

## The Warren Record

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## Happy Birthday, Macon

An observer describing the Town of Macon in a light-hearted way said that it was almost a perfect 4-H community. It is brimming over, the observer noted, with Hilliards, Harrises, Haithcocks and Happiness.

Certainly you can find your share of these three surnames in Macon, the smallest of Warren County's three incorporated towns, and you find quite a few other good people in the municipality which this year is observing

its 100th birthday. And without any doubt, you will find a full measure of happiness in this town which in some ways reminds one of an underfunded Mayberry.

There have been times of trouble and tragedy in the little town which grew up alongside the railroad. But each time when the going was tough, Macon residents showed a collective resiliency which has come to mark small-town America.

There was natural disappointment when Macon lost its high school almost 30 years ago. There was apprehension when the railroad tracks which had neatly divided the town since its conception were taken up five years ago. And most of all, there has been a deep sense of loss that so many of Macon's fine citizens have passed from the scene in recent years.

But Maconites manage to make the best of unsettling situations and go about their lives with a sense of purpose and a happy outlook that are signs of a mature people.

Joy abounds today in Macon because its citizens practice being good neighbors, and this high attribute is not lost on the outside world.

Macon's favorite son Reynolds Price, who spent many a glorious day of his youth in the town by the railroad, says: "Those memories of a peaceful working village are as happy as any I keep. And to be a part now of this centennial of Macon's incorporation is a chance to renew much happiness and to hope for more."

Go over to Macon this Saturday when Reynolds joins Macon residents to help celebrate the town's 100th birthday. We expect the Hilliards, Harrises and Haithcocks and just about all their neighbors to be on hand, and you can bet your last dollar the folks in Macon will be giving away happiness by the bushel basketful.

## Looking Back Into The Record

March 11, 1949

The town and county are joining hands in an effort to abolish the sale of wine in Warren County except in ABC stores and both boards have written to Senator Frank H. Gibbs to ask that he introduce a bill to that effect.

The Board of County Commissioners on Monday ordered that \$8,500.00 be put in the budget for the next fiscal year for the construction of an educational building at John R. Hawkins High School.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Young, of Macon, announced the birth of a daughter, Frances Anne, in the Hunter Clinic on March 6.

March 6, 1964

The names of 12 Warren County persons have been added to the Roll of Honor of North Carolina World War II to be inscribed on a plaque of the Battleship North Carolina as a result of action taken Monday by the Warren County Board of Commissioners.

Reynolds Price, Duke English professor and author of "A Long and Happy Life," came home to the March meeting of the Macon Woman's Club Monday night to the warmth of greetings and plaudits of friends and relatives.

Mrs. Reuben G. Holtzman of Louisville, Ky., recent bride, was honored at a bridal shower in the Lutheran Parish Hall in Ridgeway on February 28 by the aunts of the groom.

March 8, 1979

Warren County collected more than \$72,000 in child support payments during the 1977-78 fiscal year, Mrs. Elizabeth P. Harris, program agent, said this week.

Norlina is to have cable television, following action taken Monday night by the town board granting a 20-year franchise to ARCO of Mechanicsburg, Pa., which is expanding its service into northern southern Virginia.

## The Warren County Scene



This Warren County cat has a wistful look in her eye, perhaps lusting for spring and a chance to see a human form seated comfortably in the chair doing chores and soaking up sunshine.  
(Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)

## Here and There

Howard Jones

## An Amazing Coincidence

Less than 90 miles south of Atlanta, Ga. can be found Ocmulgee National Monument, an Indian village which was once home to more than 1,000 persons. Here, from Ice-Age hunters to the Creeks of historic times, there is evidence of 10,000 years of human habitation.

On the edge of the gigantic complex with pre-historic origins stood Fort Hawkins. It is around this Indian ceremonial center and its nearby fort, built in 1806 and abandoned in 1821, that the bustling city of Macon, Ga. sprang up.

