

## Wayne's Timeline

1600 to 1700 – Central “North Carolina colony” inhabited by Tuscarora Indians.<sup>1</sup> They hunted many wild birds and animals for food and clothing including the hides of buffalo which were still plentiful.

1701 – John Lawson an adventurer and surveyor and the first European to travel through the indian hunting ground, later to be called Wake County.<sup>1</sup> He camped out at the Falls of the Neuse on Feb 18, 1701. A year or so later he was tortured and later killed by the Indians.

1711 – Colonists encroaching on indian lands led to the violent Tuscarora War in which the indians were defeated and moved to New York State

1739 – John Hinton receives first land grant East of the Neuse river. 150 acres at a point adjacent to ( Hodge Rd. and Faison Rd )(Current time). At this time it was in Craven county, soon Johnston, then Wake. This was the site of the early fort.

1750's ?- Hinton's acquire major land by crown grant. May have been as much as 26,000 Acres.

1770 – Wake County founded out of Johnston, Orange and Cumberland Counties.

1770 – Smiths Ferry operating across Neuse river at a point to someday be called Hwy 64.

May 22, 1771 – Wake County confirmed by Royal Charter.

1770's – For this whole decade tensions were high between the North Carolina Colony and the crown in England. In 1771 we see the uprising break out by those known as the regulator movement. In April 1771 Hinton prepares his men to march against the regulators.

April, 1775 – Shots fired at Lexington Ma. to start war for American independence.

February, 1776 – Hinton and Wake Militia fight in Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge.

April, 1776 – Hinton at Halifax for Fourth Provincial Congress. Result is The treatise known as Halifax Resolves. This preceded the Declaration of independence by 3 months.

1798 – Theophilus Hunter dies. His is oldest marked grave in North Carolina @ Dix.

1825 – Lafayette rides toward what will be Knightdale on a horse path which we now call Forestville Rd.

1829 – John Smith, a slave born in Knightdale, states in later life (cir 1936) to the N&O that there were slave auction blocks in Rolesville and Rosinburg.<sup>1</sup>

Nov 1842 – Henry Haywood Knight born in Wake County, later becomes father of Knightdale.

1848 - Charles Lewis Hinton had Midway built for his son David, as a wedding present. He built the house near the wagon track known as the Tarboro Road,

1850 – Early gravestones in family cemeteries in the knightdale area date to the 1850s.

April, 1865 – Gen John Logan of the 15<sup>th</sup> Corp. is approaching Raleigh from the South East and has an assignment to protect the Hinton Bridge over the Neuse River. So done. Both Hinton homes (Clay Hill & Midway) were ransacked during the night of April 13<sup>th</sup>.

1865 – Neuse Mill operating on the river at a point just South of the Hinton bridge. (Hwy 64)

1870 – For the last 120 years the main land owners in this area were the Hintons. They belonged to the Church of England, but their slaves were members of Hephzibah Church.

1887 – Original tract of 59 acres purchased by H. H. Knight for home on Tarboro Rd. He had been buying various tracts for the past 20 years and owned most of the land from the Neuse river to his homesite.

1900 – There was little to be found if you were looking for Knightdale. The people that were starting to move to this area all settled along Tarboro Rd. Names that may still sound familiar were Watsons, Pair, Griffin, Jones and the Knights.

Cir 1900 – Landowners learned that the Raleigh and Pamlico Sound Railroad was about to lay track from Norfolk to Raleigh. There was a great deal of interest in having the railroad come through this area.

Early 1904 – Henry H. Knight and Needham P. Jones and their Wives deeded right of way property to the Raleigh and Pamlico Sound Railroad Company for the sum of one dollar.

August, 1904 – Tracks were laid for the local railroad.

Early 1905 – Norfolk and Southern Railroad Company bought out the Ral & Pam Sound RR Co.

May, 1905 – A Railroad Depot was built on First Avenue and the section foremans house was added across the tracks a short distance. Shortly afterwards the two small 2 room section workers houses were built. The depot was named KNIGHTDALE and here we were.

