

# City of Winston-Salem Government Meetings Notes

## Town of Salem: 1763-1792

### Highlights

- 1766-1773 - Founding and layout of town; early organization and management; early water system; first fire inspections
- 1774 - First Fire Inspections; Early water supply; Population
- 1776 - War of American Independence
- 1777-1779 - Brick making begins; Cost of living, the strike; Completion of water supply system; Early public jobs; Brief items of interest (gossip)
- 1780 - The water works; Land claims recognized
- 1782 - Social Issues
- 1783 - First 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration; Water works items; new construction
- 1784 - The Tavern burns and is rebuilt; First fire engines
- 1785 - First fire department; Concerning children; Concerning workmen
- 1787 - Treatment for snake bite; Town Clock ordered;
- 1788 - Cold winters; Tycho Nissen
- 1789 - Epidemics; Salem placed in Stokes County
- 1791 - Road cut to county seat; George Washington visits Salem;
- 1792 - Postal Service established; Spangenburg dies

### TOWN LOCATION CHOSEN

The search for a suitable site for Salem lasted from late 1763 to the middle of February, 1765. Twelve possible sites in the Wachovia tract were considered.

The first inspection was made on December 20, 1763, at a location on the Lech (Brushy Fork Creek) which had been suggested by Christian Reuter, the surveyor. This site was not accepted, so other locations between the Petersbach (Peters Creek), the Lech (Brushy Fork Creek) and the Wach (Salem Creek) were inspected. Since the new town site was to be in the center of the Wachovia Tract, naturally the Peters Creek area would receive close inspection,

Finally, on February 14, 1765, two sites in this area were presented, with the choice to be decided by "Lot". Many decisions in the early years of settlement were made by "Lot" or the drawing of straws. This included the selection of spouses. The Moravians believed that this was the way "God's will" was shown to them. In many instances they were right, as in deciding on the site for the new town. The sites were presented as No. 1, No. 2, and a black lot. No. 2 was drawn in the "Lot." This site was near the Wach and east of Petersbach (Salem and Peters Creeks). And thus the location of the Town of Salem was established.

### BEGINNING OF THE NEW TOWN

Three Brethren visited the site and blazed a path that turned to the left from Salisbury Road. A 1759 map of Wachovia shows that the Salisbury Road ran from Bethabara across Wachovia, running south some distance west of Peters Creek and crossing about the center of the extreme south line of the Wachovia boundary.

On May first, they started the survey of the town site. In October examinations were made toward location for the town square and possible places to dig wells. December 30<sup>th</sup>- Jacob Leosch and other Brethren began to cut a road from Bethabara to Spangenburg Creek, and a foot path from there to the Petersbach. The Bethabara diarist wrote:

"January 6th, Monday (1766), a dozen Brethren, partly from Bethania, partly from Bethabara, took a wagon and went to the new town site where in the afternoon they cut down the trees on the place where the first house was to stand, singing several stanzas as they worked. Trees were then felled for the house which should, when completed, shelter the builders and other workmen. Certain Brethren and boys finished clearing the road opened last year."



The first house build in Salem for the workmen was quite substantial. It finally collapsed in 1907. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

The structure was a log cabin located on the south side of the present Brookstown Avenue, between Salt St. (S. Liberty St) and Tar Branch. It was substantially built in January, 1766, and finally fell in during January, 1907. On April 7th five men from Bethabara began the construction of a second cabin for strangers (as workmen were known since they were not of the Brethren) who would be employed in construction work.

During March and April surveyor Reuter ran the lines for the main streets and made tentative locations for the proposed square. Water was needed for plastering and brick-making, so Reuter and others had well-master Rothe to make soundings with his divining rod (a forked stick) for water at the four corners of the Square. He estimated the depth at the higher places as 38 to 40 feet, at the lower as 26 to 28 feet. On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, a well was dug at the lower elevation and water was found at 392 feet, and when they had a stand of 8 feet, the well was walled up and a pump installed. The job was completed early in September.

On April 22nd the master-carpenter and his apprentice began work on the framing for the first house in Salem. This was to be a one-story family house on the west side of Main St. on the second lot from the north-west corner of Main and Bank Streets.

By the middle of August, Joseph Muller began making brick in Salem. This work was taken over in September by Charles Colver.

On the 20th of October, men from Bethabara finished clearing the main street in Salem.

The Brethren in Bethabara and Bethania who helped in starting the new town of Salem were farmers and men of many trades. Much of the work necessary for their livelihood was performed during the spring and summer months, so it was natural that much of their work on the beginning of Salem--the explorations for the town site, the clearing of the building sites and roads, and the building construction was done during the fall and winter (the best season for clearing land and cutting timber), with most of the workmen traveling from and back to the established villages during these activities. This accounted for the prolonged period required for the early accomplishments in the beginning of the new town, from the approval of the town site on February 14, 1765 to the completion of the first house about the end of 1766.

#### **LAYOUT OF TOWN AND STREETS**

The map of Salem prepared by Christian Reuter in 1766 shows that 2000 acres (later increased) were allotted the new town, this being the same size as the tracts assigned to the settlements at Bethabara and Bethania. The south boundary line was about 2000 feet south of the end of Main Street at Salem Creek; the west line ran some distance west of Peters Creek; the north line crossed about at our present Sixth St. at Main St.; and the east line was just west of Brushy Fork Creek.

Reuter's map shows that the actual town site was located near the center of tract, bounded by Salem Creek on the south; a spring branch (Tar Branch) on the west; on the east by another spring branch running back of the present Salem College property, crossing the graveyard and terminating at a spring south of the Church St parking deck and extending north to beyond the site of the first log cabin.



An early drawing of the layout of the Town of Salem with the Square in the center. (Moravian Archives)

The Square was 380 ft. by 270 feet (These dimensions included the widths of the surrounding streets), bounded by Main, Church, West, and Academy Streets. Lots were to be 66 ft (one chain) wide and 200 feet deep, with necessary exceptions.

Friedrich Marshall (for whom Marshall St is named) took a leading part in all the affairs of the new town, including the street layout, the locations, type and design of the buildings to be erected. One of early designs called for the streets to be laid out like spokes of a wheel, much like Washington, DC was originally laid out 50 years later. The hilly terrain of the Salem site rendered this plan impossible.

His concept of the new town was expressed in his remarks of July, 1765 when he wrote, "This town is not designed for farmers but for those with trades, but until the town has so grown that each resident can support his family with the money earned by his handicraft or profession it will be necessary, as in Lititz, for each to have an out-lot and a meadow where he can raise his bread, flax, etc. and winter a cow so each family may have milk and butter, and perhaps also keep a couple of pigs, and so have food with little outlay of money."

### **FIRST PHASE OF TOWN MANAGEMENT**

Almost immediately there is the first semblance of organized town management. In this concept, we would place Marshall in the role of City Manager. The overall authority at this date rests with the Directing Boards of the Unity of Brethren, acting through Marshall, the Oeconomus.

In July, 1765, Marshall wrote, "I do not advise the building of log houses, as there is not enough of the proper timber in the whole neighborhood, but it will be better to use framework, like the apothecary shop in Bethabara, for which shorter timbers can be used; and an attempt should be made to use stone."

