

North Carolina Gazetteer: Acknowledgments ^[1]



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by William S. Powell
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For assistance in many phases of the compilation of this gazetteer, my greatest indebtedness is to George Stevenson Jr. and to my wife, Virginia Waldrop Powell. With tireless devotion to the project, they have compiled long lists of entries from assorted sources. My special thanks go to George Stevenson for his careful work in comparing numerous historic maps with contemporary maps and preparing notes on early locations of geographic features and the changes in name that can best be discovered by this process. From published lists of altitudes, post offices, streams, and many shorter lists of various kinds, my wife prepared and interfiled hundreds of cards.

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Individuals throughout the state willingly answered my questions about specific places; others, hearing of the *Gazetteer*, voluntarily contributed information. My indebtedness to them is great and my regret is sincere that I cannot acknowledge their contributions by name simply because they were so numerous.

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Hardly a state or municipal agency escaped my persistent search for facts, and many private business concerns fared little better. County agricultural agents, registrars of deeds, mayors, city and town clerks, as well as postmasters displayed admirable civic spirit in their attempts to furnish me with the information I sought. The office of the secretary of state, the State Highway Commission, the Department of Conservation and Development, and especially the staffs of the State Department of Archives and History and of the State Library were generous with the time they devoted in replying to my letters and telephone calls. Chambers of commerce throughout the state and the North Carolina League of Municipalities in Raleigh willingly supplied data and showed not the least sign of annoyance at my repeated requests for their services. To many members of the staff of the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill I am deeply indebted for information and advice, but especially to the director, John Sanders, and to Marion Benfield, a former staff member. At my request, they asked a team of researchers working through all of the Session Laws of North Carolina for another purpose to record also the date of incorporation of municipalities. This information, I feel, is a valuable part of the *Gazetteer*. Officials of the Carolina Power & Light Company, Duke Power Company, and the Virginia Electric and Power Company proved to be generous sources for geographical facts, as did officials of the railroads operating in the state. Attorneys and surveyors in many counties came forward with information they had gleaned from years of experience in working with local records. Editors of every newspaper in the state came to my aid. They published many "letters to the editor" in my desperate attempts to find persons with specific information.

At a critical stage in the preparation of *The North Carolina Gazetteer*, I sent the file of county entries to one or more knowledgeable persons in each county. To these people my debt is great. They added much new information and saved me from many errors. Those errors that remain, however, should in no wise be considered the fault of anyone but me. In all fairness, it must be pointed out that for various reasons based on editorial policy I could not always accept the advice offered me.

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