

City of Winston-Salem Government Meetings Notes

Town of Salem: 1840-1849

HIGHLIGHTS

1840 - Street Maintenance; First tobacco factory; Business partnerships questioned; School for apprentices and journeymen begun
1841 - The night watch issues
1843 - Grave prices increase
1844 - Too many tinsmiths; Boys asked to carry fire coals to school
1845 - Slavery issue
1846 - Salem bank; Henry Fries
1847 - First lot in Winston acquired; Street encroachment permit and housing construction issues
1849 - Forsyth County formed

1840

ROAD WORK

September 30, 1840 - "Various brethren have opened a subscription for the repair of Main Street from the Family House to Sr. Benigna Boner's. A committee was appointed to inspect the street along with a few of the subscribers and make a plan for some improvement. They will also calculate and report on the cost of this repair." (Auf. Col.)

October 5, 1840 - "The committee appointed to inspect the street reported the following decision on their part: The stone pavement is to be removed between the Family House and the Square up to Sr. Boner's. The street will have to be evened in such a manner that there is an equal rise from the lower to the upper point. Then the street is to be covered with small stones and sand. The water ditch on the East side of the street will have to be deepened by one foot and led subterraneously across Cross Street towards the pavement of the Square and then in the same manner across Main Street to the northern end of the Family House where it will join the ditch that goes by the house of Sr. Rights.

"This subterraneous channel is to be built of bricks two feet square and covered with flat stones. The Collegium approved. Br. Butner offered to take over the task for \$200 and the Community Warden is to make a contract with this brother. If the sum cannot be raised entirely by subscription, the remainder will have to be paid by the Citizens' Account." (Auf. Col.)

September 5, 1841 - "Main Street improvements from the tavern to John Schulz is now to be done. The hill and high places are to be leveled and then the street, 16 feet wide, is to have new ditches on the sides. The work is to be let out for the lowest price." (Auf. Col.)

January 28, 1841 - "A sum of \$174 has been raised by various individuals for the repair of the street (Main Street) from the tavern down to John Henry Schulz. The subscribers hold the opinion that the hill at the tavern should be evened, the valley raised, and the whole width of the street covered with small stones. On either side a ditch should be constructed of bricks. For this project the sum raised is insufficient and the Diacony's resources from which such repairs were formerly paid are dried up today. The Diacony is not able to supply the rest of the lacking funds nor is the Citizens' Account which owes about \$400 to the Diacony. It was therefore suggested to present the problem to the Congregation Council." (Auf. Col.)

February 22, 1841 - "We discussed once more the street repair in the lower part of the community. It was reported that Br. A. Butner has made a calculation according to which the expenses would amount to \$1200. Some of the subscribers have stated that they are not going to contribute their subscribed amount, if the street is not repaired the way they want it. The Collegium will therefore invite all subscribers for a conference next Thursday." (Auf. Col.)

November 4, 1841 - "The contract read to the Collegium concerning street repair shows that the interested brethren are obliged with \$2000. Reich and Chitty objected to this contract and refused to sign it, demanding a reduction of the sum. The Collegium does not see what is unreasonable about the first sum." (Auf. Col.)

FIRST TOBACCO FACTORY

February 26, 1840 - "Evan Boner plans to set up a tobacco factory in Salem and wants to employ in it a young man, Krause, of immoral character and low principles. He is now staying in Bethania. Auf. Col. was decidedly against Boner's employing such a person." (Minutes of Elders' Conference)

March 25, 1840 - "The Brn. Evan Boner and C. F. Sussdorf plan to operate a tobacco factory, which has also been sanctioned by Cong. Diacony. Since they intend to take out their wares, the Brn. Hulthin and Warner think their business would not be affected."

March 23, 1840 - "Br. Evan Boner's application to operate a tobacco factory was answered with a clear Yes. The Collegium recommends to him and Br. Sussdorf, who seems to be his partner, to be very careful and not to employ any journeymen of doubtful reputation. We insist once more that the previously mentioned Krause must not be employed in Salem. . . ." (Auf.Col.)

BELO'S STORE

July, 1840 - "Few members were present but the chairman read a report from the Aufseher Collegium and Elders' Conference dealing with the application of our married Br. Edw. Belo to run a dry goods store. A discussion was held without arriving at any decision. The chief question was apparently as to whether it is advisable that a citizen who has a good trade should be allowed to run in addition some uncertain and risky business." (Householders and Masters)

Later at a meeting on the next day: "About Mr. Belo's application it was asked: Does the group believe that the Community Diacony is to treat the running of a store just as any other trade in Salem? The answer was a unanimous YES. This led to a discussion of the problem and the question: Does the group agree that storekeepers as well as other tradesmen restrict themselves to their own field of work and not encroach on the rights of others? Again the answer was a unanimous YES."

