

The First One Hundred Eighty Years

by Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

Editor's Note:

January 6, 1967 marks the 180th Anniversary of the chartering of what was to become Louisburg College. In commemoration of this anniversary, The Franklin Times will publish in serial form, at frequent intervals a history of Louisburg College. The Times acknowledges the assistance of the College, and many private citizens in this endeavor. Credit is also given to A New Geography of North Carolina—Franklin County by Bill Sharpe; Historical Sketches of Franklin County by E. H. Davis and A History of Louisburg College by Miriam L. Russell, from which much of the material for the series was taken.

It all began, perhaps, in 1725. Settlers in eastern North Carolina believed they had wiped out the pesky Tuscarora Indians, even as early as 1715. But, ten years later, a band of Tuscaroras vowed to annihilate every white man in the colony.

The band ran amuck, killing and looting where they could until the settlers, armed and determined, drove them to a ford in the Tar River near where Louisburg now stands in 1725. It was here, with the Tar at flood stage that the last of the Tuscaroras were massacred.

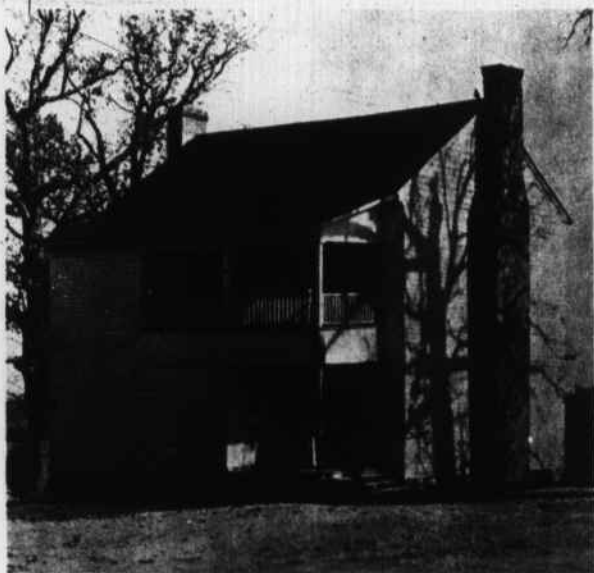
The battle is the first record of any settlers in Franklin County. It would be fifteen years before a settler would come to make his home here. History records that it was in 1740 that a man named John Terrell settled "on the south bank of Sandy Creek". It was from here that the early colony began. In the area, now known as Centerville, population grew and in 1764, it was this area which was referred to as the center of population in what was to become Bute County and later Franklin.

The history of Louisburg College is so closely interwoven with the history of Franklin County, one would be hard put to separate the two.

The College, marking its 180th anniversary this

year, breathed the first breath of life in 1787 when a charter was granted by the State Legislature. Obviously, some planning and discussions must have been held prior to this time. How long the planning took will never be known. How much discussion was held is also, forever lost in the never ending misplacements of history.

January 6, 1787. It is known that on this day, some men were busy passing the law to approve the charter for Franklin Academy, which would lead to today's



Louisburg College.

To truly appreciate the magnitude of the accomplishments of establishing the first such school and the long successful operation, maintaining the highest degree of excellence which remains today a hallmark of the local institution, one must recall the early years.

As difficult as it might be to visualize conditions here in 1787, one can get some picture through a scattering of recorded information and history as it recalls the time.

The American Revolution was just recently brought to a successful conclusion. Men who participated in the beginning of Franklin Academy had been forceful in their actions against the Crown. One such man was George Simms, a ferry tender, whose letter to Governor Tryon flatly declared that he, Simms, would never pay the tax assessed against the citizens, with which to build Tryon Palace in New Bern. A large number of residents of what is now Franklin County also refused to pay.

Governor Tryon, being advised of this treasonable attitude among Franklin citizens sent a Major Lynch, a British officer to collect this tax personally. Three miles west of Louisburg, Major Lynch was met by a local citizens committee and declared "an enemy of the county". He was hanged on the spot. Some say that here is where the word "lynching" was born, while other sources attribute the word to a Capt. Lynch of Virginia, author of the Lynch Law.

This action brought on the War of the Regulators and named a creek even if, perhaps, it did not name impromptu necktie parties.

