

History of Roanoke Alabama

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HISTORY OF ROANOKE ALABAMA

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CHAPTERS

PAGES

INTRODUCTION

I - 2.

I. Location - Name - When settled.

3 - 4.

II. Early settlers - Customs - Census.

5 - II.

III. Homes - Early - Later - Present.

12 - 13.

IV. Industries - Early - Later.

14 - 16.

V. Churches - Clubs - Schools.

17 - 23.

VI. War records - Civil - Spanish American -

World.

24 - 32.

Summary.

Bibliography.

INTRODUCTION.

I.

The purpose of this paper is to give as accurate history as effort is possible of the City of Roanoke Alabama. An has been made to know where the first settlers came from and who they were. Some treatment has been made of the terms by which the White Man received a title to the land from the Indians. The origin of the name of the County of Randolph in which Roanoke is located and of the city itself is given. The occupations of the early settlers has been studied. The gradual in population and the causes have been rather carefully followed. The various industries which have sprung up in the town have been mentioned with some reasons for their growth. The moral and religious life of the early settlers has been noted and traced to the present day. The interest in education which has been one of the outstanding characteristics of the people of Roanoke has been rather noticeable throughout the entire history of the city.

Fortunately there are now living in Roanoke a small number of people who can recall from memory a great deal of the conditions which existed very soon after the Indians were removed from the territory to-day occupied by the town of Roanoke. In preparing this paper I have received valuable information by talking with some of the oldest citizens of the town. I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the following people especially: Captain B.F.Weathers, Hon. John W. Faucett, Mrs. J.R.Simms, Professor L.M.Stevenson, Editor O.H. Stevenson of The Roanoke Leader, Mr. John W. Fuller, Judge John T. Heflin, and my father Rev. A.D.Owen. My father gave me a rather full account of conditions in Roanoke as early as the closing period of the Civil War and even down to the time when I can remember quite well.

While in no way do I feel that this is a full history of the town, I trust that the reader will gain something worthwhile.

So far as the writer knows there are no records which show the political affiliations of the early settlers of Roanoke and Randolph County as a whole. There are certain facts to be noted which indicate something of the possibilities along this line.

In view of the fact that the County of Randolph and the town of Roanoke received their names from John Randolph of Virginia and his Estate, it seems reasonable that those early leaders must have been in some measure admirers of Mr. Randolph. It is known that there were only a few slave holders in Randolph County at the time of the Civil War. A comparatively small number of people in the County at the time of the Civil War were in sympathy with the North. Mr. William H. Smith was one whose sympathies were with the North. He lived in Wedowee, the County seat. During the period of the War he left the State and joined the Union Forces. This was the Mr. Smith who was once Governor of Alabama. Two Probate Judges of Randolph County have been affiliated with other political parties than the Democratic Party. These were Judge Jack Weathers who was elected on the Independent Party and the present Judge Clardy who is a Republican. Although there are many people in the County who are Republicans, the County is considered to be in the majority supporters of the Democratic Party.

Roanoke is situated in the South East corner of Randolph County in the State of Alabama. It is an incorporated town on the Atlanta, Birmingham, and Atlantic Railroad and at the northern terminus of the Lafayette Branch of the Central of Georgia Railroad. It is about fourteen miles south of Wedowee, the County Seat of Randolph County, eighteen miles north of Lafayette which is in Chambers County and thirty five miles north of Opelika, The County Seat of Lee County. The altitude of Roanoke is 846 feet above sea level.

The town of Roanoke was settled in the early part of the decade 1830 - 1840. Its first name was High Pine because of its elevation and the tall pine trees which surrounded the place. In the 1840 its name was changed to Chulafinnee. Very soon afterward it was given its present name. This name was for John Randolph of Virginia. In signing his name Mr. Randolph was accustomed to include the name of his estate or home which was Roanoke. The County of Randolph and the town of Roanoke then received their names from Mr. John Randolph of Roanoke Virginia.^{I.}

Randolph County was created by an act of the Legislature on December 18, 1832. It was formed from the last Creek Cession of March 24, 1832. The largest trading posts in the County at this time were Wedowee which was first called Mc Donough, Roanoke,^{2.} and Louina. According to the United States Census of 1840 there^{3.} were in Randolph County at that time 4973 people.

I. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography.

Volume II. Pages 1207 and 1208. Thomas M. Owen.

2. Ibid. Pages 1178 and 1179.

3. United States Census of 1840.

The land on which the town of Roanoke is built is well drained and the surroundings are healthful. The climate is mild and the soil is well suited to the growth of the many flowers and garden crops of this section of the State. There are no records of any epidemics in Roanoke which could be attributed to the physical conditions of the town or surrounding territory.

