

Proceedings of The Town Commissioners

AS RECORDED IN ANCIENT BOOK

Glimpses

Of Life In Franklin During Century

Pursuant to an act of the General Assembly of North Carolina, Ratified the 10th day of February, 1855, Entitled "An act to incorporate the Town of Franklin", The Sheriff of Macon County opened and held an election at the Court House in Franklin on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 1855, for the purpose of Electing five Commissioners for the Town, when J. M. Lyle, John Reid, N. G. Allman, J. R. Siler and Jackson Johnston were elected.

At a meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Franklin on the 12th day of December, 1855, on motion J. R. Siler was appointed Chairman and J. Johnston Secty. and Treasurer. Jonathan M. Bryson was chosen as Town Magistrate, and A. W. Bell constable.

The Commissioners then passed the following Ordinances to be in force on and after the 1st day of February, 1856:

**Horse Racing Forbidden**  
First: For running a horse race through the streets for pleasure or show, the fine is not to be less than one, or more than five Dollars, — at the option of the Magistrate.

Second: For disturbing the peace, by cursing, quarrelling or using obscene language on the streets or side walks, or other vulgar behavior, not less than fifty cents, nor more than five Dollars.

Third: For throwing fire-balls within the village, twenty-five cents for each offence.

Fourth: For selling ardent spirits in the streets or on the public square, or any other place within the corporate limits except at the usual or authorized places, the fine is five Dollars for each offence.

Fifth: For all wood piles which shall be kept on the streets, side walks or public square, five Dollars for each day they shall so remain.

**Such High Taxes!**  
At a meeting of the Commissioners held December 14th, 1855, it was agreed that the following Tax be laid, to take effect on the first day of April next, to-wit:

For each Poll .10.  
For each \$100 worth of property .02 1/2.

As Franklin prepares to celebrate its centennial, the town's past takes on added interest.

With that in mind, The Press in coming weeks will try to give its readers some glimpses — via pictures as well as the printed word — of what life in Franklin has been like during the past century.

This week some excerpts from the minutes of the town board, during the municipality's first five years, are published, with the original spellings and punctuation retained. These minutes, from December, 1855, through November, 1860, hand-written in an ancient book, are among the records in the town office.

After the account of the meeting in November, 1860 — on the eve of the outbreak of the Civil War — there is a long break in the records.

For each store, Grocery or Tavern .75.

For each officer, Lawyer or Physician .75.

For each pleasure carriage .25.

For each dog .25.

For each Hog, allowed to run at large in street .05.

For each Exhibitor of Natural or artificial curiosity \$2.00.

**1856 Meeting**

At a meeting of the commissioners held on the 1st day of December 1856 the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED that the Marshall be instructed to collect the Taxes by the 1st day of January next, and pay the same over to the Treasurer and that N. G. Allman and J. M. Lyle be appointed to procure the material and superintend the putting up of 3 or 4 Horse Racks at suitable places, and to improve the side walks, streets & c. so far as the funds may justify, and that they be paid for their time and labours spent.

The Marshall A. W. Bell having resigned his office, The Commissioners met on the 18th of July,

1857 and appointed John B. Love Marshall who accordingly filed his bond with security in the required amount.

Election Held

The Term for which the Commissioners were elected having expired, the sheriff of Macon County caused an election to be opened and held at the Court House in Franklin on the 9th day of October 1857 for the purpose of electing five Commissioners for the ensuing year when J. R. Siler, J. M. Lyle, N. G. Allman, John Reid & J. Johnston were again elected.

The Marshall, John B. Love, having resigned his office The commissioners met on the 27th of May 1858, and appointed T. P. Siler, Marshall for the ensuing year, and it was also Resolved that N. G. Allman be appointed to take a list of the taxable property, for the past, as well as for the present year, and hand the same to the Marshall for collection. And it was further Resolved that the Treasurer call on the former Marshalls, A. W. Bell & John B. Love and make settlement with them on their bonds.

In 1859

At a meeting of the Commissioners held on the 23rd day of June 1859, Leon F. Siler was appointed a Commissioner to fill the vacancy occasioned by the removal of Commissioner John Reid. H. B. Bryson was appointed Town Marshall for twelve months from the date of his Bond which he is required to file. It was Resolved that the tax on each Grocery be raised from 75 cents to five Dollars — and that each peddler of any goods, wares or merchandise, not the growth or manufacture of this state, pay a tax of five Dollars. It is also Resolved that H. B. Bryson, F. Poindexter and Jas. H. McCloud be appointed a Patrol to serve twelve months from this date.

At a meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Franklin held on the 22nd of February 1860, L. F. Siler took the Oath of a Commissioner.

On motion, N. G. Allman was elected over-seer of the streets, for which service he is to be paid \$1.50 pr. day each day he works.

On motion, it was resolved that the Town Magistrate be required to keep a record of each case tried before him, and that the said Magistrate be allowed 20 cents for each case tried by him.

On motion A. W. Bell Esq. was elected Town Magistrate.

On motion it was resolved that the secty. be required to have 25 copies of the bye Laws and ordinances printed and distributed. On motion it was resolved to withdraw the suit now pending against J. R. Allman for selling spirituous Liquors.

On motion it was resolved that the tax charged to B. W. Bell for keeping a grocery for the past year be reduced to 75 cents.

Resolved that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet again on next Monday night the 27th. On motion the meeting then adjourned.

Fires Go Up

The Commissioners met on the 27th Feb'y according to adjournment, when the following ordinances were revised and enacted:

First: For running a horse race through the streets, for show, pleasure, or reward the person guilty shall pay a penalty of Five Dollars, \$5.00.

