

Weather

Partly cloudy and a little warmer today. Cold with a chance of rain Wednesday. Low today, 22; high, about 30.

The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday

Serving All Of Franklin County

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Tel. GY 6-3283

Ten Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Tuesday, January 17, 1967

(Six Pages Today)

97th Year—Number 95

Louisburg College

The First One Hundred Eighty Years

by Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

Part II

They came from eastern North Carolina and Virginia and they were mostly English, Irish and Germans, the people who first settled in Franklin County. While John Terrell is recorded as the first, others soon followed and by 1758, a settlement began in the ford of Tar River, where Louisburg now stands.

Louisburg was named in 1779 when Franklin and Warren counties were established from the old county of Bute. An act of the legislature at the time authorized the Town Commissioners to purchase 100 acres of land "north of the Tar River" from a man named Patewell Milner and his wife Jacobina. The purchase price was £5000 or around \$50 per acre.

The name Louisburg for which the College is quite naturally named, was in honor of Louis XVI of France. The county was named for Benjamin Franklin, who had recently visited Louis XVI and secured help from France for the colonies.

The late Rev. E. H. Davis, in his Historical Sketches of Franklin County reports that the town was not named for the American forces who captured the French fortress of Louisburg in Cape Breton, Ireland in 1758 and insists that the modern spelling is correct although the name appears as "Lewisburg" in some early documents.

The land originally purchased for the Town of Louisburg was deeded to Green Hill, William Hill, William Jeffreys and William Lawrence. The Legislature established Franklin County and Louisburg on January 29, 1779 in session at Halifax, N.C. Benjamin Seawell

represented the county in the Senate and Green Hill and Benjamin Ward represented the county in the House. Among these appear the names of some of the men who founded Franklin Academy, now Louisburg College.



MAIN BUILDING

There were others. Noticeably, William Brickell, who gave the 25 acres, now the College campus, as a Town Commons in 1787.

As Commissioners for the Town of Louisburg, representatives of the people in pre-Revolutionary assemblies and later, as Commissioners for the County of Franklin and in practically every walk of life, these same names reappear time and time again.

Mr. Norwood B. Kearney of Franklinton recently searched out the names of several early settlers in Franklin County. His information comes from a Granville County (a part of old Bute) tax list of 1755. According to Mr. Kearney, these were Jacob Powell, settling on Crooked Creek; William Perry, on Cedar Creek; Millstone Branch and Mooney's Branch; the aforementioned John Terrell on Sandy Creek; Edward Moore on Richland Creek; William Vinson on South side of Sandy Creek, a probable neighbor of Terrell's; James Smith on Eaves Creek; Edward Young, south side of Flat Creek; John Massey; Thomas Person on Lynch's Creek; a man named Williams on Wolfpit Creek and Joseph Fuller on upper Cedar Creek.

While these names are recently disclosed and are interesting in that some are still familiar in Franklin County, there does not appear on this list any of the names of the early leaders of the county, particularly in the connection with the founding of Louisburg College.

Dr. John King, William Lancaster, Josiah Love,

Benjamin Seawell, Robert Goodlow, Robert Bell, Jordan Hill, Francis Taylor, Hugh Hays (note spelling), William Green, Thomas Stokes and Dr. William Varel were the men first named as Trustees of Franklin Academy on January 6, 1787. It is believed that something delayed the opening of the Academy until another charter was granted by the Legislature in 1802. At this time, only Francis Taylor, William Lancaster and William Green were renamed Trustees. Others selected by the Legislature in 1802 were: John Hunt, Epps Moody, John Haywood, Joshua Perry, Archibald Davis, Jeremiah Perry, Jr., Richard Fenner, George Tunstall, Green Hill, Alexander Falconer and William Williams.

Numbered among these men first named in 1787, were two ministers, two doctors and at least three representatives to the Legislature. Rev. Davis in his book, expresses a doubt shared here, that men of this caliber hardly sat idle during the years between 1787 and 1802 when history fails to show any action towards the establishment of Franklin Academy.

We visualize that in the years just prior to, and including the first chartering of the Academy that Dr. John King, Green Hill, Benjamin Seawell and William Brickell and others, met frequently and discussed and perhaps, planned for the building and course of study in the Academy.

These men were the founders of the present day Louisburg College. They will be discussed in the next part of this series.

Highway Commissioner To Meet Local Officials Here Wednesday

Fifth Division Highway Commissioner J. B. Brame is expected to meet here Wednesday morning with the Board of County Commissioners and members of the Better Roads Committee. The meeting was set up last Wednesday when three Commissioners and the County Attorney visited Brame in Durham.

