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## The Farmville Enterprise

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G. A. Rouse Editor and Publisher  
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"WATCH FARMVILLE PUSH FORWARD"

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### "THE MAKINGS OF FARMVILLE."

(By W. G. Sheppard, Secretary Chamber of Commerce)

Few towns in the South have had the phenomenal growth that Farmville has had. From a country cross roads twenty-five or thirty years ago, with only a few wooden stores and a post office at that time, the town has grown to a large commercial center with a business and wealth envied by that of other towns much older and larger in size in this section of the State. The growth has not been gradual but spasmodic since the new business life was engendered into the town. Even seven years ago in 1910, the population was only 816 and in 1916 it had increased to the staggering figures of 2,000. The increase in capital invested has been even more astounding than has the population, and the taxable property, both real estate and personal, amounts to something over \$1,000,000.

There are many things which have contributed to the growth and development of Farmville. Not the least of these, however, were the two railroads which have come into the town. The first railroad to make its way into Farmville was the East Carolina Railway, from Tarboro. This brought new life and new business into the town. Then followed the Norfolk Southern Railway which connected the town with both the eastern and western parts of the state giving a direct route to Washington, Elizabeth City and Norfolk on the east, and Wilson, Raleigh and Charlotte on the west and south. These railroads therefore give the town excellent transportation and freight facilities to all points east, west, south and north for the connections at the various points are generally direct and good.

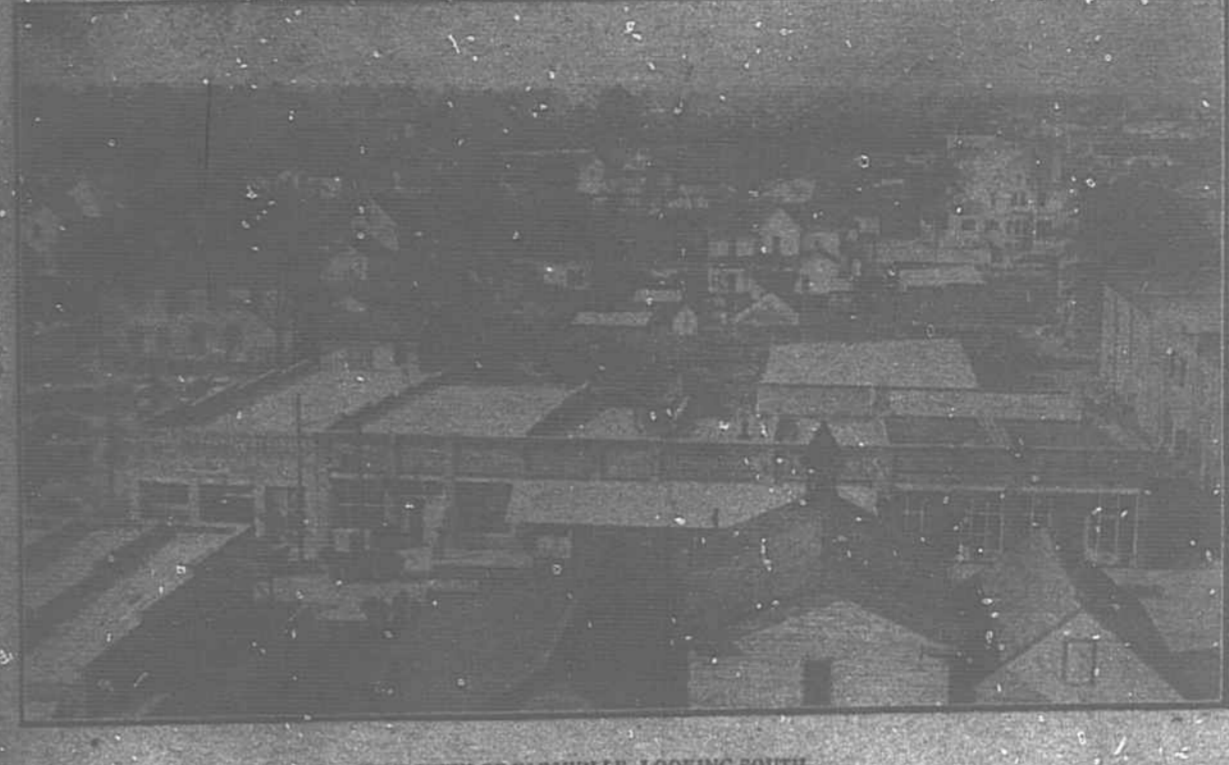
There is perhaps no one thing which has caused the whirlwind growth of Farmville to such a great extent as has the tobacco market, established here some years ago. About twelve years ago the first warehouse for the sale of tobacco was opened up here. Tobacco was then a new industry in this section of the country. But the new enterprise paid and the market has steadily increased until today there are three large warehouses here and the market sells more than 7,400,000 pounds of tobacco a year. In addition to this there is a large re-drying plant here belonging to A. C. Monk and Company and only recently a contract has been let to replace this plant by a new and more extensive brick plant representing an outlay of some \$60,000; moreover, the J. P. Taylor Company is now installing and erecting a re-drying plant in the town which will mean an investment of some \$40,000. The market is expecting a large increase in its sales this year over the sales of previous years, and it is not a wild dream to hope that the market may sell 10,000,000 pounds this year.

