

City of Winston-Salem Government Meetings Notes

Town of Salem: 1804-1822

ACTIONS OF THE DIRECTING BOARDS OF SALEM

In the records of the actions of the Directing Boards of Salem, the Board members discussed, decided on, suggested, recommended, or approved in principle various matters under consideration, including work projects to be undertaken. This does not necessarily mean that these matters were resolved at that time, or that the proposed work was immediately accomplished.

Quite often, after further consideration, other ideas or plans developed, or financial conditions forced cancellation or postponement. Some of their proposed improvements were of such magnitude as to be considered long range projects, requiring several years to complete.

These procedures are today in the actions of our Council and Committees. Actions taken at one meeting may be rescinded or amended at a later meeting; approved projects may be delayed for financial reasons, or postponed until funds may be provided in a later budget. Major long range projects are scheduled for completion over a period of several designated years.

HIGHLIGHTS

1804 - Notes on currency

1805 - More street lights requested

1808 - Trees planted on Main St; Cost of street improvement

1809 - Benjamin Forsyth visits; Fire safety 1809-1822

1810 - Plans for a boys boarding school; The Square; Native Americans visit; Street lights; bathing in the creek frown upon; Target shooting forbade

1813 - Fire prevention rules; Sidewalk improvements; Street improvements; Tree lined street expanded

1814 - Doctor Schumann comes to Salem-the beginnings of Happy Hill

1815 - Water system considered inadequate

1816 - Cows in the street; Notes on the night watchman

1817 - Population growth through 1824

1818 - Creek clearing

1819 - New Salem Mill

1820 - New Town Map authorized; Property encroachment issue; new mail schedule

NOTES ON CURRENCY

October, 1804 - "The former method of reckoning in pounds, shillings, and pence has long since been abandoned by most merchants, and they keep their accounts according to the coin of the United States in dollars and cents, of which, as you know, one hundred go for one dollar. Two and one half dollars make one pound in North Carolina currency. For this reason Br. Loesch has opened his books on this basis, in which now the annual abstract is sent." (Christian Lewis Benzien)

May 29, 1805 - "Br. Benzien proposed that the accounts of the various diaconies should hereafter be kept in dollars and cents, which had the approval of the Conferenz." In 1809 the currency of the United States in dollars and cents was recognized as the lawful currency of North Carolina, but the change from pounds and shillings to dollars and cents was not made obligatory. (Aelt. Conf.)

April 25, 1810 - "We wish greatly that the shortage in small change might be relieved by ordering small silver coins from the mint. We fear, however, that it would quickly leave our neighborhood." (Aelt. Conf.)

May 1, 1810 - "Until a supply of small silver coins can be secured the little paper tickets shall continue to pass among us, but they shall not be given to outsiders."

1805

STREET LIGHTS

December 3, 1805 - "It is very important and necessary that a lantern be hung at the Boarding School, and Br. Stotz will see Br. Steiner about it." (Auf. Col.)

It appears that Brethren were a little skeptical about the claimed efficiency of a new type lamp:

August 4, 1808 - "A certain Mr. Hernley in the year 1802 secured from President Thomas Jefferson a patent on his invention of a 'thermolamp', the patent to be good for fourteen years. He has offered, as a courtesy to our town and its citizens, to give us permission to erect such a lamp, without charge for his patent rights, and himself to assist in its erection. He thinks that such a thermolamp will light the entire square nicely. Pleasant as the offer is we do not think we can accept it, for without doubt the preparations for the erecting of such a lamp would be beyond our ability, and besides there are other improvements in town that are more important than a kind of lighting which may be very pretty but on the whole has not yet been proved." (Cong. Council)

October 19, 1809 - "The Aeltesten Conferenz and the Aufseher Collegium have decided that it will be well to have more lights in town. Lanterns will be placed in front of the Gemein Haus, before the Sisters House and the Boarding School, at the south east corner of the Square, and on the cross street by Br. Below's".(Cong. Council)

1808

TREES PLANTED ON MAIN STREET

March 1, 1808 - "It was reported that the Single Brethren are thinking of planting Lombardy poplars along the entire front of their lot to beautify the street. We are glad to hear it."

It appears these poplars were planted, because about thirteen years later the poplars were removed.

February 19, 1821 - "The poplar trees in front of the Brothers House shall be taken down, first, because they ruin the sidewalk, and second, because the leaves clog the roof gutters." (Auf. Col.)