Today with the two railroads which touch Roanoke as has already been mentioned and The State Highway passing from Opelika through Roanoke to Anniston, Roanoke enjoys unusual high way advantages. In addition there is an excellent road from Roanoke to Lagrange Georgia. It is comparatively easy for the people living in Roanoke to reach Birmingham, Montgomery, and Atlanta, and return on the same day. Recently an excellent road has been completed between Roanoke and Wedowee so that the time required to reach one of these towns from the other is only a few minutes.^{I.}

I. The writer was born and reared near Roanoke and is familiar with the conditions as they have been described.

The United States Census gives the following:

Dates	Population.
1890	631.
1900	1155.
1910	2034.
1920	3841. ^{1.}
1930	4373.

The record of the first census of Roanoke is given
in History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography.^{2.}
This was in 1888 and showed the the population to be 350.
In 1920 there were 802 dwellings and 845 families in Roanoke.^{3.}

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1. United States Census for the dates given above.
 2. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography.
Volume II. Page 1207. By Thomas M Owen.
 3. United States Census for 1920.

White men found some Indians in Randolph County and in Roanoke in 1835.¹ In 1836 the town which was then called High Pine was burned by the Indians.² Captain Weathers told me that there were no encounters between the Whites and the Indians who lived in Roanoke. He stated further that after 1836 no more Indians were to be seen in Roanoke. Captain Weathers is now about Ninety years old. His memory is good and his statements are verified by such records as are to be found concerning much of the very early history of Roanoke.

The first White settlers in Randolph County came almost entirely from Fayette County Georgia. Previous to the Civil War Randolph County was given largely to stockraising. Cotton was the only important field crop.³ The earliest White settlers whose names are on record are James Hawthorne, Hugh Hawthorne, James Scales, Wiley Mc Clendon, and Joseph Baker.⁴ Miss. Liza Wood was the first White Child born in Randolph County. She was married to a Mr. Fletcher Hayes. She and her husband once lived in Roanoke. This was about 1860.⁵

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1. Memorial Record of Alabama. Volume II. Page 867.
 2. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. Page 1268.
 3. Our State - Alabama. Marie Bankhead Owen. 724 - 5. Department of Archives and History.
 4. Oral statement of Captain B.F. Weathers of Roanoke. Birmingham News Sunday, October 15, 1922.
 5. Oral statement of Captain B.F. Weathers of Roanoke.

Chapter II.

It must be borne in mind that the country surrounding the town of Roanoke was almost an unbroken forest when the Creek Indians gave it up and moved away. Life in the town in its early days was not very different from life in general over the entire County. The first settlers were required to build their houses from logs cut within a few yards of the place where the building was to be erected. One of the greatest problems was to dispose of the large trees which stood every where and very close together. No one dreamed that within almost the life of an individual that none of these original trees of many varieties could be found left. With an ax and a cross cut saw the men cut down trees and sawed them in such manner that they could be made the walls of their houses. Small pine poles were used for rafters on which were placed laths which had been split from small logs. Boards usually three feet long made the roofing for the houses.

It is not to be understood that poverty was necessary the reason for these conditions. As soon as many of the early settlers had established themselves in temporary as has been described, they began to build more comfortable ones. The plan of building dwelling houses from logs continued in adjoining territory to the town of Roanoke down to the time when the writer can well remember.

The furnishings of the homes were the necessary things for comfort. In many homes there was not enough of the real necessities. No comparison with modern conveniences is to be thought of.

The roads leading into Roanoke were not much more than wide trails through the forests. In order that the truth of this statement may be a little more fully appreciated, the writer will give an account of his first day in school. My father went with my brother and me my first day. This was in 1895. We walked along one

of the principal roads leading to town. It is today the main road between Roanoke and Wedowee. My father did not expect to spend the day at school. He carried with him a small hatchett. With this he cut the bark on some trees by the roadside in order that we boys would not get lost on our way home in the afternoon. The distance was three miles and we did not pass any houses on our way to school.

The early settlers were a sturdy race. They were in the true sense a pioneer people. They were willing to endure hardships for they knew well that life in an unbroken forest meant a life of hardship. These people on the whole were considered to be religious. It is true that they did not possess many of the qualities of culture and refinement of their descendants of today. They were truthful and honest. They loved, trusted, and respected their neighbors. Very soon the idea of building a town took hold of these people. They gave schools and churches first consideration.

Another story will throw a little light upon early conditions from another angle. The first County Court of Randolph County was held at Mr. Hedgemon's Ferry on the West bank of the Big Tallapoosa River about ten miles west of Wedowee. Here in November in 1883 Judge Archibald Sawyer sat on a log and leaned against an oak tree while presiding over the court. In February of 1834, the first Commissioner's Court was held under a large mulberry tree near Mr. Hedgemon's home. The proceedings of this court were written with a pencil on poplar bark for there was no writing paper nearer than Wetumpka Alabama,^{I.}

I. Our State, Alabama. Department of Archives and History.

Chapter II.

Life among the early settlers of Roanoka was not without its amusements. In general their social life was characteristic of rural pioneer life. Almost every one would engage in the dance. In many homes whisky was kept, but strange to say there was very little public drunkenness. Very little was thought about a person taking a drink, but any one who would get drunk was criticised very severely as an intemperate man. Ladies would not dance with a man who was drinking. Social dramdrinking was a common practice.