1906 - A.A. Jernigan closes store and forced out of buisness for selling Alcholic beverages too close to a church. It's the law.

1907 – Norfolk & Southern R. R. begins service thru town.

May 29, 1908 – First Post Office in operation in Knightdale.

September 1, 1908 – G.E. Robertson & Son open a General Merchandise store. Originally a Farm supply store. In later years becomes a Grocery And Meat store operated by Claude Robertson Jr.

?A.R. Blow? was the station agent at the railroad for 20 years Ava King Straughn also was a depot agent, Her father Arthur Lee King was a railroad section foreman. (see story)

1911 – Wiley Robertson and Dad build the drugstore on Main & First Ave.

1912 – Whitley Quarry 1-1/2 miles east of Knightale, North of railroad track and East of Marks Creek.

– Superior Stone Co., last operated this quarry in 1950. Parts of quarry were filled by the power company to run the high voltage wires on the towers.

1915 – Acral Smith and George Rodgers work at Knight's Cotton Gin. ( Note 1 ) (Pic)

1917 – first Knightdale Country Fair held at the school.

1918 – Wilder family moves to town during one of the worst winters in several years.

Bennett Walls Drug Store was located on First Ave, across Main St from Houses' store. It was where the early post office was.

December 10, 1919 – Farmer's Union Store chartered - C.H. Smith, A.R. Hodge, W.R. Ferrell called Union Mercantile Company of Knightdale

1919 – Edward Harrison killed by an acetylene tank explosion

Late 1920's – (Hwy 64) a dirt road is graded with teams of mules and a single lane of concrete poured. Is named Hwy 90.

1922 – Knightdale Elementary opens. (in city limits)

1923 – Clay Hill Plantation House burns to ground.

1925 – First water system installed in parts of town. (See Article)

1925 – New bridge over the Neuse river carries two way traffic. Today it is the west bound lane of traffic only and is Wake county bridge #170. Traffic flowed onto bridge from Farmwell Rd.

1926 – People enjoy Royal Crown Cola – remember it??

March 9, 1927 – Knightdale became a town – Bennet Wall - first Mayor

1927 – Federal Radio Commission begins to regulate radio frequencies. Ford builds final Model T #15,007,003 and retools plants for Model A. Jack Dempsey loses to Gene Tunney.

September 1, 1928 – Watkins Brothers opened a Standard Service Station on Debnams Hill. - Wilbur and James Watkins were the oldest living dealers in Wake County at the time.

1929 – The first blacksmith shop was built on the S.E. Corner of Hester and Robinson St's by Wiley Robinson.

1930 – Census – population 243 -- Census work done by H. Lincoln Hodge.

1935 – American Tobacco sponsors “Your Hit Parade”, featuring North Carolina tobacco auctioneer Speed Riggs. They market Lucky Strikes (Luckies) – remember them???

1938 – Fire Lookout Tower constructed on East side of Hester St. near Flowers St.

1939 – Blacksmith shop now located on the S.W. Corner of Hester and Park Ave and operated by Mr

Parrish.

1939 – John Stalvey arrives in K'dale from Wendell and works at Pharmacy. He also is only person with camera and is source of most of our old pictures. The building housed the Pharmacy, Post Office, Doctors Office, Manufacturing Plant and space for the bank.

January 7, 1940 – Downtown Knightdale Fire destroys business district of town.

Two Robertson Homes and Robertson General Store, then fire spreads to E. Flowers hot-dog stand, Sam Watson store (Vacant, due to open) and Elias Straughn's Barbershop.

Early 1940s – The Government offered to pay 75-80% of the cost of a water system for town, leaving \$25,000. The town voted this down as being too much for the small town to pay at the time.

1940 – Census – population 352.

1940 – Lockhart School opens. (1 mile North of city limits) (Black School)

1940 – Mr Stalvey & Mr Wilder have cars and travel to Wendell for special occasions. Wilder driving a 1914 brass radiator Ford touring car.

