

1872-1892:

**Rowesville ...**

In 1872 the Orangeburg News reported that Rowe's Pump was to be incorporated. "Call it ... something else" was the blunt advice of the editor, who probably thought that a newly incorporated town merited a name more dignified than Rowe's Pump — a train stop for water.

And Rowesville was the name chosen. Since the date of incorporation isn't known to this writer, the election results given in this article are probably not those of the first election. Anyway, officers elected March 20, 1882, were as follows: intendant, W.C. Crum; wardens, W.L. Wolfe, J.J. Wolfe, T.P. Sain and W.P. Dukes. *Z MAY 1982*

The next year (1883) the incumbents were re-elected except for J.P. Sain, who was replaced as warden by W.C. Rives (Reeves?).

Children attended Rowesville Academy in 1888 (T&D, 4 April), and sometimes enjoyed basket picnics at nearby Rowe's Bridge. T.G. McMichael was the efficient principal. For the next session trustees engaged as teacher Miss Mattie A. McClure of Walhalla. *Z MAY 1982*

By 1892 Rowesville had a new, two-story graded school with G. Edwin Stokes as principal. Tuition was free for pupils in District 20; those from adjoining districts were required to pay \$1 monthly for Primary; \$2 for "Common School;" \$3 for "Higher School." "Liberal" discounts were made for two or more pupils from the same family. French and German were taught; also bookkeeping and music, but fees had to be paid. Board was available at \$6 to \$10 per month. (T&D, 17 February 1892).

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**Rowesville**

In 1872 (14 December) the Orangeburg News announced that Rowe's Pump was to be incorporated and suggested that it be called "something else." It was not, however, until 1876 (11 March) that an article headlined: "No More Rowe's Pump" appeared in the News &

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Times with the additional information that Rowesville had been incorporated.

Plans for the town's first election were made on March 4 by a group of voters who met at the town's depot. J.P. Sain called the group to order and nominated W.C. Rives for chairman. With W.L. Wolfe as secretary, those present, having heard read the Act of Incorporation, selected the managers for the election to take place on the third Monday in March. (Ibid.) *Z O Nov*

W.L. Wolfe was elected the town's first intendant; a year later he was re-elected. In this second election the wardens were W.P. Dukes, L.M. Keitt, J.C. Metts and J.J. Wolfe. According to the News & Times (31 March 1877), there was no opposition. The paper's correspondent, who signed his article "X.Y.Z.," added the following: "Of course, Rowesville is Democratic; not a Republican voter lingers within her corporate limits. Hampton and Reform is her motto." *1983*

Successful merchants in Rowesville in 1881, according to a correspondent for The T&D (1 December) were W.P. Dukes and W.C. Crum. The latter was also said to be making Rowesville "a good cotton market." Both J.C. Funchess and Richard ("Dick") Smoak were makers of very fine syrup out of both sugar cane and sorghum.

Elected to office in 1882 (20 March) were W.C. Crum, intendant; wardens were W.P. Dukes, J.P. Sain, J.J. Wolfe and W.L. Wolfe. (T&D 5 April.) The same officers were re-elected in 1883 except for J.P. Sain, who was replaced by W.C. Rives.

In 1888 (April 4) T.G. McMichael was principal of the Rowesville Academy. Four years later (1892) the Rowesville Graded School, with G. Edwin Stokes as principal, was in session in a new two-story building "thoroughly equipped with maps, charts, etc." Tuition was free for all pupils in District No. 20. But those from outside the district were required to pay from \$1 to \$3 per month. All

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students taking "practical bookkeeping" were required to pay \$1 per month; music was taught for \$2.50 per month, and a 50 cent fee per month was charged for "Ancient Languages, French or German." Discounts were made for two or more pupils in the same family. Tuition and fees were due on or before the last Friday of each month. Board was available at \$6 to \$10 per month.

*W.L. Wolfe*  
*W.P. Dukes*