

# City of Winston-Salem Government Meetings Notes

## Town of Salem: 1890-1899

### HIGHLIGHTS

Police Department 1890-1899

Fire Department 1890-1899

1890 - Location of new school; Board agrees to meet more often; Electric street lights installed; Bottled water contract proposed; Sanitary sewer system; Main St. paved; Telephone contract signed; Water supply inadequate

1891 - First Bond Referendum Post office consolidation opposed; Street names changed; No Merry-Go-Round

1892 - Board of Health

1894 - Salaries and personnel issues

### THE POLICE DEPARTMENT 1890-1899

The positions of Policeman, Nightwatchman and Lamplighter had been combined for many years. About 1890 police work began to take on the status of a Police Department. More special police were employed and W. W. Spainhour, who had served as Police and Nightwatch for many years, appeared to take on the role of Police Chief. In 1891, the State Legislature passed an Act under which police jurisdiction was given to the town of Salem over a large area south and east of the corporation boundary, known as the Centerville District. Under this act, Salem had police powers in this area, but the citizens in this territory could not be taxed by the town and could not vote in a town election. However, the town furnished and paid for the police service given to this area. Also, a calaboose was built on Waughtown St. since it was too far to walk prisoners to the jail in Salem.

The new Town Charter, adopted in 1891, required that the Chief of Police be bonded. When officers were elected by the Board in May, 1892, the Board adopted a resolution "that the Chief of Police shall give bond for \$500 for faithful discharge of his duty, and that his pay shall be as heretofore, \$40 per month." W. W. Spainhour submitted his resignation as Chief of Police, effective May 13, 1892. The Board elected G. Sam Ebert Chief of Police.

On June 4, 1898, W. W. Spainhour was again elected Chief of Police; J. H. McGee was elected Street Overseer, and J. N. Wood, Lamp Lighter, at 2-1/4 cents per light.

### THE FIRE DEPARTMENT 1890-1899

On September 5, 1890, an agreement was signed by Mayor H. E. Fries of Salem, and Mayor D. P. Mast of Winston, providing for cooperation between the Fire Companies of each town, this agreement being, in part:  
(5-65)

- I. It is agreed that the Fire Companies of both towns shall report promptly upon alarm in either town.
- II. The Fire-Police of both companies shall be sworn in, in both towns and shall have all the powers accorded the policemen of the Home Company.
- III. Should property be injured during fire, except through gross carelessness and neglect, then the corporation in which property is injured shall pay amount necessary to repair its damage.

On December 2, 1892, a committee of African-American men came before the board and asked them to assist them in organizing a Hook and Ladder Company and procuring an outfit, and they offered a list of names that were willing to join the Company. Mayor Stockton appointed a committee to confer with the Winston Board and the group from the black community of Salem in regard to the whole Fire Department business. (6-38)

In the report by the Fire Committee, on December 9, 1892, "We do not recommend the organization of a colored Hook and Ladder Co. at this time but instead do recommend the purchase of a new hose wagon and 3000 feet of hose for the use of the Fire Co.

That the hose cart which the Fire Co. now have in use be placed at the Salem Female academy with hose. That the small hose cart now held in reserve by the Fire Co. be placed at Charles Stewart's in West Salem-with hose. We also recommend the purchase of two good extension ladders and two hooks to be kept in the engine house. "That the Chief of the Fire Department have full control of all fire apparatus and hose belonging to the town.

"We also recommend the sale of the old hand Engine belonging to the Town." This is the first mention of a "Chief" of the Fire Department. (6-41)

Later in the same meeting "...the Board desires herewith to return their thanks to the Colored Citizens of Salem for their kindness in offering their services as members of a Hook & Ladder Co. Our financial condition is such as to prevent us from accepting the offer at this time." (6-41)

On January 6, 1893, the members of the Salem Fire Company presented a petition requesting that they be full time paid firefighters like Winston. "...We do not think that they should have paid men and then we do the same work that they do and get abused by the Winston Water Co and the Twin City Daily and get nothing."(6-43) The Company then suggested that instead of responding on all Winston fires they respond to the engine house and wait to see if the fire was in Salem. The petition was turned over to the fire committee. On February 28, 1893, the Committee reported they had been unable to meet with the Winston Company but agreed with the proposal of the Salem Company to go to their engine houses to be prepared to answer a second alarm. (6-45)



The Salem Fire Department Hose Wagon.  
(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

The Board minutes of August 3, 1894, includes "Some of the young men of the town wanted to make up a hose reel company for protection against fire and through Mr. Fries asked if the Board would purchase the reel for them." (6-92)

At the next regular meeting on September 7, it was agreed that the Board would find some place for the reel but the reel could not be taken from the part of town it is in now. (6-100)

#### **LOCATION OF NEW SCHOOL**

On July 5, 1889, the Commissioners had deeded a lot at the corner of Elm Street and Shallowford St. to the County. The house on the lot had been used as a free or public school for many years. The County wished to build a new school but could not unless they owned the land. (5-7)

On February 7, 1890, the Public School Committee asked the Board about disposing of the house on the lot. (5-29) After an apparent thorough investigation, on March 29, the Board agreed, that in the interest of erecting a proper school house, they would pay the school committee \$100 for the house but also that that if they could get more from other parties they would be allowed to sell or remove it. (5-34)

On July 17, the Board approved a request to rent the free school house as a Sunday school for one year for \$10. The Board then instructed Commissioner Mr. Fogle that if they do not wish to rent the house he was to put it into condition to be used as a dwelling. (5-49)

March 7, 1890- Ordinances regarding loitering and vagrants enacted. The first specifically deals with loitering around schools. (5-81)

April 25, 1890-The Board approved a request for the use of Commissioners Hall for "practicing by the Philharmonic Society, which was granted till the middle of June. But they must not interfere with the meetings of the Board of Commissioners, Mayors Court or Fire Company." (5-38)

#### **BOARD AGREES TO MEET MORE OFTEN**

The Commissioners regularly met only once per month although there were many call meetings to deal with specific issues. On June 6, 1890, "Owing to the large amount of street and other work now being done, it was decided that the board should meet oftener than the regular monthly meetings." (5-46. The Board agreed to meet two weeks later.

### **ELECTRIC STREET LIGHTS**

The Board gave an option to Hawks & Hastings in July, 1889, for the lighting of the streets in Salem. Subsequently, S. W. Hastings sold his interest to J. H. Wingate of Roanoke, Virginia, who thus became one of the associates of E. L. Hawks. Hawks' other associates were F. J. Sprague, J. H. McClement, and Edw. H. Johnson. Hawks and his associates then organized a corporation known as the Winston Electric Light and Motive Power Company.

On July 19, 1890, Salem signed a new contract that embraced the terms of the original agreement for a term of ten years with a privilege of renewal on terms agreeable to both parties.