County Attorney Charles Davis, acting under instructions from the Board, requested a meeting with Mr. Brame by letter on December 26. The purpose of the meeting was described as being to discuss a growing dissatisfaction on the part of Franklin officials with highway fund allocations in Brame's Division.

Brame answered the Davis letter saying he would be happy to meet but did not set a date. The date was set in last Wednesday's meeting in Durham. Those attending the meeting were Commissioners Norwood Faulkner, George Harris and Brooks W. Young, along with Davis.

Commissioner Chairman E. M. Sykes, Faulkner and Young met here last Thursday night with members of the Better Roads Committee to report the Wednesday meeting with the Highway Commissioner.

A general discussion was held on many of the county road needs and plans were made for the visit here Wednesday by Mr. Brame.

Radio newsman A. F. Johnson, Jr. was appointed as eleventh member of the Better Roads Committee last Thursday by the County Commissioners.

Driver Prevents Crash

The driver of a tractor-trailer, loaded with fresh vegetables took to the ditch on US 1 by-pass near Franklinton Monday and averted what might have been a serious three-car collision, according to reports.

Willie V. Parsons of Candor, N. C. en route to Ohio told State Trooper Bill Etheridge of Franklinton, that a light colored Cadillac with New Jersey license passed him and was pulling in front of his truck when the car ahead signaled a right turn. Parsons added, "Oncoming traffic made up my mind to hit the ditch rather than possibly kill people".

Damage to the truck was estimated at \$4,000 and Parsons said he could not guess the damage to the trailer and cargo.

The high bank prevented the truck from overturning as it skidded along the mud for 100 feet before coming to a halt.

Questions Raised On County Fund Transfer

by Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

An action by the Board of County Commissioners, which would result in the transfer of county school funds from First Citizens Bank and Trust Co. to Waccamaw Bank and Trust Co. here has become a prime topic of conversation in the area the past few days. The relatively quiet move by the Board now apparently threatens to explode into a full scale controversy.

The action reportedly was taken in the meeting of December 15, when both banking firms were named Treasurers of the county. However, there is no record of such a motion having been passed at that special meeting or any other meeting of the Board ordering the transfer of such funds. No reference to the matter appears in the minute book.

"AN OVERSIGHT"

Commission Chairman E. M. (Buck) Sykes said, "This was an oversight and we'll have to do something about it". Mr. Sykes discussed the situation, but declined to do so for publication. He said that he called Superintendent of Schools Warren Smith on January 3 and informed him, Smith, that the funds were to be transferred. Smith says this is the first information his office received on the matter. He also said that the County Board of Education has not been contacted, although he has informed those members he has seen.

1916 LAW

The Commissioners are acting under an obscure law enacted in the 1915 legislature and approved by Franklin County citizens on November 7, 1916, 1353 to 952. The law abolished the office of County Treasurer because "it was unnecessary to pay the Treasurer \$1500 to \$2000 annually when the banks would do the work for nothing", according to a report at the time.

A copy of the law, obtained from Secretary of State Thad Eure's office, when the Session laws of 1915 could not be found in any local law library, does away with the office of County Treasurer and allows banks to be named depositories. The law does not require and there is some question that it permits banks to be designated as County Treasurers.

Neither does the law require that school funds or any other be deposited in different banks. It does say, "That the Board of County Commissioners shall designate for a term of two years . . . one or more banks . . . as a depository or financial agent for county funds . . . and one or more banks as a depository or financial agent for the school fund . . . naming a different bank or banks for these two funds, unless that be impracticable".

A 1955 Sessions law requires only that the two funds be kept separate. The 1916 law applied only to Franklin County and there is some question that the 1955 statewide law overrules the earlier one.

In the Board meeting of January 3, the matter was thoroughly discussed and Waccamaw's local manager James Grady and Superintendent Smith, with Board vice chairman Clint Fuller appeared before the Commissioners on the matter. Fuller and Smith requested the Board to delay the action until new checks could be printed bearing the Waccamaw name. Smith informed the Board that his office expected to receive, at any time a full year's supply of preprinted checks bearing the First-Citizens name and it would take some time and expense to get new checks printed.

Following the discussion, Smith and Grady were instructed to work out the preprinted check problem and apparently everyone concerned left the meeting under the impression that a transfer of funds was to be made immediately.

