

Richmond County, Superior Court,
August 1791.

THE Grand Jury of the county of Richmond, viz. James M. Simmons, John Twiggs, Benjamin Harris, Britton Dawson, William Lee, Robert Creswell, Abraham Jones, Robert Forfyth, Edward Rowell, Nathan Hills, William Dearmond, Andrew Innis, John Rhodes, Philip Clayton, James Harris, John Cobbison, Henry Jones, jun. Robert Walton, and James Stuart, have had under consideration the situation of the public roads within the county, and lament their bad condition; which, in our opinion, is owing to the great difficulty in ascertaining and fining the defaulters. To remedy this evil—We recommend that a mode be adopted which shall oblige all persons subject to the road act, to produce evidence of their having performed the duty required under that law. To this end

We recommend that a law be passed, imposing an annual tax of two dollars per head on every person subject to work on the roads of this county, to be collected by the Tax Collector, and deposited in the Treasury; that the Commissioners of the different roads of the county, when hands are called out or employed in their different districts, do give a certificate to such as shall faithfully work on the roads; which certificate to specify the number of days labor performed, and be made receivable by the Collector of the county of Richmond for any person or persons road tax therein; that, at the end of the year, when the surplus arising from the tax is ascertained, the Commissioners shall be empowered to let the repairing of any part of the roads by contract, which contract shall be paid out of such surplus money on the certificate of the Commissioners.

We recommend that the Legislature, at their next meeting, take under consideration the navigation of the river Savannah; and adopt some plan, in conjunction with the state of South-Carolina, for the improving the same.

We recommend that the Legislature pass an act for the encouragement of migration to this state; that property removed into Georgia, which has not been therein heretofore, be free of tax for years, and that all persons removing into the same, be free from militia duty for years also.

We have had under our consideration the list of persons said to be insolvent, laid before the Court by Joel Barnett, Esquire, Collector for the year 1790, and referred by the Court to us: We are of opinion that the proofs are not sufficient to warrant a credit on his account at the Treasury for the same, it being within our knowledge that many of the persons therein named are not insolvents, nor have they left the county.

We recommend that the present tax act be revised; that property be estimated only at its worth; that it be made the duty of the Collectors to demand the tax at the mansion house of every person, at least ten days before issuing executions; that all arrears of taxes are to be pointedly collected, and such other resources as are in the power of the state brought forward in support of government.

We present as a grievance the want of an actual survey of the state; and recommend that an act be passed making it the duty of

the county surveyors, under the direction of the Surveyor-General, to take an actual survey of their respective counties, laying down the several roads and water courses.

We recommend that the several inspectors of tobacco for Call's, Augusta, and Richmond ware-houses, be paid an annual compensation for their services, that they shall not, in any wise, be interested in the picking or coopering business.

We recommend that the licence for keeping taverns and retailing spirituous liquors be reduced; that tavern rates be reconsidered; and that a regulation take place in the town of Augusta, with respect to bakers bread.

We recommend that the United States have the use of the goals of the state, agreeably to their requisition; and that prison-bonds for debtors be established by law; and that those for the county of Richmond extend in every direction on the south of Savannah river miles from Hampton's bridge.

We present as a grievance the multiplicity of Courts established in this state, by which the inhabitants are greatly barraged, and the exports greatly lessened; and we conceive in our present situation, where property has no representation, they tend more to the emolument of professional men, than to mend the morals or render substantial justice to the debtor or creditor.

We recommend that the Legislature do instruct our delegates in Congress, to demand that an agent be immediately sent forward to Georgia, for the purpose of liquidating the claims of the citizens thereof against the United States, it having been uniformly done in every other state.

We have examined the taxable property belonging to the county, and observe no error therein.

We recommend that the Legislature do amend the law respecting patroles and the punishment of slaves.

We present William Spencer, John P. Van Heddeghem, and Sebastian Blache, for retailing spirituous liquors in the year 1790, without licence. Jas. Barnes & Co. L. Allin & Co. Edw. M. Farth, William Spencer, Henry M. Donald, and Humphry Graves, for retailing spirituous liquors in the year 1791, without having paid the licence money. Jesse Rice and Samuel Middleton, and Mrs. Catherine Thompson, in that they did apply to the Inferior Court for licence to keep taverns for the year 1791, and for not having paid the licence money. Elias Enterton & Co. and Emanuel Wamberlie, for retailing spirituous liquors in the year 1791 without licence. John Garrett, Mrs. Sarah Fox, and Niel Cleveland, for keeping taverns without licence. John Garrett, Mrs. Sarah Fox, and George Graves, for keeping billiard tables without licence.

We present William Bellamy and George Hennessee for keeping grog shops.

(These presentments made on the return of Mr. John Meals.)

* J. Meals begs to remark, that the return of defaulters was made to the Grand-Jury by the Commissioners of the Court-house and Goal;—that John Rhodes, not having paid his licence money, stands exactly on the same ground with Mess. Rice & Middleton, and Mrs. Catherine Thompson; and that Mess. Henry M. Donald & Co. and Mr. Sebastian

We present as a grievance the present stray law, it being only a decent method of horse stealing, and do recommend that the same be revised at the next meeting of the Legislature.

We have examined the account of the Commissioners of the Goal and Court-house referred to us, and find the charges therein supported by proper vouchers; and recommend that the same be published.

We present our thanks to his Honor the Judge for his Charge delivered to the Grand Jury; and recommend that these Presentments be published.

Signed

J. M. Simmons, <i>Foreman</i> ;	Wm. Dearmond,
John Twiggs,	Andrew Innes,
Benjamin Harris,	John Rhodes,
Britton Dawson,	P. Clayton,
William Lee,	James Harris,
Robert Cresswell,	John Cobbiton,
Abraham Jones,	Henry Jones, jun.
Robert Forsyth,	Robert Walton,
Edward Rowell,	James Stuart.

Taken from the Minutes,

Test. THO. WATKINS, C. S. C. R. C.