On February 2nd, 1767, the second house (a two-story frame structure) on the main street was raised, with the help of thirteen Brethren from Bethania and four from Bethabara. The third house was staked off on February 13th and as it stood in a lower place, arrangements were made for a workshop, kitchen and cellar in the basement, with one story on the street. Its stone foundation was laid March 21st, and the house was successfully raised May 30th, with the assistance of fifteen Brethren from Bethabara. The fourth house was raised November 28th, and the fifth house on December 22nd.

Some of the houses were not completed and occupied until later years. On April 14th, 1768, Marshall reported:

"In Salem I find three family houses ready for use, all made of framework covered with clay, or framework filled with brick, and clay. All are one story, with two rooms, a kitchen and a cellar. In addition there is one two-story house which is not arranged as I planned with Br. Schropp, but has a small Gemein Saal (meeting hall) below, and above has two rooms and a kitchen. The proportions of the houses are good, and with their regular placing and their tile roofs they make a not unpleasing appearance. I imagine we shall have to cover the walls with weather-boards, which in this country is the most expensive method, and not a good one on account of the sharp lightening and other dangers from fire, but without lime it seems to be the only thing we can do."

During 1767, in addition to their building activities, the Brethren in Salem were busy in farming and other work. In June brick and tile were successfully made from clay dug in the bottom and their first wheat harvest was cut, yielding 22 shocks. In July they helped with the harvest at Bethabara, then made hay for their own use from the grass growing around the head of the Spangenberg (Silas Creek). In September and October they made wine from wild grapes, and gathered 100 bushels of corn and several wagon loads of pumpkins.

Construction during the years 1768 and 1769 included the potters house and shop; the blacksmith house and shop; the tan yard house and shop; a dwelling house and stable at the community farm south of Salem Creek; and the Single Brothers House.

On December 27, 1769, selected single brethren and boys were moved into this house, becoming the first permanent residents of Salem. At the close of this year, the congregation of Bethabara numbered 120, Bethania, 99 and Salem, 23.

A report made at a conference held in Bethabara on February 19, 1770, showed that the cost of the one-story houses built in Salem averaged only 150 pounds each.

On the 15th of February Marshall and Reuter went to Salem to lay out the path to the Graveyard. Lung, the gardener, took along a load of trees to be set out to form an avenue. This "Cedar Avenue" would become a landmark of Salem.

Additional buildings constructed during the years 1770, 1771, and 1772 included the Miksch house; the Skin or Graff House; the Brothers Workshop; the Gemein Haus; and the Tavern.



An image of Friedrich Marshall from the Moravian Archives

Reuter, who had married the widow of Dr. Kalberlahn in 1762 (see "Road to Salem", by Dr. Adelaide L. Fries, MA), built his house diagonally across from the southwest corner of the square. (This house was reconstructed by Old Salem, Inc. in 1953, and is on the south side of West Street in the rear of the John Vogler house).

The Gemein Haus was consecrated in November 13, 1771, and on that day the Salem congregation began its separate existence. The Salem diary begins at this time; first written in the English language, later reverting to German, and then again in English in 1856.

The nucleus of Salem was now complete and the shift from Bethabara began in 1771, with a mass exodus from Bethabara to Salem occurring in 1772. During this year the moving of the trades and professions, and of the church offices to Salem was completed, Bethabara becoming chiefly a farming community.

The Congregation of Salem in 1772 consisted of 38 married people, 2 widows 43 single brethren and boys, 22 single sisters and older girls and 15 children for a total of 120 persons.

## 1772

### EARLY ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Salem Congregation was divided into groups or Choirs according to age, sex, and marital status: The Choir of Married People; Choir of Single Brethren; Choir of Single Sisters; and the Children's Choir, etc. Each Choir was headed by a Pfleger, a leader, and a Volsteher, or business manager.

The affairs in Salem were controlled by two groups:

The Aeltester Conferenz, or Board of Elders, was responsible for the supervision of the spiritual affairs of the congregation.

The Aufseher Collegium, or Supervising Board, charged with the care of the material, the financial interests of the congregation (functions much like those of a present day Board of Aldermen).

The Statutes for Salem, drawn up by Marshall, were fully approved by the Directing Boards. In these statutes it was remarked that "the things of the Lord must not be given into the hands of men, therefore Congregation Statutes must not be considered as laws laid down by the authorities, but as a freewill agreement and covenant".

The church was the pivotal point in the lives of the Brethren. The Daily Diaries, Reports, and the annual Memorabilia were primarily concerned with the spiritual affairs of the community. However, this work is concerned principally with the organization, management, and relating public affairs of the town of Salem, and will therefore give special attention to the actions of the Aufseher Collegium and other related matters.

The Collegium was installed in office by Marshall and held its first meeting on April 13, 1772. This Board consisted of seven members of the Brethren, with Traugott Bagge as chairman. The membership of the Aeltesten Conferenz included four brethren and their wives, along with one other of the brethren and two of the sisters; a total of eleven. It is interesting to note that women carried an equal place in the affairs of the town from the beginning.

Another Board appointed in 1772 was the Grosse Helfer Conferenz, an advisory Board of ex-officers and elected members. This Board consisted of nine elected brethren and sisters, with the ex-officio members including the members of the Aeltesten Conferenz and the Aufseher Collegium, along with five other Brethren and Sisters. This Board had no executive power, but served as a kind of management advisory committee which presented to the other Boards anything that in their judgment needed attention.

At this time certain businesses were conducted for the benefit of the Salem Diaconie, the business organization of the Congregation. The store, tavern, pottery, brickyard, two farms, mill, and tan yard were indebted to the Salem Diaconie, and it in turn to the Administration Diaconie, for the inventory stock values, paying annual interest at 5%.

The year 1772 was indeed an eventful year of planning and organizing for the future management of the affairs of the new town of Salem. In addition to the Boards mentioned above, other duties and responsibilities were assigned to smaller committees and to individual brethren and sisters. Rules and regulations and policies and procedures were established to control, regulate and to guide the affairs of the town's business, both social and religious. This form of town management was to endure for many years without major changes.

**ITEMS FROM THE SALEM DIARIES**

April 25, 1772-"Our bell for Salem, which we had cast in Bethlehem, arrived at last during the Passion Week, and immediately after Easter it was set up near the Gemein Haus. It weighed 275 lbs. and can be heard from one end of town to the other."

April 15-16, 1772-Christian Reuter, the Surveyor, was told that in order to support himself he might survey land, and write warrants, deeds, etc., at prices approved by the Board. Some of these service charges were:

A Warrant, beginning Whereas, etc-6 pence

A Bond-1 shilling (13 1/3 cents)

A Deed of Conveyance-8 Shillings

To survey and mark building lots, and see that fences are properly set, if he is given necessary help in chain-carrying and driving stakes-5 shillings (66 2/3 cents)

To survey and stake a field or meadow, if given the help mentioned above, for a lot of not more than three acres, per acre-1 shilling (13 1/3 cents)

June 12, 1772- "There is complaint from the Brethren and Sisters in the town that so many cattle roam the streets that it is dangerous for the children. Answer was made (by Aufseher Collegium or Board) that each should fence in his own yard, and keep the children there or in the house, and not let them run about on the streets."

Currency Value- From a foot-note under an item dated August 27, 1772: "According to an entry in the Administration accounts of this period one pound sterling equaled one pound: 15.6 North Carolina currency. If the Pound Sterling be counted at the usual \$4.48 then a North Carolina pound was worth about \$2.74 and one shilling about 13 1/3 cents."