ESTIMATE FROM CONTRACTOR

July 5, 1808 - Br. Stotz presented the account of cost of improving the upper part of the street in Salem.

Paid for breaking stone -----4 pounds: 16 sh
Paid for hauling stone-----10 pounds.: 5 sh
Paid for laying stone and hauling dirt-----11 pounds.: 8 sh
Board for workmen-----8 pounds: 17 sh
8 gallons of brandy-----1 pound 16 sh.
Planks, boards and scantling----- 37 pounds 18 sh

"Horse, cart, plow, and tools not included."

1809

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN FORSYTH VISITS

April 29, 1809 - "Captain Forsyth came from Germanton with a recently enlisted volunteer company of rifle men, who will soon go to New Bern and from there to New Orleans. The Captain wished to give his company the pleasure of seeing our town, and at the same time show us their new uniforms and military drill. They marched into town in military order, with trumpet and rifle, and paraded and drilled in the Square in front of the Boarding School." (Salem Diary)

This is the same Benjamin Forsyth who would die in Canada during the War of 1812 and for whom Forsyth County is named.

FIRE SAFETY-1809-1822

John Vogler was put in charge of the fire engines in July, 1809, and continued in this service for over twelve years.

The fire engine was checked in 1812 and it was found that the wooden waterbox was in bad condition and should be replaced with a new box lined with copper to make it more durable. A similar report was made on March 29, 1813, and on July 21, 1821, it was reported that "the fire engine has been repaired and it was tested today."

January 8, 1821 - "For some time it has been wished that if possible something could be done to the fire engine to make it easier to pump. John Vogler wrote to Bethlehem and made inquiries how this could be done and laid the answer before the Collegium. It would cost about \$300 to make the suggested changes, and Collegium thinks it would be possible to buy a new engine for that sum." (Helf. Conf.)

On May 29, 1820, Collegium authorized the purchase of six dozen fire buckets from Philadelphia, Pa.

In 1822, in view of the small amount of water in town available in case of fire, the Council approved the suggestion that the Aufseher Collegium be asked to provide good and durable cisterns in which rain water from the roofs of the Gemein Haus, the Boarding School, and the Sisters House could be gathered

1810

PLANS FOR BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BOYS

For many years the Brethren in Salem had wished to establish a boarding school for boys, to which might be sent the sons of the members of the Unity of Brethren in North Carolina and the sons of those who were not members of Unity. On November 21, 1810, Br. Steiner was appointed inspector of the proposed school and was instructed to try to procure an outline of the plan followed in the school at Nazareth, Pa. However, it was decided at that time that nothing could be done until the new house for the inspector of the Girls Boarding School was finished and occupied.

On February 5, 1812, it was reported that for lack of teachers the boarding school for boys could not be opened, but in the meantime several congregation boys would sleep in the Anstalt under the care of Christian Daniel Wohlfahrt (Welfare). On April 4th, six little boys moved there to sleep and eat. At this time there were fifteen little boys in the school.

THE SALEM SQUARE

February 6, 1810 - "Br. Stotz reported that he could not plant the double row of Italian poplars across the middle of the Square as had been wished because of the water pipes, and the diagonal walk will be a few feet east of the center." (Auf. Col.)

February 22, 1818 - "Since poplars have been planted across the Square turnstiles shall be placed at either end of the walk, and the larger entrance shall be closed with bars." (Cong. Council)

October 14, 1812 - "The new fence around the Square is almost finished and decision must be reached about the entrances so that they can be used only by foot passengers. The usual turnstile does not seem strong enough, and two posts will be set, with a cross bar, leaving a narrow entrance on either side." (Aelt. Conf.)

October 21, 1812 - "Instead of the posts and cross bars planned last time the entrances to the Square shall each have a double flight of steps, three steps high." The fence around the Square was painted after the above work was completed.

NATIVE AMERICANS VISIT SALEM

February 27, 1810 - "Captain Locust, one of the upper Cherokees, and thirteen other Indians visited Salem on their way to Richmond. They were provided with food and drink, and were taken to the church, the Boarding School, and the Sisters House. The playing of the organ, and the singing of the school girls and of the Sisters gave them much pleasure." (Auf Col.)

STREET LIGHTS

March 6, 1810 - "Br. Schroeter does not understand the care of the lamps, and they do not burn well because the wicks are too thick and the lamps go out quickly. Br. Stotz will instruct him to make the wicks thinner." (Auf. Col.)