Cir 1945 – 10 to 15 older men in town gather on Saturday afternoon to play Marbles at Gaston Andrews house which is where the Medical center was.

1947/48 – Myrick Construction established.

1950 – Census – population 460

1950 – Percy D Holleman came to K'dale from New Hill and moves into the Beaver Dam House. It was built Circa 1790 – 1810 and had brick chimney laid in Flemish Bond Pattern of the period.

1952 – Town gets metered water and fire hydrants.

October 27, 1954 – Knightdale Fire department Incorporation.

1955 – First fire truck purchased.

1956 – Firestation constructed and Aerial photo with water tower taken.

Old Knightdale sign designed by Louis Curry, was located across from the Moose Lodge and the land was donated by Mr./Mrs. Henry Knight.

1958 – Stained Glass Associates est.

1959 – Knightdale Medical Center opened. This site was financed by some 50+ town folk buying into its construction and establishment. Dr. Hornstein first Doctor and Dr. Rollin Ransom first Dentist.

1959 -- 2 additional fire bays added at firestation on Hester St.

1960 – Census – population 622

1964 -- Hwy 64 now opened as a 4 lane road. Another bridge #169 is added parallel to the one from 1925 and they now carry one way traffic only. During grading for the East bound lane they uncover the foundation for the Clay Hill Plantation House.

1965 – Vaiden Whitley high school opened.

1967 – Recreation room added atop 2 new bays at firestation.

1967 – A simple phone call to 266-2111 would get you all / any of the following:

    Knightdale Town Constable – Gerthie N. Daniels

    Knightdale Town Water & San Dept – Louis Curry Supt.

    Knightdale Town Clerk – Oscar W. Hedrick

    Knightdale Town Mayor – Hon. Eugene Harper

    Knightdale Town Hall.

December, 1968 - Originally the Bank of Wendell, established 1953, became First Union National Bank of Knightdale.

1968 -Mar 1974 – Dr Otis Lawry & Dr Julian Warren work ½ days at the Medical Center. Dentist is Dr. Hal P Cockerman.

April, 1970 – Wake Stone Corp. founded by John Bratton. 4<sup>th</sup> largest producer of crushed stone in NC. This quarry sits in the center of some 500+ acres of land between Hwy 64 and Forestville Rd. and runs as far West as I540. They have about 150 employees and is corporate headquarters. The quarry now has been dug far enough East to engulf the old original Superior Stone quarry which had an access road running down the West side of the Trailer Court

1970 – Census – population 815

1970 – Knightdale adds Lagoon system for sewerage disposal, is only site in Wake county

September 1, 1971 – First Library opens under the auspices of Wake County System. Joyce P. Smith Librarian. Center of town on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.

September 13, 1971 – Mrs Elaine Ledford began working in the Town Office in Finance.

1972 – Square D plant opens (see pic of Pair House) (see Article)

September, 1972 – Barclay Downs Subdivision started – Myrick Construction.

1973 – Knightdale test drives station wagon train. (see article)

1973 – Dr Herbert C Guthrie, Dentist works in Medical Center.

February, 1973 – Knightdale approves staggered terms for alderman.

August 18, 1973 – Dot Veazey becomes first woman mail carrier in K'dale. She covers the newly formed route 3, which is all of Green Pines.

December, 1973 – Town Government

Officers: W. C. Harrell Jr, W. F. Strickland, Vance Tibbens, William Wilder Jr, Mayor E. F. Harper  
Salaries: Mayor Harper \$25.00 / Month, Alderman \$15.00 / Month.

February, 1974 – A resolution made and passed to accept the plans for a future town Administration building to be built on Main St. To contain about 1800 square foot of space.

1974 – Mrs. Rachel Pair, a local, makes good in a Travel Agency in Raleigh.

April, 1974 – Knightdale Industrial Park opens

July, 1974 – U.S. Labor Party Worker hands out union leaflets at Square D Co.

September, 1974 – Wake County Public Library shows old comedy movies outdoors at 7:30 p.m. on side of First Union Bank.