Sept. 28, 1772- "It would be well if the burning out of chimneys were given up, and instead they should be swept at an appointed time. Br. Broesing, who understands this work, will be consulted about it. The wish has often been expressed that we had a fire engine and other apparatus in our town, and also fire regulations. Meanwhile, the ladders used in building shall be placed in different parts of town, and shall hang where they may easily be reached in case of danger."

October 19, 1772- "As work in the brickyard is over for the year the Salem Diaconic will take the stock from the building account. It will pay 25 shillings (about \$3.33) per 1000 for brick, and 33 sh. 4 d per 1000 for roofing tile; will sell the former for 30 sh. and the latter for 45 sh. per 1000."

**SPECIAL EVENTS IN 1773**

February 13, 1773-The Assembly approved a bill placing the Wachovia Tract in Surry County.

April 11, 1773-At five o'clock in the morning, the first Early Easter Sunday Morning Service was held on the Salem Graveyard. The first burial, that of Brother John Birkhead, took place in June, 1771.

April 15, 1773-"It was noted that Br. Misch should be encouraged to open the little shop for tobacco, etc., already often discussed, so that he might be able to support himself." (Auf.Col.)

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1773 -"It was proposed that signs be placed on the houses of those having professions, and on the store and tavern, for the convenience of strangers coming to town. The signs should give the name of the Master and his profession, ---'Charles Holder, a saddler'. 'Gottfried Aust, a potter.'"(G. Helf. Conf.)

# 1774

**FIRST FIRE INSPECTIONS**

A committee of the Brethren was appointed on January 4th to inspect all chimneys, stoves, fireplaces, etc., in the town, and to report on their condition and what in their opinion should be changed or improved. On February 23rd the report of these Fire Inspectors was read and discussed. "In the future, care shall be taken regarding stove-pipes, where a pipe runs for some distance through or against wood. It shall be suggested to Congregation Council to order some leather fire-buckets from Pennsylvania, where they cost one dollar each. Br. Broesing has given Br. Bagge his list of prices for chimney-sweeping, namely,-- Single Brothers' kitchen chimney, 1 sh. 6 d.; chimney in a two-story house, 1 sh. 2 d; in a one-story house, 8 d; Tavern kitchen chimney, 1 sh. (about 13 1/3 cents)"

**EARLY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM 1773 - 1775**

The first source of water for domestic purposes was provided when a well was dug and pump installed at the lower corner of the Square in July, 1766.

January 10, 1773 - "The Aufseher Collegium and the Water-Works Committee met and agreed, 'That work shall begin at the spring behind the Tan-yard.' If possible the water shall be taken to the top of the hill behind the Skin House, where the foot-path from below comes into the road to God's Acre, as from these all parts of the town and all houses can be reached.

"If it should be necessary, in order to get fall and pressure, the upper spring also shall be used, and the water from both springs shall be led into one basin.

"So far as possible the pipes shall be laid straight down and straight up the hills. We will try to find a sufficient number of black and white oak logs in the neighborhood, and when they have been bored they shall be washed in pools in the bottoms near the Tan-yard, and in the Wach (Salem Creek)."

In order to give the water more pressure, the specifications called for the pipes leading the water down hill to be bored 22 inches, and the pipes laid up hill to be bored 12 inches in diameter. The log pipes were 10 to 12 feet long, the sections joined with four inch iron rings sharpened on both ends and driven into the wood. "Pipes shall not run through the lots, but along the streets, as it will cause complaint to have work done on lots that have been dug or planted."

"The spring shall be enclosed in a chest, made of planks, walled on the outside, and plastered with clay, so that the crawfish cannot get in. This shall be covered over with sods, like a turnip-cellar, to protect it from rain water and filth; but an opening shall be left, provided with a good water cover."

The springs were located just south of Calvary Moravian Church on Holly Avenue, along the branch which flows in a south-east direction, merging with Tar Branch just north of West Street in Salem.

July 27, 1773 - "... Brethren were appointed a Committee to prepare the springs above the town for the water-works."

August 1-2, 1773 - This Committee examined the springs lying north-west of Salem to see how the water could best be brought to the town. They sounded the various springs and found that the upper one, which flowed out of a rock, had the best freshest water, and probably would be sufficient for present needs of the town. The springs were cleaned out and enclosed.

October 25, 1774 - "Today the upper spring north-west of here was enclosed in a large box. This was covered with clay and then walled in. In this the water from both springs will be collected and then led from there in pipes to the town."

May 6, 1775 - "The well-master, Zimmerman, who came here from Salisbury some weeks ago, returned yesterday, to find out whether he can assist in the laying of water pipes to our town, or whether he shall make an engagement at salt-works in South (Carolina). This afternoon a committee consisting of the Aufseher Collegium and several citizens were called to consider the matter, and unanimously decided that it would not be wise to spend more money on bringing water from the spring North-West of the town, as it apparently had too little water to supply the town; and yet would cost a great deal; further, that if the man could make a contract to bring the water from two springs above Daniel Schnepf's to the old store and to the Square, the committee would propose this to the congregation, and if it was approved they would draw up a written agreement. On the strength of this the man remained here."

May 8, 1775 - "Well-master Zimmerman today measured the fall from the lower spring on Schnepf's run; it will come to the upper side of the old store, and five feet to spare, so water will stand four feet high in a tank, and can be led to the Square from there. However, in Congregation Council it was not approved to give the contract to an outsider, and Triebel, Krause, and Friedrich Beck said they would do the work for the price named." (This spring was along the east side of Tar branch, just south of First Street).

**POPULATION 1775**

Salem-----127  
Bethabara-----72  
Bethania-----100  
Friedberg-----69  
Friedland-----28  
Total-----396

(276 adults, 120 children and young people).

**THE WAR OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE**

"The Brethren of Salem, Bethabara, and some of those in Bethania held steadfastly to their determination not to bear arms and not to take part in political affairs, cost what it might, but there is no question as to which side really had their support."-Salem Diarist

When members of the Committee of Safety questioned them they answered frankly and fully, and they furnished all supplies that were ordered, if at all possible. When the Tory Captain, Henry Herrman, sought to gain their interest they refused to have anything to do with the movement or even to hear the proposed plans. If Bishop Graff sighed when he heard of the Declaration of Independence, seeing the long struggle and the trials ahead, he without hesitation signed the declaration that he would cheerfully assist and support the Country in all matters not contrary to his conscience (Bagge Paper, No. XI); if he warned the Communicants of Salem to be careful not to be drawn into partisan discussion, he made not effort to prevent the enlistment of young men of the neighborhood, not Communicants, and several names appear in the Diaries showing previously unrecorded military service. Traugott Bagge bore the burden of negotiations with the outside world, the drafts of declarations, and statements of various dates are in his handwriting, and members of the Committee of Surry County warranted him 'a true friend to American Liberty.'

Col. Martin Armstrong, of the Surry County Militia, was their friend and protector, as was Capt. Henry Smith; there is marked courtesy in all communications sent to the Salem Brethren, even when calling on them to explain accusations; and their word was accepted as simple truth even in so unfortunate a coincidence as the appearance of their wagon in Cross Creek for goods for their store just when the Tories were gathering there. "Much they had to endure from the lawless, ignorant and jealous, but they bore with patience what could not be avoided, putting their faith in the Lord in whose name their settlement had been founded."

The Moravians of that day had conscientious scruples against bearing arms and taking an oath, but there was never any doubt about the patriotism of these people. They would not become soldiers, but they supported the government by equally valuable methods.

