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JOURNAL OF THE SURRY COUNTY (N.C.)  
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Edited by NANNIE MAY TILLEY

The records of an agricultural society which from 1819 to 1823 flourished in a semi-mountainous area in a remote section of North Carolina offer surprising indications of intellectual stirring. True, the membership of the society was not large; but, all factors considered, the serious determination of the leaders maintained the organization for a surprisingly long period, although enthusiasm waned after 1821. The Journal of the Surry County Agricultural Society, 1819-1823,<sup>1</sup> now published for the first time, found its way to and long remained among the papers of David S. Reid, governor of North Carolina from 1851 to 1854.<sup>2</sup>

It has been stated merely as a fact, without any analysis whatever, that the "years immediately following the War of 1812 witnessed a great awakening of interest in agricultural societies" in the South.<sup>3</sup> Though the formation of the Surry County Agricultural Society presents no exception to that statement, the detailed record of its activities may possibly suggest some explanation for the new interest. Nor was Surry County alone in North Carolina in organizing an agricultural society during the years immediately following the War of 1812. There were at least seventeen others—in Beaufort, Duplin, Edgecombe, Halifax, Cumberland, Wake, Robeson, and Northampton counties in the eastern portion of the state, and, in the western section, in Guilford, Chatham, Lincoln, Rowan, Orange, Mecklenburg, Rutherford, Stokes, and Richmond. Apparently tied in with these local societies was a State Agricultural Society, also organized in 1819. Although little is known of the activities of this latter society, it apparently was responsible

<sup>1</sup> Preserved in the library of Duke University.

<sup>2</sup> Since he was only six years of age in 1819, Reid had no part in the Society. J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton, "David Settle Reid," *Dictionary of American Biography*, XV, 476.

<sup>3</sup> Lewis C. Gray, *History of Agriculture in the Southern United States to 1860*. (2 vols., Washington, 1933), II, 784. After 1815 the same interest was equally as marked in the northern states, although for that area students of agricultural history have attributed the movement to the earnest work of Elkanah Watson, to the policy of state aid for agricultural societies, and to the great variety of reforms then being agitated. P. W. Bidwell and J. I. Falconer, *History of Agriculture in the Northern United States, 1620-1860* (Washington, 1925), pp. 187-190. Watson's work undoubtedly fell on sympathetic ground, and state aid did not come without pressure from farmers. Of the reasons given, it therefore follows that the spirit of reform must furnish the fundamental explanation.

for the creation of the Agricultural Fund of 1822, designed in part for the support of local agricultural societies. Connected with the State Society also was the establishment of a State Board of Agriculture to be composed of delegates from the county societies. Moreover, by the act of 1822, each county society was to receive a sum from the state equivalent to the amount raised locally. Included in the scheme there was not only a provision to encourage the offering of premiums for agricultural products but also a plan to have the winners write detailed accounts of their procedure. From these accounts the State Board of Agriculture was to select the better ones to be included in a volume and, at the expense of the state, have 1,500 copies printed to be distributed through the local societies "to the good people of the State."<sup>4</sup> The journal printed here shows perhaps more of the details connected with the statewide movement for agricultural reform than has heretofore been generally known. In addition it also indicates that the local societies in some cases perhaps antedated the State Agricultural Society.

Various writers have suggested more or less indirectly that the timing of movements for agricultural reform has been interlocked with depressions in prices, westward migration, soil depletion, and effects of the scientific awakening of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Before attempting to view the Surry County Agricultural Society in the light of these factors, it is perhaps advisable briefly to examine conditions in North Carolina, at that time one of the most backward states of the Union, and in Surry, which was certainly among the least favored of all the counties of that backward state.

It is a fact that North Carolina by 1819 had become rightfully known as the most unprogressive state of the Union, often being dubbed the "Rip Van Winkle state." Its legislature had done little to promote the cause of education, and illiteracy prevailed

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<sup>4</sup> W. K. Boyd, *The Federal Period, 1783-1860* (vol. II of a *History of North Carolina*, Chicago and New York, 1919), pp. 100-101; *Laws of North Carolina*, 1821, p. 63; 1822, p. 62; *Acts of General Assembly of North Carolina*, 1824, p. 90; 1825, pp. 73, 80; *American Farmer*, V (Dec. 5, 1823), p. 293. See *Laws of North Carolina*, 1822, pp. 18-20, for the act to promote agriculture by establishing an Agricultural Fund and a State Board of Agriculture. Present at the first state-wide meetings to result from the act of 1822 were delegates from Orange, Rowan, Lincoln, Edgecombe, Richmond, Duplin, and Robeson counties. *American Farmer*, V (Dec. 5, 1823), p. 293.

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in alarming proportions. The state was predominantly agricultural, with few or no markets and public roads. Not only were the existing roads wretched, but the sand-choked inlets and small rivers of the coastal area and the shallow streams of the piedmont offered little in the way of natural aids for transportation. Such natural aids as there were assisted only the large landholders who lived east of Raleigh. With few industries and fewer home markets, the state was constantly drained of working capital, and westward migration furnished the chief escape from such intolerable conditions. It has been estimated that North Carolina lost one-third of its population from 1815 to 1850. Perhaps the chief cause for this deplorable situation lay in the undemocratic political conditions existing in the state. Suffrage and office-holding were based on property qualifications without regard to population. In the western sector of the state population increased far more rapidly than in the east. Furthermore, land taxes throughout the state were levied on the basis of acreage, notwithstanding the greater fertility of soil in the eastern area. In the west streams were better adapted to industry than to commerce, but industrial enterprises demanded transportation facilities. The east, with a greater representation in the legislature, controlled the government, and all efforts to secure an *ad valorem* tax met defeat from votes based on sectional interest. It was therefore natural that the west came to demand schools, internal improvements, and constitutional reform.<sup>5</sup> In the Journal of the Surry County Agricultural Society this policy is virtually as clear as interest in agriculture.