1975 – Knightdale United Methodist Church chosen for Church of the Year Award

1975 – Anne Hildebrand becomes librarian on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. Retires in 1984.

June 1975 – Slim Short and the slim jims, 4 piece band, are featured at Fred's Sports club located in the building next to Poole Brothers well drilling.

September, 1975 – tennis courts open

October, 1975 – Town Clerk, O.W. Hedrick resigns position due to lack of time to allot to job.

December, 1975 – Town Government

Officers: W. C. Harrell Jr, W. F. Strickland, Vance Tibbens, H. V. Pair Jr, Mayor William Wilder Jr.

1976 – Knightdale sign placed at corner where Hardees is now.

1976 – Korner Kitchen located on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.

1976 – Lockhardt Junior High School listed in directory as being  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile North on Road 2233.

July 30, 1976 – 7pm Fire at Bethlehem Baptist Church on Poole Rd destroys 82 year old Sanctuary.

1977 – Town hall building on Main St constructed.

December, 1977 – First annual Christmas Parade. 43 entries registered plus a few from Wendell when inclement weather forced them to postpone their parade.

March 1978 – Library moves to space in Town Hall.

July 27, 1978 – Knightdales oldest building, the railroad depot, moved to new location on Poole Rd.

October, 1978 – L. Harold Poole Funeral Home temporary quarters - new building May, 1980

November, 1979 – Town Government

Officers: John B. Parrish, George E. Gupton, Jr., Preston Johnson, Vance Tibbens, Ted Morgan, Mayor William Wilder Jr.

1980 – Census – population 985

June, 1980 – G.E. Gupton resigns his town commissioner job to maintain his Raleigh Police job.

February 11, 1981 – Knightdale Tractor destroyed by high winds.

February, 1981 – Mrs Minnie Page Weathers publishes her book of poems. “Lines that Rhyme”

1983 – Accu Fab Inc. est.

November, 1983 – First Annual Jackass Festival

November, 1983 – Town Government

Officers: Preston Johnson, John B. Parrish, Andrew Shearin, Charles Bullock, Mayor William Wilder, Jr.

October 9, 1984 – First meeting of original Knightdale Heritage Council.

April, 1985 – Tiny Tim (Herbert Khaury) sings with circus held at elementary school field. (Not many folks seen tiptoeing thru the tulips.)

May, 1985 – Walt Hedrick received his “honorary assistant mayor” certificate from Mayor Billy Wilder.

November, 1985 – Knightdale/Wendell Airport owned by J.T. Knott, gets name change to Raleigh East Airport.

1986 – Billy Wilder, Jr. introduces a friend, a 7 year old donkey named Ramrod, at the second Jackass Festival.

March, 1986 – Jimmy H. Johnson, Knightdale's first full time manager resigns – started 1976.

February, 1987 – Bob Horner's Restaurant opened, Bob signs baseballs for the kids.

1987 – Rescue Chief is E.M. Stuckey

1987 – Jackass Road gets name change to Old Knight Road.

October, 1987 – William Wilder and W.F.Strickland vying for Mayors job. Both have served the town for many years. Wilder wins.

June, 1987 – Square D Company moves Control Division Headquarters to the Knightdale Plant, John Garrett of G.E., to head division. John insists Milwaukee folks move to Knightdale.

July, 1987 – all four Knightdale's maintenance workers walk off job over salary dispute.

1988 – Planter's Walk subdivision opens for home sales. ( Article )

September, 1988 – Knightdale wants Wake board to back Outer Loop East of Town.

November, 1988 – Knightdale council votes to drop development barriers.

1989 – Angie stephens becomes Library branch manager.

March, 1989 – Knightdale attempts to rezone an area of Planter's Walk to allow building in 540 corridor.

April 1989 – Ashley Wilder Day – His 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

October 1989 – Plane crashes on emergency return to Raleigh East airport.

1990 – Steeple Square shopping center opens.

1990 – Census figure is 1884 for town.

