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municate information and he delighted in the communication—in the course of his practice he performed some wonderful cures of which there are living Witnesses and it is believed he was the first in this part of the Country who in any great degree introduced Electricity into the Practice of Physic—we know he introduced it with success—when residing in Scotland he wrote some articles for the Second Edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica²⁴ for which he received the thanks of the Compilers and we have reason to believe that had he lived he would on the subject of Medicine have added to our stock of knowledge—

Religion) The religion of this County is divided among the Methodists & Baptists of which the former are the most numerous—the Baptists have four houses of religious Worship the Methodists six²⁵—

Roads) The nature of the soil is favourable to good roads and they are commonly kept in good order—it has been remarked by travellers that the main post road from Lewisburg to Warrenton exhibits as much variety, handsome situations, and pleasant seats, as any road of the same extent in the Southern States

Value of Land) It has been before observed that Franklin is more valued for its pure air and good water than for the richness of its soil—this has induced Gentlemen from the lower parts of the State to purchase summer retreats and in some neighbourhoods considerably enhanced the value of Land—thin land is worth 6 and 7 Dollars per acre, on the Water Courses it sells for 8 or 10 and in other parts of the County may be bought for 3—perhaps the average price is about 4 Dolls

Diseases) The old Inhabitants say that about forty or fifty years ago sickness was unknown unless where people died of casualties old age or intemperance—the recollection of ten years gives strength to this saying—but of late years and particularly in the falls of 1807 and 1809 bilious and inflammatory fevers of a most malignant nature prevailed in this County and were very fatal—it remains for the Faculty to determine whether the malignancy was owing to the strong & robust—constitutions which the diseases attacked or to any other cause—there is no doubt but in this and the adjacent Counties diseases have increased of late years; but we never can believe that the increase of population is the primary cause—the history of other Countries will not warrant the belief—

Franklin is situated in the sixth Congressional District and in writing its History it would be unpardonable not to mention that the Honourable Nathaniel Macon²⁶ Esquire has represented it in Congress for twenty

²⁴ Published, 1777-1784. *The Encyclopaedia Britannica*, IX, 377.

²⁵ The Revolution uprooted Episcopalianism which was strengthening its position in Bute County under the ministrations of Charles Cupples. Edward Hooker wrote of religion in Franklin County in his diary of 1808 as follows: "As to the learned professions, here in the middle country Mr. D. [Dickenson] speaks thus. That of Theology is at low ebb, there being no preachers of education. He has never seen one Presb. clergyman in the state except Mr. Caldwell P. of N. C. Univ. All are Baptists and Methodists and very unlearned and in low estimation in Socy although perhaps very good men. There are many professors of religion, though mostly in humble life. There are however some exceptions. Some rich and honorable Sincere Christians, down below Louisburg. A wide field is open for the production of good by enlightened clergymen." *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1896*, I, 915.

²⁶ Nathaniel Macon of Warren (1757-1837) was the foremost figure in North Carolina politics

years—his talents and integrity please all parties and he continues to possess the increased esteem and confidence of his Constituents—
Raleigh 23^d June 1810

GREENE COUNTY

By TH. HOLLIDAY¹

Hawlanding 14th November 1810

Dear Sir

I herewith forward to you such information as I have been able to collect on the different Subjects requested in Your Letter of March last that was deemed of Sufficient importance to require notice
Greene County²

Face of the Country &c.

The Land is not so level as to admit of much stagnated water, neither is there to be found many hills or rises that is of inconvenience to agriculture; about one Sixth part of which is in a State of Cultivation, the balance is a forrest of pine oak hickory dogwood gum elm ash maple and &c interspersed with swamps Glades and rivulets, on Iselands and ridges near Swamps a dark rich soil is to be met with, the more higher Lands are considerably mixt with Sand. the price of Such as is Suitable for cultivation may be estimated at from four to ten dollars and such as is only fit for tar turpentine or timber from one to four dollars per acre

Productions &c

All most all kind of vegetable productions that are needed for domestick use are made in sufficient quantitey for home consumption

Settlement &c

The first Settlements in Greene County was made About the date of

during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. He was a member of the state Senate, 1782, 1784; House of Commons, 1790; House of Representatives of the United States Congress, 1791-1815, of which he was Speaker, 1801-1807; United States Senate, 1815-1828. After retiring from the Senate in 1828 he was president of the constitutional convention of 1835 and a Van Buren elector in 1836. He was a Republican of great national influence before the War of 1812; but the majority of his party shifted so far from his strict construction principles that in his later career his influence declined both in North Carolina and the nation. *Biographical Congressional Directory*, 841; W. E. Dodd, *Life of Nathaniel Macon*.

¹ Thomas Holliday was one of the trustees of Greene Academy, incorporated in 1804. *Laws of North Carolina*, 1804, ch. 43.

² In 1799 the name of Glasgow County was changed to Greene in honor of General Nathaniel Greene. James Glasgow, Secretary of State from 1777 to 1798, for whom the county had been named in 1791, had recently become involved in land frauds and an attempt to destroy the records in burning the State House. Dobbs County, created from Johnston in 1758 and named in honor of Gov. Arthur Dobbs, had been divided into Glasgow and Lenoir in 1791. Thus Dobbs and Glasgow disappeared from the list of North Carolina county names. *North Carolina Manual*, 1913, 591, 618, 626, 678; S. A. Ashe, *History of North Carolina*, II, 152, 176. The act of 1791, establishing Glasgow (later Greene) County, directed that the county court be held at the house of Benjamin Sheppard at Snow Hill until James Glasgow, William Speight, William Ormond, William Harper, and John Pope should fix a place for building the court house, etc. James Glasgow, William Speight, William Ormond, Joshua Croom and Moses Westbrook were directed to contract for the building of a court house, prison, and stocks at the place selected. *Laws of North Carolina*, 1791, ch. 47.