To gain some firm ideas of the year 1787, one must remember that Louisburg College was first chartered two years before George Washington became the first President of the United States. Such immortals as Samuel Adams, Francis Marion, Daniel Boone, Patrick Henry, John Paul Jones, Alexander Hamilton were alive and in the prime of life. Daniel Webster and Davy Crockett were five and one year old respectively.

It was five years before the City of Raleigh would be laid out as the State Capital. John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson were twenty year olds and Abe Lincoln's father was only nine.

The year 1787 was only six years after the Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown and five years after the British cabinet agreed to recognize American independence. King George III was head of England and Louis XVI, for whom Louisburg is named, ruled France.

While these illustrious leaders lived in 1787, so too, did a number of local leaders. Men such as Green Hill, Benjamin Seawell, William Brickell, John King and many others.

Men, such as these, ardent supporters of the American Revolution led to a famous Revolutionary slogan—"There are no Tories in Bute". These men and their associates, tired, no doubt in 1785-86, of war and talk of war, turned their thoughts to local improvements. Interest moved to things to be done to better their lot and the lot of those who would follow.

Somewhere during this time and in this place, these men, who we will introduce later, nurtured and gave birth to an idea which was to live for at least one hundred and eighty years.

Weather

Partly cloudy today and Friday. Rather cold throughout. Low today, 32; high, 36.

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Robbery Scenes

Pictures above show scene of Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning robbery at Pearce's which netted thieves upwards of \$10,000 in guns and merchandise. Shown top left, Deputy Lonnie House points to window where robber

entered building; at right, Deputy Dave Batten and store owner J. W. Perry, Jr. inspect near-empty gun rack. Lower photo shows Sheriff William T. Dement looking things over outside the building.

Yeggs Hit Pearce's Store

For the fourth time in six weeks thieves have raided a Franklin County establishment, using a stolen truck to haul away the loot. The latest in an alarming series of robberies, took place sometime Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning at J. W. Perry's Store in the Pearce's Community of Franklin County.

Yeggmens used a 1967 Ford pickup truck stolen from J. Everette Land, operator of a laundromat three miles from the Perry Store at Five Points, to haul away between \$5,000 and \$10,000 in guns and other merchandise.

Perry reported his inventory was incomplete and he could not give an exact figure shortly after the discovery of the

theft. He said between 50 and 75 new and used pistols were stolen from a display case and between 50 and 60 shotguns and rifles were missing from two gun racks. Also reported taken were a number of sweat shirts, watches, pocketknives and one Motorola portable TV set.

One glass inclosed gun rack was completely stripped, with the thugs taking the most expensive weapons in the store. A Browning over and under shotgun, owned by Perry himself and valued at over \$400 was taken.

Entry was made through a side window leading into Perry's office. Iron bars had been ripped away and bent and one window pane was broken, allowing what officers des-

cribed as "a very small man" to climb through and open the

front door from where the loot

See ROBBERY Page 6

County Firemen Meet

The Franklin County Fire Association held its first meeting of 1967 in the Community House in Youngsville last night. The Youngsville Fire Department delegates served a delicious meal of fried chicken, french fries, lettuce and tomatoes, chocolate cake and coffee.

Delegates from Louisburg, Bunn, Franklin, Youngsville and Justice departments were present, along with some of the County Board of County Commissioners.

The main topic of discussion and problem before the de-

partments is the notification, to the citizens of the County, of the proper emergency phone number to dial in case of fire. All departments reported that they are trying to work out some method whereby the people will know the correct number to call.

Another problem mentioned was the relinquishing of the "party line" when someone needs to report a fire. This is a very serious problem and one that the association hopes will be worked out without having to resort to using unpleasant means.

College To Start 180th Year Observance Friday

The Charter

January 6, 1787

Whereas the establishing of an Academy in the said County (Franklin) for the education of youth will be attended with great advantages to the State in general and to the County of Franklin in particular.

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same that Dr. John King, William Lancaster, Josiah Love, Benjamin Seawell, Robert Goodlow, Robert Bell, Jordan Hill, Francis Taylor, Hugh Hayes, William Green, Thomas Stokes and Dr. Wm. Varel, Esquires, be and they are hereby constituted and appointed Trustees with full power and authority to receive into their hands and possession all monies and other property which have been or may hereafter be subscribed for the purpose of erecting an Academy in the town of Lewisburg in the county aforesaid by the name of Franklin Academy, etc.