Surry County perhaps suffered more from domination of the east than any other area, as a brief survey of its history and resources will indicate. Established in 1770 and situated in the northwestern corner of the state on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Surry lay approximately 250 miles from the nearest seaport. Though sparsely settled, it became the scene of violent strife during the Revolutionary period, with the num-

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<sup>5</sup> W. K. Boyd, *The Federal Period*, pp. 83-104; R. D. W. Connor, *North Carolina: Rebuilding an Ancient Commonwealth, 1584-1925* (4 vols., Chicago and New York, 1928-1929), I, 438-474.

ber of loyalists and patriots about evenly balanced.<sup>6</sup> The scant acreage of valuable land lay in narrow strips along small rivers and creeks, and by the account of one writer in 1857, it was "a poor man's country" in which rigid economy and hard labor prevailed. Observations made eighty years later from the vantage point of scientific training do not include many facts to offset this judgment of 1857 save in transportation facilities, a public school system, and small industries.<sup>7</sup>

Social conditions prevailing in Surry County from 1819 to 1823 were naturally rooted in the economic background. An unknown observer, evidently compiling material for a gazeteer, wrote in 1810 of the county's "far removal from market," of its iron ore, "from which larger profits may be raised," and of its lack of "schools of note, bridges & other public buildings." He confessed further that the inhabitants of Surry were "behind some of their neighbors." On the credit side, however, he noted "a large settlement of Quakers whose habits & good morals are generally known" and called attention to fertile lands on the Yadkin River.<sup>8</sup> Writing specifically of the period from 1820 to 1829, the Reverend Harden E. Taliaferro, doubtless closely related to John and Charles Taliaferro of the society, declared of the western area of Surry and inferentially of the entire county that a large proportion of the population was wholly uneducated and that "the rest of them had but a rude and imperfect rudimental education." Rifles, shot pouches, butcher knives, and spirits, less stimulating than stunning, played a far more important rôle in their lives than education, which, if secured at all, was to be had in "a log-pole school house."<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, it was stated that the adult population in Surry was in 1850 perhaps the poorest educated of any county in the United States, with one-third of the males and more than one-half of the females unable to read

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<sup>6</sup> J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton, "Jesse Franklin," *Dictionary of American Biography*, VI 600; J. G. Hollingsworth, *History of Surry County* (Mt. Airy, N. C., 1935), pp. 89-106; [H. E. Taliaferro], *Fisher's River (North Carolina) Scenes and Characters* (New York, 1859), p. 17.

<sup>7</sup> [Taliaferro], *Fisher's River (North Carolina) Scenes and Characters*, pp. 17-19; W. A. Davis and E. F. Goldston, *Soil Survey of Surry County, North Carolina* (United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, Series 1932, no. 20, Washington, 1937), *passim*.

<sup>8</sup> A. R. Newsome, editor, "Twelve North Carolina Counties in 1810-11," *North Carolina Historical Review*, VI (1929), 303.

<sup>9</sup> *Fisher's River (North Carolina) Scenes and Characters*, pp. 13, 17-18.

and write. According to the same writer, few inhabitants of Surry owned slaves or had ever traveled outside the county.<sup>10</sup> Census records support this statement in part. In 1830, however, slightly more than 11 per cent of the heads of families owned one or more slaves, while 13.4 per cent of the total population was slave.<sup>11</sup>

Under such circumstances it might readily be assumed that the membership of the Surry County Agricultural Society centered in one small and better favored neighborhood. Although the majority undoubtedly lived in the eastern sector of the county, there is evidence that in a greater or lesser degree the entire county was represented in the society's membership. According to the list of taxables for 1816, eight members owned property in Captain John Zachary's district, six in Captain Micajah Forkner's, four in Captain William Potter's, three in Captain Solomon Graves', two in Captain Thomas W. Poindexter's, one in Captain Peter Dowel's, one in Captain Joel Underwood's, and four in another district for which no collector was recorded. Two years later fifteen of the members were listed as property owners in Captain Zachary's district, five in Captain William Pierce's, three in Captain Underwood's, two in Captain William Potter's, one in Captain Stephen Potter's, one in Captain Ambrose J. Gregory's, and one in Captain James Hudspeth's.<sup>12</sup> Among the listed taxables in the membership of the Society there was, of course, some overlapping. In 1818, however, they owned land on Ararat, Yadkin, and Fisher's rivers and on several creeks including Bull Run, Forkner's, Tom's, Lovern's, Stewart's, Paul's, and Moore's Fork of Stewart's Creek. According to deed books, various members from 1819

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<sup>10</sup> A. H. Guernsey, "Surry County, North Carolina," *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, XXV (July, 1862), 178. Guernsey, whose article was based on census reports and [Taliaferro's] *Fisher's River (North Carolina) Scenes and Characters*, asserted that the latter's pseudonym, "Skitt," veiled the name of one of the first families of Virginia.

<sup>11</sup> From figures based on original manuscript returns. Census of 1830, Surry County, N. C., Population Schedule, pp. 83-159 (microfilm copy in State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh).