On occasions when a circus was in town there would be seen some drunkenness and fighting. A similar condition existed on the Christmas Holidays. People usually went to town from the country on foot, horseback, or in wagons drawn either by oxen or horses. Occasionally it would happen that the drivers of the teams would spend the night in what was called the wagon yard which was built for the convenience of the people from the country. If it should happen that a man drank so heavily that he could not make his way home in an orderly manner, he might be kept over night in a house prepared for him and popularly called the Callaboose. One outstanding characteristic of these people was their democratic spirit. If a man needed help his friends and neighbors were very ready to give him assistance. Some forms of amusement were horse racing, cockfighting, and wrestling. There was very little gambling and betting was usually paid in drinks and not in money.

There was among the people of this early period a growing feeling that a higher standard of morals should be adopted. Temperance societies were organized in Randolph County very soon after the County was organized. Church members were often excluded from the church for misconduct. Randolph County was one of the first counties to vote for State Prohibition.

I. Oral statements of Mr. John W. Faucett and Captain Weathers.
for nearly forty years.

Some further idea may be gained of the extent to which the whisky business was carried on by referring to a statement of Mr. John W. Faucett. He stated that during his mayorship of Roanoke, which was a few years before the Prohibition Law went into effect, that in one year \$100,000 worth of whisky was sold. He stated that a car load of bottles, jugs, and other kinds of containers were ordered in which to handle the whisky. It gives a better idea of the quantity of whisky handled when it is said that it was very cheap. Possibly the very best grade of whisky could be bought for two dollars a gallon. Mr. Faucett stated further that a very considerable revenue was raised for the town by placing a tax on the sale of whisky.

The saloon as it was called was followed by the dispensary which reduced the sale of whisky very much. During the time that the traffic in whisky was great there were forces at work for prohibition. By the time that the idea of an amendment to the Constitution was in the minds of the voters, the citizens of Roanoke had passed a law prohibiting the sale of whisky.

To-day perhaps it would be difficult to find a city of equal population which is freer from violation of the National Prohibition Law than Roanoke. Credit for this is due to many individuals as well as to temperance society movements. There is a civic pride among the citizens which is powerful in matters of law enforcement.

The Roanoke Leader, the only newspaper published in Roanoke, published weekly, and edited by Mr. O.H. Stevenson has been a powerful agency in setting a high standard of moral conduct. Possibly Mr. Stevenson through his paper has done more than any other one thing to bring about the excellent moral and religious conditions in Roanoke and its surroundings because of the firm stand which the Leader has maintained for nearly forty years.

Chapter II Concluded.

II.

It may be appropriate to add a word at this time concerning the financial conditions of the counties of Randolph, Chambers, Lee, and Tallapoosa. During the Carpet Bag Rule in Alabama many counties in Alabama including the ones named above lost their power to govern themselves. They then became known as Strangled Counties. This condition or state of affairs retarded any material progress for a period of time. To compensate in a measure for this when the Carpet Bag rule was over, the State exempted these counties from taxation for a period of time and extended loans in money to them.^{I.}

In this connection with respect to the Civil War Period a word of the attitude toward the War will probably be helpful in appreciating the situation a little better. Governor Shorter said that there was unrest in several northern counties among the Poor Whites. This was the situation in Randolph County where armed bands were not only defying conscript officers, but stormed a jail and released a body of prisoners.^{2.}

Reference to the Civil War will be made later on but this will probably give some idea that there were people in the county who were very much opposed to the War.^{3.}

1. Alabama History. By A.B.Moore. Page 616.

2. Ibid.

3. The writer knows personally several people in Randolph County who were not in with the South in The Civil War.

Chapter III.

There have been in general three types of buildings represented in the homes in Roanoke. As has been stated already the first houses were only temporary ones. These were soon replaced by a one story building which had the general shape of the letter L. On the side facing the street were two rooms similar in every respect. Between these two rooms was a wide hall which was sometimes simply an open way between the two rooms. In some instances this hall was a closed one. Extending almost the entire length of the two rooms was a porch. Usually the entrance from the front was a flight of steps leading upon the porch directly in front of the hall. At the opposite ends of each of these rooms from the hall was an open fire place. The chimneys stood on the outside of the rooms. On either side of the chimneys was a window. Opposite one or the other of these rooms was another room sometimes about the same dimensions of the other rooms. Just as in the case of the two front rooms there was sometimes a hall between these two rooms. There was usually a door leading out into the open from either side of this third room. Sometimes there was a porch on the side of this third room adjacent to the hall between the front rooms. There was a chimney to this third room also similar to the ones already mentioned. The roof of this type of building was very simple. The ridge pole extended the entire length of the two rooms which faced the street. This plan was such that all of the rafters were of the same length. There were only two sides of the roof except on the partially closed portion of the letter as was formed by the plan. Here in what was called the valley there were some short rafters. These buildings were made from lumber. Many of the were not ceiled. There was no attempt at ornamentation.