The Brethern submitted a petition to the State Legislature in 1778 which read in part:

"We have no implements of war. We do not wish to use violence against this or any power, as has been falsely charged against us. We do not covet positions of honor, nor lucrative offices. We have paid our taxes promptly, and no obligations to the State have ever had to be collected by process of law.

"Permit us to remain in peace and quiet in the homes in which Providence has placed us. These homes are consecrated to the furtherance of Christianity and the promotion of the fear of God and Virtue. We have demonstrated by our manner of life that the Moravians are industrious members of society. Give us permission to serve the public in our daily callings."

The soldiers of both the American and the British armies passed freely in and out of Salem during the War, requesting supplies and leaving their sick and wounded men for care and treatment. The inhabitants of the town were subjected to a great deal of plundering and abuse, but fortunately neither the town nor any part of it was burned.

The atrocities did not take place by order of those in authority nor of the army officers, but by mob violence of a released hungry militia.

Although the Brethren in Salem maintained friendly relations with both sides, they were not Tories and they were definitely in sympathy with the American cause. They were in a precarious position however. Their Charter for Wachovia came from the Lord Proprietors who were agents of the King of England. If the Americans were to lose the war, those who had supported them would have been dealt with as traitors and the Brethren stood to lose all they had acquired.

British Commander Lord Cornwallis spent an afternoon at the Tavern with Marshall as Cornwallis trailed General Green toward the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Wounded of both sides were cared for in Salem after the battle.

During these times, the town businesses suffered financial losses. It appeared that a man making a bare living had nothing to lose, but the better established a business was the more it must lose on account of constant requisitions, sometime without pay, sometime for paper money which no one willingly accepted and then only at a small value, and sometimes for a receipt which no one knew where to present for payment. The value of paper money fell from 20 to 100 per cent. In 1780, the value of a dollar was reckoned at 2d.

Salem taxes for 1780 were: To the State 25sh., to the County sh: 6d, for Salisbury Court-House 4d, on the 100 pounds The poll-tax was 4 shillings. An unmarried man was valued at 1000 pounds, and must pay tax on that and also on the property he lists. Since the Brethren did not bear arms they paid three-fold tax. However, a man over fifty years of age did not pay the three-fold tax.

## **1777-1779**

### **BRICK MAKING BEGINS**

In 1768 the first lime was received in Salem (60 bushels at cost of 18d. per bushel) This was probably the first lime burned in North Carolina. The advent of lime for masonry work increased the use of brick and the Collegium authorized the making of 80,000 brick and 10-12,000 roof-tile about the beginning of 1777, this material being needed for repair work.

The first sidewalk was paved this year; "The sidewalk from the two-story house to the Pottery has been paved and has been railed-in, with a gate at each end, for the convenience of pedestrians and to keep horsemen away from the houses."

April 11, 1777 - "Men were in the potter's shop like a swarm of bees, coming, buying and leaving. Many could get nothing, as the first to come bought it all."

October 24, 1777 - "Ten wagons loaded with tobacco passed on their way to Charlestown; Six of them were from Bethabara. Several wagons returned from there loaded with salt."

June 23, 1777 - "Br. Aust reported that the fire ladders at the Brothers House are no longer able to support the weight of four men. It was also noted that the support for the bell are rotting. Mr. Miksch undertook the necessary repairs."

January 1, 1778 - Christian Gottlieb Reuter, the Surveyor, died and was laid to rest in the Salem God's Acre. Reuter had rendered faithful and efficient service in many capacities over a period of many years. He re-surveyed and prepared several excellent maps of the Wachovia Tract; surveyed and mapped the site for the town of Salem and laid off the streets, and helped plan and build the first water system. In addition to being town surveyor, he also was Road-Master, Forester, Church warden, taught mathematics to the young boys, and served on many committees.

### **COST OF LIVING, THE STRIKE**

The high cost of living in 1778 was the cause of the first labor "strike" in Salem. A number of young men lived in the Single Brethren's House. They pursued various trades, received a regular salary, took their meals in the common dining hall and paid a fixed price for board. In view of the increased cost of living they requested a larger salary, and expressed a willingness to pay more for their meals. The proper authorities increased the salaries and fixed the price for the meals. The scale did not please the young men. In an evening conference they were admonished to consider these matters in a correct and proper light. A young man spoke rather freely on the subject, and he was advised to seek a wider field in which to use his talents. When the young men returned to the Brethren's House the smoldering fires of discontent broke out, and the next morning they left their work, hoping that the day laborers would follow. Some of the young men went from Salem to Bethabara, others went into the woods, and thus they passed the day. In the evening all were satisfied with the length of the 'one day strike', and returned, humbly asking pardon for their insubordination, and realizing that they had become the laughing stock of the town.

November 12, 1778 - "The chimney in the Brothers House caught fire this morning, and although no damage was done it led to Aufseher Collegium to reorganize the committee for fire inspection, which shall inspect all chimneys each month."

November 20, 1778 - "Tax collectors continued their work. The county tax was 1 sh. per 100 pounds. value; with 6d. per 100 pounds additional for a Court House in Salisbury."

**COMPLETION OF WATER SUPPLY**

November 26, 1777 - "An earnest wish was again expressed that work might be continued on bringing the water in pipes to the town. Krause and Triebel shall be consulted, and if this can not now be done several cisterns shall be built in the town." (Auf. Col.)

December 10, 1777 - "The Brn. Krause and Triebel are willing to undertake the bringing of the water in pipes to the town. The former is willing to super-intend the laying of the pipes, the digging of the ditches for the pipes, and especially to select the route which the pipes shall follow; the latter, that is Br. Triebel, has agreed to cut and bore the pipes according to directions, and a contract will be made with him per yard." (Auf. Col.)

December 15, 1777 - "Several Brethren from the Conferenz went with Br. Krause to the two springs north-west of town, and selected the approximate course by which water was to be led. Br. Krause will again take the water level, and then put the two German day-laborers at work digging the trench for the pipes." (Salem Diary)

December 31, 1777 - "It was agreed with Br. Triebel that he should have 4d. Congress money for each log he cut for pipes, and 22d. old money for each foot bored." (Auf. Col)

Work began in earnest in January, 1778, with the cutting of logs, trenching, and laying pipes, although it immediately became necessary to increase the price for labor and materials.

January 5, 1778 - "Br. Triebel and Strehle went today to the neighborhood of the English Settlement to cut logs suitable for water-pipes." (Salem Diarist)

January 7, 1778 - "Br. Holland has offered to dig the trench for the water pipes for 2 sh. per rod; this was approved, and he may begin work whenever he wishes. Br. Herbst will let his Gottlieb Strehle work on the trench also for a while at the same wage." (Auf. Col.)

January 14, 1778 - "No teamsters can be secured to haul logs from the pine woods for the water-pipes for less than 8 sh. a log, and we will have to pay this, as the value of Congress Money has fallen so low." (This amounted to \$1.00 apiece for hauling the logs, although six or eight logs could be hauled at once. The farmers almost quarreled over the privilege of hauling the logs because of such a good price).

January 21, 1778 - "The trench-diggers have several times asked for more pay, and it is agreed to give them 2 sh. 6d. per rod."