<sup>12</sup> An Alphabetical List of Taxables in Surry County, 1816, 1818, clerk's office, Surry County Courthouse, Dobson, N. C.

to 1830 owned land and lived on these same streams as well as on Deep Creek, Benson's Creek, and Archer's Creek, and at Ward's Gap on Ararat River.<sup>13</sup> While none of these records furnish irrefutable proof that membership of the society was county-wide, they do indicate more than a neighborhood gathering.

Regardless of the geographical location of its members, the society was undoubtedly organized during the darkest days of the panic of 1818-1819. Although any such organization would naturally be based on a desire to improve agricultural products and thereby increase incomes, the journal itself includes few statements even indirectly indicative of concern over depressed prices. Meshack Franklin's discourse of October 30, 1819, on "the deplorable defalcation of Our present farming system," pertained rather to the necessity for improving farming methods. The profit motive was naturally the basis for discussions involving agriculture as opposed to internal commerce, manufacturing rather than exporting raw materials, raising stock in preference to selling grain, and dairying instead of routine farming. Interest in a cash crop perhaps emerged most distinctly in the determination to cultivate tobacco more extensively even at a time when prices were deplorably low, a determination apparently not translated into action.<sup>14</sup> Lack of markets and of transportation facilities, and a self-sufficient economy may well have rendered effects of the panic relatively unimportant in Surry. It is also evident that plans for organizing the society had been brewing before the effects of the panic appeared.

Westward migration has been cited as a ruinous factor for agriculture in Surry from the Revolution to the War of 1812.

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<sup>13</sup> Surry County Deed Books, J, 218-220; O, 453-454; P, 262-263; R, 122, 244, 248; S, 16; U, 143-144; Y, 290, in office of register of deeds, Surry County courthouse, Dobson, N. C. Among the principal Whig families of northwestern Surry during the Revolution were the Franklins, Taliaferros, and McCraws. E. W. Caruthers, *Interesting Revolutionary Incidents: and Sketches of Character, chiefly in the "Old North State"* (second series, Philadelphia, 1856), p. 198. Elizabeth McCraw, wife of the active Whig Jacob McCraw, however, spent her last days in the neighborhood of Mt. Airy (Caruthers, *Sketches*, p. 232) in the northeastern portion of the county. William Easley also lived in the western portion of the county. [Taliaferro], *Fisher's River (North Carolina) Scenes and Characters*, p. 141. It would appear that the seven members of the society who were listed as "Transient" came from the extreme northwestern portion of the county.

<sup>14</sup> Tobacco prices began to drop in November, 1818, and except briefly in 1820 declined steadily until 1825. J. C. Robert, *The Tobacco Kingdom: Plantation, Market, and Factory in Virginia and North Carolina, 1800-1860* (Durham, 1938), pp. 189-186.

In an analysis of census figures by age groups the same writer concludes that, in later years, the predominance of women in the county indicated a heavy migration of males westward.<sup>15</sup> Yet the total population figures listed below show consistent growth and at the same time no great variation in the total number of males and females. Westward migration, therefore, can hardly be cited as a major factor for agricultural decline. It is indeed doubtful that agriculture before 1819 had advanced to a status of sufficient improvement to warrant a statement that it had declined at all.

POPULATION OF SURRY COUNTY<sup>16</sup>

	Whites-Male	Whites-Female	Slaves	Free Negroes	Total
1790 .....	3,293	3,188	698	17	7,196
1800 .....	4,389	4,033	1,005	21	9,448
1810 .....	3,991	4,752	1,469	84	10,296
1820 .....	5,435	5,547	1,365	112	12,459
1830 .....	6,284	6,281	1,945	185	14,695
1840 .....	6,366	6,727	1,778	208	15,079
1850 .....	7,925	8,234	2,000	284	18,443
1860 .....	8,930	9,126	2,682	356	21,094

Part of the increase from 1790 to 1800 must be credited to the annexation of a small strip of land from Wilkes County—the western portion of the area drained by Mitchell and Fisher's rivers.<sup>17</sup> Westward migration no doubt explains the scant increase in white population from 1800 to 1810. That the slave population fluctuated in more erratic fashion, however, is perhaps in a measure explained by the flourishing slave trade which centered in Surry County.<sup>18</sup>

Reference by members of the society to methods of soil im-

<sup>15</sup> Hollingsworth, *History of Surry County*, pp. 166-167, 202.

<sup>16</sup> Based on Census figures. Yadkin County, created from Surry in 1850, was not established as a political unit until 1851. In order to furnish consistent comparisons, the figures for 1860 have been combined for the two counties.

<sup>17</sup> Hollingsworth, in his *History of Surry County*, p. 111, states that this annexation in 1792 confused the historian, Wheeler, causing him to err in stating that Jesse Franklin, governor of North Carolina, 1820-1821, moved from Wilkes to Surry in 1791. The error has been copied. W. R. Edmonds, "Sketch of Jesse Franklin," *University of North Carolina Magazine*, n. s., XXVII (Mar. 1911), 13-14; Hamilton, "Jesse Franklin," *Dictionary of American Biography*, VI, 600.

<sup>18</sup> The Jarratt-Glen Papers (Duke University Library) contains ample evidence on this point. Kit Robbins, a notorious slave driver, also carried on his operations nearby. *Raleigh News and Observer*, July 26, 1925.



provement renders that issue clear-cut but by no means dominant. There were Meshack Franklin's disturbance over "the deplorable defalcation of Our present farming system," the reading of John Taylor's recommendations for reclaiming exhausted farm lands, Captain John Zachary's account of the restoration of his father's land by stopping washes and filling gullies, the best methods of applying manures, eagerness of members to obtain agricultural literature, and the general conviction that burning wood land was to be avoided because of consequent destruction of soil fertility. Less direct but equally as significant in the concern for soil improvement was Solomon Graves's statement in favor of contour-plowing.

