

The Warren Record

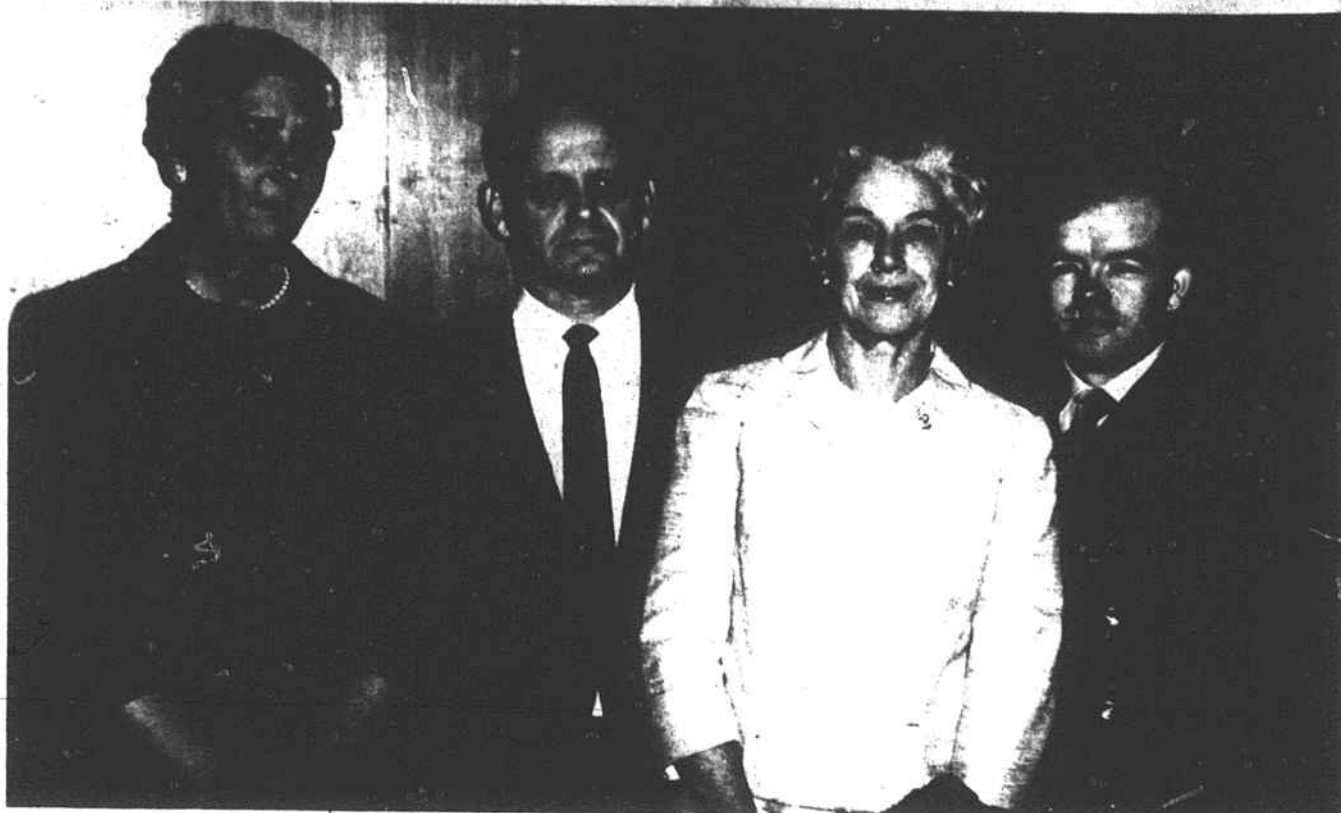
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WARRENTON, COUNTY OF WARREN, N. C.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1970

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Officials At Historical Society Meeting

OFFICERS OF THE REACTIVATED WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY present for the Friday night dinner meeting included (left to right) Mrs. James Beckwith, president; Mrs. Horace Robinson, program chairman and Matt R. Johnston, vice-president both of Littleton. Second from left is Dr. H. G. Jones, director of the State Department of Archives and History, who gave an interesting talk to the group. Officers not present were Mrs. Leonard Daniel, secretary and John Mitchell, treasurer. Mrs. Robinson has been appointed by the Warren County Board of Commissioners to advise them on the best way to obtain authentic restoration to the historic Nathaniel Macon homeplace. (Photo by Gene Pierce, Vaughan, N. C.)

Foundation Makes Provisional Grant For Restoration Of Nat Macon Home

By RUTH MINCHER

The Smith Richardson Foundation, Inc., has approved a \$7,500 challenge grant to the Warren County Historical Society through the Department of Archives and History for the purpose of assisting in the restoration of the Nathaniel Macon complex known as "Buck Springs."

