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Personal Writings - 1905, September 22 - Sketch of Cleveland County

Madge Webb Riley

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A Brief Sketch
of ^{by} ^{Madge Webb} ^{Riley}
Cleveland County
North Carolina ^{Same}

Cleveland is a comparatively new county - It was formed in the year 1841 from the old counties of Rutherford and Lincoln - It is bounded on the south by the state of South Carolina, and joins Gaston, Lincoln, and Rutherford counties, the northern extremity touching Burke, and it contains

2-

275,000 acres of land.

The county was named in honor of Col. Benjamin Cleveland, who was one of the revolutionary heroes engaged in the decisive battle of King's Mountain, which was fought just across the line in South Carolina. The soldiers in this battle, coming chiefly from Western North Carolina, marched directly through the country now known as Cleveland, and engaged the forces of Colonel Ferguson only thirteen miles from the

spot where the county seat is now situated - Shelby, the county seat, takes its name from Colonel Shelby, another one of the famous King's Mountain commanders -

It is asserted upon uncertain authority, that Grover Cleveland is a descendant of the same family, though we doubt whether we have a right to claim kinship with the "greatest American citizen". Mr Cleveland in a letter to a prominent N C paper said that he did not

belong to the family of
 Benjamin - The country belongs
 to the great Piedmont belt of
 the State, and the soil,
 of course, is principally a
 clay; it is watered, however,
 by the two Broad rivers
 and several large creeks,
 along which is situated
 thousands of acres of the
 richest alluvial bottoms
 to be found in any old
 coast State - One of these
 creeks (Buffalo) is particularly
 noted for the large quantity
 and wonderful fertility of
 its bottoms - This remark-
 able stream has its source

at the foot of South Mountain, in the extreme north, and flows the entire length of the county, twenty five miles - for twenty miles it will average a hundred acres of low lands to the mile. The surface is hilly in the northern part of the county, and rolling in the middle and southern sections - Every thing that grows in North Carolina can be grown in Cleveland (except rice) with more or less profit - The soil and climate is admirably adapted to a large variety of crops, as the statistics for the staples will readily

2
show. The most valued
product, I mean the one
whose total foot up our
money, is at present cotton.

The forest lands
comprise at least sixty
per cent of the area
and very valuable wood
of the State, except the
Coast growth is to be
found here. The manufact-
uring industries of the
country are as yet in
their infancy. Still the
people show that they
are not unmindful of
the importance of this
branch of the world's work.

Big Cotton Mills we
now have -

Among the
valuable minerals found
in the county are, iron,
silver, gold, copper, zinc,
plumbago, coke, diamond,
tourmaline - garnet,
amethyst, kaphite and
barite; most important
is mica + monazite -

Cleveland county prides
herself on her
excellent school facilities -

The Press is represented
by two branches in Shelby
The Cleveland Star and
The Shelby Aurora.

Wealth is distributed with remarkable equality in Cleveland. Everybody has something - there are no very rich people, and no very poor ones.

The people of Cleveland County take their ancestry from England - Scotland, and the German and Dutch countries of Europe. The Dutch element is exceedingly strong, and even gives itself in the fact that everybody in the county knows how to make and to eat the Dutch great dish - sauer kraut. They are a conservative, peaceful, and law abiding

people, and in the times
 that try men's souls, whether
 in clivatic war, or in the
 gentler but more trying
 times of peace, when dread
 pestilence sweeps any part
 of our land, calling for
 sympathy, the sacrifice
 of money or life, they are
 never found wanting -
 Four religious denominations
 comprise all the believers
 of the land - the Baptists -
 Methodists - Presbyterians &
 Episcopalians - The people
 are remarkable for their
 church going qualities - They
 all go to Church - saints
 and sinners - go rain or shine,

with a faithfulness and regularity that is simply wonderful to the unorthodox -

Politically, the country is decided by Democracy, - The people do not take as much interest in politics as in some other sections, which doubtless arises from the fact that it is so one sided - Every man is allowed to profess any political creed. That man seems best to himself without molestation by any one. No charge of fraud has ever been made against the people, even by

the most "enthusiastic"
political liars—

Cleveland is
a great summer resort—
Sited under the shadow
of the Blue Ridge, and
constantly refreshed by
the cool breezes from its
lofty summit, its hotels
are always filled during the
summer by the health and
pleasure seekers from the
eastern part of the State—
There are four sulphur
springs in the county—
The largest and most
important of these is
situated a mile & a quarter
from Shelby and is called
Cleveland Springs— Five kinds

of water are to be found
on the premises - freestone -
chalybeate - iron - red sulphur
and white sulphur -

Cleveland County is
connected with the outer
world by splendid rail -
road facilities -

The farms are in a most
flourishing condition -

The area of Cleveland is
420 miles - The population
25,075 - The R F - D's
are all over the county
also railroads telegraph
& telephone systems and
express companies -
a hearty welcome given
to strangers who enter our

own Chelmsford County

Madge Louisa Webb

Sept - 22nd 1905

1920

1905

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