

FARMER GUANO COMPANY WAKE CO. NC

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CROSSFILE:

CARALEIGH

WAKE CO - MILLS

ABC

ABC

FERTILIZER

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.<sup>75</sup>

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