There was some right-of-way trouble:

February 4, 1778 - "There was a conference with Br. Schnepf about running the water-pipes across his land, and he was told that the damage done should be paid for at a just price, and with this he was content." (Auf. Col)

By February 13, Triebel had spent two or three weeks boring pipes, while John Holland and Gottlieb Strehle had opened the ditch from the spring to a point part way through Schnepf's field. Here they found that "nearly all of the pipes laid three years ago" had to be taken out because the new trench was at a higher grade. Schnepf's property was on the south side of Shallowford Road (now Brookstown) and along Tar Branch, so the old water pipe encountered probably was part of the water line laid from the springs on Tar Branch back in 1775.

February 26, 1778 - "The ditch for the water-pipes has been brought above the Two-Story House, (At the north-west corner of Main and Bank Street.) and work is begun in the street opposite this house. Br. Krause again laid pipes; he had stopped for two or three days to turn gun-barrels." A stand pipe (Upright wooden pipe) was installed back of the old Skin-House at the north-east corner of Main and Bank Streets.

March 14, 1778 - "The most interesting event of this day was that the pipe water was brought to the middle of the Square and the stand-pipe was placed at the very spot first selected for it, and from it the water rose some distance higher than from the stand-pipe opposite the Two-Story House. All the Brethren and Sisters were happy, and thanked the Savior that this work, which had looked so difficult and tedious in advance, had been accomplished by the hands of the Brethren in only two months."

On March 18th Krause ran the water-pipes to the back of the Gemein Haus and installed a stand-pipe with two spouts, one opening into the Sister's kitchen and one in the yard, and these were doubtless provided with plugs to be used when water was not needed.

The overflow from the stand-pipe in the Square spilled into an open reservoir from which water could be dipped in buckets.

Finally, on March 23, 1778, the pipe-water was brought into the kitchen of the Single Brothers, and this far-reaching work was brought to completion.

March 26, 1778 - "As the water has been brought in successfully and rapidly the Collegium decided to give Br. Krause a present of four silver dollars, Wohlfart one dollar, and Luck one-half dollar." Krause was put in charge of the water-works at a salary of 5 lbs: good money per year, with extra pay for unusual accessory additional services.

The final account of the water-works was presented on December 16, 1778. This report showed that 332 rods (5478 feet) of water pipe had been installed along with stand-pipes and appurtenances, at a cost of something over \$2000.

This system furnished the needed water for the town of Salem for fifty years.

December 16, 1778 - "Each person who contributes to other congregation causes shall pay nine pence each four weeks as water rent---if the population of the town increases greatly perhaps this amount can be reduced. Those who do not use the water daily shall pay the same amount, for it is a town enterprise."

A map of "Salem and Winston", dated 1876, shows a large underdeveloped tract of land marked "Reservation", this property being bounded by Spring St. on the west; Spruce St. on the east; First St. on the south; and on the north by the rear lines of lots fronting on the south side of Fourth St. The head waters of a branch flow through about the center of this property, with the branch flowing on a south-easterly direction to where it merges with Tar Branch just north of West St. It is obvious that this was the protected water shed for the two springs from which water was piped by gravity to the town of Salem.

### **EARLY PUBLIC JOBS**

#### Night-Watchman

One of the first public jobs, carrying a salary, was that of night-watchman. On March 22, 1774, Heinrich Zillman was appointed Night-Watchman, at a salary of 22 pounds. per year. He was to pay his expenses, except the cost of the great-coat he requested. Zillman was by trade a tailor. Obviously not a very good one since he requested a coat ...made by someone else.

The night-watchman carried a gun and also had a dog which accompanied him on his rounds. An entry in the records for Dec. 11, 1776, showed that Zillman and his dog were provided with board and lodging at Triebel's house.



The Salem Nightwatchman.  
(City of Winston-Salem Photo)

#### Chimney-Sweeper

March 20, 1775 - Matthes Oesterlein undertook the job of Chimney-sweeping but found he was too fat. The boy, Gottlob Krause, was made his helper, working under his supervision and later under Br. Aust. The town authorities fixed the prices for cleaning the designated chimneys.

#### Water-Works Superintendent

John Krause was appointed to supervise the water-works in 1778, at an annual salary of 5 pounds.

#### Land Surveyor

Reuter was the surveyor for the town of Salem and Wachovia. The Collegium set the prices for land surveying and the preparations of related legal documents. He also served as Road-Master and Forester.

#### School Teaching

July 26, 1780 - "It is only fair that the congregation should maintain its school. School matters should be so arranged that teachers receive proper salaries so that they may be in good heart for their tedious job. The teacher of the girls' school, who has been getting only three shillings a week, should have an additional shilling." Later, on Aug. 16th: "Until school dues are regulated, Sr. Sehnert, who holds the girls' school, shall be paid 4 sh. a month out of the school fund, as there are so few children that she cannot live on their fees." (Aelt. Conf.)

December 5, 1782 - "There was earnest discussion of the need of bringing here one or more teachers for our young people, without regard to cost, that they may be prepared for useful lives." (Aelt. Conf.)

There was similar schooling provided for the younger boys. However, many of the older boys were signed up as apprentices to learn trades from master-craftsmen. It appears that the maximum term of such apprenticeships amounted to seven years, starting at age fourteen. At the age of 21 years, such an apprentice became a "free man" and qualified to practice as a Master-Craftsman in his particular trade.

There were also two official committees. The Water-Works Committee that acted in an advisory capacity in matters involving the town water supply system. A Fire Inspectors Committee checked on the care and sweeping of chimneys and related fire prevention matters. The only fire-fighting equipment available at this time was leather fire buckets to carry water, and ladders placed at designated locations at buildings. A supply of water was provided in cisterns and ponds for use in fighting fire hazards. They believed that prevention was the best protection against possible fires. By reason of this great care, Salem had very few major fires.

The congregation population of Salem as of Jan. 1, 1780, was 147; for Wachovia, a grand total of 573 persons (exclusive of children in the country congregations).

#### **BRIEF ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE SALEM DIARY**

The Salem Diary is a fascinating look at the day-to-day lives of the people of Salem from its beginning until the late 1850's. The diaries have been translated from German to English and were published in the 1960's by the NC Department of Archives and History. Copies can still be found in the North Carolina Room of the Forsyth County Public Library.

Jan. 7, 1780 - "Sister Bachhof brought Sr. Graff an affirmative answer to the proposal that she marry Br. George Schmidt."

Jan. 11, 1780 - "Poor Sr. Bachhof came to Sr. Graff and positively refused to marry Br. George Schmidt, saying she could not rest until she had made up her mind to do this. It is the first case of this kind that has ever occurred here. Perhaps it will be good for both of them."

Jan. 12, 1780 - "Sr. Bachhof came to Sr. Graff and took back her refusal of yesterday in regard to her marriage and said 'Yes' instead, but we will wait to see whether she sticks to it."

Jan. 16, 1780 - "In a congregation meeting in the evening the widower George Schmidt was married to the Widow Rosina Bachhof. Each is 61 years old, and this is the latter's third marriage."

Feb. 8, 1780 - "Br. Triebel is unwilling to rent or sell the log-borer, is also unwilling to have the work done by anyone except himself or his apprentice."

The cost of operating the water-works for the year 1779 amounted to 49 pounds 9 shillings, 3 pence; with receipts being only 42 pounds 18 shillings. The water rent was continued at 9 pence each four weeks, in good money.

April 11, 1780 - "An upright pipe, with a crane, like the one recently set opposite Miksch's house shall be set at the lower corner (SW) of the Square, opposite Reuter's house. Then it will not be necessary to have the water run constantly on the Square, but only as needed."