Perhaps more striking than any of these items was the interest of the group in education, in other reforms then agitating the thinking of the nation, in state constitutional reform, and in making the organization function to improve the status of society in general. Numerous are the indications that these men were thinking seriously along many lines. Their concern for internal improvements and domestic manufacture may well have been imbedded in considerations which also explain the not inconsiderable strength of the Whig party in Surry County during later years.

The nature of the various subjects brought before the members leads to a questioning of the motives which caused this group of small farmers <sup>19</sup> to organize the Surry County Agricultural Society. Rather more strongly than in depressed prices, westward migration, or soil depletion, the answer seems to lie in the stirring of the human mind, perhaps as a belated result of the scientific awakening of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Certainly it would be difficult to explain on any other basis the timing of the initiation of the early agricultural socie-

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<sup>19</sup> In the original manuscript returns, Census of 1830, Surry County, N. C., Population Schedule, pp. 83-159, seventeen members of the Society are listed with the following numbers of slaves: Meshack Franklin 40, Matthew Davis 16, Gollhew Moore 13, Mordesai Fleming 13, Charles Taliaferro 11, Micajah Forkner 9, John Whitlock 9, Solomon Graves 9, Dabney Walker 8, Jonathan Roberts 8, John Martin 7, John Davis 6, James Martin 5, Evan Davis 0, Ruel Jackson 0, John Sparger 0, John Zachary 0. In view of the youth of these slaves in 1830, it is doubtful whether any member except Meshack Franklin owned

ties of Europe and the United States.<sup>20</sup> Why, then, despite the scientific awakening, should such a society have been organized as early as 1819 in a remote and poverty-stricken area? Perhaps it was in some measure due to the enlarged vision of those who had just returned from the campaigns of the War of 1812. John Whitlock, the first president and a zealous member, had served as a private in the first Surry regiment. Four other founding and active members of the society, James Martin, the first treasurer, Mordecai Fleming, Matthew Davis, and John Martin, had also served as privates in Surry regiments, and William McCraw, the first to be admitted after organization, had been captain of a company in the first Surry regiment.<sup>21</sup> It was Meshack Franklin, however, perhaps the best educated man of the county and long a member of Congress,<sup>22</sup> who seemed to furnish the drive and to bring in outside ideas. It was Franklin who presented the first topics of discussion and suggested the purchase of one dozen copies of the *Pennsylvania Farmer* and four copies of John Taylor's *Arator*. It was Franklin also who first read to the group from his own copy of the *Arator*. But when the volumes arrived, "all were eagerly grasped by the hands of the members." Franklin's ideas indeed fell on ready ground. The common man was rising, and seldom do records of the past contain more graphic illustrations of that ferment than the Journal of the Surry County Agricultural Society, which is reproduced below *verbatim et literatim*.

JOURNAL OF THE SURRY COUNTY (N. C.) AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,  
SEPT. 25, 1819-AUG. 23, 1823

The Constitution of the Agricultural Society of Surry County for the promotion of usefull knowledge &c.

We the Subscribers having formed ourselves into a Social capacity, which shall be known and called by the name of the Agricultural Society of Surry County for the promotion of usefull knowledge, do mu-

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<sup>20</sup> See, for example, the lists of early agricultural societies and the dates of their formation in Gray, *History of Agriculture in the Southern United States to 1860*, pp. 782-788; A. C. True, *A History of Agricultural Education in the United States, 1785-1925* (United States Department of Agriculture, Miscellaneous Publication no. 36, Washington, 1929), pp. 6-17.

<sup>21</sup> Hollingsworth, *History of Surry County*, pp. 214-217.

<sup>22</sup> [Tallaferro], *Fisher's River (North Carolina) Scenes and Characters*, pp. 17-18; *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1927* (Washington, 1928), p. 987.

tually agree and pledge our honour to each Other, That We will Submit with due subordination to all such laws and regulations as may from time to time be adopted by the Society for the government thereof.

Subscribers names.<sup>23</sup>

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|---|--|
| 1. S. Graves                              | 19. John Talbert. Removed                  |
| 2. Hugh Boothe. Absconded                 | 20. Dabney Walker                          |
| 3. Mordecai Fleming                       | 21. John Zachary                           |
| 4. William Slade                          | 22. Jonathan Roberts                       |
| 5. Jacob A. MCraw                         | 23. Golihew Moore                          |
| 6. John Martin                            | 24. Matthew Davis Senr.                    |
| 7. James Martin                           | 25. Jas. MCraw                             |
| 8. John Sparger                           | 26. Wm. MCraw                              |
| 9. Ransom Dudley                          | 27. A. J. Gregory (dead)                   |
| 10 Thomas Forkner                         | 28. Evan Davis                             |
| 11. Alexander Dodson                      | 29. J. Franklin Transient mem-<br>ber dead |
| 12. Nathaniel Bryson Remov <sup>d</sup> . | 30. Ruel Jackson (expelled)                |
| 13. Jas. W. MCraw. Transient<br>member    | 31. C. Taliaferro                          |
| 14. Jno. Taliaferro. Removed              | 32. William Easley Transient<br>Member     |
| 15. Samuel Gordon                         | 33. Bartlett Hammock Dead                  |
| 16. Martin Cloud                          | 34. Micajah Forkner                        |
| 17. John Whitlock                         | 35. John Davis                             |
| 18. John A. Hughes. Transient M:          | 36. Robt. Hammock                          |

The names of Transient members

1. Meshack Franklin  
Benjamin Franklin  
Jas. Franklin—(removed.)

We The members of The Agricultural society of Surry county for the promotion of usefull knowledge &c. for the proper government of ourselves and the preservation of our Society have framed and adopted The following Constitution and Rules of order.