As evidence of what has been said of this type of building one may find today buildings to which some additions have been made but upon examination it will be seen that the original plan was as has been described. There is one house which is on one of the principal streets that resembles very much the type which has been mentioned.

The second type of home was to begin a two story structure. This kind of building resembles very much the ante bellum buildings. There were wide and long halls so arranged so that there was much wasted space. So far as convenience was concerned there was little in favor of this kind of building. The distance from the floor to the ceiling was very great. There was considerable effort at ornamentation. In a general way these buildings required a great deal of unnecessary building material.

The furnishings were in keeping with the general plan of the buildings. Rather than the necessary furnishings, there was something of the idea of display in evidence. What would be considered antique to-day was the nature of the furniture. Many modern conveniences were lacking, of course, but in the best of the homes were to be found such conveniences as were in general use in large towns and cities.

The third type of building was the bungalow. It is the prevailing type of the new homes to-day. This design is a one story structure. Unlike the last type referred to there has been every effort possible made to economize in material and at the same time to have as little unused space as possible. There is no uniformity of design yet there is some similarity in the buildings of this type. In these new homes are to be found all modern conveniences to be found any where to-day. It is possible for any one interested in this question to find some of the three types of homes by making a visit to Roanoke.

Before the Civil War there were no business enterprises in Roanoke except on a very small scale. The first store in Roanoke was operated by Messrs. J.M.Baker and Wiley Mc Clendon. The location of this store was the present site of the Handley High School. The stock of goods consisted of general merchandise and whisky. The first saw mill and the first grist mill in the vicinity of Roanoke were operated by water power. They were located on High Pine Creek which flows near the incorporate limits of Roanoke.

Mr. Pollard Rhodes who was a local Methodist preacher had a tan yard in Roanoke. This was a small one and also the first one. The first inn was called the McDonald Hotel. Mr. John A. Moore was the first lawyer of Roanoke. He was a teacher also. Captain B.F. Weathers from whom the writer has received much first hand information of the conditions of Roanoke in its early days was once a student of Mr. Moore.^I

I. From Anson West's History of Methodism in Alabama. This was taken from the Birmingham News of October 15, 1922.

Captain B. F. Weathers gave the writer an oral statement which verified the above reference.

Chapter IV. Continued.

The following are the principal business enterprises of

Roanoke to-day:

The Merchants and Farmers Bank.

The Roanoke Banking Company.

The Handley Manufacturing Company.

Smith Doll Factory.

Cotton Warehouse Company.

Cotton Seed Oil Company.

Roanoke Fertilizer Company.

Roanoke Ice Company.

Grist Mill.

Plaining Mill.

A. and P. Stores.

China Ware Manufacturing Company.

Roanoke Syrup Manufacturing Company.

The Roanoke Leader.

There are a number of general supply stores.

The writer remembers that for fully thirty years Roanoke has been a cotton market. There are some very good reasons why this is true. The location of the city with respect to the cotton growing area made the matter of marketing cotton a relative convenient thing considering the modes of carrying goods at that time. The fact that many business man in Roanoke owned fairly large farms in Randolph and Chambers County resulted in the marketing of the cotton in Roanoke for the people who produced the cotton had rented the land on which the cotton was grown and had bought their supplies from the landholders on a credit. It was the only practical thing which could have been done for the farmer to take his cotton to the man who had furnished him his supplies.

As has already been mentioned a branch of the Central of Georgia Railroad extended from Roanoke to Opelika. This made the shipment of cotton from Roanoke fairly easy. With the coming of the Atlanta, Birmingham, and Atlantic Railroad still better conditions for shipping came to be possible. Without the advantages offered by these railroads it is likely that Roanoke would not have grown to be a cotton market on as large scale as it did. Records as they have been kept by the city show that as much as 10,000 bales of cotton have been on the market during the best crop years of late date.

The earliest reference to the Methodist Church in Roanoke is found in Anson West's History of Methodism in Alabama. The date is 1839. Reverend John T. Roper was on the Randolph Circuit which included the Methodist Church of Roanoke. The following men served as pastors on the Circuit: R.F.Martin, M.L.Whitten, J.B.Stevenson, W.F.Pattillo, and D.L.Parish. These men served before Roanoke was made a station.^{1.} Mr. L.M.Stevenson who is a member of the Methodist Church and the Superintendent of the Sunday School of the Methodist Church of Roanoke thinks that it was about 1893 that the Methodist Church of Roanoke became a station. That means that the church had a full time pastor all its own. Since this church has been a station the following men have served as pastors: Frank W. Brandon, R.I.Walston, J.W.Norton, G.L.Jenkins, W.T.Andrews, L.L.Dobbs, E.W.Glenn, R.E.Taylor, J.A.Brock, Claude O'Rear, T.L. McDonald,^{2.} George Stoves, and Hugh E.Ellis who is the present pastor.

