

General Election Returns For 1830

Less Than 1500 Voters When County Covered Parts of Cleveland and Polk—Candidates a Century Ago

By CLARENCE GRIFFIN.

With interest centering in the approaching Democratic primary next week, it is interesting to pull back the curtains of time and compare the vote of the general election of August, 1830, with that of the primary of next week. The above table shows Rutherford county's vote in the general election held Thursday, August 12, 1830.

It must be kept in mind that in 1830 Rutherford county covered more than twice the territory it does at present. Cleveland county, formed in 1841, was taken largely from Rutherford county, and Polk, created in 1854, was formed partly from Rutherford. The vote cast in the general election of 1830 was for all the territory now covered by Rutherford, northern Cleveland and eastern Polk counties.

No Primaries.

The primary was practically unknown in 1830, hence all candidates were nominated in convention, or announced their candidacy and stood the chance of being elected in the general election. No second elections were held. In case of a tie between

candidates the sheriff cast the deciding vote.

One hundred years ago the clerk of the court of pleas and quarter sessions, the clerk of the superior court, and the clerk and master in equity were appointed by the justices of the peace. The school system was in the embryo stage, and very little attention was given it. A board of "superintendents," one from each school district, was usually appointed each year by the justices, and each school district was practically an independent unit.

Justices Controlled County.

The justices of the peace, appointed by the legislature, were the controlling body in the county. A set of three justices held the inferior courts, and in addition to appointing the various clerks they also appointed the Public Register, or Register of Deeds, the wardens of the poor, the superintendent and custodians of county property, the coroner and the county surveyor. The legislature appointed the sheriff, on recommendation of the justices of the peace, until 1828, when this privilege was given to the people. This system of county government remained in force until the adoption of the Constitution of 1868, when the present county commissioner form of government was inaugurated.

Suffrage Limited.

In any election held in North Carolina, before the Constitutional Convention of 1835, any free man could vote for representatives in the house of commons and for sheriff, but a man was required to own a certain number of acres of land and other property before he was allowed to vote for state senators. This accounts for the seemingly small number of votes cast for senators in the accompanying table. This property qualification clause was eliminated from the constitution in 1835.

The Candidates.

The three major parties in 1830 were the Whigs, Anti-Federalist Republicans and the Democrats. The winners in the general election of 1830 were the Whigs. Robert McAfee, James Webb, Dr. John McEntire and William Carson all being staunch Whigs. It is difficult to ascertain whether the defeated candidates were Anti-Federalists or Democrats.

Robert McAfee, one of the two representatives elected to the house of commons, was a farmer of means. This was his first term, and last, in the house. He moved to Georgia about 1831. He had been a justice of the peace for a number of years prior to his election to the house.

James Webb, the grandfather of Judge James L. Webb, of Shelby, represented the county in 1828, 1830 and 1831. He was perhaps the youngest man to ever serve in this capacity, from Rutherford county, with the exception of Hon. Thos. J. Moss, of Forest City. Mr. Webb was twenty-six years of age when first elected. He was also a Baptist minister, was clerk of the superior court of Rutherford county from 1833 to 1848 and was editor of the Carolina Gazette, at Rutherfordton, from 1841 to 1843.

Joseph McDowell Carson, one of the defeated candidates, frequently represented the county as a senator and was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1835. Joseph Green was a prominent citizen and progressive farmer and had held several minor offices.

Dr. McEntire.

Dr. John McEntire, the successful candidate for state senate, was born about 1787, and was a man of many talents: physician, planter, architect, builder and statesman. He represented the county in the state senate in 1829-1830 and 1831, and was three times postmaster at Rutherfordton. He died December 4, 1856.

Martin P. Shuford, the defeated candidate for senate, had represented the county in that capacity from 1825 to 1828, being defeated in that year by Dr. McEntire. He also represented the county in the state

Election Returns of Century Ago

Election Grounds	House of Commons					Senate		Sheriff	
	McAfee	Webb	Carson	Green	Bradley	McEntire	Shuford	Carson	Bradley
Rutherfordton	166	76	150	24	13	117	5	82	129
Baldrige's	107	47	84	4	13	67	16	108	27
M. Mills	131	82	174	6	6	121	11	77	145
High Shoals	142	243	70	126	32	144	80	231	100
J. Whitesides	25	13	27	8	15	25	6	7	37
Crow's	147	144	65	50	23	74	73	144	79
Reynolds	56	126	35	111	26	18	110	158	23
Shufford's	60	29	15	63	44	6	74	101	8
Irvesville	111	35	66	24	2	54	30	106	16
Cove	49	40	32	18	71	50	13	32	81
Montagues	71	7	66	0	0	43	6	49	26
Camp's Old Fields	55	63	18	71	9	12	67	102	13
TOTALS	1120	905	802	505	254	732	491	1197	684

Statement of the Polls for Rutherford County—At the General Election of State and County Officers, Thursday, August 12, 1830. From "The Western North Carolina Spectator and Western Advertiser," Rutherfordton, August 20, 1830.

senate in 1833.

William Carson.

William Carson, the successful candidate for sheriff, was almost invincible to defeat. He held the office of sheriff longer than any other man. He was sheriff from 1798 to 1808 and from 1820 to 1837, a total of twenty-seven years. He has many worthy descendants residing in Rutherford county today, and many who are staunch friends and supporters of The Courier.

Benjamin H. Bradley, defeated candidate for sheriff, had previously represented the county in the state senate, serving there one year in 1821.

"Ah, the naked truth," sighed the flapper as she washed the make-up from her face.

The only trouble with most nickle cigars is, that they charge 15c for them.

Luke Reilly Says, "The Rat Died Before Reaching the River."

"Since moving near the river 2 years ago, we've always used RAT-SNAP. Watched a vicious water rat, nibbling at RAT-SNAP outside the house. About 15 minutes later he darted off for the water to cool his burning stomach, but he died before reaching it." Three sizes, 35c, 65c, \$1.25. Sold and guaranteed by Farmers Hardware Co., Forest City, N. C.

Thirty-seven poultry flocks containing 3,700 breeding birds were blood-tested in Iredell county this past season. Eggs from these birds hatched into vigorous, healthy chicks.

Cleveland county cotton growers report the best stand they have had in several years. The corn is also up to a good stand and is growing nicely.

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Over and over he wrote it, when he found people bilious, headachy, out of sorts, weak or feverish; with coated tongue, bad breath, no appetite or energy. It relieved the most obstinate cases, and yet was gentle with women, children and elderly people.

Today, this same famous, effective prescription, known as Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, is the world's most popular laxative. It may be obtained from any drugstore.



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The common cause of digestive difficulties is excess acid. Soda cannot alter this condition, and it burns the stomach. Something that will neutralize the acidity is the sensible thing to take. That is why physicians tell the public to use Phillips' Milk of Magnesia.

One spoonful of this delightful preparation can neutralize many times its volume in acid. It acts instantly; relief is quick, and very apparent. All gas is dispelled; all sourness is soon gone; the whole system is sweetened. Do try this perfect anti-acid, and remember it is just as good for children, too, and pleasant for them to take.

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Tonight's the night for tuning in on the Coca-Cola thirty-one piece, All-String Dance Orchestra. Lively dance music. Every bar a tingling invitation. Also Grantland Rice, famous sports feature writer, continues his unusual interviews with topnotchers in all popular sports. On the air tonight, and every Wednesday evening, from NBC studios, New York, over coast to coast network.

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