Viz.

Article 1<sup>st</sup>. The Society Shall Consist of the following officers, To Wit, A president, Secretary and Treasurer who Shall be chosen by ballot and hold their offices during the term of twelve months.

<sup>23</sup> It would appear that the Franklin family and its connections constituted a large block of the Society's membership. The Franklins and Taliaferros were connected by marriage; William Slade and Solomon Graves each married a daughter of Governor Jesse Franklin; James Franklin was evidently his son; and Benjamin Franklin, the nephew of Meshack and Jesse Franklin, also married a daughter of Governor Jesse Franklin. E. J. and H. G. Cleveland, *The Genealogy of the Cleveland and Cleveland Families* (8 vols., Hartford, 1899), III, 2059, 2079, 2107-2110.

Article 2:<sup>nd</sup> As Soon as the president is chosen he Shall take the chair and require Order, which he Shall preserve while in Office.

Section 1: It Shall be his duty to Call an extra meeting of the members in Cases of emergency.

Section 2<sup>nd</sup>. It Shall be his duty likewise when any person is admitted a member of the Society to address him extempore, on the propriety of good Order, and regularity. He Shall rise to put a question, but may State it Sitting.

Section 3<sup>rd</sup>. He Shall vote only in Cases of a tie, then he shall give a Casting Vote.

Article 3:<sup>rd</sup> It Shall be the duty of the Secretary as soon as the President is Seated and Order Observed to Call Over the names of the members. And at the Close of the meeting Call Over their names again, and mark down the Absentees; whom he shall report to the Society at the next meeting.

Section 1. It Shall be his duty to preserve the papers and to procure a book at the expense of the Society in which he shall transcribe the proceedings thereof in a legible manner.

Article 4:<sup>th</sup> The Society shall appoint monthly a Committee of the members to Select the querries to be discussed at the next meeting.

Article 5<sup>th</sup>. No person Shall be admitted a member of this Society Without being regularly proposed, and meeting the Concurrence of two thirds of the members present.—When thus admitted, the President Shall nominate two members of the Society to introduce him and Conduct him to the Secretary's table, where he Shall Subscribe his name: The President Shall then address him extempore, in appropriate terms; from thence he Shall be Conducted to a Seat.

Article 6<sup>th</sup>. No member of this Society to be expelled without the Concurrence of three fourths of the members present.

Article 7<sup>th</sup>. When a member is accused of a misdemeanor he Shall be regularly impeached, and be intitled to a fair and impartial trial, which Shall be Conducted in the following manner Viz. The articles of impeachment Shall be handed to the Secretary, who shall inform the President that Such articles are upon his table: upon which information the President shall request the accused to retire: at the Succeeding meeting of the Society the accused shall have notice to attend the Society for the purpose of his trial.

Section 1: Every member impeached as by this Constitution directed shall have the liberty of Speaking at least twice in his own defense.

Article 8<sup>th</sup>. The Concurrence of two thirds of the members present Shall be necessary to alter any Article of this Constitution: But a Majority Shall have power to adopt or alter any rules or regulations of this Society. —

Article 9<sup>th</sup>. A majority of the members Shall Constitute a quorum

to do business: but a manority [*sic*] may meet from time to time and take an account of absent members.

Rules of Order for the government of the agricultural Society of Surry County for the promotion of useful Knowledge &c.

1. As Soon as the President is seated and Order Observed The Secretary Shall Call Over The Names of The Members and mark down the absentees.

2. The Secretary Shall at each meeting of The Society read to the house the proceedings of the preceding meeting.

3. A Member Shall rise from his Seat and address himself respectfully to the president before he shall be allowed to Speak.

4: No member shall be allowed to speak more than Three times on the same subject Without permission of The Society.

5. If any two members Shall rise at the Same time, it Shall be determined by the president who shall Speak first.

6. No one Shall pass between the person speaking and the president.

7. All laughing at the performance of the speakers is to be entirely exploded, neither Shall any be permitted to Speak above a whisper; except in his public address.

8. No member Shall leave the house without permission of The president.

9. No motion shall be put to the house without first being Seconded and when Seconded it Shall be determined by the majority of yeas or nays.

10. In voting for officers of the The Society each member shall deliver his ticket to the Secretary, who shall after all the members have Come forward, proceed to Count out the tickets and make a report who are elected to the Several offices for which they were nominated.

11. When a member recommends any person wishing to become a member of the Society, he Shall Specify in his recommendation the advantages of Such a person becoming a member.

12. When the president or Secretary is absent at any meeting of the Society, it Shall be the duty of the Society to appoint others protempore.

13. Every regular member of the Society who is not present when the House is formed and does [not] answer to his name Shall render reasons for being absent at the next meeting of the Society.

14. If any member Shall behave disorderly, while in The Society, it Shall be in The power of The Society to punish him according to the nature of the offence, by fine Suspension or expulsion: Decency of Speech Shall be Observed, and all personal reflections shall be Carefully avoided.

15. At every meeting of the Society, each member Shall produce in writing a query on Some Subject, which Shall be handed to the Sec-

retary, from which, one or more Shall be Chosen by the Committee of examination of querries, to be discussed at the next meeting.

