

Historical Notes

In 1728 Lieutenant Governor William Gooch of Virginia employed William Byrd II to help survey the dividing line between Virginia and North Carolina. Byrd named the south branch of the Roanoke River The Dan, and the north branch the Staunton in honor of Lady Rebecca Staunton, wife of the Lieutenant Governor.¹

In 1804 the Roanoke Navigation Company formed to improve waterway on several rivers that emptied into the Roanoke Sound. In 1823 the Roanoke Navigation Company hired Isaac Briggs, an engineer to survey the Staunton River. His survey includes descriptions of many mile markers in the Brookneal area.²

During the 1800s bateaux traffic, ferries, gristmills, fish traps and low-ground farming were the newsmakers.

At the beginning of the 1900s Henry Huddleston Rogers started building the Tidewater Railroad. The early 1900s told stories of small towns all along the river and railroad in support of the trains, and serving as an important part of our transportation infrastructure

¹ Fifty Miles on the Staunton, by Jack R. Poindexter

² Fifty Miles on the Staunton, by Jack R. Poindexter

These notes are basic to the history of the Staunton River. More notes will be added later.