January 21, 1822 - "Several members have asked that a lamp-post be placed at the corner of the Br. Theoder Schultz' house, to light the road to the church on dark nights. A committee was appointed to go to the place and see whether this would be feasible." (Auf. Col.)

February 25, 1822 - "A lamp-post with a lamp will be placed at Br. Theoder Schultz's house. (Auf. Col.)

BATHING IN THE CREEK FROWNED UPON

May 1, 1810 - "The Brothers' House conference agrees with the Collegium that bathing on Sunday is unnecessary and shall remain forbidden." (This referred to bathing in the creek.) (Auf. Col.)

TARGET SHOOTING FORBADE

May 1, 1810 - "The Brethren who have been shooting at mark (targets) in town shall be told that it positively must stop." (Auf. Col.)

May 17, 1810 - "We wish that children and young people would cease shooting with arrows in town. Recently one of the Sisters here was badly hurt by an arrow that struck her head, and she might easily have been killed." (Helf. Conf.)

1813

FIRE RULES

These rules were approved in December 1813. They are written here in detail to show how concerned Salem was with fire. After the Tavern burned in 1799, there is almost no instance of a house or business burning in Salem until after the consolidation with Winston in 1913.

"Danger from fire is of such a character that no one will refuse to help if fire breaks out. Salem has few inhabitants in comparison with its wide extent, and its situation is such that no outside help can be expected. It is the more important that there should be a well-considered plan for the use of our small strength.

"The following therefore must be remembered:

I. Precautions that should be taken to prevent fires.

For this purpose fire-inspectors are appointed. The committee consists of:

1. The vorsteher of the congregation and of the Single Brothers diaconies.
2. The master of the waterworks and the masters of the fire engines.
3. The fire-supervisors.
4. The master carpenter, and
5. The master mason when there are such in town
6. The master potter.
7. The supervisor of chimney-sweeping.

"This fire inspection committee, in connection with the Aufseher Collegium shall have charge of everything which pertains to this matter, for example:

- a. That in building no method shall be employed which might endanger the town, which would result:
 - if chimneys rest on beams, and have no substantial foundation;
 - if chimneys are so small that they cannot be swept;
 - if chimneys are not strongly built and are not plastered;
 - if every chimney is not well separated from one that adjoins it;
 - if the chimney is not high enough over a shingle roof.
- b. That hearths of a sufficient width be laid before fire places, and that they do not join the floor too near the fireplace.
- c. That the stovepipes do not run too near the beams; and that the stoves do not stand too near wooden walls, and that they are protected against the falling out of live coals.
- d. That bake ovens are carefully placed. Live coals must not be left in them.
- e. That no places for smoking meat can be placed in dwelling houses, unless they will be fireproof in case the chimney catches fire.
- f. That no dangerous practices may be permitted, namely: drying wood on the stove; hanging rags on the stove to dry. Piling wood between the stove and the wall; in outdoor ovens burning wood that is too long, which will burn outside the door, or may fall out when a piece is burned off; sticking wood inside the oven to dry; laying on a stove a pan or anything else that might catch fire.

- g. That burning candles and fire-pans must not be left without oversight; that no open, burning lights may be carried into stables, lofts, or other places where hay, straw, or other inflammable materials lie, but a lantern must be lighted; and that no one with a lighted tobacco pipe (or Segar) should go to such places. Smoking tobacco in barnyards and in the alleys is often dangerous.
- h. That no sawdust shall be used in the spitting-boxes.
- i. That straw and hay, also the accumulation of chips from planning and boring, so far as possible should be kept at a distance from dwellings.
- j. That ashes, hot, glowing, or mixed with live coals, should not be placed in wooden containers; that in all houses a safe place should be provided for taking care of the ashes.
- k. That in stoves and fireplaces in workshops, when men leave in the evening, the coals must be covered carefully with ashes.
- l. That chimneys must be swept from time to time; and if chimneys are burned out this must be done only in rainy weather, when there is no wind, and when permission has been secured in advance; and precautions must be taken in case of danger.
- m. That stoves must be cleaned at the right time.

