

Subscription Rates

One Year	\$3.00
Six Months	\$1.75
Three Months	\$1.00
Single Copies	7c Each.

ROCKINGHAM Post-Dispatch

Rockingham
Center of Mill Activity.

Richmond County
Agriculture and Peach Culture.

VOL. 35 No. 38 ROCKINGHAM, N. C., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON JULY 30, 1952 ISAAC S. LONDON, Editor and Proprietor

MAP OF ROCKINGHAM FILED AT COURTHOUSE JULY 16, 1788



LAWS PERTAINING TO ROCKINGHAM 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:

1. Whereas the establishing 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 of raising money for building the public buildings of said county;

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 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 of this act, the inhabitants of the said towns of Rockingham and Wadesborough, in the counties of Anson and Richmond, be, and they are hereby empowered to assemble themselves together, on the last Saturday in January in each and every year, to elect three Commissioners for each of said towns; and such 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 binding to all intents and purposes on the inhabitants of said towns. PROVIDED, That such rules and regulations shall not be repugnant to the constitution or laws of this State.

1820

CHAPTER 44

An Act to Appoint Commissioners for Town of Rockingham, in Richmond County.

1. 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 Walter Leak, sen., James L. Vaughan, Charles Robinson, Thomas Crawford, William P. Leak, James Cole and John L. Campbell be, and they are hereby appointed Commissioners for the town aforesaid; and that the said Commissioners, or a majority of them, shall have power to make, or-

LONDON SAYS

This copy of the old Laws of Rockingham and a brief History of the Town is prepared by Isaac S. London, 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 Jurisdiction of the commissioners shall extend in every direction to the limits of the plat of said town as recorded in the Register's office of said county of Richmond; and on the west end one hundred and fifty yards beyond 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 Town of Rockingham.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That the town of 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 succession 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 limits 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" pond, thence with the southern edge of said pond to a point from which a line due south 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.)

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 "intermeddle 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 laying out a Town in Richmond County by the name of Rockingham." (See elsewhere in this issue for these various Acts in full).

The late Mrs. Lillie Moore 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 Pemberton; and these were "empowered to agree with workmen for building a courthouse, prison, and stocks at 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 made in July, 1788: "John Cole and William Henry Harrington, Commissioners for laying out the Town of Rockingham in the County of Richmond in the State of North Carolina, hereby certify to the Court of said County and to all others whom it may concern, that they have laid off said town agreeable to the above plan in lots of little more than a half acre each, and have num-

(Continued on page 2)