

THE WILMINGTON DAILY POST.

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MASONIC DIRECTORY.

St. John's Lodge No. 1. Meets last Wednesday evening each month.

Concord Chapter No. 1. Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays in each month.

Wilmington Council No. 4. Meets last Wednesday in each month.

REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION.

ADDRESS OF MESSRS. RODMAN AND GAGAN.

To the People of North Carolina: The Convention which met under the Reconstruction acts of Congress, to form a Constitution "republican in form" for the State of North Carolina, preparatory to its re-admission into the Union, has finished its labors.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS: declares clearly "the general and essential principles of liberty and good government," and secures them by all the safeguards which experience can suggest.

IN THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT the changes appear to be much greater than they really are. The names of some officers have been changed, and instead of being elected by the General Assembly as heretofore, the choice of these high agents of the people's will is given directly to the people.

THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT and SUFFRAGE AND ELIGIBILITY OFFICE, the changes which will challenge attention is the giving the right to vote and hold office to all the male inhabitants of the State, without regard to race, color, or previous condition.

That the great, general and essential principles of liberty and free government, may be recognized and established, and that the relations of the United States, and those of the people of this State to the rest of the American people, may be defined and affirmed, we do declare:

Section 1. That the people of this State are entitled to equal rights with the people of the United States, and that the enjoyment of the fruit of their own labor, and the pursuit of happiness.

Section 2. That all political power is vested in, and derived from the people; all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole.

Section 3. That the people of this State have the inherent, sole, and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof, and altering and abolishing their Constitution, and form of government, whenever it may be necessary for their safety and happiness; but every such right should be exercised in pursuance of law, and consistently with the Constitution of the United States.

Section 4. That this State shall ever remain a member of the American Union; that the people thereof are part of the American nation; that there is no right in any part of this State to secede, and that all attempts from whatever source or upon whatever pretext, to dissolve said Union, or to sever said nation, ought to be resisted with the lawful power of the State.

Section 5. To maintain the honor and good faith of the State unimpaired, the public debt, regularly contracted before and since the rebellion, shall be regarded as indelible and never to be questioned; but the State shall never assume or pay, or authorize the collection of, any debt or obligation, express or implied, incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave.

Section 6. No man or set of men are entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community but in consideration of public services.

General Assembly shall carry out in good faith the ideas of the Convention, they will save hundreds of thousands of dollars every year, by the increased despatch, cheapness and certainty of the administration of justice.

THE REPUBLICAN principle of local self-government, which has been so fertile a source of good effects in the North-Eastern and North-Western States, has been applied to the administration of the local affairs of counties and townships.

THE CONSTITUTION framed by our ancestors in 1776, recognized the value of education. It provided for a University. This Constitution provides for a University and for free public schools for the children of the State.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT is abolished except in case of fraud. A liberal HOMESTEAD is reserved to the unfortunate debtor.

THE BARBAROUS Punishments of whipping, branding, and cropping, will be hereafter unknown. Crime is as often the result of an ignorance of the means of getting an honest living, as of a criminal disposition.

THE PEOPLE of North Carolina! such is the Constitution which we invite you to adopt. Read it carefully, consider it calmly; upon you and yours will be the consequences of your decision.

WILL B. RODMAN. GEO. W. GAGAN.

OFFICIAL CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA.

WE the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for the preservation of the American Union, and the existence of our civil, political and religious liberties, and acknowledging our dependence upon Him, for the continuance of those blessings to us and our posterity, do, for the more certain security thereof, and for the better government of this State, ordain and establish this Constitution.

SECTION 1. That the people of this State are entitled to equal rights with the people of the United States, and that the enjoyment of the fruit of their own labor, and the pursuit of happiness.

SECTION 2. That all political power is vested in, and derived from the people; all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole.

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SECTION 5. To maintain the honor and good faith of the State unimpaired, the public debt, regularly contracted before and since the rebellion, shall be regarded as indelible and never to be questioned; but the State shall never assume or pay, or authorize the collection of, any debt or obligation, express or implied, incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave.

SECTION 6. No man or set of men are entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community but in consideration of public services.

SECTION 7. The Legislative, Executive, and Supreme judicial powers of the government ought to be forever separate and distinct from each other.

SECTION 14. Excessive bail should not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishments inflicted.

SECTION 15. General warrants, whereby any officer or messenger may be commanded to search suspected places, without evidence of the act committed, or to seize any person or persons not named, whose offence is not particularly described and supported by evidence, are dangerous to liberty and ought not to be granted.

SECTION 16. There shall be no imprisonment for debt in this State, except in cases of fraud.

SECTION 17. No person ought to be imprisoned or diseized of his freedom, liberties or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner deprived of his life, liberty, or property, but by the law of the land.

SECTION 18. Every person restrained of his liberty, is entitled to a remedy to inquire into the lawfulness thereof, and to remove the same, if unlawful; and such remedy ought not to be denied or delayed.

SECTION 19. In all controversies at law respecting property, the ancient mode of trial by jury is one of the best securities of the rights of the people, and ought to remain sacred and inviolable.

SECTION 20. The freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and therefore ought never to be restrained, but every individual shall be held responsible for the abuse of the same.

SECTION 21. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended.