II. Further, it is the special duty of the fire-inspectors and the Aufseher Collegium to see that all appliances for fire fighting are kept in good order. To this belongs;

- 1. That the assignment of residents for extinguishing fires be revised from time to time, and vacant places filled;
- 2. That there are enough engines, ladders, fire-axes, and buckets, and that they are in good condition, and where they can be reached easily, (therefore the fire supervisors and the engine masters must have the keys to the engine house;)
- 3. That the buckets are always kept in the same place, where men can get them quickly, and they must not be used for other purposes;
- 4. That by degrees additional cisterns shall be placed in the best places.

III. What shall be done when there is actual danger from fire.

- 1. Anyone who discovers fire by day or night must notify the inmates of the house, then the residents in the Brothers House, and then the fire-supervisors. If the nightwatchman smells smoke he must look for the cause and notify the Brothers House, and if fire breaks out he must ring an alarm and then go from house to house to waken people.
- 2. The fire-supervisors shall hurry to the fire, and all arrangements for fighting the flames are entrusted to them, and not one must give contrary orders.
- 3. The engine-masters and the Brethren appointed to assist them shall bring the engines to the scene of the fire immediately, and stay there to the end, without entrusting the engines to others.
- 4. The same shall be done by the Brethren in charge of the ladders, the fire axes, and those who bring axes with them, all according to instructions from the fire supervisors.
- 5. The rest of the residents shall bring their fire buckets for use. Then the weaker Brethren and the boys shall be arranged in two rows, to the nearest cistern, one row to pass the full buckets, and the others who can stand further apart, to return the empty buckets. These rows can be extended by the Single Sisters if need requires. A number of Brethren are appointed to empty the house. They shall take the furniture to a safe place at a distance from the fire, and guard it. They must have tomahawks or hatchets with the, so that they can open doors and chests. The married Sisters, most of whom have children, shall take care of them and watch the houses, so that there may be no stealing. Flying sparks are often dangerous, and certain Brethren and sisters shall watch for those. Should someone from a neighboring plantation arrive at the right time he shall join in, or shall be placed where the need is greatest; and this applies also to persons who may be working in town."

SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Since most of the traveling around Salem was by foot, the Brethren were concerned about keeping the footpaths in safe and usable condition, particularly during wet weather. Tanbark was one of the materials most frequently used for sidewalk surfacing.

March 2, 1813 -"The improvement of the sidewalks at various places was considered, and the following was decided: 'From the south gable end of Br. Kreuser's house to the same place on Br. Reich's house a stone pavement shall be laid (this was the east side of Main Street, between West and Blum Streets), but without the customary gutter on the side toward the street, which would over the water-pipes and make it necessary to tear up the gutter every time the pipes must be repaired. The pavement across the street to the Tavern has sunk appreciably and must be raised, which will make it easier to cross and will allow the water to run off more easily.

'The sidewalk between Eberhard's and the Tavern shall be covered with tanbark and kept in good repair.

'The sidewalk in front of and between Brosing's house and Schroter's shall be paved (this is the west side of Main Street between Bank and Academy Streets).

'The Brn. Heinrich Herbst and Fries shall be notified to improve the sidewalk in front of their houses (west side of Main Street, north of Bank Street), and especially reminded to keep the gutters open.

'The sidewalk along the gable end of the Vorsteher's house (south side of Bank Street, from Church Street to Main Street) and across the street to the Widows House shall be repaired in part and in part repaid. The path from the store across the Square to the Gemein Haus shall have a new covering of tanbark.' '' (Auf. Col.)

About a year after the plans were made, it appears that the first sidewalk improvement was completed:

January 27, 1814 - "The new pavement has been laid on the sidewalk from Br. Kreuser's to Br. Reich's. Posts shall be placed at some distances from each other along the sidewalk on the side toward the street, in order to protect the pavement." (Cong. Council)

Even at this early date it appears that the property holder was responsible for sidewalk maintenance in front of his property:

December 10, 1821 - "Each citizen must keep in good order the sidewalk in front of his lot, and maintain the proper width. The gutter repairs may be combined with the repairs to the streets." (Auf. Col.)

STREET IMPROVEMENTS

March 29, 1813 - "There was a discussion of the proposal of the improvement of several streets in town, submitted by the Aufseher Collegium. It was decided first to improve the Main Street from the store to the Tavern. (West Street to tavern.) The high place in front of the tavern shall be dug down as much as may be necessary, and the dirt shall be used to fill the low places. After the street has been regulated in this way it shall be paved with stone for more permanence. The stone shall be gathered and piled in some convenient place near the town, and then hauled in. For the former it may be hoped that many of the local residents will lend a helping hand, without pay. For the latter we will ask a number of our neighbors to bring their teams and haul the stone to the street, also without the usual pay though they shall be assured of good meals.