Mr. L.M.Stevenson says that in all of the history of the Church Sunday School that there have been only three Superintendents. The first one was Mr. J.L.Gresham who served only a year or two. He was succeeded by MR. J.C.Hornsby who served thirty five years. Mr. L.M. became Superintendent in 1918 and is in this position at the present time. Mr. Stevenson says that the present membership of the Church is about 750. The Sunday School membership, including the Home Department is more than 450. The Missionary Society has about 100 members and the Epworth League has about 40.

1. Birmingham News October 15, 1922. (From Anson West's History).

2. Ibid.

3. Mr. L.M.Stevenson is has lived in Roanoke for a long time. He is a prominent citizen and leader in Religious work. He told the writer much that has been said above in regard to the Methodist Church of Roanoke.

According to a statement of Mr. L.M.Stevenson there have been at least three different locations for the Methodist Church building. The first place was on the grounds of the cemetery of the town to-day. The second was on the present site of the Handley High School. The present building located on Main Street is a modern brick structure and was erected in 1905. Dr. George Stoves who is pastor of the First Methodist Church of Nashville Tennessee was pastor of the Roanoke Church when the present building was completed. In connection with the Church there is a pastorium. Both the church building and the pastorium are modern and would be a credit to a larger city.

Unfortunately there is not as much in the way of records of any other church in Roanoke as is to be found of the Methodist Church. The Presbyterians organized a church in Roanoke on May 25, 1902. The building is a modest wooden structure. The membership is small but it represents some of the outstanding business and professional men of the city . The writer knows personally a good many of the members of this church and remembers the time when the church was organized and the building erected.

The Christian Church in Roanoke was organized about ten years ago. Reverend Milligan Ernest who lives in Auburn and is connected with the College at Auburn was very largely responsible for the organization of this church. The building and pastorium are modern. The membership is small but is growing and represents a progressive people. There is in Roanoke another branch of the Christian Church.

The corner stone of the building bears the date 1926.

In Lowell, the section of the city in which the Handley Manufacturing Company is located, are to be found Churches of the same faith as those already mentioned. Not all of the churches in Lowell have buildings in which to worship, but there is an auditorium

in Lowell built by the Handley Manufacturing Company in which these churches hold their services.

It is not definitely known but it is believed that the Baptist Church was represented in the early thirties in Roanoke by Reverend Wiley Mc Clendon. Following his ministry there was a period in which it is difficult to find any thing very definite concerning the work of this church. A Mr. Benager Goss is mentioned in connection with the Baptist Church before the Civil War. After the Civil War the following names are connected with the Church as its pastors: John and Reuben Cumbie, J.P.Shaffer, Dr. Colquitt, Arnold S.Smith, H.C.Risner, T.S.Hubert, Frank Farrington, J.W.Rucker, and W.P.Hines. W.E.Lockler is the present pastor. The Baptists erected a modern church building and pastorium on Main Street in 1901.

Possibly it would not be just to mention the names of any families or individuals who have been the foremost ones in the Baptist Church for there has been excellent cooperation among the entire membership which has made it possible for the church to do a very great deal in the larger and broader sense of the word. Some of the wealthy people of the town are members of this church and have given very liberally of their time and means in matters of social and religious undertakings.^{I.}

I. Birmingham News October 15, 1922.

The Birmingham News through its Representative Frank Willis Barnett collected the greater part of the above account. Mr. Barnett visited Roanoke just as the writer has done and talked to some of the oldest citizens. He also referred to Anson West's History of Methodism In Alabama.

The first school building in Roanoke was erected in 1848.

The first teacher was Mr. Connelley Cone according to a statement of Captain B.F. Weathers who remembers this distinctly. This was the beginning of the schools of Roanoke. From this came the Roanoke Normal College which was one of the many schools in the State to receive a charter from the State. Perhaps Dr. John P. Shaffer who was president of this college in its earliest days had more to do with shaping the courses and policies of the school than any other individual.

Closely associated with him was Captain William A. Handley. Mr. Handley was at one time a man of considerable wealth and was greatly interested in the schools of Roanoke.

Dr. Shaffer was pastor of the Baptist Church of Roanoke at the same time he was president of the College. He conceived the idea of making the school a boarding school. During week ends Dr. Shaffer visited neighboring towns and communities including Lafayette, Milltown, and Lineville. On these occasions he preached and lectured. In this way he aroused much interest in his school. A real school spirit was aroused and spread to other communities. As a result a number of schools similar to The Roanoke Normal College were established. The ones at Lafayette, Lineville, and Ashland may be mentioned. A word further of Dr. Shaffer's work was that his influence was such over Captain William A. Handley that Mr. Handley joined the Baptist Church and at the age of 68 was baptized by Dr. Shaffer.^{I.}

I. Oral statements of Mr. J.C. Faucett and Mr. B.F. Weathers.

Also Birmingham News October 15, 1922.