Next to the tobacco market here the one enterprise which has caused the town to make such rapid strides in development is the Farmville Oil and Fertilizer Company, a business organized some years ago. People thought at the time this was a wild undertaking, but this concern has paid its stockholders a handsome dividend. This corporation has been the means of bringing vast amounts of cotton to the town and has increased the market here to an output of 10,000 bales of cotton annually. It also has converted what at one time was a practically worthless product to the farmer, namely, cotton seed, into a valuable fertilizer and feed product for cattle. When the future of the development of the town is written, certainly the Farmville Oil and Fertilizer Company cannot be left out.

No town can grow without financial institutions to foster its enterprises and undertakings. Realizing this, the far-sighted citizens of Farmville, commencing with R. L. Davis, commenced the building of the town's first bank, the Greenville Bank and Trust Company. This bank aided and fostered such things as the Tobacco Market in its incipency, the Farmville Oil and Fertilizer Company and other such things. But as the town grew and the tobacco market broadened out the tax upon the capacity of the Bank of Farmville was so great that another banking institution was needed. Consequently the Citizens Bank was organized in 1910, with R. L. Joyner as president and T. C. Turnage, Cashier. It at once came to the aid of the tobacco market and business enterprises and has filled a place in the business life of Farmville and this community which cannot be over estimated. The custodian of the success of this bank was its Cashier, T. C. Turnage, whose business skill put it in the forefront of the progressive enterprises of the town. These banks are still in a flourishing financial condition and are material assets to the town.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF FARMVILLE, LOOKING WEST



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF FARMVILLE, LOOKING SOUTH

It was fortunate enough to have as its head Mr. Davis, who at that time was President of the Greenville Bank and Trust Company. This bank aided and fostered such things as the Tobacco Market in its incipency, the Farmville Oil and Fertilizer Company and other such things. But as the town grew and the tobacco market broadened out the tax upon the capacity of the Bank of Farmville was so great that another banking institution was needed. Consequently the Citizens Bank was organized in 1910, with R. L. Joyner as president and T. C. Turnage, Cashier. It at once came to the aid of the tobacco market and business enterprises and has filled a place in the business life of Farmville and this community which cannot be over estimated. The custodian of the success of this bank was its Cashier, T. C. Turnage, whose business skill put it in the forefront of the progressive enterprises of the town. These banks are still in a flourishing financial condition and are material assets to the town.

