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Leadership Anson Recruiting Participants

Six-month program offers opportunities to develop leadership skills, explore Anson County and make valuable community connections

Are you ready to become more involved in Anson County, develop your leadership skills and discover what makes our community tick? Leadership Anson may be just the opportunity you've been looking for! The Anson County Chamber of Commerce and the Leadership Anson Oversight Committee have announced that recruitment is underway for the Leadership Anson Class of 2027.

Established in 1998, the program has graduated more than 400 participants and continues to prepare individuals for leadership roles in the workplace and throughout the community. The six-month program introduces participants to leadership theories and concepts while providing a closer look at the governmental agencies, businesses and community organizations that serve Anson County.

Participants gain a better understanding of local challenges, resources and opportunities while building relationships with other individuals who share an interest in making a positive difference.

Leadership Anson welcomes both emerging leaders and those already active in community organizations, volunteer efforts and professional leadership positions.

The 2027 class will begin with an all-day retreat in January, followed by sessions every other Tuesday from February through June. Graduation is scheduled for early June. The program offers participants an opportunity to expand their knowledge of Anson County, strengthen their leadership abilities and develop connections that can benefit both their careers and their communities.

The class is limited to 25 participants, and tuition is $560, which includes program materials, lunches, refreshments and transportation for scheduled trips. Applicants are selected based on leadership qualities, community involvement and their commitment to serving Anson County.

Applications must be received by Friday, December 18. Contact the Anson County Chamber of Commerce at 704-694-4181 or apply online at: *form.jotform.com/ansonchamber/leadership-anson*.

Completed applications may also be mailed to the Chamber at P.O. Box 305, Wadesboro, NC 28170, or emailed to *info@ansoncountychamber.org*.

Whether you're an experienced community volunteer or someone ready to get more involved, Leadership Anson offers a chance to learn, connect and help shape the county's future!

SANTA DAY SATURDAY
December 5 9am to 11am



Come out to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus for free pictures with Santa...and a TOY for every good girl and boy!!!

Event takes place at Ma's Restaurant 6430 Highway 52 in Morven

Joshua Lowe: From Stagecoach Driver to Respected Monroe Businessman

Anson native's remarkable life offers a glimpse into the days of oxen, muddy roads and stagecoach travel



Horse-drawn freight wagons were essential to commerce during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Joshua Lowe operated a draying business in Monroe for approximately 35 years, transporting merchandise and supplies for local merchants before retiring in 1910. This is a historical photograph for illustration; not a photograph of Lowe.

Long before automobiles, paved highways and delivery trucks, traveling from Charlotte to Wadesboro was an all-day adventure. One man who knew those roads particularly well was Joshua Lowe, an Anson County native who spent his early years driving stagecoaches before becoming a respected businessman in Monroe.

Lowe was born February 4, 1850, in Anson County, the son of William and Harriett Lowe. His childhood was very different from what children experience today. Youngsters were not permitted to eat at the same table as adults and had to wait until the grown-ups finished their meals. Children were also expected to stay away when company visited.

Recalling his early years, Lowe described a time when mules were virtually unknown in the area. Oxen were used for plowing, and both men and women worked the fields. Between approximately 1858 and 1865, banks were nonexistent in the region, and a man's word was considered his bond. Borrowing money often required nothing more than a promise to repay it.

People walked to church, worked hard outdoors and lived with few of the conveniences that would eventually transform everyday life.

Following the Civil War, Lowe moved to Monroe. In 1871, he began driving a stagecoach between Charlotte and Wadesboro, a journey that required considerable patience and endurance. The coach departed Charlotte at 8 a.m. and was scheduled to arrive in Wadesboro at 9 p.m., a 13-hour trip over rough, muddy roads. Horses had to be changed three times along the route, and a round-trip ticket cost $10, a substantial amount of money in those days.

Lowe remembered that there was only one house standing where the town of Marshville would eventually develop. The surrounding countryside was largely wooded, with little indication of the community that would grow there. His recollections also painted a picture of a much harsher era. He remembered the gallows and whipping post as forms of punishment, while ordinary necessities were scarce. A single pair of shoes, sometimes made with wooden bottoms, was expected to last an entire year.

Lowe continued driving stagecoaches until the arrival of the railroad changed transportation in the region. He eventually settled in Monroe, married Jane Holmes of Marshville and established a draying business. Draying involved transporting goods and merchandise, generally by horse-drawn wagon, for merchants and businesses. For decades, Lowe was a familiar sight around Monroe, hauling freight and making deliveries for local merchants.

On September 27, 1910, a newspaper reported that Lowe had been forced to sell his business after approximately 35 years. Advancing age and the physical demands of the work had made it difficult for him to continue, and he had been unable to find dependable help. He sold his team and the goodwill of his business to C. D. Meacham. The newspaper praised Lowe for his honesty, reliability and dedication, noting that he had handled merchants' goods with the same care he would have given his own property.

His retirement was followed by personal hardship. Lowe cared for his wife through a lengthy illness until her death in 1918. She was buried in Marshville Cemetery. In 1919, Lowe suffered a broken hip that left him bedridden. His health continued to decline over the following years, but he remained remembered as a humble Christian gentleman who had earned the respect and affection of his community.

On February 4, 1925, Lowe celebrated his 75th birthday. By then, he had lived through extraordinary changes, from the days of oxen and stagecoaches to the arrival of railroads, automobiles and modern commerce.

Joshua Lowe died in October 1925 and was buried beside his wife in Marshville Cemetery.

His story preserves a fascinating chapter of local history, recalling a time when a trip from Charlotte to Wadesboro took 13 hours, a handshake could secure a loan, and a dependable wagon driver was an essential part of a town's economy.

Nearly a century after his death, Joshua Lowe's life remains a reminder of the hardworking men and women who helped build the communities we know today. *Compiled by N. C. Carpenter, courtesy of the Marshville Museum*



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