Announcement of the grant was made on Friday night by

Dr. H. G. Jones director of State Department of Archives and History in Raleigh when he was speaking at a meeting to the Warren County Historical Society.

The meeting, the first since the Historical Society was reactivated, was held at the Warren Plaza Inn with 23 members and interested citizens present for the dinner meeting. Dr. Jones was present to dis-

cuss the project which is being undertaken by the society, that of completely restoring the Nathaniel Macon Homeplace and buildings near Vaughan.

The grant is made with the provision that the Historical Society can collect from other acceptable sources between Jan. 1, 1970 and Dec. 31, 1970 the amount of \$2500.

"We should point out," Dr. Jones said, "that the grant to

your project is quite unusual in terms of the size of the challenge grant and the small amount of required matching funds.

"This generosity on the part of the Foundation was encouraged by our department on the grounds that an emergency situation existed in regard to 'Buck Springs.'"

A motion was made by Matt Johnson to accept this challenge grant with gratitude and to make every effort to begin raising the matching funds. It was seconded and unanimously accepted.

Dr. Jones was presented by Mrs. Robinson. Mrs. James Beckwith, president, presided, at the business meeting.

Other officers of the Warren County Historical Society in addition to Mrs. Beckwith and Mrs. Robinson, who also served (See GRANT, page 7)

Case Worker Resigns

Mrs. Estella Simmons, case worker with the Warren County Department of Social Services has resigned and moved to California with her husband, the Department of Social Services announced this week.

Her position has not been filled and the department is currently recruiting for this position which requires a college degree and completion of the State Personnel exam.

Persons meeting the qualifications and interested in information on the position are invited to contact the Department of Social Services office.

CONSTABLE RESIGNS

Robert J. Shepherd this week tendered his resignation as Warrenton Township Constable to the Warren County Board of Commissioners, effective as of March 9.

Board Authorized To Sign Water Contract

The Board of Town Commissioners on Monday night authorized Mayor W. A. Miles and Town Clerk J. Ed Booker to sign a contract with John A. Edwards and Company, Engineers, for the construction of water lines to and the building of a water tank in Warrenton's Industrial Park.

The signed contract will be forwarded to the Office of Economic Development for an amended grant towards the cost of construction.

The board also authorized the water committee to lay a

4-inch water main along Bute Street to increase water pressure to inhabitants living along that street and to prepare for the installation of hydrants should the need arise in the future.

Much of the time of the board was taken up with a discussion with Elmer Wells, an employee of the Water Company, over water problems and his differences with the board. Wells was told that his resignation, submitted a few weeks ago to be effective March 31, had been accepted, and that the acceptance would stand.

Dr. Jones Says

Buck Springs Too Important To Be Neglected Any Longer

The Future of Buck Springs, home of Nathaniel Macon, still needs to be planned, Dr. H. G. Jones, director of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History, told the Warren County Board of Commissioners here on last Thursday.

Buck Springs is too important to be longer neglected, he said.

Appearing before the commissioners with Mrs. Horace P. Robinson of Littleton, appointed by the board at its February meeting to head a group to restore the Macon homeplace, Dr. Jones urged the commissioners to work on a holding operation for the Macon homeplace until it can be properly restored. Pointing out that Nathaniel Macon was not

only North Carolina's leading statesman but one of America's, Dr. Jones said that the Macon homeplace is considered to be one of seven of the most important historical sites in the state.

"We believe," he said, "The most important building in terms of architecture—the corn crib—can be restored, and that the Macon house and smoke

house can be stabilized for further work later on. The roofs must be replaced with either a new or temporary roof. Our staff will work with the restoration committee and the architect in drawing up plans.

Dr. Jones urged the commissioners to reconsider their decision to cut the timber on the old Macon property. "For a moment," he said, "let us forget the money involved and think of why we preserve historic sites. We preserve them so that they may be living evidences of our past. If they are to be living evidences, they must remain as nearly as possible in their original condition and original setting. I fear that if you cut the trees at Buck Springs you will remove much of the atmosphere which tells a visitor that this little house has set here for nearly 200 years—that you will destroy the woods through which young Nat Macon roamed, in which an older Nat Macon hunted and hid."

The future of Buck Springs needs to be planned, Dr. Jones said, adding that there are two alternatives:

(1) "Find the funds within your county and your friends with which to restore the complex completely and authentically. I should think that this will require from \$50,000 to \$60,000. But the cost does not end there. Any restored site must be open to the public on regular hours; and there must be a custodian. This means that you will have an annual continuing budget need for staff and maintenance—I would estimate a minimum of \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year.

"If Warren County is able and willing to meet these needs, then that certainly is how Buck Springs ought to be maintained.