Sept. 20, 1780 - "Wish was expressed that young married people, who are well and entirely able to work, should do their own house-work, and not keep servants purely as a matter of convenience." (Aelt. Conf.)

Aug. 11, 1781 - "The street in front of Br. Triebel's house is being improved and the gutters plastered." (Main St. just north of Academy St.)

Jan. 11, 1781 - "Br. Zillman has been told to get a dog for use at night, and until the house of the night-watchman is emptied of soldiers it can be shut into the smoke-house of the Single Brethren." (Cong. Council)

Mar. 1, 1781 - "Br. Rudolph Strehle has taken the place of Br. Zillman as night-watchman. His blowing (Conch shell trumpet) last night put him in danger of being shot, and it will be well for Br. Meyer, when there are officers in the Tavern, especially when they are on the way to the Army, to explain that our night-watchman always announces the hours by blowing."

April 5, 1781 - "Br. Strehle asks increase of pay as night-watchman. He has been receiving 14 pence a night, and wishes 18 pence. This is fair, and it is a quarter more than he has been getting. The Brethren must increase their contributions to his salary proportionately."

October 12, 1781 - "Br. Tycho Nissen became night-watchman in place of Rudolph Strehle." His base salary was 27 Pounds 6 shillings a year. "But as the number of residents varies, the store shall supplement his salary so that he shall receive 52 Pounds. a year, and his house rent"

Jan. 16, 1781 - "The Single Br. Joseph Dixon, who is studying (surgery) under Br. Bonn, will hereafter serve as barber for Brethren and for strangers, in place of Charles Holder."

Feb. 28, 1781 - "We have no objection to the inoculation for small-pox, but it should be suggested to the Brethren and Sisters who have not had it and who wish to be inoculated that they all do it on the same day."

March 29, 1781 - "Inoculation for small-pox will be postponed until after Easter, so the Brethren and Sisters can observe the season in peace."



A View of Salem about 1780. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

#### **MORAVIAN LAND CLAIMS RECOGNIZED**

On April 26, 1782, the North Carolina Assembly passed an Act which confirmed the title of Wachovia to Frederic William Marshall as Trustee for the Unity of Brethren, and recognized him as official representative of the Unity in the management of certain additional smaller tracts. This settled definitely the question as to whether the Moravian land in North Carolina was subject to confiscation because at the opening of the war title was held by James Hutton, an Englishman. It confirmed the claim of resident Moravians that their rights as settlers were paramount.

#### **SOCIAL ISSUES**

May 30, 1782- "It was asked whether the idea was creeping in that one should marry according to preference. If this idea should become general it would be a backward step for us.

"In general one can say little here about foolish clothing, though now and then certain persons show a desire to follow the fashion. The evil of individuals usually shows itself in dress, as one has seen at certain times in the leggings and ruffs. Any simple clothing can be worn without hesitation but the heart should not be set on it. The same applies to riding and walking. Each must be guided by his circumstances. In itself it is no sin to ride, nor even questionable, we must not only allow ourselves to be turned from the calling which the Lord has given us, nor become unserviceable for the work of the Lord." (The value of walking was stressed as a means of keeping physically fit.) (Cong. Council)

#### **4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY-A DAY OF THANKSGIVING**

On Jan. 20, 1783, a Preliminary Treaty of Peace was signed at Paris, which virtually terminated the war. This good news was officially announced to the North Carolina Assembly by Governor Alexander Martin on April 19th, and before the Assembly adjourned it instructed the Governor to appoint July 4th as a day of public thanksgiving. The full Treaty of Peace was signed in Paris on Sept. 3, 1783.

North Carolina was the only State that anticipated the national day of Thanksgiving by celebrating the Fourth of July, and so far as is known the Moravians were the only group within the State to obey the Proclamation of Governor Martin. Old Salem's Fourth of July Celebration is therefore the oldest in US history.

### **WATER WORKS ITEMS**

Nov. 4, 1783 - "New pipes must be laid for the water-works. It was decided that the holes in the present pipes are too large, and the new ones shall be 12 inch. A special auger shall be made, belonging to the congregation."

Jan. 21, 1784 - "The water standard at the tavern is frozen. It is highly important that each such outlet be protected. Straw is the easiest thing to use, but if there are cattle about the straw should be covered with sacking. To pack it with horse-manure is warmest."

"When new water pipes are laid they should be placed deeper in the ground."

April 7, 1784 - "The new water pipes from the Square to the tavern shall be laid ten feet from the houses, so that it may not be necessary to disturb the sidewalks and rails in front of the houses."

In September, 1789, several wells were dug because "when the season is dry, the water in our water-works becomes so scant that the town suffers from lack of it".

Jan. 7, 1790 - "Our waterworks were thoroughly repaired, and so finally, the repeated shortage of water has been eliminated."

### **BUILDINGS**

Jan. 9, 1783 - "The making of brick was discussed at length. Brick is essential for some parts of a building, but so far it has been too expensive to use for the entire building. If brick-making could be carried on properly, it would be best to use brick for the upper stories of all homes."

The Sisters House was built on Lot 15 on the east side of Church Street, across from the Square. The corner stone was laid on March 31, 1785 and the building occupied on April 4, 1786.

The Martin Lick house was completed and occupied on May 22, 1787; (This house, now known as the Lick-Boner House, has been restored.)

The Paper-mill was completed in April, 1791, and on June 30th of that year printing and writing paper was being made. This mill was located on Peters Creek just south of present Academy St., and a large dam was constructed just to the north.

### **THE TAVERN BURNS AND IS REBUILT**

Jan. 31, 1784 - "This morning in the third hour, we had no small fright, for our tavern broke into flames and in an hour and a half it and the kitchen had been reduced to ashes."

On February 4 a committee was appointed to make plans for building a new tavern.

February 12, 1784 - "The walls of the tavern in the lower story shall be once and a half as wide as a large brick; in the upper story they shall be at least three inches thinner."

May 5, 1784 - "It is estimated that 38,000 large brick and 30,000 small brick will be needed for the tavern, with some extra to allow for breakage. For the kitchen 6,000 large and 4,000 small brick will be needed. Three cases of glass, 9 x 11, and three door locks were ordered from Charlestown, and nails were ordered from Lititz."

Dec. 20, 1784 - "The building of our tavern has so far advanced that there remains only a little to be done by the cabinet-makers here and there, so today Br. Meyer and his family and other Brethren employed on the tavern have moved in."

### **THE FIRST FIRE ENGINES**

February 26, 1784 - "The recent fire (at the tavern) has again brought up the question of a fire engine, and whether it will be possible to procure one for this place. It is believed that an engine which can be pumped by four men will be best for us."

"Br. Johann Krause worked in Europe with a man who belonged to the brethren, and if he is still living he may be able to assist us. It was thought that the brass and most important parts of an engine could be ordered from him, and the wood work and heavy iron work could be made here. If we could also have an engine for two persons, which would be easy to carry, the two together would probably not cost much over 60 Pounds."

On March 4, a subscription in the amount of 27 pounds, 8 sh. was received for the fire engine, and on March 10 a second subscription was received from members, and it was thought the balance could be raised when the bill is received from Europe. Mr. Johann Krause ordered the parts from the engine maker, and Br. Marshall sent a letter with his, regarding payment and the manner of shipment.