The first building of the of the Roanoke Normal College was erected in 1874. The door was opened for students in 1875. Dr. John P. Shaffer was the first President. By an act of the Legislature the school received a charter on February 6, 1889. The first board of trustees was composed of the following men: W.A.Handley, G.W. Hill, W.E.White, H.M.Mickle, Thomas F.Pate, Samuel Faucett, and D. Manley. All of these men were public spirited and were eager to carry forward the work of creating a good school system. The School was co-educational from the beginning.

The school had made an excellent beginning when in 1890 the building was destroyed by fire. The generous people of the town under the leadership of Mr. W.A.Handley very soon erected a new building.

This school offered courses in art and science under excellent teachers and the character of the instruction was good. Strict rules were enforced. It was not long before changes in the courses of study and types of schools were being made over the State. It was felt to be best then for the school to pass into the hands of a city board of education in order that it might be made to conform to standardization. This was done and the courses of study were so changed that graduates could enter college without any difficulty.

The presidents of the school before it was taken over by the city board of education were J.P.Shaffer, George W. Stevens, R.M. Crawford, John T. Bowen, R.C.Little, and J.L.Moulder. Soon the building proved to be inadequate to meet the needs and another was built. The old building was destroyed by fire a few years ago and still another has taken its place and is occupied by the Elementary Grades. Many students from adjoining districts the last year of high school in The Roanoke High School.^{I.}

I. Birmingham News October 15, 1922. Oral statements of a number of citizens. The writer was once a student in The Roanoke Schools.

Chapter V. Continued.

The Knight - Enloe School is located in the Lowell Section of Roanoke. In this school are to be found excellent teachers and all conveniences to be seen in the best schools anywhere.

Just on the edge of the southern part of the town is the Randolph County Training School, a Rosenwald School which promises to be a helpful in the community. The plant of this school is first class. There are two buildings. In the main building there are seven classrooms. Near the main building there is a smaller one where work is done along vocational lines. There are twenty acres of land which offer opportunities for agricultural experiments. Truck farming is carried on for the purpose of training as well as for furnishing some of the supplies needed by the school.

According to the records in the office of Superintendent L.L. James, the enrollment for the year 1929 was for whites 1397 and colored 532, making a total of 1929.

Superintendent L.L. James has held the position of Superintendent for the past eleven years. During this time the school system has made more than usual progress. Superintendent James is an active man in every worthy undertaking in the growth and development of the interests of the city. He is an active Church and Sunday School worker. His interest does not end with his own community. He is well known over the entire section of the State in which Roanoke is located and is one of the best citizens of the County as well as an outstanding educator.

Chapter V. Concluded.

Roanoke is fortunate in that it has a modern Sanatorium. The building was erected by Mr. W.H.Knight. It was operated for a brief time while it was owned by Mr.Knight. In 1920 Dr. A.J. Gay purchased the property and has operated it since that time. The building is a fire proof structure. It is a standard hospital having sixty two beds. It maintains a training school for nurses, has two laboratories, X Ray equipment, radium therapy, its own laundry, and ice plant together with other modern facilities.^{I.}

There is more than usual perhaps in Roanoke in the matter of clubs and other kinds of organizations. The following are the most active and important: Literary Club, Music Study, Parent Teacher's Association, Athletic Club, and League of Women Voters. The following Fraternal Organizations are to be noted: Masons, Knights Templars No. 30., Roanoke Lodge No. 132 A.F. and A.M., Roanoke Chapter Royal Arch Masons, Roanoke Camp Red Men, Roanoke Camp W.O.W.^{2.}

There is an athletic field which is almost a natural bowl. It is the gift of the late Mr. J.C.Wright. This property has been improved by the expenditure of more than \$2000.^{3.}

1. History of Alabama. By Moore. Volume II. Page 378.

2. Birmingham News October 15, 1922.

3. Ibid.

The writer has seen the athletic field.

Roanoke sent out two companies during the Civil War. The first Company went out on July 4, 1861. Captain John T. Smith was in command of this Company. The Second Company went out on September 9, 1861 led by Captain William E. White.

Captain B.F. Weathers was a student in Roanoke at the time the Civil War broke out. On August 12, 1861 he was commissioned by Governor Andrew B. Moore Second Lieutenant of the Dowdell Rangers of Randolph County. He went out under Captain William E. White and on September 18 was mustered into the Confederate service Company E Seventeenth Alabama Infantry as First Lieutenant with Thomas H. Watts Colonel of the Regiment.

Captain Weathers was at Pensacola at the destruction of the navy yard. He commanded his company at the famous battle of Shiloh in which the Federal General Prentice together with his whole division of 2700 men was captured in an open field. Lieutenant Weathers, he was a lieutenant at this time, entered the field for the fight with only 47 men and when the battle was over there were only seven men of his command including himself left. After this battle was over General Bragg promoted Lieutenant Weathers to the rank of Captain.
I.

I. Oral statement of Captain Weathers.

Birmingham News October 15, 1922.