Now just about any school child hereabouts can tell you that Macon, Ga. owes its name to a Warren County resident—Nathaniel Macon, Revolutionary War soldier, congressman and senator.

But did you know that Fort Hawkins, whose restored blockhouse stands today, thanks to the work of the Nathaniel Macon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution a half-century ago, was also named for a Warren County native?

It seems an amazing coincidence, but the fort and the city were named for Warren County men who grew up as neighbors and attended Princeton together. And while Macon, on one hand was a private in the Revolutionary War, the man for whom the fort was named, Benjamin Hawkins, was an officer in the Continental Army and served as an interpreter for its commander-in-chief, George Washington.

Benjamin Hawkins was born in what is now Warren County on August 15, 1754, making him four years older than Nathaniel Macon. Hawkins was in his senior year at Princeton College when the Revolutionary War began.

Hawkins, who had acquired a knowledge of French, left Princeton and was appointed on the staff of George Washington and acted as his interpreter. He was a member of the State house of commons in 1778, 1779, and 1784.

He was chosen by the North Carolina Legislature in 1780 to procure arms and munitions of war to defend the state. He served as a member of the Continental Congress, 1781-1784, 1786-87.

Congress appointed Hawkins to negotiate treaties with the Creek and Cherokee Indians in 1785. He was elected as a Federalist to the United States Senate and served for six years.

In 1796 President Washington appointed him Indian agent for all tribes south of the Ohio River. He held this post until his death at Crawford County, Ga. on June 6, 1816. He was buried on a plantation near Roberta in Crawford County, overlooking the Flint River.



Colonel Benjamin Hawkins, left, for whom Ft. Hawkins was named, was a neighbor and schoolmate of Nathaniel Macon. His parents and Macon's mother, then a widow, enticed Charles Pettigrew, a 23-year-old Pennsylvanian, to the Shocco region of what is now Warren County to teach the young men of the area. So good was his instruction that Macon, then only 15, Hawkins, and two other Pettigrew students went to Princeton. Pettigrew remained in North Carolina, founding the Episcopal Church and becoming a bishop of the church. At right is a restored blockhouse from Fort Hawkins, reconstructed at the urging of the Nathaniel Macon Chapter of the DAR of Macon, Ga. Fort Hawkins was built in 1806. General Andrew Jackson and other military leaders utilized the fort in the nation's early struggles.



Thurletta Brown

## An Interesting Bond

The town of Macon, North Carolina will celebrate its 100th birthday this Saturday with a day-long series of events during which visitors and residents will be "Macon Whoopee".

Warren County's Macon has a sister town located in the state of Georgia and "whoopie," of two different types was made there in the 1850's. Colonel Joseph Bond, a prominent Macon, Ga. planter, made a mammoth sale of his 2,200-bale cotton crop in February of 1859. Proceeds of that sale exceeded \$100,000—a real pretty penny for that day and time.

But Bond is remembered for another reason as well. Soon after that lucrative sale of cotton, Bond was killed on March 12 by Lucious Brown (no relation, of course). Slavery was commonplace at that time and Brown had been employed as an overseer earlier by Bond. In 1859, however, Brown was employed by Bond's brother-in-law, Colonel Jerre Beall, who owned a neighboring plantation.

Brown had whipped and severely injured an old slave belonging to Bond and when Bond learned of the incident—which added fuel to the already-smouldering fire between the two men—he rode off on horseback to the Beall plantation. Bond found Brown on horseback as well and, enraged, struck his former overseer with a cane, knocking him off the horse he was riding. Once Brown was again in control, however, he shot Bond "through the body." Colonel Bond fired at Brown and wounded him in the thigh. The colonel lived only 30 minutes after the incident. At the time of his death, Bond's estate was valued at \$1,500,000.