16. Each member of the Society shall meet at Forkner's Meeting House at twelve o'clock on the fourth Saturday in October next, fourth Saturday in every month thereafter, in Order to proceed to business.

17. The time of taking the Votes of the Society on any question Shall be left to the discretion of the majority of the members present.

Journal of the proceedings of The Agricultural Society, for the promotion of usefull knowledge &c—

At a meeting of the members of the Agricultural Society of Surry County for the promotion of usefull knowledge &c begun and held at Forkners meeting-house on the 25<sup>th</sup>. day of September A.D. 1819. a majority being present.

On motion of Mr. M: Franklin. John Whitlock Esq a member of The Society, was called upon to preside at this meeting as chairman. and Mr. S. Graves to act as Secretary. pro. tem.

Being thus organized, Mr. S. Graves who had been previously appointed for That purpose, presented to The house a Constitution, and certain rules of order for the government of the Society, which with some amendmets and alterations were adopted. Whereupon The house proceeded to the election of the several officers of the Society according to the provisions of the Constitution.

On motion of Mr. S. Graves John Whitlock Esqr. was unanimously Chosen as President of The Society.

On motion of Mr. M: Franklin Mr. W. Slade was duly elected Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Jas. MCraw, Mr. Jas. Martin was duly elected Treasurer of the Society.

On motion of Mr. Jas. MCraw Mr. M: Fleming and Mr. S. Graves were chosen as a committee to select suitable queries to be discussed at each Succeeding Meeting of the Society.

On motion of Mr. M. Franklin The following queries were made choice of by The Society to be discussed at The next meeting Viz.

What season of the Year is most advantageous for the fallowing of our lands for a Corn Crop; and which the most economical animal for such purpose.

The house then adjourned to Convene again on the last Saturday in October following at Forkners meeting house.

John Whitlock chairman pro. tem.

S. Graves Sec<sup>ry</sup>. pro. tem.

Forkner's meeting-house October 30<sup>th</sup>. 1819.

This being the day and place, for the meeting of the agricultural Society of Surry County for the promotion of useful Knowledge &c.

to procure a dozen Copies of the Pennsylvania Farmer and four Taylor's araters: And that each member of the Society pay to the Treasurer at next meeting fifty Cents Out of which he pay to the Secretary such sum as may be ascertained he has necessarily expended for the use of the Society.—Carried in the affirmative.

The Secretary was requested to Call Over the names of the members and receive their querries. Which was done and the querries delivered to the examining Committee appointed for that purpose: Who chose the following Viz. 1. Which the most destructive to the human family, the Sword or Spirituous liquors. 2. Which tends most to the Wealth and true interest of a Country, agriculture or internal Commerce. 3<sup>rd</sup>. which is the most happy the illiterate or learned.— Mr. Franklin moved that the Committee be instructed by the House to select Some, one, two or more querries for discussion at the Same time: which was Carried, and the Committee Chose these querries in addition Viz. 1 Which is the most proper time to plant our Corn. 2. Which is the best way to reclaim exhausted farm lands.

Mr. Franklin nominated W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esqr. and Mr. Ja<sup>s</sup>. Martin as two of the Committee to examine at next meeting the querries for discussion the the Succeeding meeting.—W<sup>m</sup>. Slade nominated Mr. Moore as the Other one of the Committee: Who were all three unanimously Chosen.

The President Suggested to the house the propriety of adjourning to Some other place where the benefit of fire might be enjoyed at the next meeting. Mr. Boothe's School-house was named as a suitable place, provided it underwent by that time the repairs that were intended to be bestowed upon it. Cap<sup>t</sup>. Zachary tho<sup>t</sup>. it probable that it would by that time undergo those repairs, and very kindly tendered the use of his house. The question was then taken "Shall the next meeting be at Cap<sup>t</sup>. Zacharys or at this place." decided in favor of Cap<sup>t</sup>. Zachary's.

The House then adjourned, to meet at Cap<sup>t</sup>. Zachary's on the fourth Saturday in next month.

John Whitlock Presd<sup>t</sup>.

W. Slade Secy.

Cap<sup>t</sup>. Zachary's: November 27<sup>th</sup>. 1819.

This being the day & place for the meeting of the Agricultural Society of Surry County for the promotion of useful Knowledge &c.

The President being Seated the Secretary proceeded to call over the names of the members and mark down the absentees (To Wit.) S. Graves, Jacob, A. MCraw, Jn<sup>o</sup>. Sparger, Ja<sup>s</sup>. W. MCraw, John Taliferrio, Sam<sup>l</sup>. Gordan, Jn<sup>o</sup>. A. Hughes, Jn<sup>o</sup>. Talbert, Dabney Walker, Jon<sup>a</sup>. Roberts, Ja<sup>a</sup>. MCraw, Evan Davis.

M. Franklin Esqr. Courteously addressed the president, "Shall those

queries be taken and discussed in the Order they Stand, Or Shall any person take up any of them he chooses and deliver his ideas upon it.

W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq<sup>r</sup>. moved that they be taken up in Order: which was agreed to.—The 1<sup>st</sup>. query was then read by the Secretary “which is most destructive to the human family the Sword or Spirituous liquors.”—It seemed that all present felt a delicacy in taking up this important question: and it was moved that it be postponed for discussion at next meeting.—which was agreed to.

The Secretary read the 2<sup>nd</sup> query “which tends most to the Wealth and true interest of a Country agriculture or internal Commerce.”

M. Franklin Esq<sup>r</sup>. requested that the person who proposed this query Should take it up if he was present; Said he felt much interested in it, but was not prepared to express his mind upon it: not having given it deliberation.