The contract provided for the installation of at least 25 and no more than 43 street lights and located at points not more than 1000 feet apart. The price for these 1200 candle power arc lights were \$90 per annum, payable quarterly. The Electric Power Company agreed to install and operate free of charge, one such arc light in the center of Salem Square and another similar light at Mineral Spring. For incandescent and other electric lights for illumination, the charge rates were not to exceed \$1.50 per month for each sixteen candle power light furnished to private consumers, and the same pro rata rates for lights of a greater or less candle power. (5-50)

The Winston Electric Light and Motive Power Company and the Winston-Salem Street Railway Company merged on January 24, 1891, under the name of Winston-Salem Railway and Electric Company. The Commissioners entered a 10-year contract for street lighting, also granted them a franchise for operating a Gas Plant and distribution lines in town streets. They also operated the electric street railway.

On February 28, 1891, the Fries Manufacturing and Power Company acquired the Winston-Salem Railway and Electric Company. Under a resolution adopted by the commissioners of Salem on July 1, 1904, the Fries concern was granted a forty year franchise for the operation of a gas plant and gas distribution system. The Fries Mfg. & Power Co. thus owned and operated the electric street railway, the Electric Power and Light system, along with the gas plant and mains.

Years later, after the consolidation of Winston and Salem, the Fries Mfg. & Power Co. was succeeded by the Southern Public Utilities Co., which in turn was followed by the present Duke Power Company, the Piedmont Natural Gas Company, and privately operated public bus transportation.

### **BOTTLED WATER CONTRACT**

July 7, 1890- E.L. Hawks, who had secured the contract with the town for the electric streetcar system presented to the board a proposal to buy the mineral spring. He requested that in doing so, his company would have the entire control of the "surplus water from the spring in order to be able to ship the same to other markets. But with the understanding that the water was used by the citizens of the towns should be free as heretofore." (5-27) The matter was turned over to the streets commission for investigation. There is no further reference to an agreement. Apparently bottled water was not as popular as it would be 100 years later.

### **ELECTRIC LIGHTS FOR COMMISSIONERS HALL AND ENGINE HOUSE**

On October 17, 1890, the Commissioners signed a contract for lighting Commissioners Hall and the Engine House:

"We hereby agree to purchase from the Winston Electric Light and Motive Power Co., current required to operate the following named incandescent lamps, viz: 3 lamps 16 CP and 1 lamp 50 CP for one year from date, and agree to pay therefore at the rate of 77 1/6 cents per 1000 candles per hour (equivalent of \$2.50 per 1000 feet of gas) by the Edison Meter; we also agree to allow access to meter and lights at all reasonable times and to pay all bills monthly, hereby agreeing that the minimum amount paid for the year not to be less than \$12.00, or the monthly bill less than \$1.00 per month." (5-71)

### **ELECTRIC STREET LIGHTS**

Mayor Fries and the full Board, in company with Mr. McFarland, after visiting all the streets located the electric lights as follows:

1. Belews Creek St. at Mr. Syd Lawrence's.
2. Belews Creek St. at Dry Bridge.
3. Cemetery and Water Sts. at Mr. J. S. Starbuck's. (At the Winston/Salem line)
4. Belews Creek and Cemetery Streets at Fogle's.
5. Main Street at Mickey and Ebert's.
6. Main and Cemetery at Mr. W. T. Vogler's.
7. Main and New Shallowford at Mr. T. H. Kearns.
8. Salt St. and Fish Alley at Dr. Shaffner's barn.
9. Main and Bank Sts. at Mr. Belo's.
10. Church St., 200 feet south of Avenue
11. Church and Old Shallowford (now Academy St.)

12. In the Square--Free
13. Salt and Old Shallowford at Crosland's.
14. Main and West.
15. Church St. at Mr. C. E. Crist's.
16. Main and Walnut
17. Main and Mill
18. Marshall and Walnut
19. Marshall and West
20. West and Magnolia
21. Old Shallowford and Poplar
22. Elm and Bank
23. New Shallowford and Elm
24. Wachovia and New Shallowford (now Brookstown)
25. Broad and Wachovia
26. High and Pond Streets (now Poplar)
27. High and Cherry
28. First and Spruce
29. First and Salt
30. Mineral Spring---Free

Under the contract with the power company the arc street lights were to burn all night "except that part of the night as the moon gives light."

Apparently the street lighting system was not measuring up to the expectation of the Commissioners, as indicated in the minutes of the Board meeting of July 20, 1891:

"A great dissatisfaction has been expressed at the manner in which the Electric Lights are run in Salem."

The Board ordered the Secretary to send a copy of this to Mr. Cooper, Superintendent of the Works in Winston:

"Resolved: That whereas a contract was entered into by the town of Salem, N.C., with the Electric Light and Motive Power Company of Winston, N.C., for the purpose of lighting the streets of our town, and whereas, by the terms of that contract the lights were to burn 'when the moon does not give light.'

"And whereas, it must be considered that the moon does not give light on cloudy evenings and nights that the moon does not give light in the sense in which it was intended until it has been above the horizon at least one hour, nor one hour before it sets."

"We also find that the lights are not at all times kept up to the full requirements of 1200 candle power each.

"Therefore be it resolved, that in the future we will require that the above conditions be complied with, and also that the light must be burning within one hour's time after sunset, and 'except when the moon gives light', to burn within one hour of sunrise.

"And resolved, further, that it shall be the duty of the Chief of Police to see that the foregoing conditions be complied with, and to carefully note any variations in light, and time of lighting, which information is to be given to the Secretary, who will deduct from the regular quarterly bill, 5 cents per hour (later changed to 2-1/2 cents per hour) for each light, all shortages of time in burning, or for inferior lights, and pay balance over to the company." (5-139)

Some early street lighting expenditure as shown on Treasurer's annual reports:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1889	\$ 538.63
1890	1299.47
1891	2587.05
1892	2639.81
1893	2646.27
1894	2694.09
1895	2689.47
1896	2697.18
1897	2685.77

There were still some oil lamps being used in 1897, the cost of which was \$200.42.

### **THE FIRST SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM 1890-1892**

In 1887, the Commissioners entered into a tentative agreement with Winston regarding the construction of a sanitary outfall sewer down Tar Branch from First Street to Salem Creek. This outfall was to start at Fourth Street in Winston, but Salem was concerned only with that part of the line south of First Street, the boundary line between the two towns. At that time, Salem was unable to finance its part of the cost. However, this matter was revived in 1890 and the Salem Board granted permission to the Winston Commissioners to construct the outfall sewer through Salem in accordance with the plans of J. L. Ludlow, Salem was to pay \$1750, one-half the cost of the sewer line through Salem. (5-65) Also, the town of Salem was to pay one-half the cost of right-of-way. Some of the property owners gave the right-of-way for the sewer; others were paid a small amount, and a few condemnations were necessary. Outlets and manholes were installed to allow connections for the Salem sewerage system as planned by J. L. Ludlow.