August 3, 1840 - "The Collegium had to consider therefore whether a third store could exist in Salem beside the other two. It is believed to be possible and since Br. Belo thinks it feasible not to borrow more than \$2000, the Collegium gave its consent for his opening the store under the following conditions:

1. "In the time of one year his joiner trade will have to be given up, if he wishes to continue the store.
2. "He must not retail any liquor not keep it for wholesale dispensing, nor offer it to people in order to gain many customers, as is the habit in various places.
3. "He must not enter partnership in a direct or indirect way with any stranger or person living outside. It must be pointed out that Br. Belo is not to be considered a joiner any longer as long as he carries on his store." (Auf. Col.)

PARTNERSHIPS OUTSIDE THE CHURCH ORGANIZATION

August 20, 1840 - "Br. H. Leinbach and James Hall have been asked about their partnership with people outside the community. The former declared that he is in partnership with Mr. Burcham and carries on with him an extensive shoemaking business, the products of which he sells in his shop. Mr. Burcham does not have anything to do with his shoemaker's shop in Salem, however, which is operated privately by him, Br. H. Leinbach. According to his statement Mr. James Hall has given up his shoemaking business in the Salem community and carries the same trade on outside the community with his brother John. They have a few negroes working for them. Besides the bake shop which he is allowed to operate he deals with coffee, sugar, spices, nails, etc., for which he does not have permission.

"The statements of these two brethren caused a long discuss during which the Collegium recognized the doubtful consequences of those partnerships. It is not hard to realize that if a few more persons enter partnerships in our community, the number of tradesmen will decrease since the smaller private trades could not compete with the trades operated on the partnership basis. This would also mean that our young people would not have an opportunity any longer to learn a trade. The Collegium however does not find it easy to curb this trend." (Auf. Col.)

In later years, business partnerships became quite common in Salem (and also in Winston), particularly between brothers and also fathers and sons.

SCHOOL FOR APPRENTICES AND JOURNEYMEN

November 30, 1840 - "A meeting of trades masters was held to discuss the proposal of establishing a school for apprentices and journeymen. A committee was appointed to take further steps in the matter." (Auf. Col.)

December 14, 1840 - "The school for apprentices and journeymen was started a week ago. Br. Francis Holland is serving as instructor." (Auf. Col.)

1841

THE NIGHT WATCHMAN

October 11, 1841 - "Br. John Chitty and Br. John Heisler are going to divide the night watch between them. Each of them takes over half the night. The Collegium does not object to this arrangement, but we wish that each of them go about his task with a definite sense of responsibility." (Auf. Col.)

January 26, 1846 - "Due to the barrenness of the last summer our neighboring communities are running short of food. Various thefts thus have recently been committed here in Salem, and since we have to expect that these burglaries will increase, the community decided that a second night watchman should be employed from nine to four. Our community has become too large to be sufficiently guarded by one person. The second watchman is to make his round very quietly with out sounding his horn and only inform the first night watchman in case of emergency. It is believed that his salary can be raised by private contributions." (Auf. Col.)

April 27, 1846 - "Complaint has been raised again about too much unnecessary noise caused by the night watchman's tooting the hours. It was repeated that various inhabitants of the community would rather do without a night watchman than suffer being disturbed continually during the night. This is to be announced to the watchman." (Auf. Col.)

1843

GRAVE PRICES INCREASED

January 30, 1843 - "We are informed Br. John Chitty has raised the price for grave-digging from \$2. to \$3. The Collegium wishes he would stick to his old price, and we shall talk to him about it." (Auf. Col.)

February 6, 1843 - "Br. Chitty was also talked to about his grave-digging. He declares that he cannot take a lower price in view of the modern way of making graves, i.e., with a pit into which the coffin is fitted and then covered with wooden boards. He also states that he takes much better care of covering the graves with grass than other gravediggers before him and the Collegium recognizes this." (Auf. Col.)

1844

TOO MANY TINSMITHS

September 4, 1844 - "The two local tinsmiths report that a third of that trade could not make his living. The Collegium agreed and Br. Hauser's application for establishing himself in that trade will have to be refused." (Auf. Col.)

BOYS CARRY FIRE COALS TO SCHOOL

December 19, 1844 - "A member of the community complains about the situation in the Boys' School where the children have to bring with them the coals in order that the stove may be lighted. This is especially hard on those children living at a distance from the school. He also points out the danger of fire in this case. We believe that another arrangement should be made. Members of the Collegium agree that it is very hard on young and small boys to have to carry fuel to the schoolhouse from a distance very early in the morning so that a fire can be started in the four stoves." (Auf. Col.)