Mr. Fleming requested that Maj<sup>r</sup>. Franklin be permitted to deliver any light he may be in poss[ess]ion of, on any question that may be discussed to day.

Mr. Boothe moved that the proposition be amended, by striking out the Word, “permitted” and inserting “requested.”

Maj<sup>r</sup>. Franklin said he was well pleased with so laudable an institution but begged to remain silent until near the Close of the meeting: Wishing to hear the Constitution read before he assumed the rights of a member, lest he might be entering too prematurely into business.

M. Franklin Esq<sup>r</sup>. took up the query before the house, saying it was almost an inseperable one, but that agriculture had the preemin[en]ce; as without it there could not possibly be any Commerce.

Mr. Boothe replied to Mr. F. thinking the query very nearly allied to itself, but that Commerce was superlatively preemine[n]t in aggrandising a nation.

Mr. Franklin Said before he gave his vote upon the Subject he wished to hear it farther explained.—Mr. Boothe moved that the Sense of the House be taken: Which was Sanctioned; He then withdrew the motion and requested that the query be postponed for farther discussion at next meeting—which was agreed to.

The Sec<sup>r</sup>. read the 3<sup>rd</sup>. query “Which one the most happy the illiterate or the learned.”—Mr. Franklin Said this was another query that he had not given deliberation; but wished to hear it discussed by those who had.

Mr. Boothe Said he had found himself always unhappy for the want of learning, therefore he Concluded the learned were Certainly most happy.

Mr. Franklin Said he saw no way of Coming to a direct line on this Subject, Saying happiness was what all were eagerly in pursuit of,



and none ever acknowledged to have found it.—but he tho't the learned most happy.

W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq<sup>r</sup>. tho't it impossible to decide Correctly on this Subject, Saying none Could tell who was most happy but the All Wise disposer of events.

Mr. Boothe said we are americans enjoying learning & happiness in a greater degree than Other nation.

Mr. MCraw Said he tho't. the gen<sup>t</sup>. had left the question in extolling the advantages of an education. He again Said he tho't. none Could decide Correctly but the All Wise disposer of Events.

Mr. Franklin approbated Mr. Boothe's ideas in thinking ours a happy nation; But tho't. it would stagger the gentleman to produce evidence to Show that we are more Happy than the subjects of despots.

Mr. Boothe said there was groaning under despotic governments and repining under Ours. therefore ours is the most happy.

Mr. Franklin referred to the illustrious "Isaac Newton" and Said he or any other great philosopher would have Said to the peasant you are more happy than I am.

Mr. Boothe mentioned several great philosophers whom he tho't. were more happy than those who were entirely destitute of information.

W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq<sup>r</sup>. moved that the house decide the question. It was taken and determined in favor of the learned by a unanimous vote.

The Secy. read the next query, "Which is the most proper time to plant Our Corn.—Mr. Franklin Said from his practical Knowledge on the Subject, he tho't. it best to plant high dry lands the first week in april.

Mr. Davis said he recollected We determined on fallowing our lands in the fall, and he tho't. it would be good policy to plough it again in the Spring, as we would thereby Kill One growth of Weeds; then let us plant our Corn about the first week in May.

W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq<sup>r</sup>. Said from his experience he tho't. it best to plant the last week in april.—Mr. Franklin Said take the question.—there were divers opinions as to the manner of Stating it.—Mr. Jn<sup>o</sup>. Martin moved that we State it thus, "Is it best to plant Our Corn the first week in april or the last week in april and first week in May." The motion was Sanctioned and the question taken. decided in favor of the latter time.—The Secy. read the next querry, "Which is the best way to reclaim exhausted farm lands".

Mr. Franklin beged leave to read a few [of] Co<sup>l</sup>. Taylor's chapter's on this very important Subject, Saying it expressed his ideas better than he Could possibly deliver them.—leave was granted and he proceeded to read the essay in which Co<sup>l</sup>. Taylor recommends tending land One year in Corn, the next year in Small grain and then giving

it two years rest. Mr. Franklin approbated this system in the most encomiastic terms.

Mr. Fleming tho<sup>t</sup>. the ideas of Co<sup>l</sup>. Taylor were good, but tho<sup>t</sup>. this would be a better System of farming, to Wit, Sow Oats one year, the Second Rye and the third year plant Corn. Which with proper managem<sup>t</sup>. would improve our lands without lying out of the use of them at all and the System might be improved by Sowing Clover With Our Small grain, whereby we might reap a double Crop, if we sow proper to Save the Clover, if not, it would add So much the more towards fertilizing the Soil.

Cap<sup>t</sup>. Zachary mentioned his Father's land that was thirty years ago washed into gullies as deep as the Shapes of the hills would admit of, and thay by proper management in Stopping the Washes & filling up the gullies it was so reclaimed that it produced well.

On motion the question was taken, "Which method would best reclaim our lands Co<sup>l</sup> Taylor's or Mr. Fleming. decided in favor of Co<sup>l</sup>. Taylor's. i e. One year in Corn, one year in Small grain and two year's rest.—Mr. Fleming recommended Maj<sup>r</sup>. Franklin as person whom he tho<sup>t</sup>. worthy of being admitted a member of our body; who was [admitted?] by a unanimous vote. The president nominated Mr. Fleming and Mr. Boothe to Conduct him to the Secy's. table, where he subscribed his name.