Shortly after the completion of the first sewer line, plans were made by Winston to construct what was referred to as the East Line of Sewage. On October 12, 1891, a contract was made and signed by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Winston and the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Salem. (Note that Winston is now called a "City".) Under this contract the Board of Aldermen agreed to "construct a line of sewerage from First Street along Bath Branch and through the meadows south of Salem to the manhole of the present sewer south of Mill Street, west of Main Street and near Tar Branch, and there connect with the present system of sewerage. The pipes used in said sewer shall be of a size sufficient to carry the sewerage of the Eastern portion of Winston and Salem and adjacent territory as shown by the map and plan of J. L. Ludlow, Engineer." (6-7)

The town of Salem was to pay \$1000 as its part of the cost of this sewer line, plus one-half the cost of rights-of-way condemned. Upon payment to Winston, the town of Salem would have the right to connect to the above sewer at any point or points necessary to complete the Salem sewerage system.

### **MAIN STREET PAVED WITH BELGIAN BLOCKS**

Main Street was the first street with a permanent pavement. In 1890-1891, Main Street was paved from First Street to the foot of the hill near Salem Creek. This included the installation of stone curbing and the paving with Belgian Blocks. These granite blocks, sometimes called "cobble stones" varied in size, with a typical block being about four inches by eight inches by ten or twelve inches in length. Some cost figures listed show the cost of stone curbing at 60 cents per lineal foot, crossing stone at 55 cents per foot, and the paving blocks at \$1.30 per square yard, delivered to the Depot Street freight yard. (5-42)

The Board had first planned to pave only a portion of Main Street and McAdamize the remainder, when they received a petition, signed by a majority of the registered voters of Salem, requesting the Board to borrow \$30,000 and complete the paving of Main Street to the Old Hotel, where it was supposed at that time the street cars would stop. (5-47) At the time the petition was presented, there was no law allowing a vote to be taken, or bonds to be issued by the town for a public debt. The Board felt that the Main Street paving could be done cheaper than any other time; and to postpone the work until the meeting of the Legislature, and the passage of necessary laws, would practically have deprived the public of the use of Main Street for ten months, and during the winter it would become impassable. The Board, therefore, decided to borrow the money, push the work as rapidly as possible, and submit the question of Bonds to the voters as soon as the law would allow it. (5-48)

Later the Electric Car Company decided to extend their line to the foot of Main Street, and the Board, assuming that the will of the citizens had been expressed in the petition previously submitted, decided to grade and pave Main Street for its entire length down to the foot of the hill. The cost of the project was about \$50,000.

The Commissioners of Salem, as well as the citizens, were justly proud of the Main Street improvement, as indicated by the report of the Street Committee:

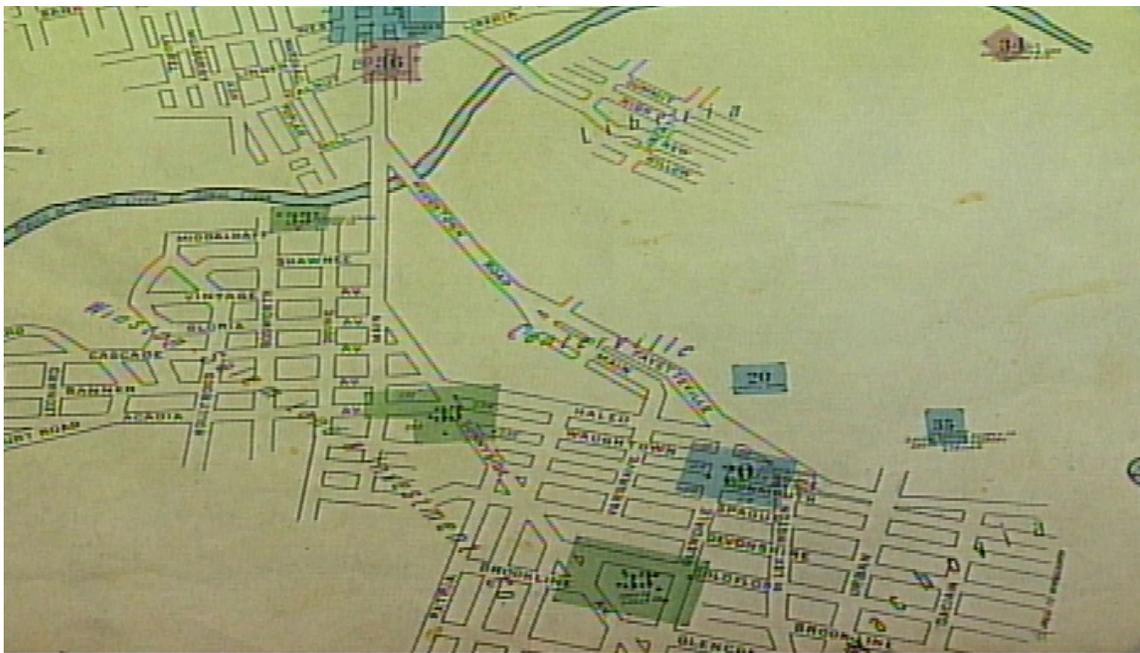
"One year ago Main Street was in a most wretched condition because of the severe winter and its unpaved condition; today we are happy to show a finished street equal to any street in the state, and probably equal to any in the South in beauty and quality of workmanship. After completing Main Street there was such a demand for work on side streets and the principal streets parallel to, or at right angles to Main Street, that under your instructions the following streets were graded..."(5-115)

The second street to be paved with Belgian blocks was Church Street in front of the Moravian Church in 1894 (6-110); to be followed by a similar type pavement on Belevs Creek Street from Main to the east side of Chestnut Street in 1896. This was approved in February 1895. (6-125)

The stone curbing installed on Main Street when the Belgian Block pavement was constructed is still in place today. However in 1919, the Belgian Blocks were taken up, cut into cubes about 3-1/2 to 4 inches in size, and re-laid on a concrete base. These small stone cubes were laid in segments of a circle on a sand-cement cushion; this type of paving was called "Durax Block paving." The total cost of this improvement was \$48,776.00. There are still some locations on Church near 4<sup>th</sup> St where the Durax blocks are visible.

### THE TOWN OF WAUGHTOWN

The Sunnyside Land Company opened up to development large areas of Southside, south of Salem creek, in 1890. With paved streets, electricity, telephones and streetcars the city attracted new people. The eastern part of Southside was incorporated in 1891 as the town of Waughtown. Five years later, when residents refused to tax themselves enough to run the place, corporation was dissolved. Centerville and Waughtown were annexed into the city of Winston-Salem in 1919.