May 25, 1785 - "Our fire engines were so far finished that they could be tried this afternoon for the first time. It gave great pleasure to many of the Brethren and Sisters who had not seen anything like it, for without doubt these are the first which have been brought to North Carolina. They have turned out entirely to our satisfaction for the large and the smaller are reasonably easy to pump, and throw the water over our highest roof. That the stream of water scatters too soon is a fault we hope to be able to remedy."

#### **FIRST FIRE DEPARTMENT(VOLUNTEERS)**

June 16, 1785 - "Br. Samuel Stotz was appointed first fire-master and Br. Aust as second. The Brn. Marshall, Herbst, and Koffler will assist them. Johann Krause was appointed first and Jacob Wohlfahrt second master of the large fire engine; Jacob Loesch master of the small engine. Twelve additional will be needed to pump the large engine, and four for the small one. The buckets shall be passed by the Single Sisters and as many of the Brethren and boys as can be spared from other things; Br. Reuz will have charge of the Sisters, and Br. Schneider of the men and boys. Br. Christ and Br. Schroeth were appointed to fill the buckets, and Br. Holder to empty them. The Brn. Praezel, Benzein, and Petersen will have charge of cleaning out the house. Br. Balthazar Christmann and Ackermann will see to it that a cart and large cask are

provided for hauling water. Br. Aust has a large wash-tub which can be used, and he and Br. Kremser shall see the hauling of water." (Cong. Council)



First fire engine with brass nozzle. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

July 16, 1789 - "In case of fire the Brethren who rings the bell shall give several strokes, then stop and shout loudly where the fire is, then continue to ring the bell. It has happened that the Brethren did not know where the danger was and so help was delayed." (Cong. Council)

#### **CONCERNING CHILDREN**

September 26, 1785 - "In the conference with parents it was pointed out how needful it is that outside of school hours the children should be kept busy in useful employment. The parents were also urged not to misunderstand the faults and shortcomings of their children, but with insight to exercise more faithfulness, diligence, and patience in bringing them up according to the Will of Jesus."

July 11, 1786 - "It is important to impress upon our youth the all important things of human life, -- industry, faithfulness, obedience, economy, good manners, and to do unto others as they would be done by." (Auf. Col.)

#### **CONCERNING WORKMEN**

August 4, 1785 - "It was noted that for some time various persons have begun to oppose man-made rules, calling for American Freedom. Such remarks show a great lack of understanding, for in the so-called free lands as well as in others there must be proper submission to authority, without which no human society can endure.

"For example, a journeyman must act in all things according to the instructions of the master-workman in the shop. If anyone claims the above mentioned 'freedom' against the rules of the town, he thereby proves that it would be better for him to live elsewhere." (Cong. Council)

November 2, 1786-"It must be understood that a Brother who is a craftsman shall abide by his business, and not indulge in trading and chaffering. We are the less disposed to relax this rule because we have seen the harm which has been done among us by failure to abide by it" (Helfer Conf.)

April 23, 1784-"Congregation Council put an end to the bad practice of giving day-laborers a dram of brandy in addition to their wages, is not good for our young men who support themselves as day-laborers."

### **TREATMENT FOR SNAKE BITE**

September 8, 1787- "In Friedland Br. Martin Schneider was bitten in the hand by a rattlesnake which had hidden under some wood. A few days before he had heard a man from the Catawba River recommend a treatment for such a case, so he moistened a little cooking salt with water, and held the wounded hand in it, which relieved the worst pain, and the hand did not swell much. Friedland members hastened to his assistance, killed the rather large snake and laid some of its fat on the wound, bandaged the hand tightly above the bite, and gave him a drink made from bitter herbs. All of this prevented the dreaded evil results, and by the next day Br. Martin had recovered sufficiently from the fright to hold services as usual." (Salem Diary)

### **FIRST STRIKING TOWN CLOCK**

November 16, 1787-The Congregation Council discussed the idea of ordering a striking clock from a Brother in Gnadau (Germany). This clock was also to strike the quarter-hours.

December 3, 1788-"Br. Marshall of Gnadau writes that work was begun on our town clock in May, and that it will be finished in about four months, and so cannot be expected until spring."

April 8, 1789- "Our town clock is in Charleston, but could not be brought this time for lack of room."

May 25<sup>th</sup>- "We have not yet received instructions how to set up the town clock and make it run." (Aelt. Conf.)

August 18, 1791-It was reported to the Congregation Council that the cost of the clock, including repairs on the tower, amounted to 113 pounds.

September 15, 1791-"For some days our town clock has been out of order. The Brethren who ring the bell must be careful that they do not do it too short a time before it strikes, for if the two things conflict, it injures the clock." (Cong. Council)

### **COLD WINTERS 1788**

January 13, "Because of the hard, cold rain and slippery roads the services were not well attended."

January 16. Icy rain and slippery roads.

January 24. An eighteen-inch snowfall.

January 26. The coldest day, thermometer at 1 degree.

February 6. Snow.

February 21. Again deep snow.

March 1. A deep snow. Thermometer fell to 11 degrees.

March 5. Thermometer stood at 8 degrees.

May 25. "The congregation meeting was omitted because of a hard storm. Pointed pieces of ice fell, which weighted up to 1/4 lb. each."

December 19 "It has grown so cold that we feel that it was not equaled last winter. Unfortunately the only thermometer in town, privately owned, has been broken."

### **A VERSTILE AND USEFUL CITIZEN, TYCHO NISSEN**

Most of the Brethren in Salem were skilled in some trade, profession or operation of some kind of business enterprise, and in addition to their regular work they gave generously of their time and talents to carrying on the public and religious affairs of the town. It was said of some of the Brethren sent to establish the first settlement in Wachovia in 1753 that they were "skillful in many things and willing in all." Tycho Nissen was a good example of the typical useful citizen of the town of Salem during his time.

Tycho (or Toego) Nissen was born in Denmark, and he came to Wachovia in 1770, immediately becoming active in the affairs of the Brethren. He was sent from Salem to Friedland to serve as an Akoluthie (a layman), and after five years of useful service there, he returned to Salem in August, 1780, along with his wife and two children (one son named Christian). It was now necessary for him to find gainful employment.

An entry in the Bethabara Diary of February 12, 1771, "The Single Br. Tycho Nissen went for a while to Br. Transou in Bethania, to learn more about his profession as a wagon-maker, having been trained more especially in the making of the running-gear." Many years later, wagons made by Nissen became famous throughout the country.

August 16, 1780 - "It has been suggested that Br. Tycho Nissen could begin to support himself by making gutters for the store and Gemein Haus, but he will probably not succeed with making something for which he has not trained. It will be better for him to make chairs, spinning wheels for cotton, wheel-barrows, and the like, to which he is accustomed." (Auf. Col)

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October 26, 1780 - "Br. Tycho Nissen has agreed to dig graves. He can probably make the gravestones also, and is to try one. Care must be taken that he cut good letters, and the inscriptions should all be in one language, not German, English or Latin according to fancy." (Helf. Conf.)

In October, 1781, Nissen was made Night-Watchman, and he was to serve as porter and assistant in the store during the day; "The store can add to his salary as night-watchman what is lacking for his support." During 1782, Nissen built his home on the east side of Church Street just south of West Street.

The records show that in January, 1783 "Br. Aust is willing to employ Br. Tycho Nissen in making clay pipes, which can be burned and sold in the pottery." Later, on February 27th, Nissen became Forester.

