

SETTLEMENT MAP OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

SCALE - MILES
1 2 3 4

GIVING
THE NAMES AND LOCATIONS OF MANY
OF THE EARLY SETTLERS IN THE AREA
FROM 1786 TO 1886.

MADE FOR
THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MRS. GERTRUDE C. MANN, HISTORIAN - RESEARCHER.
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ROANOKE VALLEY HIST. SOCIETY.
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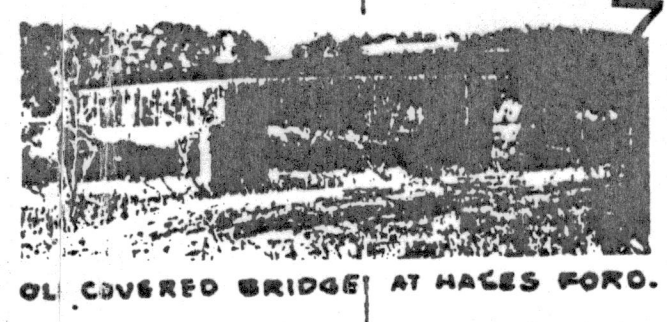
JANUARY 1, 1976



SECRET WASHINGTON, AUTHOR OF
"UP FROM SLAVERY", AND THE FOUNDER
OF THE NEGRO INSTITUTE IN ALABAMA,
WAS BORN NEAR BURNT CHIMNEY
ON APRIL 5, 1856. MOVING WITH
HIS FAMILY TO WEST VIRGINIA
WHEN HE WAS 9, HE BECAME A
LEADING NEGRO EDUCATOR,
ADVOCATING A "SEPARATE
BUT EQUAL" DOCTRINE AND
SERVING AS A MEMBER TO
THREE PRESIDENTS.

DERIVATION OF COUNTY

- CHARLES CITY (1634)
- PRINCE GEORGE (1703)
- BRUNSWICK (1732)
- LUNENBURG (1746)
- HALIFAX (1752)
- BEDFORD (1754)
- PITTSYLVANIA (1767)
- HENRY (1777)
- PATRICK (1791)
- FRANKLIN (1786)



OLD COVERED BRIDGE AT HACES FORD.



THE FIRST LOG COURTHOUSE
IN THE VILLAGE OF ROCKY MOUNT
WAS REPLACED IN 1831 BY THE
BRICK BUILDING, WHICH, IN TURN,
WAS DISPLACED BY THE PRESENT
COURTHOUSE IN 1909.

IN OCTOBER 1785, VIRGINIA'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVED A NEW COUNTY WITH THESE
BOUNDARIES: "THAT ALL THAT PART OF THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD LYING SOUTH OF THE STAUNTON RIVER,
TOGETHER WITH ALL THAT PART OF THE COUNTY OF HENRY LYING NORTH OF A LINE TO BE RUN FROM THE
HEAD OF SHOOTING CREEK TO THE WEST END OF TURKEY CREEK MOUNTAIN; THENCE ALONG THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN
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TO INTERSECT THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN THE COUNTIES OF HENRY AND PITTSYLVANIA; THENCE ALONG THAT LINE TO
THE MOUTH OF BLACKWATER RIVER; SHALL FROM AND AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY NEXT, FORM A DISTINCT
COUNTY, AND BE CALLED AND KNOWN BY THE NAME OF FRANKLIN."

THESE BOUNDARIES REMAIN TODAY, EXCEPT FOR A TRIANGULAR SECTION OF PATRICK COUNTY ON THE
NORTHEAST SIDE OF SMITH RIVER, ANNEXED TO FRANKLIN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1848, AND A PORTION
OF FRANKLIN NEAR THE PATRICK COUNTY CORNER ANNEXED TO FLOYD BY THE LEGISLATURE IN 1873.

THE NEW COUNTY'S COMMISSION OF PEACE NAMED 12 JUSTICES WHO WERE DIRECTED TO MEET AT THE HOME
OF JAMES CALLAWAY AT HIS IRONWORKS ON THE FIRST COURT DAY IN 1786. THE FIRST JUSTICES WERE HUGH INNES,
ROBERT HAIRSTON, ROBERT WOODS, PETER SAUNDERS, THOMAS ARTHUR, JONATHAN RICHARDSON, JOHN SMITH,
MOSES GREER, SPENCER CLACK, JOHN GIPSON, SWINFIELD MILL AND JOHN RENTRO.

THEY MET ON MONDAY, JAN. 2, 1786 WHEN ROBERT WOODS
QUALIFIED AS SHERIFF AND STEPHEN SMITH WAS APPOINTED
CLERK OF THE COURT. LATER, PETER SAUNDERS WAS APPOINTED
COUNTY LEUTENANT. HUGH INNES, COLONEL OF MILITIA
AND CORONER; ROBERT WILLIAMS CHOSEN STATES
ATTORNEY FOR FRANKLIN AND JOHN DICKINSON,
SURVEYOR, WAS DIRECTED TO RUN THE DIVIDING
LINE BETWEEN FRANKLIN AND HENRY.