February, 1990 – Knightdales first game room open -- “Play 2 Win”

June, 1990 – Garfield's Restaurant opened this month on Hwy. 64 in Knightdale

December, 1990 – Councilors Bryan, Bullock & Jones are asked to resign.

January, 1991 – Michael G. Stogner becomes new Police Chief.

April, 1991 – The caboose gets placed on First Ave. (Caboose 20 ton + 2 wheel sets @ 5 ton each)

July, 1991 – Knightdale Official Town Seal adopted.

September, 1991 – Wal Mart looking to build on Hwy 64E.

1992 – Plane crashes at Raleigh East airport.

April, 1993 – At their meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>, the Town Council votes to buy the 12.5 Acre tract off North Smithfield Rd. for the new town hall. Dozens of residents from the historic downtown area walk out of meeting saying such things as “Its a shame y'all can't be run out of town”. *Ain't that the truth.*

1994 – Helicopter crashes at Ral East airport and 1 killed.

1995 – New firestation completed on Clifton Rd.

1995 – Raleigh Vipers open Rugby Club

October 6, 1996 – New Town Hall built on Steeple Square Court.



December 6, 1999 – New East Wake Library opens on Steeple Square Court

2000 – census figure for town is 5958.

April 14, 2003 – Fire department renamed to Eastern Wake Fire Rescue.

Summer 2005 – Hwy 64 / 264 opens and helps route traffic around Town.

November 2005 – Charlie Silver remodels Beaverdam House. (see article)

Early 2006 – 540 bridge and roadway finished thru Planters Walk.

October 2006 – Two green thumbs garden club dedicates “Blue Star Memorial Marker”

Early 2007 – 540 opens from 64/264 to Capitol Boulevard.

2007 – Shoppes of Midway open.

2007 – Public Safety Center open for Fire, Police & EMS.

June, 2007 – Old cinderblock structure (Odd fellows Lodge) torn down. Location was Smithfield Rd. across the street from original Malabys church. Built in 1960 it was 2 story.

### **Places and Names**

Hwy 64 was called: Tarboro (Tarborough) Road 1902/25, Hwy 90, 1925/36, Hwy 64, 1937/68, Wendell Hwy 1985/87, Hwy.64 , Knightdale Blvd. 2006

Hopkins Oil Co – Established 1946 – T.A. Mack Hopkins – Owner

Poole Brothers Well Drilling and Boring – Since 1947 – N.W. & Jimmie Poole, Grady & Donnie Poole Owners and Operators.

Spic & Span – opened early 1950 - Tom Tracey – Owner

J. H. Poole Electric Service – opened 1952 – J. H. Poole – Owner

Gulf Service Station - opened 1957 - J. E. Jackson – Owner

Electronic Sound Equipment Co. - started 1965 – by Bing C Aycock

Knightdale Awning – opened 1965 – Leon Griffin, Owner

Knightdale Soda Shop – Cir 1967 - Irene H. Jackson owner on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.

1968-76 – Finchs Barber shop

Macks Texaco – Since 1969 – T. A. “Mack” Hopkins – Owner

Luncheonette on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave – Mrs Rochelle F Oakly – Owner

Transformer Network Inc. (TNI) est 1971 – Peter Eggiman - Owner

Horton Supermarket – opened 1973 – Rufus Horton – Owner

Little Village Hairdressers – opened 1973 – Vivian Biggie, owner

Knightdale Barber & Style shop – opened 1974 – Johnny Pendelton – Owner

Cir 1975-80 – Pool hall above Houses store – Elizabeth & Melvin Willoughby

H & R Block – Opened 1975 – Frances Sargent, Manager

Wake Veterinary Hospital – opened 1975 – Dr George Khady – Owner – In Little Village.

Knightdale Tractor & Equipment – Billy Adams - Owner

Knightdale Seafood & B B Q:

Originally an Atlantic gas station & general store in 1926. H.C. and Mattie Lea Jefferys Cooper owned it. It was a small wood building located almost in the same spot as Kdale BBQ.

