



Forty years ago efforts were evident to establish a new town beyond the northern limits of Charles Town. A sizeable settlement had grown up as the result of several industries being located in the area. An election was held to decide this issue on October 15, 1910 and the qualified voters within the bounds of the proposed town cast 69 ballots for incorporating the settlement as a town and two votes against the proposal. Application was then made to the Circuit Court of Jefferson county for a certificate of incorporation and on October 18, a new town officially came into being in Jefferson county. And today that town which didn't even exist a half century ago and which was named for Matthew Ranson, who built the Ranson Homestead, is now the second largest in the county, being topped in population only by Charles Town, the county seat. The above picture shows Ranson before it was Ranson. When this picture was taken May 13, 1899 by C. I. McClung, who was then a photographer in Charles Town, it was John Deering Farm Equipment day and they were making the best of it with this huge display. C. N. Coleman of Charles Town represented the Deering Company and Preston Hopkins was salesman for Mr. Coleman. The owners of the teams shown in the foreground were Will and Charles Engle, Jeff Bane, Charles

W. Connor, Oscar Ramey, C. E. Quick, Isaac Ramey, William McSherry, George B. Hooff and Edward Winkler. Charles Engle, the only living member, is shown in the area in the white circle. Members of the band are Filmore Davis, Edward Henson, Thomas Baker, Harry Baker, Milton Slifer, Harry Middlekauff, John Harrell, Jim Stinger and Bub Davis. Shown in the background are the former Crane House, now owned by Peter H. B. VanTol; the Woodward House, about the first one built in Ranson; The "Dunaway" House which was built by Bushrod Washington and the "Ranson Inn". It was in this latter building that Mrs. Daisy W. Bush started teaching school in 1895. She taught there for 18 years. Wright Denny was principal of the school at that time. Also shown in the background of the picture is the Powhatan Hotel, which was built in 1891. It was built as a hotel, but later was used as a girls school under the name of "Powhatan College." Later it was bought by the Episcopal Diocese and used as a girls' school under the name of St. Hilda's Hall. Then 15 years ago the building burned and now the new and modern Charles Town General Hospital occupies the site. The above picture is the property of Phillip Perks, Sr., Charles Town.