The City of Asheville

AKA

Locke Craig's Jim Crow Political Science Laboratory



The formulas of Black disenfranchisement were developed in a political science laboratory known as The City of Asheville.

In 1898 City Attorney, Locke Craig, an avowed White Supremacist, was elected to represent Buncombe County in the NCGA.

In his first year as a NC House Representative, Locke Craig helped to develop the Grandfather Clause which exempted voters registered before 1867 from the impeding literacy tests which became a part of the NC Constitution in 1900.

Asheville Citizen-Times
28 Jul 1900, Sat · Page 1

is confirmed that the assurances of Chinese officialdom are only designed to gain time, and even if the ministers are alive they are held as hostages.

Definite news of any kind is scarce. A report comes from Shanghai that business has been resumed at the port of New Chwang and that a second Japanese division is mobilizing at Tokio, preparatory for embarkation for China.

ADDITIONAL LIST OF PARADE MARSHALS

FOR THE TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION MONDAY EVENING.

The following additional marshals have been appointed for the Democratic torchlight procession Monday evening:

F. N. Waddell, C. C. Brown, P. H. Branch, J. W. Dillon, John M. Stoner, John Hollingsworth, D. M. Luther, J.

FACTS SHOWN BY THE REGISTRATION BOOKS

NEGRO REGISTRATION CUT DOWN NEARLY ONE-HALF.

As required by law the registration books of the city were open for inspection this morning. The figures for the six precincts of Asheville follow:

Precincts	White.	Col.	Total
First	324	229	553
Second	195	169	364
Third	344	42	386
Fourth	349	104	453
Fifth	482	57	539
Sixth	299	89	388
Total	1993	690	2683

The registration this year is an en-

Prior to the August 2, 1900 NC Constitutional Amendment which was designed to disenfranchise the Black vote statewide, Asheville was leading the way in this effort.

In 1896 Asheville had 982 Black registered voters which was 36.9% of the total.

Four years later, BEFORE the vote for the amendment requiring literacy tests and poll taxes, Asheville had reduced the Black vote to 690 voters, 25.7% of the total.



In 1912, Locke Craig was elected Governor of North Carolina. He served 1 four-year term from 1913-1917 during which time he tripled the miles of paved highways in the state by using convict labor.

In 1915, the City of Asheville became the first city in the state to abolish the Aldermanic form of governance. Representative wards (districts) were eliminated when the three-member (elected at-large) Asheville Board of Commissioners replaced the 8-member Board of Aldermen.







Locke Craig began feeding the trees in Riverside Cemetery in 1924*. He didn't live to see the collapse of the US Stock Market and death of the Roaring 20's. However, his political methods of Black disenfranchisement lived on, and in 1931 Asheville established (by referendum) a new City Charter, adopted the Council-Manager form of governance, and kept an at-large election system, after eliminating absentee voting for Buncombe County municipal elections.

*application to Heaven still pending in honor of Buncombe County due process

Update: 2023

Though unenforceable due to Federal Law, North Carolina's Constitutional Amendment of 1900 remains in the North Carolina State Constitution. Asheville and Wilmington are the only large cities in North Carolina to still use the Jim Crow at-large election system to select their municipal government (City Council).

