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## PICTURESQUE WINSTON-SALEM

Dates Its History From 1752 and Settled By German Moravians



EASILY one of the most interesting towns in North Carolina is Salem, in Forsyth County, which is so joined to the younger city of Winston that the two have become one community under the name of Winston-Salem, though the older town dates from 1752 and the younger one has but little more than 60 years to its credit. ¶ Not in this country is there a more self-contained, zealous, industrious and deeply religious community than that of Salem, which is the head town of the Moravians, the outlying villages nearby being several in number, chief among them being Bethabara, Wachovia and Bethania. The Moravians came first from Germany to Pennsylvania and from there to North Carolina, and bought at a merely nominal price land from the Lords Proprietors of Carolina, who then owned all the territory now embraced within the limits of this State; all of them except Earl Granville a little later selling their titles back to the King. ¶ The Moravians came for two purposes; to preach the Gospel to the colonists and to do missionary work among the Indians. When they arrived they found the settlers widely scattered and divided into various little sects, preachers being very few. Earl Granville saw an opportunity for a fine settlement and so made a very liberal offer to the Moravians, when he found they wished to come here, and this was carefully considered both in Germany and at Bethlehem, Penn. The Moravians in Germany were full of the idea of doing an immense missionary work in America and their desire was to buy a great tract of land, though there was not much money among them. About 1750 the Moravians abroad were heavily persecuted, many killed and others banished. The following year they decided to buy from Lord Granville 100,000 acres of land, the terms being wonderfully reasonable, and it was also decided to send some of their strongest men to North Carolina to survey the great estate about to be bought and to report to the Moravians who had then established the head of their church government in London.

Among those who came to North Carolina on this mission was Bishop Spangenberg, a remarkable man in every way, and he wrote the story of the journey to America and his long and in some respects dangerous journey from the coast of this colony to the lands they had in view. After they had gone across two-thirds of the State they struck the Indian country. They found, after looking over much territory, exactly the land they wanted in Forsyth County, so they made the survey and a little later bought it. ¶ The Moravians kept records of everything and have in their remarkably fine historical museum the unbroken story of their settlement from 1752, when it was

made, to this date, the manuscript being in German up to 1865 and since then in English. This story is absolutely thorough, embracing religion, education, history, adventure, industry and finance, and is regarded as one of the most accurate and extensive sources of information, both church and state, which the United States contains. ¶ The settlers left Bethlehem, Penn., in August, 1752, and went to Edenton, near the coast, and thence on horseback to their new location, sometimes followed by the Indians. Their guide, a hunter, once lost his way and their horses nearly starved, but they found buffalo and deer and thus got food.

They named the place in honor of the home of Count Zinzendorf of Austria, a devoted Moravian who had been banished for his faith. Spangenberg in his journal says many fine families were coming from the North to settle in Western North Carolina. Lord Granville gave the deeds to the lands in 1753. The first payment was of \$2,500, there being also a yearly rental of 75 cents, known as ground rent, and to pay even this small sum a company had to be formed at Holland which raised the money. ¶ The first settlement was regularly formed November 17, 1753, there being a preacher, doctor, able business man, two farmers, and men of six different trades. Their first meal was the "Love Feast," with prayer and praise, and they built a home in which all lived, planted crops and fruit trees and raised medicinal herbs. They built shops for the carpenter, tailor, potter, blacksmith, shoemaker and cooper and also the tannery and next year they commenced active trading with their neighbors. ¶ Their quaint archives show the value of a pair of shoes at that date. A stranger wanted a pair, had no money, but got the shoes by cutting down and trimming 100 forest trees. The twelve men in this initial colony the first year began the building of a mill which yet stands, having to make the mill stones and forge the iron, the mill being very important in the Indian war and also in the Revolution, as citizens and refugees were fed by it and British and American soldiers made heavy demands upon it.

The Moravians are kindness itself and always gave guests their houses, while they slept in the open. Their doctor was a god send to the primitive settlers and Indians also, a great many coming to him. The second year they built what they called the "strangers house," of logs, and the first ones to use it were a man and his sick wife who had been brought 50 miles to the doctor. ¶ The Moravians raised live stock, formed a literary society, had all sorts of social enjoyments and hunted bears, wolves and panthers, but nothing else. They traveled near and far, setting down everything they saw, and their Dr. Kolb went as far as 100 miles through the wild forest to the sick or injured. In 1755 they had 426 people as their guests. These Moravians paid taxes, but refused to take oaths or do military duty. Socially they were greatly beloved by the people