FORSYTH COUNTY,

NORTH CAROLINA.

A DESCRIPTION OF ITS RESOURCES

AND

A REVIEW OF ITS INDUSTRIES.

BY THE

FORSYTH IMMIGRATION AGENCY, SALEM, N. C.

RALEIGH:
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FORSYTH COUNTY.

Forsyth county is situated in the northwestern part of the State on the eastern bank of the Yadkin river. It was formerly included in the county of Rowan, which in Colonian days, comprised the extensive possessions of Lord Gran-ville, grandson of Sir George Carteret, one of the eight original proprietors of North Carolina. Seven-eights of proprietary were ceded back to the crown in 1729, in consideration of the payment of 2,500 pounds, to each of the proprietors. Lord Granville, however, still retained possession of the remaining eighth, the boundaries of which extended from the Virginia border on parallel 86 degrees south to a line in latitude 85 degrees, 84 minutes, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Since the war of Independence. this enormous tract has been divided, and sub-divided, into various counties. syth was formed from Stokes county in 1848, and named after Col. Benjamin Forsyth, who served in the revolution and was killed in a skirmish in Canada, in 1814.

WACHOVIA.

This county is conspicuous for containing within its limits, the tract of land known as "Wachovia" granted to the "Unitas Fratum" or United Brethren of the Moravian church, by Lord Granville, August 7, 1753, and thus named

because of the supposed resemblance to a valley of that name in Austria, in the possession of Count Zinzindorf, the great Patron of the Brotherhood. In 1849 fifty one acres of the Wachovia tract, were sold to the newly formed county, for \$5.00 per acre, upon which the plan for the county town was laid out and the courthouse and jail erected, under the supervision of the late Francis Fries.

WINSTON.

The town was called Winston in honor of Col. Joseph Winston, who represented this section of the State in the Patriots' meeting of 1775-'6, and who was also one of a commission appointed to treat with the Indians, by which all their lands in the States of North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, were ceded to those States. Forsyth is hilly and undulating, well watered with broad expanses of meadow and bottom land situated along the margin of the numerous streams and creeks, which are thickly interspersed over the whole county. Many of these streams afford fine water power for various manufacturing purposes. The prevailing soil is red clay in the uplands; and dark loam with clay subsoil in the lowlands, however there is great diversity of soil throughout the county. Many of the springs are strongly impregnated with mineral, that at Salem being much resorted to by those who visit the place, and is said to possess fine medicinal properties. Situated 1000 feet above the sea, our climate is dry and temperate, indicating

usually about 65 degrees Farenheit in summer and 40 in winter. The extremes of heat and cold which prevailed here fifty years ago, are now rarely felt. Climatically there is perhaps no country more pleasantly and salubriously situated. Though Nature has lavished upon this county the extremes of her munificence, she has rarely combined in a more pleasing and healthful manner the substantials and luxuries of soil and climate.

TOBACCO

is the staple produce of agriculture, as well as manufacture. Very little was grown however, prior to 1870 and none at all earlier than 1858, beyond a few small patches for home consumption. In 1858 three farmes, Guthrie, Marshall and Kerby, by name, from Halifax county, Va., removed to this county, and being experienced growers of tobacco, their example and success stimulated others, until in 1860 the marketed crop summed up 238,-It soon became evident that, with intelligent cultivation, and handling, the lands of this county were capable of producing the finest grades of yellow leaf chewing tobacco, not inferior to that grown in the famous "leatherwood" district of Henry county, Va. In 1875 the yield had reached 1,500,000 lbs., and today borders closely on 4,000,000. The yield on newly cleared lands, is from 500 to 650 lbs., and on old lands when fertilized and carefully prepared, a much larger crop is often gathered.

WHEAT

grows finely on all lands that are well drained, and prepared, and yields handsome profits. Corn and oats produce fine crops, when grown in the meadow lands. Rye is also grown to some extent. Potatoes of both varieties and other roots grow in almost any location. Such

GRASSES

as orchard grass, red top, timothy and clover grow well on all the meadow lands, and many of these bottoms produce fine crops of indigenous grasses, well suited for hay and grazing. Hungarian millett is also grown by many farmers, and when mixed with other grasses, makes fine feed for stock. Fruits, vegetables, and melons, grow in the greatest profusion, and of almost every variety. The dried fruits of this section of the State, enjoy the reputation of the highest quotations in the New York market. In 1817 this entry appears in the records of the Moravian church at Salem:

FRUIT.

