

ALEXANDER COUNTY

When And How Formed

Alexander County was established by two acts of the General Assembly, one ratified January 15, and the other January 18, 1847.

The leader in the organization of the new county was Joseph M. Bogle, then a member of the Senate from Iredell County. About the same time two other propositions for new counties were considered, one by Rufus Reid, who lived near Centre Church, in South Iredell and who favored the organization of a new county in that section to be known as Graham; and one other by W. W. George, who lived in North Iredell and wished to have a county there to be known as Williams, with the county seat at Rockford.

Joseph M. Bogle succeeded in getting his plan adopted to form a new county from portions of Iredell, Wilkes and Caldwell. The latter county had been formed in 1841 from Burke and Wilkes and the lines of these two counties formerly ran very near where the town of Taylorsville is now located, as will be seen from the calls in many of the old deeds. Acts of 1846-'47, chapters 22 and 23, give the boundaries of the new county and provide that the boundaries shall be fixed by commissioners appointed from the two counties involved, to be paid \$1.50 a day. The act creating the county was not to take effect until it was ascertained whether or not Caldwell County would have five thousand people in it.

A Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions was authorized to be held for new county by the justices of the peace, on the first Monday in June, December, September and March, 1847; the Superior Court to be held on the ninth Monday after the fourth Monday in March and September and the county was included in the sixth district. The court was to be held at James Cross Roads until the county seat was located; and at the first session of the court, the justices were to elect the regular county officers and appoint one or more persons to make a survey and to designate the center of the county.

The following persons were appointed to select a site for the county town, to be located as near the center as possible, not to vary more than two miles; William H. Dula, of Caldwell; Dr. James Calloway, of Wilkes; Milton Campbell, of Iredell; and Robert Allen, Reuben Watts and Robert L. Steele of Alexander. The committee was authorized to receive by donation or to purchase sufficient land for the site, not less than twenty-five acres. The town so established was to be called Taylorsville. The justices of the county court were authorized to have a temporary court house erected, and to appoint five commissioners to sell the town lots upon a credit of one, two or three years, the proceeds of sale to be applied to the building of a court house and jail.

Wheeler, in his History of North Carolina, gives the name of the county as derived from that of a family distinguished in the history and mentions two persons of that name, Nathaniel Alexander of Mecklenburg, who was governor of the state in 1805, and Abram Alexander, who was chairman of the Convention which framed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, on May 20, 1775. It is generally given in the state histories as named from the