The first company which went from Roanoke was called Company I and was made up largely from the neighborhood of Roanoke. It was the Roanoke Mitchell Invincibles. This name was in honor of Colonel Julius C.B. Mitchell who was afterwards made Lieutenant of the Regiment. As has already been stated its first Captain was John T. Smith. Captain Smith was killed in the battle of Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863. His superior Captain Martin Wood was mortally wounded on the same battlefield.

This Company was recorded as Company I Thirteenth Regiment Alabama Volunteers. It was called called Captain Lawson D. Ford^{3s} Company. It served from July 19, 1861 to December 31, 1864.^{I.}

I. C.B. Ford signed his name to the above statement as First Sergeant.

The writer had access to the original copy of the above statement in The Department of Archives and History at Montgomery.

Below are the names, places of birth, and occupations of the men who enlisted for service in the Confederacy from Roanoke.

Name	Place of birth	Occupation.
John T. Smith	Georgia	Teacher.
Thomas W.S.Hendon	Georgia	Merchant.
William D. Payne	Georgia	Painter.
William D.Davis	Georgia	Grocer.
Lawson D. Ford	Virginia	Mechanic.
David R.S.Howe	Georgia	Mechanic.
William H.Henry	Alabama	Farmer.
Thomas Embrey	Georgia	Farmer.
John A. Adcock	Alabama.....	Farmer.
William W. Andrews	Georgia	Farmer.
Elijah Burshep	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Thadeus Burshep	Alabama	Farmer.
William C.Beverly	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Nathan T. Beverly	Georgia	Farmer.
James H.H.Bailey	Georgia	Farmer.
William Barfield	Georgia	Farmer.
James Cummings	Ireland	Farmer.
James W. Clark	Alabama	Farmer.
Isham Craddock	Virginia	Farmer.
Christopher C. Crasson .	Georgia.....	Farmer.
James Culbertson	Georgia	Farmer.
William Chewning	Alabama.....	Farmer.
George Chewning	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Coley Williams	Georgia.....	Farmer.

I.

Chapter VI. Continued.

Name	Place of birth	Occupation.
Sebron Camp	Georgia	Farmer.
John H. Davis	Georgia	Farmer.
Madison O. Duke	Georgia	Farmer.
Thomas H. Dunn	Georgia	Farmer.
Thomas J. East	Alabama	Farmer.
William M. Ellis	Georgia	Farmer.
Elias East	Alabama	Farmer.
Cicero J. East	Alabama	Farmer.
Henry W. East	Alabama	Farmer.
Thomas A. Eason	Alabama	Farmer.
Benjamin F. Estes	Georgia	Farmer.
James A. Folsom	Alabama	Farmer.
Chesley B. Ford	Virginia	Mechanic.
William D. Ford	Virginia	Mechanic.
Robert B. Fergeson	Alabama	Farmer.
William I. Green	Georgia	Farmer.
James Fergeson	Alabama	Farmer.
Martin P. Pittman	Alabama	Farmer.
William G. Pittman	Alabama	Farmer.
Henry C. Patterson	Alabama	Farmer.
George M. Patterson	Alabama	Farmer.
James B. Phillips	Georgia	Farmer.
William G. Osburne	Alabama	Farmer.
Thomas S. Phillips	Alabama	Farmer.
James B. Phillips Jr. ..	Alabama	Farmer.
William G. Phillips	Alabama	Farmer.
Henry Payne	Alabama	Farmer.
Ashbury Parrott	Alabama	Farmer.
John G. Posy	Alabama	Farmer.
Needham M. Perryman	Georgia	Farmer.

Chapter VI. Continued.

Name	Place of birth.....	Occupation.
Columbus D. Reeves.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
John A.Reynolds.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Josiah Reynolds.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
George A.Ramsey.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Henry C.Robertson.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Thomas J.Robertson.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
William Raney	Georgia	Farmer.
Thomas C.Sherrer	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Thomas J. Sherrer.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Joseph Spratling	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Seborn S. Spratling...	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Martin V. Spratling ..	Alabama.....	Farmer.
John M.Spratling.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Robert F. Shirley	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Gahaza Slaton	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Andrew Y. Slay.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Samuel D. Sanders.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
James D. Sanders.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
William D. Timple.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
James Thomiston.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Lafayette Turley.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Warrington P.Wood.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
William T.Winsor.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Ashbury J.Wilf.....	Alabama,.....	Farmer.
Woodard Gray.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
George Buford	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Henry P.White.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Andrew J.White.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
W.S.Thomas	Georgia.....	Merchant.

Chapter VI. Continued.