Although not a true "folk hero," Colonel Bond's name remains alive today in Macon, Ga. "Colonel Bond's Carriage Tours" carry visitors through the historic district there in an authentic horse-drawn carriage. Some folks would say that Bond's retaliation following the assault on his slave was an effort to "gain satisfaction" for the crime of damage to personal property. Although today, some 130 years later, it is impossible to know for sure, to many who hear the story, the gesture appears to be evidence of concern and consideration for his fellow man.

So, Warren County Macon residents and visitors, as you are recovering from the "Macon Whoopie" gala slated for Saturday, March 11 in honor of the incorporation of the North Carolina town, take a moment to reflect on old Colonel Joseph Bond who, for whatever the reason, lost his life on March 12. And, Mayor M. C., consider proposing to the Macon, N. C. board that carriage-drawn tours be given through Buck Spring and other historic sites in your town. Who knows? There might be a market for it!

### Letters To The Editor

## Radical Pundits Deplored

To The Editor:

Islam is largely a religion of anger, as evidenced by the recent outburst against Salman Rushdie, which is just one among many intemperate outbursts by Muslims the world over concerning many matters, and history should tell us to beware.

The very founder of the Muslim religion, Muhammad, offered his adherents in Mecca in the year 631 the choice of strict adherence to his teachings—or the sword. There has been little significant change since that time. Christians in Muslim countries are even now persecuted and many live "as Christians" under assumed names to escape the tyranny.

History reveals many sad realities. Muhammad, at one time, admired the Jews and also dallied with Christianity, but ap-

parently felt rebuffed by both in his quest for the truth, so proclaiming his own religion and at the same time promulgated a hatred of the "infidel," and the Muslim idea of an "eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" is all too prevalent.

I deplore the radical pundits, who today are denouncing the Israelis for their stance in the "Holy Land." They have no

choice—give an inch to the PLO and the holocaust will seem like a panty raid and would mean an end to the Jewish State. The sack of Jerusalem in 77 A.D. would seem like a tea and crumpets tete-a-tete.

Being Protestant, I am looking from the outside in, but I do not like what I see.

CHARLES M. WHITE, III  
Warrenton

## Upset Named Was Printed

To The Editor:

I want to use this space to show the people of Warren County that when our Tax Supervisor's Office makes a mistake, they either don't know how to correct it, or they do not respect the citizens they serve enough to admit it and apologize. My name appeared wrongly in this paper last week for taxes unpaid on a piece of land I sold.

To clear this matter, I went first to the Tax Collector's Office and was referred to the Tax Supervisor's Office. There, Mildred Hardy told me that the tax bill was sent to the person I had sold the land to (I had no notification), but when it was not paid, my name appeared in error in the paper as owner.

I asked Mrs. Hardy if she would correct the mistake, and issue a retraction and an apology in the paper. She said she would do neither and that my name would continue to appear until the buyer had paid the taxes due.

I then approached Jules Banzet, who handled the sale, to see what could be done. He said that even though the tax office was in error, neither the county nor anyone who worked for the county owed me an apology in any way. He told me if anyone owed me an apology, it was the buyer of the land, but this holds no water for the simple fact that the county sent him the bill for the taxes and his business is strictly

between himself and the county. I was sent no bill and have no business with the buyer on this matter.

My point is this: If these people have the right to publicly degrade a person's name and honor, then they ought to be responsible enough to realize and admit their mistakes in the same manner. Anyone who knows me knows the importance I place on paying taxes and bills on time, and I wanted to take the time to inform the readers of this paper of the truth, if our Tax Supervisor's Office is not able to do so.

T.P. "PAT" PINNELL  
Rt. 1, Warrenton

## Their Obscenity Was Repugnant

To The Editor:

Shame is the first true feeling. Explaining this observation is somewhat shameful in itself.

Over the years, the equal rights movement has been very much a part of all our lives. The desire for equal rights for all persons in general, regardless of race, color or national origin, has touched the lives of everyone—even those persons not directly involved in the struggle. The accused and their accusers have both given in, to some degree, to meet or compromise on some sort of human agreement. All in  
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