-Historical Sketches of Franklin County by E. H. Davis, 1948

Commissioners Again Seek Road Hearing

The Franklin Board of County Commissioners closed a day-long session here Monday by authorizing Commissioner Norwood E. Faulkner to make a call to Fifth Division Highway Commissioner J. B. Brame of Durham and request a hearing on the local road situation.

The action came as the Board prepared to adjourn the regular monthly meeting and followed a brief explanation of Franklin road fund shortages by County Attorney Charles Davis. Davis also pointed out to the Board that he had written Mr. Brame "before Christmas" requesting a hearing with the Commissioners, but had received no reply. Considerable discussion was heard on the possibility of another try at getting the Division Commissioner to grant a hearing, before appealing to the entire Highway Commission.

Times Editor Clint Fuller, a staunch advocate of action in the matter of road improvements, told the Board that

while he supported any positive action they might take, he believed, in light of three previous meetings with Mr. Brame, that the Board was "wasting your time" in asking for a fourth. Fuller favors a direct appeal to the entire 14-member state Commission.

In other actions, the Board accepted the resignation of Mrs. Mildred Malone, Court Reporter and appointed Mrs. Rebecca D. Currin of Oxford to replace Mrs. Malone, who is moving to Aberdeen, Md. to "be near my children", as she puts it in her letter of resignation. Mrs. Currin is to receive \$125 per week and eight cents travel allowance.

See COMMISSIONERS Page 6

Gardner Replaces Graham As Speaker

The curtain rises Friday night on what is slated to be one of the most elaborate celebrations in the history of Louisburg College. Before Commencement in June, a host of outstanding speakers will have visited the campus and its long and illustrious history will be recalled many times in the coming months.

The oldest denominational, coeducational Junior College in the country has already had heaped upon its shoulders the praise of thousands in recent years and the coming months will undoubtedly bring much more.

Because of unexpected illness, Dr. Richard N. Gardner, adviser to United Nations Ambassador Arthur Goldberg, will replace Dr. Frank Graham as the opening observance speaker here Friday night. Dr. Graham is confined with a serious cold, according to reports.

Dr. Gardner is a former deputy assistant to the Secretary of State under the late President John F. Kennedy. He is a professor of law and international affairs at Columbia University and author of the book, "Blue Print for Peace." He is considered a popular campus lecturer on United States foreign policy.

He received his B.A. degree in Economics from Harvard University, where he was a Phi Beta Kappa, in 1948; his L.L.B. from Yale Law School in 1951 and his Ph. D. from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, in 1956. He is the author of "Sterling-Dollar Diplomacy", Oxford University Press with a new addition this year and the recently released book, "In

Pursuit of World Order." Dr. Gardner comes to Louisburg and will speak as a private citizen and not as a representative of the federal government. His addresses have been described as far-ranging and controversial. Dr. Gardner will meet with representatives of the press and others following his address.

Dr. Gardner's topic for the 8 P.M. Friday address will be "United States Foreign Policy, Today and Tomorrow." There is to be no charges to any of the public events and the public is invited to hear Dr. Gardner Friday at 8 P.M. in the College Auditorium.

Mr. Allen de Hart is General Chairman of the 180th Anniversary Observance and special committees are headed. See COLLEGE Page 6

Man Halts Robbery

Jesse C. Ball, 70-year-old father of Louisburg businessman Maurice C. Ball, employed as nightwatchman at the Angus Barn near Raleigh, is credited with preventing an apparent attempt to rob the restaurant safe Tuesday night.

The elderly man, making his usual rounds, had a gunman stick a pistol in his side and order him to accompany the burglar to a wooded area behind the eating establishment. The gunman took Ball's pistol.

Ball took a swing at the masked gunman with his three-pound nightwatchman's clock, striking the thief on the head and knocking him unconscious. Ball then returned to the restaurant and called his employer, who in turn notified the Wake County sheriff's department. When officers arrived, the gunman was gone. The incident reportedly occurred around 12:45 A. M. Tuesday morning at the popular eating place located on U. S. Highway 70 between Raleigh and Durham.

Meeting Set

Louisburg Business Association will hold its annual dinner meeting at the Louisburg College cafeteria January 17 at 7 p. m. Bill Tadlock, a magician from Rocky Mount, will entertain. Members and wives and non-members are invited. Admitted by reservation only.