The Block Building was built in the mid 1950's. It was the Moose Lodge, then Smith's BBQ, then Earls Restaurant, Barber shop, Grist Mill.

Larry Addelton and wife owned the Knightdale Seafood & BBQ since 1988.

Town Managers:

Jimmy N. Johnson 1975-1986 Quit

Dennis E. Gabriel 1989 Fired

Jim M Varner 1989-1990 Fired

Paul S. Peckins Dec 1990 Acting Manager

## Notes

1. Acral Smith was the brother of Betty Smith Knight. He cut all the timber used to build the RR Depot, the Church and the School at the Knight sawmill and cotton

gin located across the street from the Knight house on Tarboro Rd. All lumber was donated by Mr Henry Haywood Knight.

2. Landon L Doub and wife Pattie were both Teachers in Shotwell.
3. All reference to the the Tarboro (Tarborough) Rd. is in regard to the Wagon and Stage trail that led from Raleigh East to Tarboro. During the Cival War the bridge over the Nuese river was known as Hinton's Bridge. This bridge was also destroyed and rebuilt during these times. The Tarboro road had several stagecoach stops for travelers along the way. One of the best known would be the Store and house of John Foster in Wakefield. This was located 19 miles into the trip from Raleigh and was just North of where Zebulon is now. Another stop on the way not used as often was at Eagle Rock where Thomas Debnam had a store and postoffice. Both locations had been designated as polling locations for their townships.
4. Eagle Rock actually had its name before Mr Debnam shot the Eagle that landed on the rock. Post office in town in 1827, Debnam acquired site in 1836.
5. Samuel Dolphin Griffin was at 1 time among the largest landowners in the area.
6. The Hinton slaves attended Hephzibah Church. The Hintons religion was church of England (Anglican)

## **Church Notes**

1. First church in area was Hephzibah Baptist Church organized in 1809.
2. Oaky Grove Methodist-Episcopal Church organized 1837.  
Membership moved to Knightdale United Methodist organized July 1917.
3. Maleby's Crossroads Baptist Church est. 1877.
4. Samaria Baptist Church organized 1878.
5. Bethlehem Baptist Church organized 1883.  
Built on site when Larkin Smith, Father of Charles Hinton Smith deeded 1 acre. During depression ( Cleveland Panic Period) the church property was sold on the steps of the Wake Courthouse (Jan 20, 1896) for \$82.00 to George F. Kennedy and wife Ada. George was the sunday school superintendant. Later that same day George and wife sold the property back to the church trustees for \$100.00.
6. Knights Chapel Church organized Mar 17, 1901 with 12 members. The Pastor was C.E.Gower. Charter members are listed as: H.H.Knight & Bettie & Daughter Mary, C.L.Goodson, W.Ferrell, J.A.Dean, Mrs Helen Frazier, J.J.Horton, Mrs Dolly Goodson, Mrs Roxie Dean, Mrs Dorothy Etheridge and Mrs Rebecca Etheridge.

During 1901 to 1906 Sunday school and Church services were held in Knights school house. School house was located in a pecan grove where Country Squire mobile home park is today. At a later time the school moved to a location just east of the cemetery. The old cemetery was purchased by the church in 1909 for \$40.00. In 1906 Knights Chapel Church, (Wood church) was framed to allow services in Knightdale. In 1930

Knights Chapel Church was renamed to Knightdale Baptist Church.

7. Church of God est. 1953.
8. Green Pines Baptist Church est. 1970.

Oaky Grove church register of 1882 shows the following familiar names:  
Wall, Lassiter, Faison, Hodge, Doub, Debnam, Woodard.

Samaria Church register shows the following names:  
Hodge, Liles, Poole, Wiggs, Jordan

---

## Sources

<sup>1</sup> E.R. Murray *Wake Capital County of North Carolina – Vol 1*

*Other sources include: The Gold Leaf Farmer and The News and Observer. Most articles are unmarked and as such can not be individually identified.*

**Wayne Schulz**