January 23, 1845 - "In reference to an item in the minutes of December 19, 1844, it was reported that a laborer working for the Warden will kindle the fires in the stoves of the Boys' School."

1845

SLAVERY IN SALEM

The Moravians in Salem were opposed to slavery in general, yielding reluctantly to this common practice of the times and setting up very select rules governing the holding of slaves.

March 5, 1845 - "The situation of the congregation town of Salem at least in one respect is found to be entirely different from that of any other town of a brethren's congregation, in so far as it is found in a State in which slavery was the practice between the settlement of the first brethren in Wachovia, but since then has been guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and is permitted by the laws of the State of North Carolina. Whatever the views of the first brethren who settled here may have been about slavery and whoever disinclined they were perhaps to engage in it, it was nonetheless natural that their descendants who were born and brought up here, gradually drew away from the views of their fathers, became accustomed to the sight of slavery, as it presented itself all around them to their eyes, and practiced slavery as a civil right, if external advantages seemed to be united with it. This was true so much the more when the brethren's congregation, as such at its general synods to our knowledge once more made a declaration about slavery but laid it down much less as a principle, that the keeping of Negro slaves was irreconcilable with the brotherhood, with Christianity and so forth; but practice seemed rather to show the opposite since in our mission stations in the West Indies and Surinam negro slaves were kept for the carrying on of trades and for domestic service. It is therefore not strange that the brethren in Wachovia soon in similar activities employed negroes in congregational services and in the economy of the choir houses. This seems however to have been the case in only a limited degree until about twenty-five years ago" (Elders Conference in Salem)

1846

THE SALEM BANK

In May, 1846, the stockholders of the Cape Fear Bank held a meeting and the directors of the bank were commissioned to open a branch bank in Salem to replace the existing agency there. The president of the Cape Fear Bank came to Salem to take the preparatory steps, among them was the construction of a bank building.

Dr. Shumann expressed a willingness to construct a two-storied, fireproof brick building to be rented to the bank. He later dropped his plan for building a house for the bank and suggested that the Diacony furnish a building for this purpose. At the same time Mr. Francis Fries asked whether the Diacony would permit the building or purchase of such a building by another member of the Salem Congregation, and stated that he might consider furnishing a building for the bank in place of Dr. Shumann. The Collegium agreed with Fries' on condition that he present an acceptable sketch of a proposed building and that the building would be rented to strangers only from year to year.

Nothing was done about the new bank building until April, 1847, when it was suggested that the Boys' School be rented to the Bank. The directors of the Wilmington bank agreed to rent the Boys' School building at a fixed price--annual sum of \$250. However, this building was found to be unsuitable for use as a bank.

April 16, 1847 - "The reason for the special meeting today was that since our last meeting the cashier of the Branch Bank in Salisbury came to Salem to transact bank business and inspected the Boys' School. His opinion is that the lower corner room and the adjoining room are too damp for the purposes of the bank and this has been observed by brethren of the community before. Mr. Davis also thought the rear buildings too near the main building and it is the wish of both bank cashiers that the Diacony build a new two-story house in the place of the former Widow's House, a brick building the size of the present one to be used by the bank. Roof, window shutters and doors could be made of wood as in ordinary buildings. The house would have to have a fireproof vault. The two cashiers hold that the letter of the directors in Wilmington does not allow them to promise a higher rent than \$250 (annually). For various reasons the Collegium decided to build such a house." (Auf. Col.)

This building still stood for many years at 500 South Main Street. Bank Street, which runs along the side of this building, was named for this institution.

HENRY FRIES

November 16, 1846 - "Br. Fr. Fries announced that he had accepted as partner in this business his brother Henry. The Collegium will have to find out whether Henry Fries has signed the congregation orders." (Auf. Col.) The Fries brothers and their children would be instrumental in the growth of Salem for the next fifty years.

1847

THOMAS WILSON ACQUIRES FIRST LOT IN WINSTON AREA

June 14, 1847 - "Mr. Thomas J. Wilson who does not belong to the congregation but who has been living in Salem for about seven years now asks the Diacony for permission to rent a lot outside the community on Salem territory - where the continuation of Main Street crosses the road to Bethabara, that is 1/4 of a mile north of Salem. On that lot he would like to build a house valued at \$1,000 to \$1,500. His reason for the request is that nobody of the same business has settled in or near Salem so far and it should be very convenient for the members of the Salem Congregation to have him in their immediate neighborhood. He would observe the congregation orders as he has done so far. Decision deferred." (Auf. Col.)

July 19, 1847 - "We reconsidered Mr. Thomas J. Wilson's case The Collegium must realize the advantage to the Salem citizens of having a schooled lawyer in our neighborhood and therefore the Collegium noted finally 6 to 2 in favor of Mr. Wilson's request." (Auf. Col.)

