it. The appropriation for a site is \$7,500.00 and I am informed Mrs. Wood will sell her lot for \$8,500.00. The lot is just about a good size; and I am frank to state that it benevolently the citizens of Edenton to see that the entire lot is purchased for the uses of the Government. The appropriation must be supplemented by the sum of \$1,000 to complete the sum of \$8,500.00 the amount necessary to purchase the lot for a site. We do not and cannot live altogether for the present and therefore it is our duty to look out and prepare for the future—not for ourselves only, but for the future needs and welfare of our community. As time passes the needs of space in building and lot will be required; and I am well satisfied that at no future time can land be purchased so cheap as it can now. We have citizens in this community who are amply able to put up this \$1,000.00 and never feel it. To do it would be a generous act to our community; and at the same time raise an everlasting monument to his or her memory. If, however, no one is willing to do this, then the citizens should do it, and immediately, as it is important that steps shall be taken at once before it is too late to act. I am willing to contribute \$100.00 to this fund; and if nine others will come forward with \$100.00 apiece we can fix it up at once. If we do this our action will invite most favorable consideration by Congress when it convenes to make an appropriation for the public building. We should have all the money we can get for the Federal building as it will be an ornament to our town, which is one of the prettiest in the United States and its bay superb—a beautiful sheet of water. If this was a northern or western town the sum mentioned would be raised before night and the government informed of it. Therefore let me urge the importance of this matter and prompt action in respect thereto, if the welfare of our town and community is to be regarded we should have at least enough public spirit to do this.

Respectfully,
Wm. J. LEARY, Sr.,
Sept. 7, 1914. Postmaster.

Why They Do Not Go To Church.

I do not like the preacher. (Rev. 19:10; Matt. 10:40)

We cannot get ready in time. (Luke 24:1)

The preaching does me no good. (Luke 8:18; Heb. 4:2)

I cannot find time to attend church. (Ex. 20:9-10)

I really have nothing suitable to wear. (Rev. 3:18; Matt. 6:25)

I am too tired to go anywhere on Sunday. (Mark 15:43; John

4:6, 34.)

I would rather stay at home and read my Bible. (Heb. 10:25; Luke 4:16)

Many church members are not as good as they should be. (Matt. 7:1-5; Rom. 14:4)

Religious services do not appeal to me as once they did. (Eccle. 7:10-11; Matt. 12:8)—Exchange.

Peanut Growers Perfect A Union

Dr. E. J. Griffin Heads Virginia And Norfolk Carolina Association

Today's Session Is Open To The Public

Suffolk, Va., Sept. 2.—Dr. E. J. Griffin of Edenton, N. C., heads the organization of Peanut Growers of Virginia and North Carolina, effected here late this afternoon, after an all day secret session. The committee appointed yesterday, brought in the following resolutions:

"That the peanut growers of Virginia and North Carolina believing that the present system of marketing nuts is not giving to the farmers a fair share of profits, and that by proper organizations this due compensation may be obtained, we move that an association be organized known as the Virginian and North Carolina Peanut Growers' Cooperative Association of the Farmer's Education and Cooperative Union of America."

They also resolved to establish bureaus of information to obtain facts concerning the acreage, condition of crops, and crop movements, so that the crops values may be determined before it is placed on the market.

They also recommend that one or more centralized warehouse and cleaners equipped with modern machinery be erected;

Also that a way be found to arrange with local banks to finance farmers who need help, so that they will not be forced to sacrifice the crop to the warehousemen. The fact that the war has caused an unprecedented rise in the price of nuts, and that bags are hard to get, caused the selection of a committee to investigate and see if bags cannot be manufactured from cotton.

President Gannaway and Lecturer Organizer Barnett have issued a cordial invitation to all citizens, especially the peanut factory operators, to attend the Tuesday morning session, which will be open to all.

The other officers of the Peanut Grower's League are A. M. Reinhart, Petersburg, Va., vice-president; J. F. Dvorak of Petersburg, secretary and treasurer; J. B. Jones, Elberon Springs, Va.; W. T. Outland, North Carolina; R. T. Savage, North Carolina; G. M. Inman, Sussex county, Va.; Alfred White, North Carolina, committee.

"Lowest"
Net Cost Record The
Wide World Over.
Union Central Life.
BARLOW HARRELL, SPECIAL AGENT.

Chowan County Farmers' Picnic

Union Dinner Is a Full Success; Fine Work Done by Organization

The Chowan County Farmers Union met with the Rocky Hock Union Friday. The meeting was near the Rocky Hock Baptist church in a beautiful shaded woods. The union met in business session at half-past ten o'clock. The union in Chowan county is an active one. They have purchased a valuable lot in Edenton upon which a large storage warehouse will be built. In addition they have there a co-operative sales warehouse where farmers' products will be carried and sold. Work upon the building will soon be begun.

After the business session of the union a bountiful and toothsome dinner was served to the thousand people present. It was one of those typical eastern North Carolina dinners, from which it is impossible for a man to go away without eating. Men, women and children urged you to eat, and the food is so tempting you just can't resist.

The Rocky Hock brass band, composed entirely of farmers and their sons, rendered good music. This is a unique organization. It has never had an instructor; the farmers and their sons take delight in it and they made splendid music.

The afternoon was given over to addresses by Mr. S. H. Hobbs, late president of the Farmers' Convention, and Governor Francis D. Winston. Both speakers were handsomely introduced by Dr. E. J. Griffin of Edenton.

Mr. Hobbs is a member of the Farmers' Union and discussed the purposes and plans of the union; told in graphic language its aim and plans. He was very interesting in his account of the committee's work in Washington arranging the proper financial bill for relief in the present crisis. Mr. Hobbs is an agreeable speaker, talks to the point and knows the subject well.

Governor Winston urged self-reliance, self-control and optimism in this condition now confronting the farmers and the country. He knows how to talk; knows what to say and how to say it to hold the interest of his hearers. An apt story in his hands lights up his points and fastens them in the mind of his hearers.

The Farmers' Union at Rocky Hock conducts a very successful mercantile venture. The members of the union in Chowan county have a clear vision of the relations of the balance of the world to the farmers, know the rights and duties of the farmers, and are astute to protect those rights and quick to perform those duties. The meeting was in every respect a most helpful one. In the society feature it was a great success, exhibiting on the part of the people a spirit of real friendship and comradeship beautiful to see. Organization with such people is easy and safe.

Dr. King's New Life Pills
The best in the world.