"Great abundance of apples and peaches." Short and laconic, it may be, but it establishes the fact, that old as the land may be, fruit has been in abundance. The soil climate and situation of this county, are peculiarly adapted to the growth of the vine, which yields in the most luxuriant manner, wherever the least attention is paid to it. There are, perhaps, circumstances under which a finer table grape might be raised but for growing a wine-

producing grape, this part of the State has no superior, and but few equals. As early as 1761 this record appears in the archives of the church in Salem. "Great abundance of

WILD GRAPES,

hogsheads of wine were made in the three settlements," and the vineyardest need never - hesitate to be guided in his selection of suitable location by the unerring instinct of nature. The Concord and Scuppernong are the most popular varieties, simply because they will grow with the least attention, others could be grown with the greatest ease. Sorghum of the Chinese, Honduras and Amber varieties grows finely, and is manufactured into syrups of a bright, lively color and pleasant taste. The machinery used is very crude, and there is no reason why an excellent quality of marketable syrup, and a good grade of sugar could not be made from these canes, by using improved machinery, and subjecting them to the most approved dessicating and granulating process. Broom corn of long staple and excellent quality, is raised on many of the boitom lands, and the manufacture of brooms was formerly an industry in many of the smaller towns.

THE RAILROADS' AID.

Prior to the completion of the N. W. N. O. R. R., to this point but little attention was paid to agriculture, beyond the production of sufficiency for home consumption, owing to the inaccessibility to mark-

et and to the fact that no special commercial interest centered here. Upon the opening of this road, and the establishment of the first tobacco warehouse in 1872 by Major T. J. Brown, a new era seemed to dawn upon the country, men became aware of their own resources, and an air of thrift and enterprise seemed to infuse itself into the whole atmosphere. Before giving a full description of this absorbing industry, which in its rapid and extensive growth has surpassed the prog-nostications of the most sanguine, we will in deference to antiquity, return and trace through the dim pages of our early history, the progress of other manufactures, and give an outline of causes and events, which are to this day recognized as moving exponents in the energetic and enter-prising spirit, which renders this con-spicous among the counties of the State.

THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF SALEM.

As yet the keen eyes of Daniel Boone, looking down from the craggy peaks of the Alleghanies, had not rested upon the green fertile lands of Kentucky. Washington was still unknown, and unrevered as the "Father of his Country." The cry of "Give me liberty or give me death" had not yet kindled the fires of rebellion. Unknown was he "whose name but yesterday might have stood against the world" and whose memory was to consecrate, as though it were an altar, the bleak coast of St. Helena. The red man had not then been remanded to the Rocky Mountains, or to the smooth pages of historic romance,

but with mournful and savage presence, stood watching the progress of a small band of German settlers, who leaving the vast tracts of fertile lowlands in the rear, nerved by a desire for social and religious freedom, pushed on far beyond what were then the confines of civilization, and at last selected with that wise and prudent forethought, for which emigrants of Teutonic origin have ever been conspicuous those lands which now form the county of Forsyth, as being most peculiarly adapted by nature to furnish all the requisites of life to an isolated colony. The location was selected by Bishop Spangenburg, after a search of over four months, during which time nearly the whole of the western part of the State was traversed, and the wisdom of the selection has long since fully demonstrated. These lands comprised an area of 98,985 acres and were conveyed to the Brotherhood, August 7th, 1753, as has already been mentioned. The first settlement took rlace in the fall of the same year. The present town of Salem around which cluster the most interesting items of history connected with this county, was laid out in 1765 and designed as a centering point for the Moravian religion in the South, which position it has continued to hold to the present time.

Many exclusive privileges, and legal amenities were granted to the settlers of Wachovia, which they continued to enjoy up to 1831, when by legislative enactment they were rescinded. It was not however, until 1857 that a complete separation of

the town and church offices took place, and the first municipal election was held. We have made this apparent digression from the real purpose of this article, believing that it is in great part to the frugal and industrious habits of these early settlers, as well as to the peculiar customs and observances of the

