

PREFACE

During the major part of his life the late William E. White was gathering, assembling, and compiling data on the early history of Alexander County and the traditions of her people. About the middle of the year 1925, this data, with the exception of that for Sharpe's and Miller's Townships, was turned over to the editors of the Taylorsville Times and The Statesville Landmark to be published serially in their papers. At that time the promise was made that the remaining data would be submitted at a later date. For some unknown reason this was never done and there is, therefore, nothing in the following pages pertaining to these townships.

Some years after this, all the historical data and other papers of Mr. White were destroyed by a fire which consumed the home of his son, Mr. L. O. White of Statesville, North Carolina, leaving only the files of the two papers as a record of Mr. White's life work. The files of the Times, however, were either lost or destroyed and a three days search of the Landmark failed to reveal the publication of such data. Thus for a long time it appeared that this history was irrevocably lost. Finally, however, a complete file of it was unexpectedly found in a scrap-book of Mrs. Bynum C. Deal of Davidson, North Carolina. Mrs. Deal who is a daughter of the late Thomas Barnes, Esquire, was born and reared in Alexander, but for a number of years has resided in Davidson. She, therefore, deserves the highest commendation for having preserved for the people of her native county a history of it which they themselves failed to do.

Through the kindness and courtesy of Mrs. Deal we were permitted to copy this history, but due to the limited time in which we had at our disposal several errors and omissions were made which were not discovered until this work of reproducing this history was begun and too late to be then corrected. These errors, omissions, and other corrections in the records have been made under the title "ERRATA" beginning on page 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ of this book.

In the preparation and reproduction of Mr. White's History of Alexander County, we undertook something which none of us had had any previous experience. For that reason our amateurish efforts have not been as successful as we ourselves desired; but we trust that the "Substance" will be of such intense interest to the reader that he will not be too critical of the manner of its presentation.

Robert S. Echerd
Robert B. Wolfe, Jr.
Mrs. Robert B. Wolfe, Jr.
Mrs. Joseph E. Hunter, Jr.

Prepared and Reproduced
Under
The Auspices of ----
The Alexander County Historical Association
Taylorsville, North Carolina