August 30, 1847 - "It was announced to Mr. Thomas Wilson that his application was granted. He expresses thanks to the Diacony for the privilege granted him A committee was appointed to survey his lot always with regard to the Salem Streets and their continuation in the future. He is granted a front of 100 feet at the Old Bethabara Road on the other side of the second valley north of the community. The depth of the lot is equal to those between Main and Salt Streets." (Auf. Col.)

September 13, 1847 - "The appointed committee surveyed the lot for Mr. Wilson. The Collegium granted Mr. Wilson's request for another fifty feet at the north side of his lot. It was decided that Mr. Wilson would have to pay town lot rent for the house." (Auf. Col.)

The property was located on the north side of Second Street, between Main and Liberty Street, having a frontage of 150 feet on Main Street. Mr. Wilson built the first house in Winston here in 1847. There is a marker on the grounds of the Hall of Justice commemorating this.

STREET ENCROACHMENT PERMIT AND HOUSING CONTRUCTION ISSUES

February 26, 1847 - "The road (now Walnut Street) which leads to Nath. Vogler's forms at Br. John Siewer's lot an obtuse angle with Main Street and the southeast corner of this lot is left which such a rocky foundation that only with greatest effort and cost can a cellar be excavated there. Br. Siewers would like therefore to move his house so far into this road that its southwest corner would form the southern line of the lot by which he would alleviate the above-mentioned difficulty. The Collegium grants this request of Br. Siewers since the entrance to the path will be wide enough even if part of the house should occupy it. We advise him however to talk to the people who live on that road to find out whether they make any objection." (Auf. Col.)

March 9, 1847 - "It was reported that Br. John Siewers has talked to the persons concerned and that he did not encounter any objection to his moving his house out in the path except for Nath. Vogler. Br. Vogler objects that this would make the street too narrow. To meet this objection Br. Siewers suggested leaving an open space 32 feet between his house and the opposite corner of Br. G. Foltz's lot and house which would be just as much as the space between Br. Vogler's house and shop and since Br. Foltz's shop stands 7 feet behind the pointed angle, the entrance into this street would be 39 feet wide. The Collegium agrees to this suggestion. The draft of his house was also approved." (Auf. Col.)

June 16, 1847 - "John Vogler wishes to build a 1-story brick shop, 15 x 32 feet, between his house and the Bagge house. Granted." (Auf. Col.)

The Vogler house at 700 S. Main still stands.

1849

FORSYTH COUNTY FORMED

On January 1, 1849, the State Legislature divided Stokes County and a new county was formed and named in honor of Col. Benjamin Forsyth, a native of the older county, who was killed in Canada in 1814. Salem is now in its fourth county, having formerly been in Rowan, Surry and Stokes.

This creation of a new county meant that a new county seat would have to be established. Some of the conservatives in the town of Salem wanted the county seat of Forsyth to be as far from Salem as was geographically possible, but there was also a younger group of Moravians who favored building the new town directly north of Salem.

The 1850 State Legislative election ended it when those in favor of a town not named Salem won the election. Forsyth and Stokes shared legislators so the voters for Stoke had as much voice as the people of Salem in naming the new town.

It was named Winston partially in respect for those Stokes County democrats that had help win the election for those who wanted it not to be named Salem.

Perhaps because Salem was located practically in the center of the new county the progressives won that argument. On May 12, 1849, the Moravians sold fifty-one and a quarter acres of land for \$256.25 (\$5.00 per acre) as a site for the county seat town.

Within the next few years, both Salem and the new town of Winston will each be incorporated and will operate under separate governments. However, in other respects the two towns, separated only by the south line of First Street, will function practically as one town from this time forward.

NO MUSICIANS DURING EXAMS

April 23, 1849 - "A certain Mr. Carncross, who is ranging about the country with a company of musicians and dancers, requests permission to us the music hall during examination week. Since exhibitions of this kind could easily create disturbances and since in general they usually have an unfavorable influence, especially on young people, and in addition are entirely contrary to the character of the Moravian Church, the Col. is unable to consent to grant this request."

ALCOHOL ABUSE

September 19, 1849 - "The A. Conf. discussed at length the increasing sale of strong drink in our town, a matter which cannot be regretted sufficiently. It could, however, reach no decision." Salem would later ban the sale of alcoholic beverages to the brethren but this would not stop the purchase outside the town and its associated problems.

May 27 and 28, 1852 - "The public examination was held in the Girls' Boarding School, to which many non-Moravians had come. Some of them became intoxicated at our inns and behaved shamefully, to their own disgrace and not to Salem's honor." (Salem Diarist) Alcohol could be served at the inns and tavern to outsiders only. There are several references to advising the innkeepers to do a better job of policing the conduct of guests.