SECTION 22. As political rights and privileges are not dependent upon, or modified by property, therefore no property qualification ought to effect the right to vote or hold office.

SECTION 23. The people of this State ought not to be taxed, or made subject to the payment of any impost, or duty, without the consent of themselves, or their representatives in General Assembly, freely given.

SECTION 24. A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; and, as standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up, and the military should be kept under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.

SECTION 25. The people have a right to assemble together to consult for their common good, to instruct their representatives, and to apply to the Legislature for redress of grievances.

SECTION 26. All men have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences, and no human authority should in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience.

SECTION 27. The people have a right to the privileges of education, and it is the duty of the State to guard and maintain that right.

SECTION 28. For redress of grievances and for amending and strengthening the laws, elections should be often held.

SECTION 29. A frequent recurrence to fundamental principles, is absolutely necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty and justice which we have inherited from our fathers.

SECTION 30. No hereditary emoluments, privileges, or honors, ought to be granted or conferred in this State.

SECTION 31. Perpetuities and monopolies are contrary to the genius of a free State, and ought not to be allowed.

SECTION 32. Retrospective laws, punishing acts committed before the existence of such laws, and which are not in their nature retroactive, are oppressive, unjust and incompatible with liberty, therefore, no ex post facto law ought to be made.

SECTION 33. Slavery and involuntary servitude, otherwise than for crime whereof the parties shall have been duly convicted shall be, and are hereby forever prohibited within this State.

SECTION 34. The territorial boundaries of the State shall be and remain as they now are.

SECTION 35. All courts shall be open, and every person for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person, or reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law, and justice administered without sale, denial, or delay.

SECTION 36. No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner; nor in time of war, but in a manner prescribed by law.

SECTION 37. This enumeration of rights shall not be construed to impair or deny others, retained by the people; and all powers, not herein delegated, remain with the people.

SECTION 38. The General Assembly shall have power to pass general laws regulating divorce and alimony, but shall not have power to grant a divorce or secure alimony in any individual case.

SECTION 39. The General Assembly shall not create any new offices, or alter the duties of any office, or to terminate any office, or to alter the mode of election of any office, or to alter the mode of holding any office, or to alter the mode of exercising any office, or to alter the mode of removing any officer, or to alter the mode of appointing any officer, or to alter the mode of compensating any officer, or to alter the mode of removing any officer, or to alter the mode of appointing any officer, or to alter the mode of compensating any officer.

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ARTICLE IV. JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 1. The distinction between actions at law and suits in equity, and the forms of all such actions and suits shall be abolished, and there shall be in this State but one form of action, or the enforcement or protection of private rights or the redress of private wrongs which shall be denominated a civil action; and every action prosecuted by the people of the State as a party, against a person charged with a public offence, for the punishment of the same, shall be termed a criminal action.

SECTION 2. Three Commissioners shall be appointed by this convention to report to the General Assembly at its first session after this Constitution shall be adopted by the people, rules, practice and procedure in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing section, and the convention shall provide for the Commissioners a reasonable compensation.

SECTION 3. The same Commissioners shall also report to the General Assembly as soon as practicable, a code of law for North Carolina. The Governor shall have power to fill the vacancies occurring in this Commission.

SECTION 4. The judicial power of the State shall be vested in a Court for the trial of Impeachments, a Supreme Court, Superior Courts, Courts of Justice of the Peace and Special Courts.

SECTION 5. The Court for the trial of Impeachments shall be the Senate; a majority of the members shall be necessary to a quorum, and the judgment shall not extend beyond removal from, and disqualification to hold office in this State; but the party shall be liable to indictment and punishment according to law.

SECTION 6. The House of Representatives solely, shall have the power of impeachment. No person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the Senators present. When the Governor is impeached the Chief Justice shall preside.

SECTION 7. Treason against the State shall consist only in levying war against it, or adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses in open court, or on confession in open court. No conviction of treason or attainder shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture.

SECTION 8. The Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and four Associate Justices of the Supreme Court held at the seat of Government of the State in each year, commencing on the first Monday in January, and continuing as long as the public interest may require.

SECTION 9. The Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction to hear appeals, any decision of the Courts below, upon any matter of law or legal inference; but no issue of fact shall be tried before this court; and the court shall have power to issue any remedial writs necessary, to give a general supervision and control of the inferior courts.

SECTION 10. The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction to hear claims against the State, but such claims shall be heard by the court, and no process in the nature of execution shall issue thereon; they shall be reported to the next session of the General Assembly for its action.

SECTION 11. The Supreme Court shall be divided into twelve judicial districts, for each of which one or more judges shall be chosen, who shall hold a Superior Court in each county in said District, at least twice in each year, to continue for two weeks, unless the business shall be sooner disposed of.

SECTION 12. Until altered by law, the following shall be the Judicial Districts: First District—Carrick, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Gates, Hertford, Bertie.

SECTION 13. The respective duties of the Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Works, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Attorney General shall be prescribed by law. If the office of any of said officers shall be vacated by death, resignation, or otherwise, it shall be the duty of the Governor to appoint another to fill the vacancy, and such appointment shall be subject to the confirmation of the Senate.

SECTION 14. The Clerks of the Superior Courts shall be appointed by the Court, and shall hold office for eight years.