"The considerable cost of such street improvement shall be covered in part by several of the diaconies; a subscription list shall be opened, and Br. Kramsch shall ask contributions in town and Br. Schober in the Brothers House; Br. Christian Blum shall try to secure gifts from visitors for the same purpose." (Cong. Council)

Nothing was done toward the improvement of Main Street until November 1813 when the Collegium selected Saturday, November 27th as a convenient day to begin the gathering of stone. The residents were to work without pay, but they would be served with beer and cakes.

On December 7, 1813, it was reported that "a number of Brethren and boys have collected a fine lot of stones for the improvement of the street from the store to the tavern." However, it was mentioned that the street paving could not be done until next year, so part of the stone would be used to improve bad places in other streets.

March 1, 1814 - "The stones needed for work on the streets can best be procured if on an appointed day a number of persons and several teams can be secured. We think this would lighten and speed the work especially if the stone can be brought from the proposed place, near the Bethabara Road about a mile from this town. Stones are very plentiful there, and close together, and would not need to be piled but could be thrown immediately into the wagons, if they could stand ready in succession. Br. Leinback will burn the leaves at the place, so that it will be easier to get the stones."

October 27, 1814 - "The improvement of the main street has made no progress, except that a part of the necessary stone has been gathered into piles a mile from town."

Finally, the improvement of Main Street from the store to the tavern was assured.

June 6, 1815 - "The improvement of the main street from the store to the tavern is now in process. Joseph Waterson, who has undertaken the work, offers also to pave the gutters on both sides of the street, and to pave the sidewalk from Br. Bagge's house to the south end of the Tavern, for \$100. It is agreed that this work is necessary, and the prices are fair, so a contract will be made with him." (Auf. Col.)

TREE LINED STREET EXTENDED

March 29, 1813-"The Cedar Avenue which has been planted in front of God's Acre shall be extended (south) by degrees until it reaches the town." (The intersection of Church and Bank Streets.)

1814

DOCTOR SCHUMANN COMES TO SALEM

May 25, 1814 - "Doctor Schumann intimates that he would be willing to move to Salem if, in addition to free lodging, he can have a handicraft which he can follow along with his practice, or if he can be assured of an annual income of at least \$150. There is no side line here for him to follow, and rather than run the risk of having him move elsewhere Conferenz wishes to do all in this power to satisfy him. To assure him of the necessary money so long as he needs it, the Boarding School, the Sustentation diaconie, the diaconie of the Single Sisters, etc., can contribute to the guaranteed amount, and he can give service free of charge in the Boarding School, Sisters House, etc, exceptional cases and medicine not included." (Aelt. Conf.)

Dr. Schumann was an eccentric, a controversial character. Many stories were told about him. One of them is of a young man who had the misfortune to get his jawbone out of place so that he could not close his mouth. His mother took him to Dr. Schumann. The doctor received the young man courteously and invited him to set down, but pulled the chair out from under the young man, who sat down on the floor with such a jolt that his jawbone snapped back in place and the cure was affected.

The Schumann plantation, consisting of about 160 acres, was on the hill south of Salem Creek and east of Waughtown Street. An African American settlement sprang up there called Happy Hill. For many years Happy Hill was connected to Salem across Salem Creek by walking over rocks in the creek.

1815

WATER SYSTEM CONSIDERED INADEQUATE

In 1815, there was considerable concern about the inadequate water system of the town, and the water consumers were so dissatisfied with the service that they were unwilling to pay the water fees.

September 24, 1815 -"The review of the annual report of the water-works account brought to mind again the distressing condition of this essential facility. This fall it is seldom that all points of the system have enough water, and at several places there is almost no water, which is a great inconvenience for the residents and makes them unwilling to pay water fees, though repairs must be made this fall. If bored pine logs can be procured they will answer the purpose; good sound chestnut logs would serve also, if they can be secured without branches. Collegium recommends the speedy continuation with the trial of the earthenware pipes which have already been laid, so that if they prove satisfactory more of them can be used." (Auf. Col.) It appears that oak, pine, and chestnut logs were used in the original water system, these bored logs being joined with wooden and iron collars.