He promptly put the school upon a systematic footing and has broadened the scope of the school here until it has attained its present position. No child in Farmville or community should be without an education for lack of facilities. The religious environment of Farmville has a large place in the growth of the town, for as a town or city grows materially it must also progress spiritually. Farmville's churches have therefore kept pace with the town. When Farmville was a village there was at that time only one church here, this being the Christian. Since that time there has been established here the Methodist, Episcopalian, Primitive Baptist, Missionary Baptist and Presbyterian Churches. A number of these have new buildings and the Episcopalian, Presbyterian and Methodist are planning now to construct new and enlarged houses of worship. Pages may be written about the influence of the business, educational and religious enter-

### THE FARMVILLE COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

An Excellent Organization that Means Much to Farmville and Community—Some Things It Has Accomplished and What It Means to the Town and Section.

(By G. Selwyn Meyers, Publicity Editor.)

Organized bodies known as Chambers of Commerce have been in existence for over five hundred years. Such a body is the medium through which municipal uplift, both moral and material, can be greatly aided—provided the citizenship meets with it regularly for the exchange of views and the discussion of matters pertaining to the welfare of the community. In this way the community's mind is broadened and each citizen becomes better acquainted with the

ports of its members such an association can work wonders as has been proven in the case of scores of towns that for years slumbered, and are now on the high tide of progress. It was with the object of spreading information about the advantages of Farmville and Community that the Farmville Community Chamber of Commerce was organized less than a year ago. It started out with the purpose in view of uniting all business interests in the community and for the development of the town and the entire section of Pitt County. The necessity for co-operation among the business men had been apparent, and consequently an organization that would bring business men, professional men and farmers into closer touch with each other and which would be effective in work undertaken for the community was formed. The plan for the co-operation and organization of this association was laid out by W. G. Sheppard, a practicing attorney and a member of the

Chamber of Commerce and general publicity work can truthfully state that he has never been in a community, large or small, where there exists a more harmonious and public-spirited co-operation, than among the citizens of Farmville and community. In fact, it is a community where any meritorious proposition for the public good will thrive because the whole people are united, and where such a unity of spirit prevails, the people are broad-gauged, public-spirited and progressive. The Farmville Community Chamber of Commerce while virtually a new organization has already accomplished things that take much older and financially stronger a decade or two to secure. While it is not practical to say that any one particular industry is due primarily to this organization, since none of these things are secured without co-operation and the aid of many individuals and other influences, the Farmville Community Chamber of Commerce has

Any story that would tell the growth of Farmville, without taking into account the part the agricultural interests have had in its progress would also be incomplete. For outside of the business interests nothing has done more to promote its growth than the sale of the products of the farm—in fact the business enterprises already enumerated owe their origin and success to the agricultural surroundings in which they are situated. The land lying around Farmville has long been recognized as the most fertile and productive of any land in the United States. The soil is rich and will produce almost any kind of crop. It is a common thing for one acre of cotton to produce two bales, and for one acre of tobacco to bring from \$200.00 to \$400.00. The principal crops grown here are corn, cotton, tobacco, peas, beans, oats, etc., but the soil will grow almost any kind of crop. Farming in fact, is such a profitable industry that a number of our best and most prosperous citizens live in town and have their business in the country.

### FARMVILLE BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION.

One of the Real Community Builders of Farmville.

Of all the community builders there is no institution which is filling a place of so great value to the community as our well directed and ably managed Building and Loan Association.

Farmville is to be congratulated upon having such an institution, the well known Farmville Building and Loan Association, with offices located on the ground floor of the Pastime Theatre Building on Main street. This Building and Loan Association has been the means of systematic savings for many persons who hardly raise the dollar or two they have put into it and yet, at the end of a year, the sum reaches quite material proportions. Money is loaned out

thing which opens up the most in this respect is the public-spirited citizens, who have been born and reared here and have grown with the town. The town is full of these, and no better monument could be erected to their genius and enterprise than the large and successful mercantile establishments which are in Farmville. The spirit which has fostered and developed these will also continue to increase and produce business and business interests here. It is for this reason that new comers will find Farmville a good place to locate a thriving business. And with the other advantages offered no more ideal location can be found.

