

Businesses by county, 1854

Most North Carolinians in the 1850s lived on farms, but every county had a number of merchants and other businesses, whether in established towns or in crossroads villages. The *Southern Business Directory* from 1854, linked below, lists those businesses by county. Find the information for your county, or for counties in your region of the state.

- Do you recognize the locations listed? (If not, they may have been names of crossroads that never became established towns.)
- Were there many businesses listed? What kinds of businesses were there? (If it doesn't say what business someone was in, he was probably a "general merchant," someone who sold a variety of goods.)
- Why do you suppose those businesses existed there at that time?

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