At a meeting of the Collegium on March 26, 1817, a preference for clay pipe in the water system was recorded, although it was recognized that this type of pipe had not yet been used long enough to prove that they could be depended on. The Collegium decided that before anything more was done such pipe (clay) should be laid as soon as possible from the water house in the Square to the new boarding house. (This refers to the boarding house constructed on Main Street just north of the Tavern in 1816.)

An entry of June 5, 1818, "during this week a beginning was made with laying clay water pipes in our town." And on November 30th, it was reported that "during this month the laying of clay water pipes in place of wooden ones has been finished."

September 18, 1820 -"The recent change in the line of water-pipes, which was begun many years ago with clay pipes, and which has now been finished with clay and wooden pipes, does not serve the purpose, in Br. Clauder's opinion. Collegium appointed the Brn. John Leinback, Jacob Blum, and John Vogler a committee to look into the matter, authorizing them to call in other Brethren who might be of service. After full investigation they shall report to the Collegium." (Auf. Col.)

The report indicates that there had been a lack of good engineering planning of the new water-pipe system, resulting in improper alignment and grade of the pipe line, making it necessary to rebuild the pipe lines in order to correct this condition.

October 2, 1820 -"The waterworks committee reported that the new line of pipes could not possibly be used, because it has a curve twenty-seven feet higher than the former line. The Collegium deeply regretted that the departed Br. Stotz went to so much expense

without having the line properly surveyed, but it is too late to change that. The committee was convinced that it would be best to stick to the old line, and remove all the clay pipes, except here in town where the water has so much fall that they do not suffer from the pressure. Further, that from the springs to Br. Bohlo's (Belo's) house good, durable pine-log pipes should be used, as was formerly done, not those of poor chestnut wood. Br. Von Schweinitz gave permission for the selection of the best trees for the purpose on land belonging to the Administration. The pipes lain in the new line shall be taken up, and those of wood and of clay shall be kept for other use." (Auf. Col.)

The report was a recommended course of action, but something was done:

January 8, 1821 -"The Auswartige Br. Abraham Hauser inquired whether he could buy the clay pipes which had been discarded from the water lines. Conferenz refused because they can be used here and there in town to conduct water to cisterns." (Auf. Col.)

1816

COWS IN THE STREET ARE A HAZARD

April 8, 1816 -"For some time it has been customary to let cows that belong in town stand in front of the houses instead of being let immediately into the barnyards. This is disorderly, and bad for the streets, and should be remedied as soon as possible. It would be avoided if the cows were let into the barnyard or stable as soon as they come home."

NOTES ON THE NIGHT WATCH

December 2, 1816 -"The nightwatchman, Br. Samuel Schulz, asks for a warm overcoat. Br. Kreuser is willing to supply this if Br. Schulz will promise to go through the store yard regularly once each night." (Auf. Col.)

April 2, 1821 -"It shall be the duty of the new nightwatchman to light the lamps in front of the church and on the street corners, and then to extinguish them at the proper time."

Many years ago the bell was run to fix the time for stopping work. This stopping time was when it got "too dark to thread a needle."

November 27, 1822-"The proposal to stop ringing the bell for stopping work was approved, for everybody knows when the sun goes down." (Cong. Council)

1817

POPULATION 1817-1824

At the beginning of 1817 the congregation of Salem consisted of 128 married Brethren and sisters, 3 widowers, 13 widows, 40 single Brethren, 13 youths and boys, 66 Single Sisters, 14 older girls, 48 little boys, 59 little girls for a total of 384 persons.

Six years later at the beginning of 1823, the congregation consisted of 140 married people, 7 widowers, 16 widows, 37 Single Brethren, 10 older boys, 66 single sisters, 20 older girls, 66 little boys and 75 little girls for a total of 437. The population also included "the missionaries in the Cherokee land, and the pastors and their wives in the country congregations, making a total of 447. In addition 120 people now lived in Bethabara, 274 in Bethania, 171 in Hope and 411 in Friedberg for a total population of 1,690.

A mere two years later, the population of Salem had increased to 477. There were now 118 people in Bethabara, 253 in Bethania, 133 in Hope, 427 in Friedberg and 309 in Friedland for a total population of 1717. 626 of these were listed as members of the Moravian Church and 625 as children. The rest were members of other religious faiths who had by now settled in Wachovia.

SCHOOL STATISTICS

At the end of 1824, there were twenty-six boys in the boys school, and one hundred and one boarding pupils in the Boarding School for Girls.

