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ROCKINGHAM, N. C., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON JULY 30, 1952

ISAAC S. LONDON, Editor and Proprietor

MAP OF ROCKINGHAM FILED AT COURTHOU SE JULY 16. 1788



High Spots Rockingham 1784-1952

1775-79-Flora Macdonald lived in upper part of county. Feb. 1, 1779—County of Richmond authorized. Oct. 23, 1779—Law passed dividing Anson. April 19, 1784—County-seat authorized—Rockingham. April 1, 1785—Commissioners met and bought 50 acres. July 16, 1788—Map of new Town certified and filed. Nov. 3, 1788—Act passed establishing Richmond Academy. 1797-Act empowering Town to elect 3 Commissioners. April 19, 1801—County orders Hitchcock Creek navigation. 1820—Act appointing seven Town Commissioners. Feb. 28, 1829—Rockingham postoffice established. Nov. 4, 1833 4 p. m. Wake Forest College born at C.C. Church Dec. 1833—Richmond Cotton Mill chartered (open 1837). 1845—Act incorporating Town and elect 5 Commissioners. 1887-Act amending incorporation, extending limits. Sept. 1, 1924—New \$225,000 courthouse dedicated. Nov. 14, 1930—Confederate monument unveiled. Elevation Rockingham SAL Ry. depot (low point)-211.135 feet. Rockingham incorporated 1845, (1861?) and 1887. County bought 132 acres in 1851 for County Home. Population Rockingham 1870: 454. 1950: 3356. 1929-Dec. 16-First Talkie movies Richmond Theatre.

Lots No. 26 and 29 Back in 1788

MANY OF THE ORIGINAL LOTS IN 1788 MAP OF ROCKINGHAM WAS OWNED BY MRS. MOURNING RAIFORD ROBARDS PICKETT.

Mourning Raiford was born about 1733 in old Bertie county; the family shortly moved to Edgecombe county and about 1749 moved to Cumberland county where she married William Robards. He was prominent in the affairs of that county and owned much property. He died in the fall of 1760 leaving three small daughters and a son. His widow early in 1761 married Sheriff William Pickett of Anson county. Mourning and William Pickett had two children - Hannah married Walter Leak in 1786 and they had eight children; and the son James Pickett married Sarah Kimbrough.

Major and Mrs. Mourning Robards Pickett owned many lots in the baby town of Rockingham, and in her Will filed in March, 1803, she left most of her property to her daughter Sally Chiles (later divorced from Thomas Chiles - and in her Will. Mrs. Pickett directed that Thomas Chiles should not be allowed to "intermmeddle with his wife's business affairs.")

James Terry was born Nov. 19, 1746, son of William and Mary Raiford Terry, their oldest son. He married in Anson May 24, 1771. Anne Robards, daughter of William and Mourning Raifords Robards, Anne born Feb. 13, 1756 and died in Richmond county March 22, 1801. James was a deputy in Anson under Sheriff William Pickett (who married his wife's mother Mourning in 1761). James and Anne Terry moved to the baby town of Rockingham in 1788 and bought Lots 26 and 29.

ROCKINGHAM Town Established

(By Isaac London)

On April 19, 1784 the General Assembly passed an Act (Chapter XLV) for "establishing and and they are hereby empowered laying out a Town in Richmond to assemble themselves toge-County by the name of Rocking- ther, on the last Saturday in ham." (See elsewhere in this issue for these various Acts in

Everett in her "Methodism" Sketches as printed in the Post-Dispatch of May 3, 1944, gives the following sketch:

"The following seven men were named-Henry Wm. Harrington, John Donaldson, William Legate, John Cole, Robert Webb, Robert Thomas, Richard binding to all intents and pur-Pemberton; and these were "empowered to agree with workmen for building a court- rules and regulations shall not house, prison, and stocks at be repugnant to the constitution such place as they, or a majority of them should agree upon, as near the center of the county as possible, and purchase of the owners of the land selected, 50 acres for erecting and building those public buildings upon." At the same time, a sufficient tax was also authorized.

The following report was

(Continued on page 2)

FROM YEAR 1784 TO YEAR 1887

Boundaries of 1887 Listed in Act. Incorporated in 1845 and in 1887.

Limits Enlarged in Year 1861?

1784

CHAPTER 45

An Act for Establishing and Laying Out a Town in Richmond County by the Name of ROCKINGHAM:

and laying out of a town in the county of Richmond on the public land at the courthouse thereof would be of great advantage to the inhabitants, and be a considerable means raising money for building the public buildings of said coun-

2. 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 the commissioners heretofore appointed for contracting for the buildings of the public buildings of Richmond county, or a majority of them, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to lay out all the public lands by them purchased for the use of the public at Richmond court house into a town of half acre lots, with proper streets, etc., which shall be called and known by the name of Rockingham; one or more of the said lots to be reserved for the use of the public buildings, and the other lots to be disposed of by the said commissioners towards raising the money for completing the said public buildings and the said commissioners are hereby authorized to make good and sufficient titles in fee simple to the respective purchasers for the said lots.

1797

CHAPTER 72 An Act to Regulate the Towns of Rockingham and Wadesborough, in the Counties of

Anson and Richmond.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing ing of this act, the inhabitants of the said towns of Rockingham and Wadesborough, in the counties of Anson and Richmond, be, January in each and every year, to elect three Commissioners for each of said towns; and such The late Mrs. Lillie Moore persons so selected shall be freeholders of said towns: and after being duly elected, they or a majority of them are empowered to make such rules and regulations for the good government of the inhabitants of said towns; as they may deem necessary; which rules and regulations, when made, shall be poses on the inhabitants of said towns. PROVIDED, That such or laws of this State.