THE COUNTY WAS NAMED FOR BENJAMIN
FRANKLIN, THEN SERVING AS PRESIDENT
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF PENNSYLVANIA. GAP
SETTLEMENT HAD STARTED IN THE MID-1700S
BY SCOTCH-IRISH AND GERMAN EMIGRANTS
WHO HAD COME THROUGH THE SHENANDOAH
VALLEY AND SOUTH ON THE CAROLINA ROAD. MANY
HAD PUSHED WESTWARD FROM THE ENGLISH
SETTLEMENTS IN TIDEWATER VIRGINIA.

THAT FIRST LOG COURTHOUSE IN THE
VILLAGE OF ROCKY MOUNT WAS REPLACED
IN 1831 AND THE PRESENT COURTHOUSE WAS
BUILT IN 1909. THE COUNTY SEAT HAD A TWIN
VILLAGE MT. PLEASANT, WHICH EXISTED AS A
SEPARATE TOWN UNTIL IT WAS ABSORBED
BY ROCKY MOUNT WHEN IT INCORPORATED IN 1873.

ROBERT HILL, ONE OF THE FIRST SETTLERS,
BUILT A HOUSE ON THE PIGE RIVER IN 1788. WILLIAM
GRAY SETTLED IN 1793, JOHN CANNON,
ISRAEL PICKINS, WILLIAM CALDWELL AND
PHILIP WILSON IN 1795. THE RINDOLPH FAMILY
OWNED A LARGE HOLD PERHAPS TO HAVE BEEN
10,000 ACRES OF LAND ON BLACKWATER RIVER.

MAGGOTT, SNOW AND GILL CREEKS
IN THE 1790S. WILLIAM MEADE, MATTHEW TALBOT,
AND JAMES CALLAWAY JR. WERE OTHER LARGE
LANDOWNERS.

EARLY IN THE LIFE OF THE
NEW COUNTY, THE LEGISLATURE APPROVED THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF WISNENBURG, WEST OF ROCKY
MOUNT, AND GERMANTOWN, NEAR PRESENT DAY
WISNENBURG, AS THE COUNTY SEAT.

WISNENBURG WAS NEVER BUILT,
BUT A POST OFFICE, SCHOOL AND ORDINARY
WERE BUILT AT GERMANTOWN.

THREE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM
FRANKLIN COUNTY WERE WILLIAM
ARMISTEAD BOWWELL, NATHANIEL
CLAIBORNE AND EDWARD WATTS
SAUNDERS. BOWWELL, ONCE
A PRIVATE SECRETARY TO
THOMAS JEFFERSON, SERVED
IN THE HOUSE 1806-11.

CLAIBORNE, IN THE HOUSE 1813-17
HAD A BROTHER WHO WAS
TENNESSEE GOVERNOR
AND LATER GOVERNOR OF
MISSISSIPPI.

FROM LOUISIANA, SAUNDERS SERVING
1806-1820, SAT ON CANADAY
THE STATE GAP
SUPREME COURT.

TRADITION TELLS OF A FORT NEAR THE JUNCTION
OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH FORKS OF BLACKWATER
RIVER AND A REFERENCE WAS MADE TO CAPTAIN NATHANIEL TERRY'S
FORT, WITH A GARRISON OF 20 MEN. WHEN COLONEL GEORGE WASHINGTON MAZOE
HIS INSPECTION TRIP OF FRONTIER FORTS IN OCTOBER, 1795, MINUTES OF THE
HOUSE OF BURGESSES REFER TO JOSEPH RENTRO'S FORTIFICATION. PRANKING WAS
ALLOWED FOR A HORSE IMPRESSED BY CAPTAIN JOHN BLASO TO CARRY AN EXPRESS FROM
BLACKWATER FORT TO FREDERICKSBURG. CAPTAIN TERRY WAS PAID FOR BUILDING
THREE HALIFAX FORTS, ACCORDING TO THE VIRGINIA CALENDAR OF PAPERS.

WASHINGTON IRON WORKS HAD ITS BEGINNING ABOUT 1775, WHEN COL. JOHN DONELSON,
FATHER OF RACHEL DONELSON, WHO MARRIED ANDREW JACKSON, ESTABLISHED A FURNACE ON A TRIBUTARY OF THE
PIGE RIVER. 300 SLAVES WERE SAID TO HAVE WORKED THE FURNACE AFTER YEARS OF PRODUCTION. IT CLOSED IN THE MID 1800S.

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