Second: For any breach of the peace, any person guilty shall pay a penalty of Two Dollars.

Third: For any obscene language or indecent exposure of the person, the person guilty shall pay a penalty of Two Dollars.

Fourth: Any person riding on the side-walk shall pay a penalty of Fifty cents.

Fifth: Any person selling spirituous liquors on the streets, public square, or any other unauthorized place within the corporate limits shall pay a penalty of Five Dollars for each offence.

Sixth: Any person leaving a wood pile or other unnecessary obstruction in the street or on the side-walk shall pay a penalty of Five Dollars for each day such obstruction remains on the street.

Seventh: The town Magistrate shall keep a book and an impartial record of all proceedings before him and each violator of the town ordinances shall be brought before him on a warrant in the name of the "Commissioners of the Town of Franklin" and Judgment shall be rendered thereon.

Eighth: Any one guilty of obscene language or indecent or ungentlemanly behavior in the presence of a lady or ladies shall pay a penalty of Five Dollars.

Ninth: Any person unnecessary-

ily firing a gun in the streets, on the side-walks, or upon the piazzas or in the doors of stores, shops & c. shall pay a penalty of One Dollar for each offence.

Franklin, N. C. August 4th, 1860. The Commissioners met on this day and passed the following ordinances and made the following appointments — to-wit:

Be it ordained that the Town Constable be made over-seer of roads, streets, side walks & c. within the Corporation, and that he also be made Captain of the Patrol and that he be allowed \$24 a year and fees for his services in all these. That Ellis H. Hopkins be now appointed Town Constable for the next twelve months after he shall file his bond, and that A. W. Bell Esq. be appointed Town Magistrate.

5 Cent Tax Rate

It is further Ordained That the tax on real Estate be 5 cents on the \$100 valuation and that the tax on Taverns heretofore levied be now repealed. It is further agreed that A. W. Bell be released from his tax as Trustee and Dental profession, and that J. Johnston be released from his tax as clerk and Master.

It is further ordained that J. Johnston make out the tax list for the present year and hand it to the Town Constable for collection and that W. A. McCoy, J. H. McLoud, Wm. McD. Allman and Wm. M. Addington be appointed a patrol for the next year.

Named On Patrol

Nov. 16th. The Commissioners met and agreed that E. H. Hopkins in consequence of his office of Marshall & c. be exempted from patrol duty, and J. T. Siler,

N. G. Allman, J. Johnston, Jesse W. Siler and J. M. Lyle be added to the patrol. It was resolved that we petition the Legislature for an amendment to the Charter of Incorporation. It is further agreed that the Treasurer procure, as soon as practicable suitable plank for the two bridges now needing repairs. It was further resolved that the patrol correct any negro they may find out after 9 o'clock at night with or without a pass and that they patrol the premises of Wm. Sloan, J. R. Siler quarters, J. W. Dobson and H. G. Woodfin.

Amount of taxes for 1857-58 \$65.28

Valuation Of Town Property	
J. R. Allman	\$1,050.00
N. G. Allman	4,150.00
B. W. Bell	1,350.00
W. A. McCoy	2,300.00
J. R. Siler	1,900.00
L. F. Siler	4,500.00
J. Johnston	3,100.00
J. L. Moore	2,025.00
J. T. Siler	3,150.00
Sons of Temperance	100.00
J. W. Dobson, Agent	300.00
Dillard Love	1,200.00
H. W. Nolan	2,400.00
J. M. Lyle	800.00
Wm. H. Thomas	1,250.00
T. P. Siler	2,160.00
W. A. Enloe	400.00

Dendy Is Released From Active Duty

Cpl. Ernest C. Dendy, of Gneiss, was separated from active military service February 8 at Fort George C. Meade, Md., after two years with the U. S. Army, it has been announced.

His tour of duty includes services in France. He is the son of Ellison Dendy.

The U. S. Navy's High School Graduate Training Program, wherein high school graduates may be assured of an opportunity to attend one of 53 basic vocational navy trade schools, is being reinstated after 18 months, according to Chief Charlie Holcombe, recruiter for this county.

High school graduates desiring information on any phase of the program may get in touch with Chief Holcombe each Wednesday at the Franklin Post Office from 11:30 to 3 p. m. Candidates must be between the ages of 17 and 31 and must attain a qualifying score on an enlistment examination.

A new electric utility plant near Foughkeepsie, N. Y., handles 300 tons of coal an hour, or the contents of more than five railroad hopper cars every 60 minutes.



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**Foul weather isn't FAIR!**

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS, when foul weather grounds commercial airplanes or makes highway travel hazardous, complaints shower down on the railroads!

Our regular customers complain because they are inconvenienced when our passenger trains are suddenly called upon to handle three or four times their normal load. Sometimes these good friends of ours can't even get aboard. And our foul-weather friends criticize us because we don't have enough equipment to provide an adequate "stand-by" service for them.

This situation isn't fair to anybody, including us. Of course we'd like to take care of everyone and give fine service at all times! We could do that not so long ago, when practically all travel was by rail and we had the passenger equipment to handle any job. But today, only five per cent of intercity travel is by railroad and we simply cannot afford the luxury of a foul-weather "stand-by" service—not when it means buying surplus passenger cars, at \$200,000 each, which would be standing idle most of the time.

We want you to understand our problem. And we want you to know you can count on our doing the best we can with all the equipment we have available—in fair or foul weather.

*Henry A. DeBatta*  
President

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