MORAVIAN CHURCH

present prosperous conthat the dition of our county is due. Lying contiguous to the lands which were subsequently to to be chosen for the ideal Republic of Transylvania, Wachovia is perhaps the only instance in modern times in which the principles of Arcadian life have been successfully applied, and adhered to for a period extending over nearly a century. A custom prevailed here which required each man to seek through different trades or channels, the means of sus.enance. This created an army of trades and tradesmen, and though wisely abandoned in later years as being too narrow for a more progressive and comprehensive state of society, it is still recognized as forming a basis upon which is built the great diversity of manufactures, which makes so distinguishing a feature in the industry of our county. It is a fact worthy of notice, that the first house ever built in Salem in 1766 is now occupied as a pottery shop which business has been uninterruptedly carried on for over a century, many of the moulds dating back as far as 1774, now in existence, and presenting a curious and antique appear-

ance. It is hardly possible that a parallel can be cited in the annals of American The second house also standing. built during the same year, was as history tells us immediately occupied by "Brother Praezel and Brother Holder," who carried on the weaver's and saddler's business. These instances are only given to show at what an early period the seeds of manufacturing were sown among us. In 1778, the "Salem Water Works" were constructed by James Krause, which continued in operation substantially as built for exactly one hundred years, when because of the inability to supply the increased demand, they were supplanted by the present system. They were the first and for many years the only water works in the State, and were greatly admired by Gen. Washington during his visit to Salem, in 1791. In 1791 the first paper mill in the State was built in this county. It continued in operation until 1873, when it was destroyed by fire. There is now nearly completed in Salem the second paper mill, belonging to the firm of Griffith & Jeoffry, which will be in operation in a month's time. It has a capacity of a ton a day, and is fitted with the most improved machinery, and driven by 40 horse and 20 horse engines.

THE RISE OF MANUFACTURING.

Though we do not as China does, claim to be the "source whence comes all that is," still it is hard to name an article, which enters into human economy, that has not at some time or other been manufactured in this county. Jackson's brigade was at one time furnished with hats made by T. J. Bonner of Salem, which were ever after known as "Stonewall hats." The little shop still remains from which came the old long barrel Vogler and Foltz rifles, whose unerring lead has carried the final summons to many a Redcoat, and Redskin, from the hands of the fierce hunters of Kentucky and Tennessee. In those days, the rifle, the plow, and the axe were inseparable companions. In 1815 the first woolcarding machinery ever in the State was brought to this eounty, by "Bro. Zeverly" of the Salem Congregation.

WAGON WORKS.

In 1834 was established at Waughtown, in this county, by J. P. Nissen, the first wagon factory in the State, now run by Geo. E. Nissen & Co. This establishment builds an average of 600 wagons a year and has since it begun operation built over ten thousand. C. F. Nissen & Co., whose works are located in the same village, manufacture the patent wagon, which has many new features commending it to purchasers. This firm has been in operation about two years, and has built over eight hundred and fifty of these popular wagons. W. E. Spaugh of the same place, builds about 300 a year. Besides these already enumerated there are eleven other wagon factories, in this county doing a thriving business. The total number of wagons, built, greatly exceeding 2000 per year. So popular have they become among the

tobacco growers, and farmers generally, that all attemps to introduce cheap western wagons, have proved failures. Several of these factories have fine specimens of their work on exhibition at Raleigh. Until the inception of the tobacco business, no single industry has conduced to render the county more prominent than this.

F. & H. FRIES.

The tannery situated in Salem is very old, having been in operation since 1769. It is now under the control of Mr. J. W. Fries and is noted for its excellent product. From 5,000 to 7000 sides are turned out a year, and no trouble is found in disposing of them at the highest market price. As a joint stock company, the

SALEM COTTON FACTORY

begun operation in 1837 under the management of Mr. Francis Fries. These factories passed through several hands until they were bought by the firm of F. & H. Fries, and converted into the "Wachovia Flouring Mills." In 1840, Mr. Francis Fries begun the

WOOLEN BUSINESS

upon a small scale, conducting it alone until in 1846 the firm of F. and H. Fries was formed, which is so widely known at the present time. The cerebrated Salem Jeans was the principal article manufactured, whose popularity has extended undiminished over a period of 40 years. The consumption of wool at that time was 9,116 pounds a year.

The first cotton factory belonging to

this firm was built in 1848 and contained 528 spindles, principally to make warps, and yarns, for their own use. The consumption this year amounted to 91,767 pounds of cotton and 19,440 pounds of wool. In 1863, Mr. Francis Fries died, and during the trying years which followed, the business was successfully operated by Mr. H. W. Fries the surviving partner. In 1879, Messrs. J. W. & F. H. & H. E. Fries, sons of the late Francis Fries, were taken into the business, which was still continued under the old firm name of F. H. Fries. In 1880, the

ARISTA COTTON MILLS

were built by this firm, containing 6,480 spindles, and 180 looms, driven by a 200 horse power Porter Allen engine, and lighted with electricity. The product of these mills exceeds 5,000 yards of standard sheeting a day, which, together with the yarns and warps, consumed by this firm, makes the consumption of cotton over 2,300 pounds per day. Over 200,000 pounds of wool are worked up by by this firm a year, chiefly into jeans, kerseys, yarns ann rolls, and sold throughout the whole country. The

GAS WORKS

are also owned by this firm. They are the second built in the State, having been constructed in 1859. Resin is used instead of coal, and a most excellent article of gas is produced.

