

CARALEIGH COTTON MILLS

○ FROM BOOK: WAKE CAPITAL COUNTY OF N. C. VOL II - 2008 4 SEP
BY K. TODD JOHNSON & ELIZABETH REID MURRAY-RPM 2011
- PG 202

FERTILIZER

CROSSFILE:

CARALEIGH

WAKE CO - MILLS

AAA

AAA

Simultaneous with the opening of the Caraleigh Cotton Mills in 1892 came that of the nearby Caraleigh Phosphate and Fertilizer Works, maker of chemical fertilizers. Both organized in 1891, the two companies were backed by many of the same men, such as Ashley Horne of Clayton and Raleigh's J. J. Thomas, Joseph R. Chamberlain, W. H. Pace, F. B. Dancy, and W. G. Upchurch. Chamberlain left his position as professor of agriculture at the A & M College to become superintendent of the phosphate plant in 1892. Only days after the plant opened, a fire destroyed the "acid department" building where pyrite was burned to make sulfuric acid, but the loss was covered by insurance. By 1911 the company had 100 employees and by 1916 reported capital stock of some \$300,000, making it Wake's largest single enterprise. Farmers Guano Company, incorporated in 1902, was the distribution arm of Caraleigh Phosphate.⁷⁵

⁷⁵ *News and Observer*, Jan. 31, 1891, 4; Aug. 19, 1892, 1; Wake County Record of Corporations, film, Book B, 32.

CARALEIGH MILL

FROM BOOK: WAKE CAPITAL COUNTY OF N.C. VOL II 2008
BY K. TOMM JOHNSON & ELIZABETH REID MURRAY - RPA 4 SEP 2011
PG 665 FROM A CHAPTER ON RURAL COMMUNITIES CH 19

WAKE CO, NC
SCHOOLS
CARALEIGH

Cardenas. In 1899, a year after local Spanish-American War hero Worth Bagley was killed at Cardenas, Cuba, in 1898, this Raleigh & Cape Fear Railroad station and post office were named in his honor. Rufus R. Sexton became the first postmaster, followed by William L. Johnson, and then Lena E. Sexton, who served for twenty years before the office closed in 1925.¹⁸

Kemp B. Johnson erected telephone poles for a line from his home at Cardenas to Caraleigh Mill in Raleigh in 1896; in 1907 the area got its own exchange when Dr. James M. Judd, A. C. Burt, Ed H. Ballentine, and other local residents formed Cardenas Telephone Company. Mrs. Sexton operated the switchboard at her home near the railroad depot. A. N. Johnson had a general store at the depot. Dr. Judd lived nearby and carried on a medical practice covering Wake, Harnett, Johnston, and Chatham counties. Dr. H. H. Utley also practiced there in the early 1900s. In about 1895 Irene Johnson Cook built a small private school, which later became a public school for white children until the county school board authorized a new building, completed in about 1910. Kemp Johnson assembled a large lumber business. Dr. Judd's daughter, Edith Judd Parker, recalled that Johnson had a "music hall" near his home and allowed the community to use it for special speakers and events such as school Christmas programs. The area's earliest moving pictures were also shown there. Other businesses and industries included sawmills and cotton gins owned by W. M. Ballentine and W. Z. ("Zeb") Atkinson, and J. L. Brown's grocery. J. H. Hinesley's blacksmith shop was located there in the 1910s.¹⁹