1818

CREEK CLEARING

The Brethren in Salem recognized the health hazards involved in stagnant water, swamps and undergrowth, and they became concerned with the need of clearing and straightening of Salem Creek.

November 16, 1818 - "In regard to the means which should be taken to improve the health of the town it seems important that the Wach (Salem Creek) should be straightened so far as means for the purpose allows. Collegium thinks that a subscription list should be opened among the residents for this purpose. Citizens who have land lying on the creek, and those who wish to secure pieces, of land rent-free from the congregation vorsteher should certainly be willing to clean those parts of the creek which will benefit themselves." (Auf. Col.)

February 28, 1819 - "The chairman announced that the committee appointed to consider possible causes of sickness in our town was ready to report and the majority voted for a meeting on the following Wednesday evening." (Cong. Council)

March 3, 1819 - "The report was presented to Council 9) standing water, swamps, and mire, and more injurious to health than running water....10) thick woods are very useful between standing water and dwellings for the leaves absorb much of the vapour for their growth; and it is wiser to place dwellings to the east of standing water. Synopsis of the cost (of clearing and straightening the Wach) --\$1050.

"A large majority voted in the affirmative to the question: 'Shall it be undertaken, as soon as possible, to clear the creek of all that has fallen into it, and from growth that obstructs the flow of the water.' "

"The question: 'Shall it be undertaken to straighten and shorten the creek?' did not receive the necessary two-thirds vote, so that it will not be done." (Cong. Council)

Evidently, no one wanted to work on this project:

June 14, 1819- "The three Brn. Christopher Vogler, Leinbach, and Christian Blum who were chosen by Congregation Council to supervise the clearing of the Wach (Salem Creek) reported that very few people were willing to work at it and that it would cost a great deal to hire others to do the work, so they would be obliged to notify the Council that nothing could be done this way." (Auf. Col.)

1819

NEW SALEM MILL

In January, 1819, Christian and Jacob Blum, John Vogler, and Heinrich Herbst, conceived an idea to unite and build a mill on the Wach (Salem Creek) in the neighborhood of the town. The mill would not have a dam, but only a race of the necessary length to secure the needed fall. It was felt that such an enterprise could be carried through without injury to the health of the community.

They were not able to undertake this project immediately, so they asked the Collegium for an assurance, to be renewed annually, so that they would have the first chance at building such a mill.

November 4, 1819- "A pro memoria was presented from the four Brethren who wish to build a mill on the plantation formerly occupied by George Brendel----Council approved the project by a vote of twenty-three to seven." (Cong. Council)

On November 29, 1820, it was recorded that "the new millhouse on the Wach was successfully raised." The first flour was ground at this mill on the 18th of October, 1821.

It stood a little northwest of the present South Broad Street bridge across Salem Creek. The race ran along an irregular course north of Salem Creek, with the head of the race being between the line of present Dean Street south to Salem Creek, and Bath Branch. At this point the water from Salem Creek was channeled into the race. The race was 274 rods (4521 feet) long and ten feet wide, within a fifty-foot right-of-way. It had a fall of about ten feet from the up-streams beginning to the millhouse.

1820

NEW MAP OF SALEM

On March 6, 1820, the Collegium appointed a committee "to measure the lots and streets and report to the Collegium." Later, February 15, 1821, was set as the day for measuring the streets and town lots of Salem. During 1821 a new town map was made.

This map showed the existing streets, street widths, lots, with dimensions and numbers, and the existing buildings were shown in elevation.

PROPERTY ENCROACHMENT

April 17, 1820 -"Br. John Leinbach has moved his salt-house from Br. Levering's lot to his own. He wishes to build a four-foot porch on the side street. If it were on the main street that could be permitted, but on the back street Sr. Christmann's house takes off the same width, so it would not encroach more on the sidewalk." (Auf. Col.) (This salt-house gave the name to "Salt Street", later named South Liberty Street.)

NEW MAIL SCHEDULE

April 24, 1820 -"Under a new schedule for the post it arrived today instead of on Tuesday, and will now come three times a week instead of twice." This mail stage left Halifax Courthouse, Virginia, each Saturday morning at 4 AM passing through Milton, Caswell Courthouse, Lenox Castle, Greensboro, Salem, and Lexington, and reaching Salisbury on Tuesday at 10 AM.