1710 by emigrants from the North Countys of this State, Virginia and some few from Mereland from which time for several Years they continued to live in a most retched State of poverty possessing few if any of the comforts of Life "But from prudance and industry that never failing source of domestick happiness the inhabitance of Greene County have been well fed and well clothed for many years past, and at this time participates in many Luxurys of Life.

Navigable Streams &c

The only Navigable Stream in Greene County is great Contentny³ a branch of Neuse, which rises in Nash County⁴ and passes through Edgcombe and Greene Countys and falls in to Neuse about thirty miles above Newbern, and is navigable for flats of one hundred and fifty barrels burden as high as the upper part of Greene County at a freight to Newbern of from 25 to 40 cents per barrel

Articles of Exportation &c

Pork may be considered as the Staple article about one forth part of what is made to Spare is generally drove to Virginia the ballance is either made into bacon or barreled, and generally find a market in Newbern also corn, pees, cotton, flour wax, tallow tar turpentine and Staves are made to Spare and generally find a market in Newbern

Welth &c

Greene County contains about 500 familys⁵ and is about equal in Sise to eighteen miles Square which would be about 420 acres to each family, the everage welth would be about equal to \$5000 but as in all other places welth is very disproportioned Some possessing fare more and Some a great deal less⁶

Buildings &c

The inhabitance Generally live in framed houses with chimneys of brick which are comfortable but seldom eligant Horses Cattle and Sheep are raised the two former a sufficiant for home demand and the latter might with proper attention

Manufactoryeys

There is no manufactoryeys that deserve the name except of the house hold Kind where the principal part of the clothing of each family is made

³ Contentnea Creek.

⁴ Contentnea Creek rises in Franklin County.

⁵ In 1810 the population of Greene County was 4,867 comprising 2,970 whites, 1,842 slaves, and 55 free negroes. In 1860, the population was 7,925, 824 whites, 3,947 slaves, and 154 free negroes. *Ninth Census*, I, 52-54.

⁶ Greene County tax and other records have been destroyed for the most part. In 1790, Dobbs County, which comprised what later became Greene, had 1,915 slaves in a total population of 6,893. There were a few large slaveholders: James Glasgow, 50; Benjamin Sheppard, 71; Jesse Cobb, 42; Bryan Whitfield, 58; John Heritage, 38. *S. R.*, XXVI, 481-500.

Schools &c

The Greene Academy⁷ is the only incorporated School which was incorporated in the Year 1804 but for want of adequate funds as well as the want of attention of the Trustees, the Institution is not promising, which is much to be lamented as the inhabitance Generally appear to be desirous of procuring for their childred a good English education which most of them have often discovered the want of them Selves⁸

Religion

Episcopalians, Babtists & Methodists the latter are the most numerous, the Babtists and Methodists have each three meeting houses within the County

With high respect
I am Sir Your most Obd
Th. Holliday

LENOIR COUNTY

By JOHN WASHINGTON¹

Kinston May 1, 1810.

Gentlemen:

Your fav^r. of 30th ulto I receivd some 15 or 20 days ago which on account of my indisposition, I have been prevented from answering sooner.

Though I feel reluctant to engage in that which I am so badly qualified to perform yet it affords me pleasure to comply with your request, particularly as you express an opinion that it may probably be rendered servicable to the public.

With respect to the face of Lenoir County, it is generally level except near the river, (in some places) and on some of the creeks, which can by no means be called hilly, except as compared to the very level state of the rest of the County.

At the distance of a half to one or two miles from the river Neuse (much dependant on the breadth of the drownable lands) either on the one side, or the other of the river, there is generally found a ridge or rather a descent from the higher and level lands of about 20 to 30 feet, which in many places affords beautiful places for building.

The Neuse low grounds or those subject to overflow in this county is not very considerable, though it affords a border on the one side or the

⁷ The legislature of 1804, in view of "liberal subscriptions" already made by citizens of Greene County, designated Hymick Hooker, Thomas Holliday, Jacob Lassiter, Lawrence Carr, John Harper, Silas Lassiter, Samuel Hooker, Francis Kilpatrick, Roderic Powell, Isaac Ward, and Hugh Harper as trustees of Greene Academy to be erected in an old field near Hooker's Bridge on Great Contentney. In 1807, Jacob Lassiter, secretary of the trustees, advertised for a "Principal Teacher." He announced that the trustees were satisfied "at the progress of the Institution under their former Teacher, Mr. A. M. Rogers." *C. L. Coon, op. cit.*, 167; *Laws of North Carolina*, 1804, ch. 43.

⁸ The first Greene County graduate of the University was Octavius Wright Hooker, class of 1845. *K. P. Battle, op. cit.*, 800.

¹ John Washington was a commissioner of Kinston in 1806 and 1809 and postmaster in 1823. *The North Carolina Register*, 1823, 68; *Laws of North Carolina*, 1806, ch. 42; *Laws of North Carolina*, 1809, ch. 90.