SALEM IRON WORKS.

The old adage that "great oaks from lit-

tle acorns grow" was perhaps never more fully verified than by the rapid and successful career of the Salem Iron Works, the sole property of Mr. O. A. Hege. The old shed still stands in which Mr. Hege began business in 1873, confining himself to plow and small foundry work, almost exclusively until in 1877, he took out patents upon an improved "set" for circular saw mills. From this period dates the prosperous career of this establishment, including at present a fine three story brick shop, with over 23,000 feet of floor space, heated from bottom to top with steam, and equipped with modern appliances and machinery for executing and expediting work in the best and most approved manner. A large, well lighted, heated and ventilated

FOUNDRY

supplied with derricks, and other conveniences for handling heavy work. A smith and boiler shop is now being constructed. One of the most attractive features of this institution is a large elegantly lighted conservatory filled with rare and beautiful flowers and exotics of almost every climate. Here side by side in the dead of winter can be seen the banana, the orange, the pineapple and the lily of the Nile. The conservatory is heated with steam, and supplied with water pipes throughout, to which are attached spraying jets, and fountains. Mr. Hege takes great pride in this particular feature of his establishment, often speaking of the refining influence it exerts over his men.

The office is supplied with a printing press, with which most of the printed matter is executed, a photographic and blue print apparatus for use in its mechanical department, and it is but fair that this concern should be credited, with employing in the conduct of the office business, the first Type Writer and Stenographer ever in the State.

Though at first the present shop was thought sufficient for a number of years to come, the necessity for greater room is already apparent.

CIRCULAR SAW MILLS

have been the speciality of shops, and such is the recognized virtue of these mills, especially where long and springy timber is to be handled, that they are already sold over as many as twenty States, Canada, the U.S. of Columbia, Chili and India. Centre and side crank engines of two styles and several sizes are built, possessing new and improved features, combining simplicity, and efficiency, which together with the superior workmanship displayed in their construction, greatly commend them to those requiring such power. Iron lathes and other tools, tobacco retainers, wood planers of three different kinds, are also manufactured. Ice and refrigerating machinery, (the invention of an employee of the concern) especially adapted to hotel, restaurant, butcher, steamer, railroad and domestic purposes, is now in process of manufacture. Mr. Hege has on exhibition at Raleigh many fine specimens of

his work. So completely has the excellence of the work turned out by these shops overcome the prejudice against the prophet in his own country that there are now in the State of North Carolina alone over one hundred mills made by them.

SASH, DOCK AND BLIND BUSINESS.

Fogle Bros conduct a large sash, door and blind business. They also make a specialty of tobacco boxes, consuming in the construction of that article alone over 500,000 feet of choice oak. They carry a large stock of general builder's material, and are prepared to do work in the finest and most substantial manner. G. L. Miller carries on a business comewhat similar to that of Fogle Bros. substituting fruit crates for tobacco boxes, of which article large numbers are manufactured for the fruit driers of this county. Mr. Miller is also proprietor of the "Winston Agricultural Works," in which is manufactured the "Little Queen" grain separators, the lightest and most efficient thing of the kind which has ever come under This machine together with the "Kernodle Churn" and "Tise Well Fixtures" all models of simplicity and ingenuity now on exhibition at the State Exposition. Besides these already spoken of, there are over twenty-four saw mills at different points throughout the county, all doing a strictly local business. greater evidence of prosperity could be given than this fact. Messrs. Parker manufacture Cox & quantities of dogwood, and persimmon, shuttle and last blocks, also tool handle and spoke and rim stock, for which they have a large trade in New England;

and at different points in Europe.

Hough & Co. have recently begun the manufacture of hosiery. They make as fine article of men's seamless half hose, as well as other articles in that line. They have a full line of machinery, of the best and most approved patterns, and will beyond doubt, as soon as well under way do a good business. The quality of their work so far is highly creditable J. A. Vance has also recently established a shop doing general machine work, and has a full line of tools to do work with. He has also begun the manufacture of saw mills, with good prospect for success.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES.

The educational advantages of this county are not inferior to any in the State. The "Salem Female Academy" has been in successful operation for over seventy five years, and is one of the most noted and popular institutions in the South. There are fifty white and eighteen colored public schools. The Graded School of Winston is in operation for its first session, and is one of the finest and best appointed buildings for educational purposes in the State.