Name.....	Place of birth.....	Occupation.
Nathan B.Green.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Joseph M. Green.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
James J. Grant.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Thomas J. Grant	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Joseph Grant	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Green A. Gann	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Thomas C. Gladney	Alabama.	Farmer.
Francis M. Garrison.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Felise Gallant.....
Francis M. Howe	Georgia.....	Mechanic.
Isaac C. Hendon	Georgia.....	Farmer.
James Hendon	Georgia	Farmer.
James A. Henderson.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Nathans L. Hutchins	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Wiley B. Hutchins	Georgia.....	Mechanic.
James Hightower.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Edward S. Hand	Georgia.....	Farmer.
James Heath	Alabama.	Farmer.
Joseph B. Hunt	Georgia.....	Farmer.
William Johns.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Daniel B. Johnson.....	Georgia	Farmer.
William B. Johnson	Alabama.....	Farmer.
N.G. Johnson	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Henry S. Kidd.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Thomas A. Knowls.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
John L. Lennard.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Jefferso L. Lanier.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Thomas C. Moore	Alabama.....	Farmer.
William H. Moore	Alabama.....	Farmer.

Name.....	Place of birth.....	Occupation.
Jesse D. Moore	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Joseph Mc Clendon.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Wiley E. Mc Clendon.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
James M. May.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Francis M. May	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Joel Mooty.....	Georgia.....	Farmer.
George P. Norred.....	Alabama.....	Farmer.
Thadeus Pool	Georgia.....	Farmer.
Napoleon Pool	Georgia.....	Farmer.

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I. Department OF Archives And History.

Soon after the South regained control of the State Government some precaution was taken in the matter of securing permanent control of the State's affairs by organizing volunteer companies in different sections of Alabama.

James A. Gilmer wrote a letter to J. Barron in which a request was made for the privilege to organize a volunteer company. A further request was that John C. Wright be made a commissioned officer with power to perfect the Organization. The company was to be called the Louisa Guards. # S.O. 84. This letter was dated September 2, 1864. Gilmer secured such information as was necessary, but so far as the record goes the company was not organized.

The following was the language in which the men wished to express their desires and intentions:

The State of Alabama, Randolph County.

We the undersigned hereby agree to form ourselves into an organized volunteer company and hereby agree and bind ourselves to comply with and obey all laws and regulations governing the same.
Signed: J.C. Wright, Tyler Phillips, Hylden Gileson, A.D. Richardson, C.M. Liles, Wyatt Heflin, John T. Heflin, J.H. Liles, J.R. McCain, G. Gay, M. Handley, N.L. Gray, T.A. Stephens, J.R.S. McCain, Wyatt Barnes, A.J. Kent, J.D. Wilder, J.P. Liles, J.W. Stewart, W.B. Gilbert, M.M. Barrow, R.N. Liles, W.L. Stewart, L.W. Lilies, W.S. Richards, T.E. Kent, W.H. Stewart, W.G. Green, E.G. Williams, T.W. Embrey, R. Richardson, John M. Gay, D.E. Denny, W.H. Welch, John J. Culpepper, Rufus Forrester, I.
T.M. Dorsey, R.S. Davis, A.M. Pinckard, and W.W. Heflin.

I. Original manuscript in Department of Archives and History.

SUMMARY.

In this brief manner an effort has been to give a sketch of the town of Roanoke Alabama historically for a period of practically one hundred years. During this period the changes which have taken place have been slowly but continuously in a progressive way.

From a wilderness in which the Red Man roamed at will to a modern city of more than four thousand people who are prosperous, contented, and happy gives something of the changes which have taken place in one hundred years.

There seem to be no records officially showing that there were any volunteers in the Spanish American War from Roanoke. Mr. John W. Fuller who has been living in Randolph County for more than fifty years states that a Mr. Sollie Shivers of Roanoke volunteered and entered the Spanish American War. He states further that Mr. Shivers served the entire time in which the War was in progress and after the War was over returned to Roanoke. Mr. Fuller says that Mr. Shivers now lives in Florida.

Roanoke was not a station for enlisting men for service in the World War but many men enlisted who lived in Roanoke. It is not practical to give the names of all the men who lived in Roanoke for many men who did not live in the city received their mail by Rural Delivery from the city and for this reason they would have given Roanoke as their home.

The Quadrennial Report of the Adjutant General of Alabama shows the following to be the enlistment for Randolph County:
Enlistments and Voluntary Inductions for the County - White. 107.
Whites inducted by Local Boards by Calls-443- Colored- 176.
Total white and colored enlisted and inducted in the army- 726.
Total white and colored registrants, all registrants-4,910.

The same report shows that the following men who enlisted and went to the War from Roanoke were killed or died from disease:
Jesse B. Cummings, Private, killed in action, October 25, 1918.
Henry F. Mickle, Private, killed by accident, June 17, 1918.
George G. Oneal, Private, died of disease, April 13, 1919.
Alonzo C. Shanks, Sergeant, died of disease, September 30, 1918.
Lem W. Slaughter, Private, killed in action, November 11, 1918.
Walter T. Thompson, Private, died of disease, December 6, 1917. I.

Chapter VI. Continued.

Soon after the South regained control of the State Government some precaution was taken in the matter of securing permanent control of the State's affairs by organizing volunteer companies in different sections of Alabama.

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I. Original manuscript in Department of Archives and History.

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