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the law is not immutable. It is the expression of the supreme power in every nation of its standards of right and wrong, for the control and government of its people, and changes with the times. Do those who practice at the Bar of Farmville and Pitt County represent the profession properly, according to the foregoing standards? It is believed that they do, for taken as whole, they are men of excellent education who have a broad outlook on life and can see beyond the bounds of their profession. The profession of law is an element so intimately associated with the civic and industrial stability that this history must necessarily make mention of those who are importantly identified with the well directed and united effort

### WALTER G. SHEPPARD

Attorney-At-Law—A Young Attorney Whose Future is Bright and Promising.

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### THE FARMVILLE TOBACCO MARKET

(By J. Loyd Horton)

Those who know Farmville know the value of its tobacco market. Those of us who knew and dwelled in Farmville before it could boast of such an industry realize that one of the greatest factors in the making and building of a better and greater Farmville has been its tobacco market.

Being situated in a thickly populated country with a fertile soil, especially adapted to the cultivation of tobacco, with each farm growing a large acreage of the weed, and each year bringing an increase in the cultivation of the golden product, it soon became a burden on the growers to have to haul their tobacco fifteen or twenty-five miles to a market, and each year, more and more, the necessity of a local market presented itself. Accordingly of the progressive men of Farmville and its community began to perfect plans whereby the little village might become worthy of its name.

A committee composed of Messrs. R. L. Davis, M. T. Horton, B. M. Lewis, W. M. Lang, J. W. Parker, and others went in person to make arrangements with the large northern manufacturers and buyers to place their representatives on the market. They met with but little encouragement, but realizing the necessity of a market and also knowing the demand for our particular kind of tobacco, they organized a stock company and proceeded to build two warehouses. They got in touch with Messrs. Holdridge and Townsend, two practical "live-wire" tobacco men of Wilson, North Carolina, who realizing the possibilities of such a market, arranged to buy the warehouses and to come down and help launch on the broad ocean of the leaf tobacco market, a small but strongly built market, that was destined to weather many gales and storms and finally anchor in the harbor of the fifth greatest market in the East.

The real financial motive power that supported and backed the building of the market was "Daddy Bob", R. L. Davis, who is generally the ways and means as well as the financial committee of most every civic and community improvement. Mr. Davis, together with the Bank of Farmville kept the movement on its feet and carried it over the years of its childhood. The first two years were very trying. Our competitors could overcome us in argument, but it soon developed that they could not do so in price, and with the financial backing mentioned, the moral support of the entire community and the untiring efforts of our warehousemen, the surrounding country soon found that we had a market second to none in price.

The third year of the existence of the market, J. Y. Monk, of Durham, North Carolina, associated himself with Mr. R. L. Davis in the warehouse business in Farmville, and much credit for the growth of the market should be given to his efforts. For years Mr. Monk and Mr. C. R. Townsend have view with each other in trying to do the most for the market. Their success is self-evident.

The first man to buy a pile of tobacco on a warehouse floor in Farmville was "Little Daddy" A. C. Monk. Being an experienced Tobacconist, with an eye into the future, he permanently located here and year after year as the market grew, his business grew, until now he is just completing one of the largest re-drying plants in the State.

J. P. Taylor Company, with the aid of R. E. Becher, one of Farmville's most patriotic citizens, is now building a large re-drying plant, and it is expected that such addition together with its local buyer Mr. T. J. Weil, will be an important factor in the future growth of the market.

Everyone familiar with the active history and phenomenal growth of our market thus far appreciates the liberal support given by the various companies and their respective buyers which have been. The American Tobacco Company with J. Y. Ferrell, buyer; The Imperial Tobacco Company with A. A. Jones,