(City of Winston-Salem Map)

### CONTRACTS FOR TELEPHONE SERVICE

On October 4, 1890, the Mayor signed a contract with Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company to wire Salem for phone service. The contract is quoted in its entirety in the Salem Appendix.

May 10, 1895, The Board authorized the Mayor to sign a contract with a second telephone provider- the Interstate Telephone and Telegraph Company of Durham. (6-139) This contract is similar to the Southern Bell contract.

### THE SALEM WATER SUPPLY COMPANY—PROBLEMS

Dec 15, 1890-Frank Fries, President of the Salem Water Supply Company stated that the water supply is now entirely inadequate to supply increased demands. That they had an option on some land and the spring on the Charlie Reynolds place, but were unable to purchase it without some assistance. The option would expire by the end of this year, and the opportunity then would be lost to purchase this additional supply of water. They could still continue to furnish the present supply of water but would not be able to increase their territory; neither could the fire protection for the town be extended. Could the Board of Commissioners in some way assist them to increase? Or should they continue at what they now are? It could be arranged by the town taking stock or by paying hydrant rent. There is no other company which furnishes free water for the town. The Board agreed to draw up a contract with the Salem Water Supply Co. under which the town would pay an annual hydrant rental fee of \$25 for each hydrant. (5-79)

On May 20, 1891, the town signed a contact with the Salem Water Supply Company:

"Whereas it appears that the Salem Water Supply Company, hereinafter called the Salem Water Company, has during a period of thirteen years, furnished to the town of Salem, N.C., the free use of hydrants and water for all public uses and whereas the town has outgrown the ability of the Salem Water Co. to sufficiently cover the same with fire protection and water supply, and whereas the source of water supply is now barely sufficient for the limited territory now covered by the Water Co., and whereas the Salem Water Co. has recently purchased at considerable cost a valuable spring south of Salem, known as the Reynolds Spring; and whereas the Co. does not feel itself able to pipe the same to town; and whereas the town council deem it a public benefit and profit to enlarge the water system; and whereas both parties desire to accomplish the same result to their mutual benefit; therefore this indenture witnesseth:--

"First, that the town of Salem, through its Mayor and Commissioners, shall pay a yearly rental of Twenty-five Dollars, for each hydrant now in use, or to be placed upon the streets of Salem.

"Second, that in the extension of mains or pipe lines along the streets of the town, the town will locate a sufficient number of hydrants so that the rental of the same will equal the interest at 6% upon the entire cost of such required outlay.

"Third, that the extension of such mains shall be by consent of the town Commissioners, and the locations of hydrants shall be under their direction, the purchasing of the materials and laying of the pipe to be in charge of a joint Committee of the Salem Water Co. and town Commissioners, so that the actual cost may be carefully kept and guarded.

"Fourth, that the contract shall run from October 31, 1890 until January 1, 1915, unless abrogated or annulled by both parties before the expiration of that time.

"Fifth, it is further agreed that the Salem Water Company shall supply the town of Salem with water to run the present fountain in the public square to the amount of 140,000 gallons per annum, and water to flush the sewer pipes if any are laid during the continuance of this contract, and water to sprinkle streets on public occasions, and to flush existing gutters and drains free of cost,--provided however, the above use of water shall be under the exclusive control and supervision of the Supt. of the Water Company.(5-108)



In 1890, the Salem Water Company bought Reynolds Spring north of the intersection of Waughtown St and Old Lexington Rd. A steam engine was used to drive the pump. A one and a half million gallon reservoir was added in 1898 in the present area of the Red Shield Boys Club A bond referendum in 1901....229 in favor, 4 against, called for the town to buy the Salem Water Supply company which it did for just over 79 thousand dollars. (City of W-S map)

## 1891

### THE FIRST BOND REFERENDUM

An act revising the Charter of Salem was ratified by the General Assembly on February 6, 1891. Under this new Charter, the town had the authority to issue bonds for necessary street and other improvements.

The paving of Main Street had cost about \$50,000, with the town borrowing the money. The Board decided to issue bonds to cover this indebtedness.

"Resolved that at the Regular Election for Town officers to be held on the first Monday of May, 1891, the question of creating a bonded debt in the sum of \$50,000.00, issuing Town Bonds therefore, in denominations of \$1,000 each, for street and other improvements be voted upon. Said Bonds to be issued in the name of the Town of Salem, N.C. and to run for a period of 40 years, dating from July 1, 1891, but may be redeemed at the pleasure of the town at any time after 30 years from date of issue. These bonds to bear interest at the rate of 5% per annum payable semi-annually on the first days of January and July of each year. Voters favoring the issue of these bonds shall vote on their ballots "Issue", and those opposed to such issue shall vote "No Issue." (5-96)

Of the total 378 registered voters, 254 votes were cast and every one of these voted "Issue" and none "No Issue."(5-120)

This was also a vote of confidence in Mayor Fries and the Board of Commissioners. Moreover, as further evidence of this confidence, on the same day of the Bond Election Mayor Fries and all seven of the incumbent town Commissioners were re-elected with overwhelming majorities.

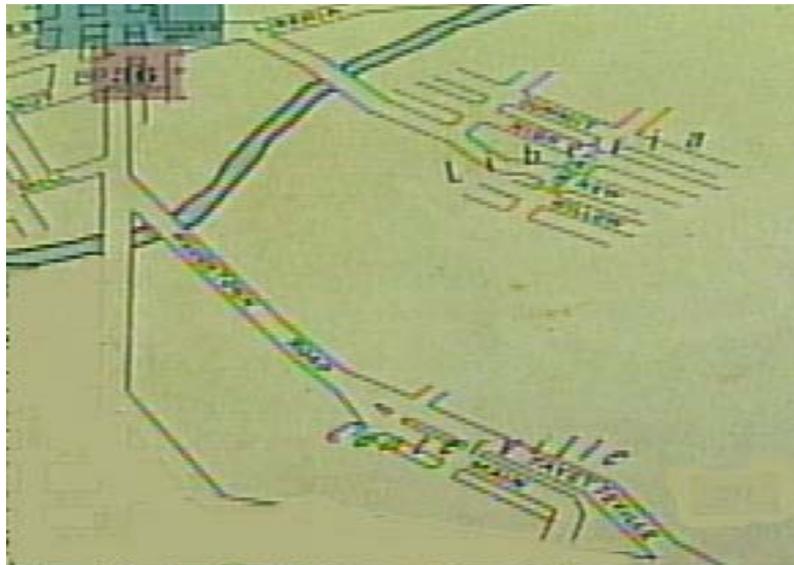
H. E. Fries, Mayor	
H. E. McIver	H. W. Shore
S. E. Butner	A. A. Spach
H. S. Crist	C. H. Fogle
A. C. Vogler	