Apparently, along with his other duties, Nissen was still serving as nightwatchman, as indicated by this entry:

June 18, 1783 - "Br. Toego Nissen held the festal services. There was a lovefeast for the children."

January 28, 1784 - "It would be well to secure another brother as night-watchman during the cold weather, as Br. Tycho Nissen is not strong."

In 1784 Nissen was a member of the Aufseher Collegium, at which time Br. Marshall was chairman.

August 2, 1786 - "Br. Tycho Nissen is advised to take up wagon-making, in so far as he repairs wagons." (Aelt. Conf.)

May 29, 1787 - "At the present there is no one appointed to make graves-stones. Br. Tycho Nissen was suggested, and was approved by the Collegium." Another entry: "Br. Praezel has hitherto looked after the grave-stones, and Br. Tycho Nissen can best attend to them. A sample must be given to Br. Scab in Bethabara, that he may prepare stones of equal size, and have them ready for the inscription." (Auf. Col.)

August 19, 1788 - "Br. Blum presented to the court the name of Br. Tycho Nissen to succeed Br. Martin Lick as road-master." This appointment was approved.

January 13, 1789 - "Br. Tycho Nissen has suggested taking the brick-yard, but this is not advisable for he is too weak and the work is too damp for him. We wish the demand for clay pipes could be increased by shipments to Petersburg or in some other way so that he could have more of that work. He is afraid that he will lose this job when Christ (Rudolph) arrives, but it is only fair that he should be allowed to keep it as he has no other source of income, and we are obligated to look after the support of our Brethren." (Aelt. Conf.)

Tycho Nissen died on February 20, 1789, at the early age of 47, and was buried in the Moravian Graveyard.

#### February 26, 1789

"By the home-going of Br. Tycho Nissen certain offices and businesses have been vacated." (Cong. Council)

Four Brethren were appointed to fill these vacancies: Br. Philip Vogler to look after God's Acre and dig graves; Br. Holland was appointed road-master; Br. Martin Lick was appointed forester; Br. Schober to look after the grave-stones.

#### **EPIDEMICS**

In addition to small-pox, measles, and other common contagious diseases, many of the inhabitants of Salem suffered from two new infections:

Nov. 7, 1789 - "From yesterday morning to noon today the thermometer has risen from 19 degrees to 64 degrees Farenheit, and the next day it was over 70 degrees. With such rapid changes in temperature it is no wonder that many people are sick in different ways; a number are suffering from what is known in Europe as Influentia (influenza), and most of our members in all our towns have had it.

"This month was distinguished by the persistence of the epidemic throat disease which was spreading through this neighborhood last month, and which has been accompanied by a petechial fever (angina-maligna). It has been particularly bad in Salem, and nearly all of our children and young people have had it more or less severely. Diligent use was made of all the remedies usual in such sickness in an effort to lessen its severity. About the middle of the month, when it continued to spread and hardly a single household had escaped, it was decided to send for a well-known doctor from the neighborhood (Dr. Cox, from Rockingham Springs), that his thoughts and advice might be secured, and that he might assist our Br. Vierling with word and council. Together they visited the patients in their homes, and with the help of God, and by giving more fresh air and less strong medicine, the sickness seemed to yield toward the end of the month."

May, 1792 - "Also during this month there appeared in the State a certain flying insect (cicada septendecim) here called locust. They were so numerous that they injured gardens and the trees in the forest. They are the size of a grass-hopper, and are eaten by hens and other creatures. The males make such a noise that the air is full of it;...."

### **RABIES**

Feb. 19, 1788 - "Today it was reported that the dog belonging to the store went mad, ran to Bethabara, and bit several persons and some dogs. All dogs which it possibly has bitten must be confined for a while. It would also be well to make a town rule that all dogs must be wormed, for then they will not bite even if they go mad." (Auf. Col.)

### **SALEM PLACED IN STOKES COUNTY 1789**

On April 12, 1753, Governor Matthew Rowan signed the bill creating the County of Rowan. This occurred about three months after Bishop Spangenberg completed the survey of the Wachovia Tract, and about seven months before the arrival of the first Moravian colonists in Bethabara.

In June of 1753, a site for the new Rowan County was selected "on the forks of a road", at which location the City of Salisbury was founded. The deed for the town was executed in 1755, at which time there were seven or eight log houses and a court house. Salem and Wachovia were in Rowan County for many years, paying their taxes and transacting all their county related business at the Court House in Salisbury.

Another change was made in county boundaries in 1773, at which time Salem became a part of Surry County with the county seat being located at Richmond, not far from Donnaha. Richmond existed as a County Seat for fifteen troublesome years, including nine years of war, and finally, was completely destroyed by a cyclone.

In 1789 Surry County was divided by a north-south line, and Wachovia (including the town of Salem) became a part of Stokes County. Rockford became the county seat of Surry County, and Germanton the county seat of Stokes County. The Surry County courthouse records were moved from Richmond to Rockford; Stokes County set up new records.

## **1791**

### **ROAD CUT TO COUNTY SEAT**

The Brethren in Salem in June 1791, made a contract with Thomas Grimes, a neighbor, to clear the road to the new courthouse at Germanton. Brn. Transou and Christ were to see that "he cuts the road straight." By September 6th, "our neighbor Thomas Grimes, has finished cutting the new road to the courthouse and asks for seven shillings more than his contract price. He has done good work, and we believe he has earned this much more, so Br. Transou may pay it to him." The distance from Salem to Germanton was about fourteen miles. On an 1876 map of "Salem and Winston", the present Liberty Street, from the intersection of Main and Liberty Streets, is shown as Germanton Road."

### **PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON VISITS**

President Washington visited Salem May 31st through June 2nd, 1791. The formal address of welcome to the President was made by Frederick Marshall. The President was pleased to return the following answer: -

"TO THE UNITED BRETHREN OF WACHOVIA:"-

"Gentlemen: I am greatly indebted to your respectful and affectionate expression of personal regard, and I am not less obliged by the patriotic sentiment contained in your address.

"From a society whose governing principles are industry and love of order, much may be expected toward the improvement and prosperity of the country in which their settlements are formed, and experience authorizes the belief that much will be obtained.

"Thanking you with grateful sincerity for your prayers in my behalf, I desire to assure you of my best wishes for your social and individual happiness." -George Washington.

President Washington was favorably impressed with the businesses and industries in Salem especially with the system of water supply for the town.

There are many locations that claim "George Washington Slept Here" but only two in North Carolina, Salem and New Bern can document the visit. He stayed at the tavern, probably in one of the upstairs rooms.

## **1792**

### **POSTAL SERVICE**

The first post office was opened in Salem in 1792, and Gottlieb Schober was appointed Postmaster. Mail was delivered by a horse-man riding from Halifax to Salisbury.

August 20, 1792 - "For the first time we had the pleasure of receiving letters from Europe and Pennsylvania by the post-rider who will now come every fourteen days."

### **BISHOP SPANGENBURG DIES IN GERMANY**

It is sadly noteworthy that although it was Spangenburg who was responsible for the exploration that led to the founding of Wachovia and ultimately Salem, there is nothing to commemorate him. No buildings, streets or creeks. Well, almost. On early maps a creek running through the western part of the Wachovia tract is named "Spangenburg Creek". An 1808 map shows its name as "Spankenback Creek". In 1832 and since, its name has been shortened to "Silas Creek". There is a Spangenburg Road in Clemmons.