(2) "The other alternative is one which you may wish to consider. If the county does not feel that it can afford to restore and maintain Buck Springs, and if the General Assembly (See IMPORTANT, page 7)

Timber Not To Be Cut

Many Bills Unpaid At Warren General Hospital

Many Warren County citizens have not paid their bills at Warren General Hospital, several of whom are able to do so, and as a result the hospital has \$185,000 worth of unpaid accounts on its books, Bernard Thompson told the board of county commissioners last Thursday.

Thompson, administrator for the local hospital, asks for the county's assistance in collecting these bills. He suggested that the county take a lien on property for these bills. Informed that the county has no authority to do this, Thompson suggested that maybe the county attorney could assist in these collections, since the hospital is county owned.

Jim Limer, county attorney, said that he would assist in the collection of the bills if the county instructed him to do so, but legally any such request should come to the board from the board of trustees of the hospital. Lawyers, Limer said, are reluctant to take on such collections as they have found it to be a losing proposition.

Thompson said that with the exception of too many unpaid bills, the hospital is getting along extremely well, with an increased bed load which has resulted in the hospital being able to substantially reduce its own obligations.

The commissioners agreed not to cut the timber on the Nathaniel Macon homeplace following the appearance of Dr. H. G. Jones, Director of the State Department of Archives and History and Mrs. Horace P. Robinson of Littleton before the board when Dr. Jones outlined plans for the restoration of the Macon homeplace and requested that the timber not be cut.

The commissioners showed much interest in the plan as outlined by Dr. Jones and

promised their cooperation. They also expressed interest in a future plan whereby the state would be requested to take over the maintenance of the home place.

Chairman Amos Capps said during the discussion with Dr. Jones that W. S. Williams, Jr., District Highway Commissioner, told him recently that if the county would restore the Macon homeplace that the state would build a hard surface road to the site. This, Capps said, is indicative of public interest in the restoration.

Marvin Aycock appeared before the board to discuss an addition to the salary of the Supt. of Social Services. The matter was tabled for later action.

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It was ordered that the board would sit as a Board of Equalization and Review on Tuesday, April 21.

It was ordered that a beer license be issued to Earl Bryant upon receipt of a state permit. Claude J. Fleming, Dog Warden, reported that he traveled 1034 miles during February and picked up 37 dogs. He turned \$8.50 into the general fund for money collected for sale of dogs.

A. P. Rodwell, Jr., Tax Collector, reported 1969 taxes collected during February in the amount of \$48,371.88, making a total collection of 1969 taxes collected to date in the amount of \$480,758.04. The percentage of collections is 84.01%.

Only Six Days

Only six more days remain for farmers to sign up in the 1970 cotton, feed grain and wheat programs, T. E. Watson, Warren County ASCS Executive Director, announced yesterday. Friday, March 20, is the last day to sign up.

Watson said that to avoid losing cotton allotment and program payments, all cotton farmers must visit the ASCS office and declare their intentions for the 1970 crop year.

Ninth Grade To Be Added At Hawkins Junior High School

The Warren County Board of Education at its regular meeting on Monday night decided to add the 9th grade to Hawkins Elementary School at Warrenton for the 1970-71 school year, making it a true junior high school with grades 7, 8 and 9.

The transfer of the ninth grade from John Graham to Hawkins will make of John Graham a senior high school with grades 10, 11 and 12.

The board also heard a delegation of some 40 colored school patrons, headed by Ernest Turner, request that the board of education rescind its policy of no social activities and that the school buildings be made available for school related activities.

The board rescinded its policy to the extent that it will permit schools to have Monogram, FFA and FHA banquets. Junior - Senior proms will not be permitted, the board held.

The Warrenton Woman's Club will sponsor a bake sale at the AAA office on Main Street on Friday, March 13, at 10 a. m.

Teenagers Came To Wed; Landed In Jail

A teenage couple from Youngstown, Ohio, who came to Warrenton to be married and their teenage companion were arrested at Warren General Hospital around 10:30 Saturday morning where the two boys were charged with robbing a store at Liberia around 6 o'clock that morning.

Found in the teenagers' car were around 300 multi-colored pills which were sent to the State Laboratory for identification by Warren Sheriff Clarence A. Davis.

Being held in jail under \$500 bond are Louis J. Fekety, 17, of 146 Miller Street, Youngstown, Ohio, and Michael Paul Cika, 18, of 2709 Shady Run, Youngstown, Ohio.

Barbara A. Strickland, 18, of 2708 Edlie Street, Youngstown, Ohio, was released into the custody of her parents. Sheriff Davis said that there was no evidence that the girl was involved in the robbery.

The arrest of the trio at Warren General Hospital, where Cika and Miss Strickland had gone to obtain a blood test prior to applying for a marriage license, followed a more than three-hour search for the car and its occupants by Highway Patrolman Pete Vaughan and

members of the Warrenton Police Department and Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Davis said yesterday the Harry Hawkins, who operates a grocery store at Liberia, came to his home about 6:30 a. m. Saturday and reported that his store had been robbed. He said that as he approached the store he saw two boys run out of the back entrance to the store in an automobile. He gave the license number and description of the car to Sheriff Davis, who notified the Highway Patrol and town and county officers.