DIFFICULTY

Some difficulty arose over voiding the order for First-Citizens checks and a prompt delivery of Waccamaw checks. Some of the former have recently arrived here for use with a new automated machine for school bookkeeping. Grady said here Monday that he has placed an order for the Waccamaw checks for the school office but that delivery might be 30 to 45 days away.

Commissioner Brooks W. Young made the motion on December 15 to make both Waccamaw and First-Citizens County Treasurer and Commissioner George Harris seconded the motion with all pres-

ent voting aye. Conversations locally voice support for both firms, depending on which side the speaker happens to be. Both banks wish to keep away from any of the controversy. Some observers point to First-Citizens' 35 year tenure here and its long history of service. Others point to Waccamaw's attempt to compete with First-Citizens as a good thing. Some agree that Waccamaw should have some of the funds, but not the proposed 60% of those deposited on checking account with First-Citizens.

"CANNOT UNDERSTAND"

J. H. Talton, Vice President of First Citizens, would only say, "I cannot understand the basis for the transfer". While he, like Mr. Sykes, was willing to discuss the matter, he declined to do so for publication at this time.

There seems to be some sentiment for a broader decision on the part of the Commissioners. At least one interested observer pointed to the fact that Central Carolina Bank and Trust Co. with a branch at Youngsville was not given county funds on deposit until two years ago, even though the branch has been there for 18 years. Others will argue that a new business deserves local support. Both firms, most agree, are fully qualified to hold county money.

"FREE MONEY"

The money in question is labeled in banking circles as "free money", that is that no

See FUND page 6

Parcel Post Requires Zip Code

W. E. Murphy, assistant postmaster, today urged the public to make sure that all parcel post packages include the proper Zip Code numbers in their addresses.

Mr. Murphy stated that having to ascertain the numbers after a person comes to the window at the post office often requires much waiting and inconvenience to those mailing packages as well as other patrons wishing window service.

Wife Charged With Shooting Husband

A 68-year-old Franklinton man is reported to be in fair condition in a Raleigh hospital following a shooting incident at his home Saturday night. Dewey Lee Varner, Rt. 2 Franklinton, was shot

in the chest with a .16 gauge shotgun blast by his wife, Mrs. Elsie Lee Varner, following an affray between the two of them Saturday night around 8 p. m., according to Sheriff William T. Dement.

Varner had reportedly beaten his wife. Mrs. Varner was treated at Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson, but left the hospital on her own accord.

The blast was delivered from close range, according to Sheriff Dement. Franklinton Police Officer Tom Allen and Deputy Sheriff Lonnie House are investigating the shooting. Mrs. Varner is free under \$500 bond, charged with assault in the case.

Franklinton Man Takes Own Life

A 68-year-old Franklinton man took his own life Saturday afternoon around 5 p. m., according to reports. Alfred A. Mitchell was found by a son following a shotgun blast which ended the elderly man's life. He had been in poor health, according to reports.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p. m. Monday at Union View Baptist Church by the Rev. Glenn Short, the Rev. Ed Sessoms and the Rev. Frank Apple. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Surviving is one daughter, Mrs. Marvin H. Boyd of Rt. 4, Henderson; one son, Floyd Hester Mitchell of Franklinton; four sisters, Mrs. Zula Gibson and Miss Emma Mitchell of Franklinton, Mrs. Mary Keith of Creedmoor, and Mrs. Bertha Newton of Oxford; two brothers, Arthur Mitchell of Franklinton and Hoyle Mitchell of Rt. 1, Kiltrell; 10 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Loan

The Agency for International Development has announced an Alliance for Progress loan of \$10,000,000 to the Dominican Republic. The loan will finance school construction and economical improvements in several business fields.

Local PTA To Hear Fire Safety Talk

The Parent-Teacher Association of Louisburg High School will meet on Thursday, January 19, at 7:30 p. m. in the auditorium.

The program, according to Mrs. John T. Lloyd, program chairman, will be on Fire Safety, with Mr. Willard Morton of the local Fire Department speaking on this subject. In addition, Mrs. Evelyn Williamson will give the group information about the school library.

In connection with Fire Safety, school patrons and the public in general are reminded that important programs on this subject will be shown on Channel 4 on Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 p. m.; Thursday, January 19 at 11:30 a. m. and Wednesday, February 1 at 2:30 p. m. The Association feels that it would be most beneficial to watch these programs.



When Cotton Was King in 1915



Tobacco Rolls in 1920

Scenes above, never again to be duplicated in these parts, shows bales of cotton lined up on Main Street, top, in 1915 before the streets were paved. Lower photo shows tobacco being hauled in to a local warehouse in the early 1920's. Many locals will recall such scenes.