**ANNEXATION OF CENTERVILLE DISTRICT**

January 28, 1891-By act of the General assembly an area to the south and southeast of Salem, known as the Centerville district was annexed. This is the area around the School of the Arts west of Happy Hill. The town was to provide a Policeman for the Centerville District. The Mayor's Court of Salem would have jurisdiction. The citizens of the Centerville district were not required to pay Salem taxes nor were they allowed to vote in municipal elections (5-90)

In February, two Policemen, Lender Newsome and Norm Burke were appointed Centerville Policemen. Two men were also appointed as policemen for the East Salem division. (5-100) At the very next meeting, a request to appoint one more Policeman for the district was presented and approve. (5-101) The Board also agreed to provide materials to build a lockup in Centerville. (5-101)

Policing isn't a job for everyone as is evidenced by the fact that at the April 3 meeting Lender Newsome resigned and William Rominger was appointed in his place. (5-106)



The map segment shows Salem at the top, the Centerville District and the African American community know as Liberia, now the Happy Hill Gardens area. (City of W-S map)

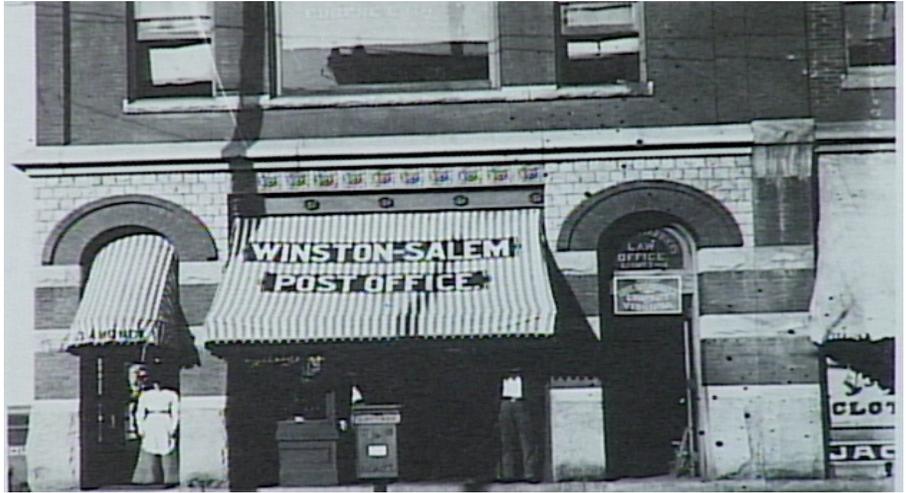
**POST OFFICE CONSOLIDATION OPPOSED**

The first Post Office was established in Salem in 1792, at which time mail was received by "pony express" once every fourteen days. Almost one hundred years later, in October 1891, a Representative of the Post Office Department at Washington visited Salem regarding free mail delivery and the consolidation of the Salem and Winston Post Offices. As this would cause the complete removal of the name of Salem from the Postal Guides, the Commissioners were greatly concerned about the matter and decided to make a formal protest against the consolidation. (6-2)

An official petition of protest, along with other papers relating to the matter, was immediately prepared and the Rev. J. H. Clewell was appointed to take all these papers to Washington and to assist Mayor Fries (who was already in Washington) defeat the proposed consolidation. Their efforts were successful and stated, "...we desire officially to return thanks to Hon. S. A. Whitfield, 1st Asst. P. M. General and to the Post Office Department for courtesies expended to our representatives; and also for your action in retaining the Salem Post Office as a separate and distinct office."

The matter of mail delivery came up again in 1899 when the Town Commissioners were informed that in order to secure free mail delivery in Salem, it would be necessary for the town to meet certain requirements, including the preparation of a map of the town and the establishing of a house numbering system.

At a called meeting on February 21, 1899, Mayor Butner was authorized to secure the services of a competent engineer to number the houses, and to make a complete map of the streets and lots in Salem. The Board also went on record that in meeting the demands it was to be understood that in securing free delivery Salem would retain its identity as a Post Office.



In 1899, the first Winston-Salem Post Office was located at the southeast corner of Main and Third St. in the old Pfohl and Stockton store built in 1876. Former Mayor Eugene Gray had his law offices upstairs.  
(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

In March 1899, the matter of consolidation of the post office as indicated by this story in the Washington Post and quoted in the Minutes Book (7-1):

"Post Master General Smith has ordered that the post office of Winston-Salem be consolidated July 1st next; the present post master at Winston, P. H. Lybrook, will be appointed post master of the consolidated office at this present salary of \$2,700 per year. On the next readjustment of salaries this will probably be increased to \$3,500. The post office at Salem will be made a station of the Winston post office and its present post master W. P. Ormsby will be appointed Superintendent of the station at \$1200 per year. His present salary as post master is \$2,000 per year.

"The consolidated post office for the present will have the hyphenated name of Winston-Salem. This is against the policy of the post office department and is done now only in deference to local sentiment. It will not be continued longer than necessary when the consolidated post office will be known as Winston. As it is, it will be difficult to put on a post office stamp or die the name of Winston-Salem and have it legible. It is too long.

"After July 1st next Winston-Salem post office will be allowed three additional carriers. It has not yet been decided whether the mail for Salem will be distributed direct from the Winston post office building or from the Salem station by carriers. The probabilities are that for the present, which is for a short period after July 1, it will be distributed by carriers from the Salem station. It is the intention of the department ultimately to abolish Salem as a station and simply make it a substation of the Winston post office. This will be done when the hyphenated name is dropped and the office is known as Winston. This change will probably occur when the new public building is completed. This will be about two years from now. The Act authorizing the construction of a public building names Winston as the place in which it is to be elected and this will guide the post office department in using the name Winston as the proper designation for the consolidated cities and post office..."

This article was read at the Salem Board meeting on March 15, 1899 and was added to the minutes. After considerable discussion, the Board adopted the following resolution presented by Commissioners H. E. Fries:

"Whereas from the newspaper reports it appears that the government has decided to consolidate our post office with that of Winston, and whereas the movement is construed by our people to be a movement to deprive our town of its name and our people of present Post Office facilities; Therefore Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to investigate this subject fully and if necessary proceed to Washington and explain to the Post Office Department all the facts bearing on this case, and procure from them assurances that in the future the name of Salem which has associations of almost a century and a half shall

be retained. It is not to be construed that any objection is made to the name of Winston-Salem, but this committee is instructed to do all in its power to preserve for our people their present efficient post office facilities and if possible make them even more effective."(7-3)

The citizens at large in Salem were also much concerned and they held a meeting on March 23, 1899, to plan some way to help the town Commissioners in presenting their opposition to the consolidation.