PROTESTANT CHURCHES.

There are Protestant churches of almost every denomination in every town and throughout the county at different points.

There are many other manufactures of lesser importance, of which it would be impossible to give an account in this ar-There is, however, ample room for others which it is believed could be made most profitable, such as a boot and shoe factory, furniture shops, in which a low and medium grade is built. This stock is now imported from New England and the West, while abundance of materials grow close at hand, and labor and taxation are cheap as conscience could demand. Factories in which the shuttle and last block might be finished ready for the market under the above favorable circum-The fact that "trade begets trade" is well understood by all of our prople, and the mot liberal inducements are offered to any one desiring to establish business in our midst. mercantile advantages presented Winston and Salem are unsurpassed by any town in the State, forming as they do the centre of a large and flourishing agricultural district.

STOCK.

Stock of all kinds can without trouble be and is raised, but this branch of industry has not received the attention it merits. Every partaker at a railroad restaurant can attest the fact that poultry and its product is an indigenous crop in North Carolina, and to this rule Forsyth county is no exception. Fish culture has lately attracted much attention in this county; the numerous streams affording fine ponds, some of which are stocked with fancy varieties from the Department at Washington.

In 1760 this passage appears in the records of the Moravian church, "Two hives of bees were brought from Tar River, one hundred and twenty miles, which increased very fast." From that time the culture of bees has been continued by many of our farmers, but has never been developed into a business for which this county seems

to possess all the requisites.

In conclusion we will describe the "tobacco business," which constitutes the leading industry and which is located almost exclusively in the county town of As has already been stated, Winston. the first tobacco warehouse was established in 1872 by Maj. T. J. Brown, in an old stable building; previous to which time no pretentions were made as a tobacco market by this town. This venture proving a success beyond the expectations of the most sanguine, a larger house was built during the following winter, with a floor space of eleven thousand square feet. There are now in Winston twenty-two factories and four warehouses; controlling the largest trade in chewing tobacco in the State. As a

MARKET FOR LEAF TOBACCO

it has no superior and the reputation gained by the tobacco manufacturer in Winston is said to be dependent more upon the fact that nothing but native stock is used than from any peculiarity in the manufacture.

There are in the county 34 factories, manufacturing chewing tobacco, and one

eigar factory. For fear of doing injustice to some, it is not my purpose to describe any of these factories, which for size, completeness and quality of product are unsurpassed by any in North Carolina. Though already enormous, this business is yet in its infancy. During the past year over 10,000,000 pounds of tobacco were handled in the Winston market, most of which was bought and manufactured on the spot. and it is thought by the leading men that the crop marketed at this point during the coming year will reach 12,000,000 pounds. These various industries give employment to thousands of men, women and children and impart to the general aspect of thing a healthy and vigorous air, which cannot fail to attract the attention of the stranger who comes within our gates.

AT THE NORTH CAROLINA EXPOSITON.

Forsyth county has made a very creditable display of her resources at the North Carolina State Exposition at Raleigh, N. C., Oct., 1st to the 28th, 1884, which was generally admired and highly complimented and was one of the leading attractions of the Exposition.

INVITATION TO THE SOBER.

We invite all to come and see Forsyth county, and to those who decide to remain with us, with a view of helping to develop her great natural resources, and building her up, to all such especially we extend the right hand of fellowship and a cordial welcome.

H. W. FRIES.
J. W. FRIES.

F. H. FRIES. H. E. FRIES.

F. & H. FRIES,

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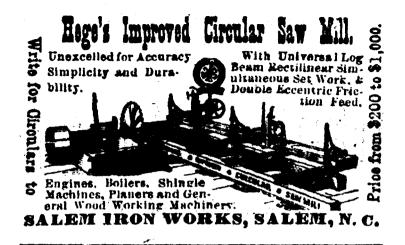
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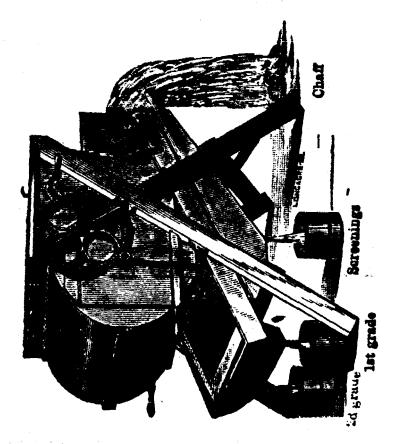
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WINSTON, N. C.

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