

Immigrant Colonies of North Carolina

Diane L. Richard examines the period of the late 19th and early 20th century

AFTER THE CIVIL WAR, AND especially after the 1870 census, many formerly enslaved people started moving from the South to the midwest and northeast. They were not the only ones to leave a beleaguered state like North Carolina, which the war left impoverished. Many started migrating out to find a chance for a better life and employment, experience possibly less discrimination, be reunited with forcibly separated families, and more.

Though post-Civil War immigration to southern states was never large, it did occur and is a segment of the population not to be overlooked. Ultimately, we see from the 1900 census that the “entire south ... had only about six per cent of the foreign-born population of the United States.” [Immigration to the Southern States, see box elsewhere in this article for source details]

Southern Immigrant Bureaus

With the above context in mind, let’s explore some of the earliest efforts in North Carolina. Please leverage this information and types of resources to explore this same concept in the other southern states.

From “Leonidas Lafayette Polk and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture: Part I: The Genesis of the Department” [see

THE WESTERN SENTINEL, THURSDAY, APRIL 23,

ATTENTION, FARMERS.
A CIRCULAR FROM THE FORSYTH IMMIGRATION SOCIETY.

Inviting Correspondence From Planters Who Have More Land Than They can Successfully Cultivate, as Well as From Those From Neighboring Counties Who are Desirous of Locating in this Immediate Section.

TO FARMERS AND LAND OWNERS:
 There has recently been effected in the community of Winston-Salem, an organization to be known as the Forsyth Immigration Society, which has for its objects the location and permanent settlement of additional farmers in this section, and for the further purpose of aiding them in securing homes. It is specially urged that all farmers living within this and adjoining counties report to this organization all surplus lands they may have for sale.

The society acting in connection with the State Immigration Bureau, has peculiar facilities for placing on sale such properties, and for securing good prices. The sole purpose of this organization is for the material development of this section, and it has, therefore, no other interest than to successfully settle men who will become good citizens and industrious farmers.

Thickly settled farming communities not only contribute to the establishment of good markets but enhance the value of the surrounding real-estate.

It is a well-known fact that many of our farmers pay taxes on a great deal more land than they cultivate and could well afford to dispose of a portion with a positive gain to themselves, and at the same time more thoroughly cultivate the balance, which might be made to produce exactly the same beneficial results that came from the cultivation of the original tract.

There are many advantages here to attract settlers, inasmuch as we are able to offer a superior market for all agricultural products. The TOBACCO MARKET, which is the best in the State, is constantly growing. The superior quality of tobacco raised in this section is rapidly attracting the attention of manufacturers and consumers throughout the country, and this fact is constantly increasing the number of buyers in the market, bringing about a competition which results in the highest prices being paid the farmer. There are in Winston-Salem thirty-seven factories which now annually buy, manufacture and sell millions of pounds of tobacco, and these factories alone make a market, to say nothing of the small army of land dealers, who have orders from abroad for millions of pounds more.

EDWARD A. OLDHAM, PUBLISHER SENTINEL. R. B. KERNER, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

KERNER & OLDHAM,
 Winston, N. C.

Authorized Agents of the North Carolina Immigration Bureau for the counties of Forsyth, Stokes, Surry and Yadkin.

A Minute Description of Property Furnished on Application.

Land Owners in the Above Counties Wishing to Sell are Invited to Correspond with us.

The following are some of the many properties we now have on hand for sale :

Article about the formation of the Forsyth Immigration Society and an advertisement for agents of the North Carolina Bureau of Immigration, *Western Sentinel* (Winston-Salem, NC), April 23, 1885, Pg 2.

box] we learn that the following entities were created in the immediate post-Civil War period in North Carolina: (1) North Carolina Land Company which published “Guide to Capitalists and Emigrants,” (2) Bannister, Cowan and Company supported by several prominent North Carolinians partnering with “northerners,” (3) Railroad Immigration

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