In the discussion which followed, Dr. H. T. Bahnson was emphatic that "now was the time to make a determined stand for our own identity, and failure to do so would be taken for assent to the proposed consolidation."

B. J. Pfohl called attention to "P. O. Inspector Dexter's remarks when the matter was before our people some years past, -- to the effect that a double or hyphenated name would not last, that Salem would be eventually dropped."(7-4)

The committee prepared a comprehensive 17 page report and submitted it at a called meeting of the Board of Commissioners on April 4, 1899. The Board accepted the report and authorized the committee to proceed to Washington and find out more about the Post Office matter. (7-6)

The ultimate result of all these efforts was that the consolidation name, Winston-Salem, N.C. was retained, along with the establishment of a fully adequate Salem Station in this letter of April 8, 1899 to H.E. Fries from the First Asst. Postmaster General "... in the event of consolidation, the name "Winston-Salem" will be retained (and) Salem is to be provided with a station with lock boxes, mail order, Registry, and stamp facilities....After consolidation has been effected, mail addresses to either Winston, N.C., or Salem, N.C., will be sent to the new Post Office, Winston-Salem, N.C. and not to the Dead Letter office at Washington, D. C. as feared...."(7-9)

#### **TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER MERGER**

The Winston Electric Light and Motive Power Company and the Winston-Salem Street Railway Company merged on January 24, 1891, under the name of Winston-Salem Railway and Electric Company. The Commissioners entered a 10-year contract for street lighting, also granted them a franchise for operating a Gas Plant and distribution lines in town streets. They also operated the electric street railway.

On February 5, 1897, the Fries Manufacturing and Power Company acquired the Winston-Salem Railway and Electric Company. The revised contract with this company is in Volume 6 Pages 200-202.

Under a resolution adopted by the commissioners of Salem on July 1, 1904, the Fries concern was granted a forty year franchise for the operation of a gas plant and gas distribution system. The Fries Mfg. & Power Co. thus owned and operated the electric street railway, the Electric Power and Light system, along with the gas plant and mains. This lengthy contract is first enter into the minutes book on February 15, 1900. (7-67).

Years later, after the consolidation of Winston and Salem, the Fries Mfg. & Power Co. was succeeded by the Southern Public Utilities Co., which in turn was followed by the present Duke Power Company, the Piedmont Natural Gas Company, and privately operated public bus transportation.

#### **STREET NAMES CHANGED**

July 20, 1891-"...the name of Old Shallowford Street be changed to Academy St and the name of Magnolia Street be changed to Green St." At the same meeting Marshall Street south of High St was declared a public thoroughfare. It was known as Pine Street in Winston. (5-138)

#### **NO MERRY GO ROUND**

October 2, 1981-"Application was made by Mr. John W. West of Greensboro for license to erect and run a merry go round on Dr. Wheeler's lot, corner of Church and Belews Creek St. Motion made and carried that license be refused in the settled portion of the town." (5-143)

## **1892**

#### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

During the administration of Mayor Fries, a Board of Health was established and ordinances adopted regarding sanitation and public health. This Board consisted of the Mayor, Resident Physicians, Chief of Police, City Attorney, and the Chairman of the Street, Water, and Sewer Committees. From time to time, this Board made reports and recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

The Board passed a series of health ordinances on April 8, 1892 (6-20)

On June 24, 1892, Dr. J. F. Shaffner, as a member of the Board of Health, presented his individual views concerning the abatement of present nuisances, and necessary sanitation work.

"As I view it--for the present sewerage should be entirely surface for immediate uses, such as removing water from yards, streets, roofs, etc. Anything else would prove expensive, useless and superfluous. To place our people at any additional expense would prove unnecessary. Further, I would propose the use of boxes or tubs to be used (emptied) as circumstances may required, say weekly, semi-weekly, bi-weekly or monthly."(6-29)

Dr. N. S. Siewers expressed the opinion "that the only satisfactory way to cleanse the town from night soil is a complete system of sewerage for as large a portion of the town as can be reached." Mayor Stockton, as a member of the Board of Health, concurred with the views of Dr. Siewers. (6-29)

### **NIGHT SOIL REMOVAL**

July 1-The first contract for the cleaning of privies and the removal of night soil was awarded to George Ebert. The town to furnish the wagons and Ebert to furnish horses and drivers and collect 25 cents from the occupant of premises for each half barrel of night soil removed. (6-30)

However, in March 1893, Ebert reported that he was not being able to make collections. He further reported that he had turned the cart over to Albert Sides, colored, and that the other cart was still standing still. Shortly thereafter the Commissioners appointed a committee and authorized them to "buy a good mule, wagon and harness, and provide for the taking care of same, hire a driver, and look after all sanitary work to the ensuing year." M. E. Ballard was elected Sanitary Policeman, required to give a Bond in the amount of \$200.00, with his duties to be defined by the Sanitary Committee. (6-48)

On September 8, 1893, the Board of Health recommended:

"We, the Board of Health of Salem do recommend that you require tubs or water tight boxes placed under each privy at the expense of the owner and emptied at the expense of the town by direct taxation and no one be allowed to buy inside corporate limits."(6-61)

However, the Town Commissioners decided that with the present levy of taxes they could not perform the sanitary work recommended without receiving compensation from the individuals whose property was cleansed. They then passed an ordinance requiring the use of tubs or boxes, to be furnished by the owner; this ordinance further stating that "for the more effectual carry out of the intent of this ordinance, when the work is done by the City Scavenger wagon, the occupant shall pay a reasonable amount to the officer in charge of the Scavenger wagon for the services rendered." (6-62)

This is the first time the word "city" instead of "town" has been used in the minutes of the Board. Generally Salem was regarded as a "town" until after consolidation.

In order to provide some aid in the sanitary work, H. E. Fries proposed "I will furnish and feed one mule for a sanitary cart, provided the town will pay the driver, keep up all repairs including shoeing, and will have all the night soil hauled by this cart deposited on my farm or such other place as I may direct. This agreement to remain in force as long as it is satisfactory to the town authorities and myself."

Apparently the practice of direct collection from the occupant for the removal of night soil did not prove satisfactory, because by 1895, the town was rendering this service at public expense, as indicated in the report of Mayor Hauser on April 5, 1895:

"The work of the Sanitary Department during the year has been in part an experiment, since so far as we know this is the only town in the State in which all the expenses are paid by the town. The daily number of lots cleaned averaged fifteen and the total expense for the past fiscal year is only \$454.55." (6-130)

This refers to night soil collection and removal from lots.

The removal of night soil was to remain a problem in some sections of the town for many future years. Indeed, for twenty-five years after consolidation, the budgets of the City of Winston-Salem contained appropriations for the removal of night soil.