1820

CHAPTER 44

ham, in Richmond County.

made in July, 1788: "John Cole al Assembly of the State of enact and adopt all such bye edge of said pond to a point and William Henry Harrington, North Carolina, and it is here- laws, rules and regulations as from which a line due south Commissioners for laying out by enacted by the authority of they may deem necessary for th the Town of Rockingham in the the same, That Walter Leak, good order and government of County of Richmond in the State sen., James L. Vaughan, Charles said town, not inconsistent with of North Carolina, hereby cer- Robinson, Thomas Crawford, the constitution and laws of the tify to the Court of said County William P. Leak, James Cole State or of the United States. and to all others whom it may and John L. Campbell be, and concern, that they have laid off they are hereby appointed Com- That the town constable aforesaid town agreeable to the above missioners for the town afore- said shall be the collector of the plan in lots of little more than said; and that the said Commis- town taxes, under the direction a half acre each, and have num- sioners, or a majority of them, of the commissioners; and for shall have power to make, or- that purpose shall have all the

dain and enforce bye laws rules and regulations, for the government thereof; to levy, collect and appropriate towntaxes; and to do and perform such other matters or things, relating to the prosperity and well being of said town, as they in their discretion may think proper, having a due regard to 1. Whereas the establishing the constitution and laws of the state.

that if any of the said commissioners should die, remove, or to the limits of the plat of said refuse to act, the remaining commissioners shall have power ter's office of said county of to fill such vacancy by the appointment of others in their one hundred and fifty yards bestead.

1845

CHAPTER 52 Jan. 4, 1845.

An Act to Incorporate the Town of Rockingham, in the County of Richmond.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That it shall be the duty of the sheriff of the county of Richmond, by himself or his lawful deputy, on the first Monday in February next, and annually thereafter on the same day, in the court house in the town of Rockingham, to open polls for the election of five commissioners in and for the said town of Rockingham, who shall continue in office for the term of one

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted That any citizen of the age of twenty-one years, who has resided within said town for one year, shall be eligible as commissioner; and every inhabitant of said town entitled by the constitution to vote for members to the House of Commons, is hereby declared to be qualified to vote for commissioners; and such elections shall be conducted and regulated by ballot, as elections for members of the Legislature are now conducted; and in the event of a tie, the Sheriff or his Deputy shall give

the casting vote. SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That said commissioners, af ter their election, and before entering upon the discharge of their official duties, shall take an oath before some Justice of the Peace of the county aforesaid, faithfully and impartially to perform said duties; and upon so doing shall be constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of the commissioners of the town of Rock ingham.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted That a majority of the commissioners shall constitute of quorum to do business, and tha they shall have full power t appoint a magistrate of police who shall be an acting Justice of the Peace for said county and a town treasurer and cons table, and to require the proper bonds from the same, for the faithful performance of their duties; and to lay and collect a tax on the person and property of the town, not exceeding seventy-five cents on the poll twenty-five cents on the hun-An Act to Appoint Commis- | dred dollars worth of property sioners for Town of Rocking- per annum; to appoint patrol to remove nuisances, to provide 1. Be it enacted by the Gener- against disease and fires, and to pond, thence with the southern

SEC, 5. Be it further enacted,

This copy of the old Laws of Rockingham and a brief History of the Town is prepared by Isaac S. Lonion, Editor-Owner of the Post-Dispatch; and at left is Map of the baby Town as filed July 16, 1788. Mr. London gives this copy to you with his compliments and as a Historical record.-Isaac S. London.

powers and immunities of Sheriffs in collection of police revenue; and said taxes, when collected, shall be applied to the improvement and benefit of the town.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, That the authority and Juris-2. And be it further enacted, diction of the commissioners shall extend in every direction town as recorded in the Regis-Richmond; and on the west end yond the limits of said town, as represented by the plat of said town in the Register's office.

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification. (Ratified the 4th day of January 1845).

1887

CHAPTER 101

March 7, 1887.

An Act to Amend and Consolidate the Acts Incorporating the lown of Rockingham.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That the town Rockingham, in the county of Richmond, be and the same is hereby incorporated, under the name and style of the town of Rockingham, and that W. T. Covington, R. A. Johnson, J. M. Covington, H. C. Dockery and J. S. Goldston, the present commissioners of said town, and their successors in office, shall be and are hereby declared a body corporate and public, with successsion during the corporate existence of said town, and shall be styled "the commissioners of the town of Rockingham." and as such shall have power to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and have and use a common seal, and acquire real and personal estate to the amount of thirty thousand dollars. That S. T. Cooper, the present mayor of said town, and the commissioners aforesaid shall continue in office as such. and perform all the duties pertaining to their offices of mayor and commissioners of said town until their successors shall be elected and qualified as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 2. That the corporate imits of said town shall be and are hereby declared to be included within and up to the following boundaries, to-wit: Beginning at the northeast corner of G. J. Freeman's lot, (now Mrs. Ruby Burroughs Sedberry) on Fayetteville road, and runs due south to north prong of Falling creek; thence down the various courses of said creek to Great Falls factory pond thence down the various courses of low water mark on the northern edge of said pond to Falling creek below the Falls; thence with said creek to Hitchcock creek. thence up the various courses of the southern edge of said creek to the old Leak pond, thence with the southern edge of said pond to the line of Pee Dee village, thence with the southern line of said village to the southern edge of "Pee Dee" will strike the beginning, thence from said point on Pee Dee pond due south to the beginning." etc.

(The remaining twelve page of this 1887 Act detail the duties of a Mayor and five Commissioners. The Post-Dispatch has the foregoing Acts on file, in full, and will be glad to show any one.—ISL).