Sheriff Davis said that a suspicion that the young people might be in the county to be married led officers to the hospital in their search.

A cash register, cigarettes and other goods taken from the store, valued at \$150, were found near the Warrenton Sewage Disposal plant.

Sheriff Davis said the boys told him that they had run out of money and sold the spare tire from their 1961 Thunderbird, with Ohio license plates, for \$20. He said they told him they robbed the store to obtain milk for the girl who was three-months pregnant.

Rescue Squad To Hold Auction Sale Here On Saturday

The Warren County Rescue Squad will hold its second big auction sale at Thompson's Warehouse in Warrenton on Saturday, March 14, beginning at 9:30 a. m.

The sale will be conducted by the R. B. Butler Auction Company, with Col. R. B. Butler as auctioneer, as a public service.

A member of the Rescue Squad said yesterday that present indications are that the sale Saturday will be even bigger than the successful sale of last year.

All proceeds will be for the benefit of the Warren County Rescue Squad.

Girl Scouts Asked

To Meet On Sunday

All members of the recently organized Girl Scouts are asked to meet with their leaders on Sunday afternoon, March 15, Mrs. Ada S. Johnson, said yesterday.

The meeting will be held at Oak Chapel Methodist Church on Macon Street at 4 p. m. Johnson said new members in the age group 7-17 are welcomed.

Office Closed

Local Board 04, for Warren County, will be closed all day on Thursday, March 12, so that the Executive Secretary may be allowed to attend a district conference in Nashville.

The office will be open all day on Friday, March 13, as scheduled.

Norlina Voters To Decide Fate Of Water Bond Issue Saturday

The Town of Norlina will hold a special bond election on Saturday, March 14 between the hours of 6:30 a. m. and 6:30 p. m.

The purpose of the election is to determine whether the town shall be permitted to issue water bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$45,000 for the purpose of providing funds, with any other available funds, for extending and enlarging the waterworks system of said town.

The voting place will be the Town Office. Mrs. A. J. Bobbitt is registrar, and Mrs.

Lucille Lewis and Clayton D. Taylor are judges of election.

Mayor Leon Knight said yesterday that passage of the bond issue is not expected to cause any increase in the town's tax rate, as in reality the vote is to authorize the transfer of funds now on hand for this purpose.

Knight said that the town officials and others have been negotiating with a northern industry to establish a plant in Norlina and that while there is no guarantee that the plant will be located at Norlina, prospects are exceedingly bright provided ample water can be assured.

Officials of the parent plant have visited Norlina and the town officials have been impressed with the company and the company has seemingly been impressed with Norlina, Knight said.

Not only is an improved water system needed if Norlina is to attract this fine industry, Mayor Knight continued, but it is needed by present local industry. If Norlina is to grow and to attract industry to provide good jobs for persons in the area it must have an ample water supply, he said.

Mayor Knight said that he feels that the water bond issue will pass as there is too much at stake for its failure, but a large vote is desired for its effect on the proposed industry and other industries that may be attracted to Norlina. "If we are going to attract industry," he concluded, "we must show through our actions that we welcome industry."

Blanks told the commissioners that he did not believe that forbidding the sale of beer on Sunday reduced consumption one bit. But its sale, if permitted by the county, would be legal and above-board. Forbidding its sale, he said, works a hardship on the law abiding merchants of Warren County and is unfair.

The commissioners, appearing reluctant to take any action on the highly controversial matter, ordered that the matter be tabled until the board's next meeting. The commissioners, however, are disturbed over the question. They said in the discussion that followed Blanks' appearance that while they did not want beer sold on Sunday, they realized that the present system is unfair so long as beer is sold on Sunday in nearby towns. This is a matter over which the county has no control.

Citizens Petition For Sunday Sale Of Beer

The sale of beer in Macon and Norlina on Sunday has raised a problem for other stores and filling stations in Warren County who remain open on Sunday.

Tommie Blanks, Warrenton merchant, again appeared before the Board of County Commissioners at their regular meeting last Thursday to ask the commissioners to permit Sunday off-premises sale of beer on Sunday.

Blanks brought with him a petition signed by nearly 500 citizens asking that Sunday sale of beer be permitted in Warren County. Blanks said that no concerted effort had been made to obtain signatures to the petition, which had been left at a few business places in the area.

It is not so much the sale of beer on Sunday in two nearby towns which bothers him and other merchants, Blanks said. It is the loss of other business which would accompany the sale of beer. A would-be customer stops by his place on Sunday and asks for beer, and not finding it