### **LAND SUBDIVISION POLICY**

July 15-"Resolved that the streets as shown on the Map of Mr. N. V. Watkins be accepted by the town so far as the location and width is concerned, but all expenses for grading the streets must be borne by the property holder or be delayed to such time as the additional

building along said streets shall justify the grading of said streets, and Mr. Watkins is to deposit a map of said streets with the Sects." (6-31) These streets were in West Salem.

Sept 12, 1892-"H.E. McIver was awarded the contract for building the addition to Commissioners Hall and Engine House to be used for lockup etc. His bid being \$60 for house and \$150 for three cages, to be finished up in good style and according to specifications." (6-35)

## 1893

### **GAMES OF CHANCE ORDERED STOPPED**

January 6, 1893-"Resolved that the Board approve the action of the Mayor in stopping the games of chance which are being played in several places in town for cigars, etc. and that hereafter the games must be stopped as it is understood that the officers of the town were engaged in said games, they are hereby instructed to abstain from any similar action which will lay themselves and the Board of Commissioners liable for the censure of the citizens of the town."(6-43) There had been ordinances on the books for many years prohibiting games of chance in the town.

### **SUNNYSIDE PARK**

February 3, 1893-"...the Mayor is authorized to grant license or permission to the Sunny Side Club and the Sunny Side Park or others using the lands of the Winston-Salem Land and Investment Company for Park purposes, to erect and maintain on their premises Ten Pin Alleys or other amusements -- provided under all circumstances that no winous, spirituous or malt liquors are sold, and that no betting or other form of gambling is allowed." (6-44)

May 4, 1894— The Winston-Salem Railway and Electric Light Company asked for police protection for the Sunny side Park. The Board ordered the Chief of Police to relocate the western boundary of the Centerville district to cover the park. (6-73) Sunny Side Park, located on Waughtown St. near the old Nissen Wagon Works was a major family destination via street car for many years. Only after the introduction of automobiles did it begin to decline.

### **THE FIRST FIRE ALARM BOXES**

February 28, 1893-Fogle Brothers Company, F. & H. Fries and the Salem Female Academy offered to furnish a number of Fire alarm boxes subject to these conditions:

1. The Board of Commissioners of Salem shall pay for wiring, erecting, and maintaining said boxes.
2. The Boxes are to connect with the Engine Houses and the Alarm Systems of both Winston and Salem.
3. Whenever the Board of Commissioners of Salem shall put up a complete Fire Alarm System, the undersigned shall have the amount advanced by them for the above boxes refunded, with simple interest from July 1, 1893 at 6% per annum and the boxes shall then become the property of the Board of Commissioners of Salem.

Board of Commissioners- 1 box

Fogle Brothers- 1 box on Belews Ck. Street

Salem Female Academy-J. H. Clewell-1 box

F. & H. Fries-1 box - near Wachovia Mills

The Board accepted the offer and authorized Mayor Stockton to close the contract with the Gamewell Telegraph Company for five alarm boxes, one Indicator and Gong combined, and all necessary wiring, etc., at a cost not to exceed \$600.00.(6-46)

The matter was further discussed and the procedures for operating the system given at the March 16, 1893 meeting (6-49)

On April 27, 1893, it was reported that the electric light company objected to the stringing of fire alarm box wires on their poles. The representative of the Company stated that since the company had not charged the town for the poles, they should assume responsibility for damages if they used them. (6-50)

On May 11, the Board decided to erect their own poles. (6-56)

### **ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATION**

Up to now, matters coming before the Commissioners were acted upon by the whole Board or postponed until further information could be obtained. However, with the increase in the public business, it became necessary to appoint Committees (of Commissioners) to make investigations on matters referred to them and to make recommendations to the entire Board.

And so in the 1890's reference is made to the Street, Finance, Electric Light, Water, Fire, Police, Health, and Sanitary Committees.

## **ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 1, 1892-APRIL 1, 1893**

The annual report of the town as published in the newspaper is included on page 52-53 of Volume 6 of the Minutes Book. It shows perfectly balanced books with total expenditures of \$21,982.86 and receipts of \$21,892.86. It also shows a bond Indebtedness of \$59,277.84.

### **POLICE UNIFORMS**

October 6, 1893-"A letter signed by the police force was read asking the Board of Commissioners to buy hats for them to correspond with their new uniforms. Moved and carried that the Board furnish the police force with new hats.

Resolved that in the further the police force of Salem consisting of the Chief, Sanitary and tax Collector and such others as may be added, shall at their own expense, buy such uniforms as shall be approved by the Board of Commissioners." (6-64)

At the next meeting, Sanitary Policeman George Ebert stated the he did not think the police uniforms suited his job and asked the Board not to require him to buy one. The Board agreed and allowed Ebert to wear "the sack suit same as he is now wearing but it must be the regular blue and he must wear the same style has as the regular policemen." (6-65)

## **1894**

### **BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT**

April 6, 1894-The Chairman of the Board of Health reported he had issued 52 burial permits , 47 white, 5 colored, within the last year, There were 4 deaths from meningitis, 8 from dysentery and diarrhea, 3 from typhoid fever, 2 from consumption, 6 from heart disease, 4 from pneumonia and 25 from all other diseases. (6-70) It is interesting that there are no violent or accident deaths during the year.

The report the next year notes 6 deaths from meningitis and 2 from "paralysis" (6-135)

### **PERSONNEL EXPENDITURES**

May 15-The salary of the Mayor was fixed at \$500 per annum, and he was to also serve as a Street Commissioner; Chief of Police, \$40 per month; Street Overseer, \$30 per month.

The position of Secretary and Treasurer were added "The office of Secretary, Treasurer, Tax Collector, and Superintendent of Health are combined in one person who shall also act as Clerk of Police Court. He shall keep regular office hours of 8 o'clock a.m. to 12 o'clock a.m. and shall devote the remainder of his time to the collection of taxes, fines, etc. He shall be sworn in as a regular police officer, and shall give a bond of five thousand dollars. His salary shall be \$35 per month." (6-77)

Watson and Buxton were retained as town attorneys at \$50 per annum. J. L. Ludlow was appointed town engineer on a commission basis.

At this time C. S. Hauser was Mayor, W. W. Spainhour, Chief of Police, E. S. Miller, Street Overseer, and F. E. Keehln was Secretary and Treasurer.

In the May 1894 election, there were five candidates for Mayor, C. S. Hauser being elected with 185 votes. There were 49 candidates who received one or more votes for Commissioner, with H. E. Fries leading the ticket with 278 votes. (6-74, 75)

### **DOG CENSUS**

May 18, 1894-"Ordered that the Chief of Police take the census of dogs in town and report at next meeting." (6-79)

June 1, 1894-Police Chief Ebert reported 62 dogs in Corp. and Secretary was ordered to get list of same and owners. (6-80) This was done for tax purposes. The tax was \$1.00 per dog. When the tax was implemented there were a number of complaints from citizens saying they didn't own a dog as they had been taxed. Finally the Mayor was asked to come up with a "dog oath" (6-123) that called for the person to swear they had not owned a dog since June 1. If they would so swear they would be exempt form the tax.

## **1895**

### **HOGS AND DOGS ORDINANCE**

At the November 1, 1895 meeting an ordinance was passed stating that citizens could own one dog tax free. Other dogs were still taxed one dollar, but unspayed female dogs allowed to run at large would be taxed 10 dollars. The ordinance further states " In cases where a dog continually makes his home on certain premises, the owner or occupant of said premises shall be considered as the owner

of the dog or dogs and required to pay the tax. (6-158)

At the same time a new ordinance on the keeping of hogs was passed. It stated "No owner or occupant of any Lot within the Town of Salem, with a frontage of not more than 50 feet on any street, shall keep more than two Hogs; with more than 50 feet and less than 100 feet frontage more than four Hogs; and with more frontage than 100 feet more than 6 hogs, and in all cases where it is desired to keep Hogs on lots having no street frontage or on lots have no house thereon, no Hogs shall be kept.

In all cases, the Hog pens shall be kept clean and shall be constructed with floors not less than 10 inches above the surface of the ground." (6-159)

#### **ESCAPES FROM THE CALABOOSE AND RELEASES**

Dec 7, 1895- The Mayor spoke about so many of the convicts getting away from the street overseer (after the officers had turned them over to him to work out fines and costs) that he, the Mayor, would get another man to feed the convicts and while there was only one or two to work that the street overseer could tend to them and if more came in that C.J. Kimel who boards convicts could go along as a guard. (6-161)

January 3, 1896- The Mayor spoke about that he was having the calaboose fixed up as some of the prisoners had been getting away by breaking out of the calaboose. After some discussion on this subject it was decided to leave the calaboose as now repaired and if any more made their escape to fix up the calaboose in such a way as to hold them.

The Mayor also stated that he was letting the prisoners go to their homes during the bad weather to save expense of boarding and keeping up fires and if they would not come to work when wanted, he would lock them up."(6-163)

December 6, 1899-The putting of wire netting on the windows of the calaboose to keep outsiders from handing anything in to the prisoners was spoken of and the Mayor was instructed to have the work done that would make the 'boose safe in that way. (6-276)

## **1896**

April 3, 1896- The Board agreed to pay part of the expense of the stone wall being built on the north side of the cemetery. It was estimated the wall would cost \$300. (6-171) At the next monthly meeting, the two agreed to pay 1/3 of the \$280 cost. (6-175)

The Mayor's report for 1895 and 1896 is written on (6-172 and 173).

#### **CENTERVILLE CALABOOSE SOLD**

September 5, 1896-"J. H. McGee (the Centreville Police Officer) reported for the Chief of Police about the Centreville lock up that it was no use out there as if they had prisoners from there the would bring them to the town 'boose. A motion was made that J. H. McGee could sell the Centreville calaboose if he could get \$20.00 or more." (6-187)

#### **MAYOR HAUSER DIES**

Sept 29, 1896- There was a special call meeting to honor Mayor G.L. Hauser who had died earlier in the day. The tribute read in part "the town has lost a faithful and efficient officer won who during many years as commissioner and recently as Mayor daily interested himself in its welfare and who will be sadly missed." (6-189) The Town Hall bell was to be tolled at the hour of his funeral. At the next regular meeting on October 2, Mayor Pro Tem Samuel E, Butner was elected Mayor. (6-191)

## **1897**

#### **SALEM DIVIDED INTO PRECINCTS**

March 5, 1897-"Resolved that there be established in Salem two voting precincts in said town so as to form to two voting precincts established by the Clerk of Court under the State Election law. One of these voting places was to be known as East Ward and the other as West Ward." (6-205) The Commissioners then called for a new registration before the annual election.

April 3, 1897-Mayor Butner's annual report is included followed by the Health Committee's report (6-209)

Sept 3, 1897-"Sanitary Committee reported that owing to the sore back of the town mule another mule has been used till the town mule's back got well." (6-230)

#### **REPAIRS TO THE FIRE ENGINE**

December 27, 1897- In a called meeting of the Board, Commissioner Fogle reported that the fire engine is in a very bad fix and not safe to run. A letter was read from the American Fire Engine Company offering to repair or replace the engine. While the Salem

Engine was being repaired, the company offered a loaner. (6-234).

The Board agreed at the January 7, 1898 meeting to have a company representative come and see what repairs were needed. (6-23).

At the February 14, 1898 meeting, \$1,250 was approved for the repair of the engine. (6-240)

## 1898

### **MAYOR FOGLE DIES**

May 26, 1898-A called meeting was held to honor former Mayor C. H Fogle who had passed away. The tribute covers five and a half pages in the Minutes book beginning on page 251 of Book 6.

### **SMALL POX EPIDEMIC**

July 8, 1898- Following reports of small pox outbreaks in “neighboring towns”, the Commissioners at the suggestion of the Board of health passed an ordinance requiring all citizens to receive a small pox vaccination. The town would pay local doctors to administer the vaccinations. (6-261)

Dec. 30, 1898-The Board approved a request from the Chief of Police to buy a leather billy for the Centerville Police. (6-281)

## 1899

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On June 2, 1899, J. R. Johnson was appointed Chief of Police, Lewis Kimel, lamp-lighter, at 2 cents per lamp, Lender Newsom reappointed as Centerville district policeman at a rate of \$15.00 per month and costs. The names of nine special policemen were submitted by the Committee. (7-27)

### **HOUSES NUMBERED**

June 9, 1899-The Board of Commissioners approved a plan for a new town map and the numbering of the houses in Salem for home delivery of mail. George Cross proposed numbering the houses at 15 cents per house and that he would make a book of explanations of the numbers of the houses. (7-31)

A call meeting was held on June 27, regarding the houses in East Salem, Columbia Heights and Centerville. “After much discussion and examination of the map which in places had streets marked and named wrong. Motion was carried that the Mayor get Mr. Leinbach with the church map of the town to compare his with the map in process of making and get the streets right.” (7-32)

September 1, 1899-The Board noted that the project had not been completed and that Mr. Cross “...continues to neglect his work and fails to respond to the demands made on him by the Mayor and Streets Committee.” (7-44) The Board then ordered the Chief of Police to record that houses that are numbered and that Mr. Leak would complete the job of numbering the houses.

### **SMALL POX QUARANTINE ORDINANCE**

August 4, 1899-The passed an ordinance allowing the Mayor to “establish and maintain a quarantine against any city or town or territory within or without this state” to stop the spread of small pox to Salem (7-37) This ordinance covers three full pages in the Minutes Book. There was also a small pox outbreak in Salem during the late summer and fall of 1900.