The Secy. was requested to Call Over the names of the members and receive their querries: which was done & the querries delivered to the examin[in]g Committee appointed for that purpose, who chose the following, in addition to those Continued to day. Viz. 1<sup>st</sup>. "What is the best mode of procuring & applying manures." 2<sup>nd</sup>. What is the proper time to Sow Our wheat & what must be the order of the ground." 3<sup>rd</sup>. "Which is the best plough to be used in fallowing our lands and tending Our Crops."

W<sup>m</sup>. Slade nominated M Franklin Esq<sup>e</sup>. as one of the Committee to Select at next meeting the querries for discussion at the Succeeding meeting. Cap<sup>t</sup>. Zachary nominated W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq<sup>e</sup>. as another one. W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw nominated Tho. Forkner as the third one. Who were all unanimously Chosen.

W<sup>m</sup>. Slade moved that we adjourn to meet again at this place the fourth Succeeding Saturday at 10.O.Clock. Which was Sanctioned, and the house adjourned accordingly.

Jn<sup>o</sup>. Whitlock pres<sup>dt</sup>,

W. Slade. Secy

Cap<sup>t</sup>. Zachary's 25<sup>th</sup>. December 1819.

This being the day in Course for the meeting of the Agricultural Society, for the promotion of useful Knowledge &c. The president

being absent Mr. Boothe nominated W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq<sup>e</sup>. to preside as president-protempore, who readily assumed the Chair.

The Secretary Called the names of the members, and it was ascertained that there were fourteen regular members present & fourteen absent: there being neither majority nor minority, doubts were ent[ert]ained whether we Could go legally into business or not: but whilst Contending upon legality or illegality of procedure two other members came in, which gave a majority:—It being a day of festivity and late in the evening it was moved “that the subjects for discussion be laid Over untill next meeting.” agreed to.—Matthew Davis, Golihew Moore and M<sup>n</sup>. Boothe were appointed a temporary Committee to try at next meeting all the absentees of the preceding meeting.

Mr. Boothe recommended Doct<sup>r</sup> Bnj<sup>a</sup>. Franklin <sup>24</sup> as a person whom he tho<sup>t</sup>. worthy of being admitted a member of our Society: said the Doctors Celebrity was such that no incomiums he Could give would enhance his character, therefore he deemed them useless and hoped he would be rec<sup>d</sup>.—the question was taken & he [was] rec<sup>d</sup>. by a general Vote; the president nominated Mr. Boothe & Mr. Davis to Conduct him to the table, where he Subscribed his name as a transient member.

Cap<sup>t</sup>. Zachary recommended Ruel Jackson as a young man who had turned his attention much to farming and tho<sup>t</sup>. him Worthy of being admitted a member of Our body: and requested that the house decide whether he be rec<sup>d</sup>. or not.—the vote taken, and he [was] rec<sup>d</sup>.

W<sup>m</sup>. Slade recommended W<sup>m</sup>. Easley as a Steady respectable Citizen well experienced in farming, and tho<sup>t</sup>. he would be able to give us Some useful lessons on that Subject.—the House Concurred with the recommendation, and rec<sup>d</sup>. him with Cordiality.—the president nominated Tho. Forkner and M. Fleming to Conduct him to the table, where his name was entered as a regular member.

W<sup>m</sup>. Slade recomended James Franklin as a young man of fair Standing in Society and tho<sup>t</sup>. he would make a very useful member of our body.—M. Fleming recomended Ch<sup>s</sup>. Taliferro Esq<sup>r</sup>. Bartlett Hammock & Maj<sup>r</sup>. Forkner as Gen<sup>t</sup>. farmers of respectability, whom he tho<sup>t</sup>. worthy of being admitted members of Our Society.—The House Concured with the recomendations, and the president nominated Mr. Moore & Mr. Fleming to Conduct the Gen<sup>t</sup>. to the Secretary’s Table, where each of their names were entered as regular members, except Ja<sup>s</sup>. Franklin’s whose was entered on the list of transient members.

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<sup>24</sup> Dr. Benjamin Franklin was the son of Jeremiah Franklin, the eldest brother of Meshack and Jesse Franklin. Jeremiah Franklin did not move from Virginia to North Carolina until much later than his parents and brothers, and his son, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, lived in Buckingham County, Virginia, until his marriage to his first cousin, Elizabeth Franklin, the daughter of Governor Jesse Franklin. Supposedly Dr. Benjamin Franklin moved to Tennessee. Cleveland, *The Genealogy of the Cleveland and Cleaveland Families*, III, 2059-2079-2107. According to this journal, however, he lived in Surry County at least from December 25, 1819, until March 24, 1821.

W<sup>m</sup>. Slade recommended Ch<sup>s</sup>. Taliferrio Esq<sup>r</sup>. as one of the Committee to select at next meeting querries for discussion at the Succeeding meeting. Martin Cloud nominated Majr. Forkner as another one.—James Franklin nominated G. Moore as the third One.—The House Concured with the nominations.

The Secretary moved that the members bring forward their querries: M Fleming objected to Our receiving any, Saying it was useless to Select any in addition to those Continued to day. The question was taken, "Shall any other querries be chosen to day for discussion at next meeting, in addition to those that now Stand." decided in the negative.—

The Secretary made Known to the Society that in Obedience to their instructions he had procured four "Taylor araters for the use of this Society, & that he had not yet met with an opportunity of getting the dozen Copies of The "Pennsylvania Farmer," that were Ordered, but that he had procured the fourth volume of the Phil<sup>a</sup>. agricultural Society: which was at the option of Our Society.—all were eagerly grasped by the hands of the members.

A motion was made that we adjourn, to meet again at this place the fourth succeeding Saturday at 10. O. Clock.

Capt. Zachary was questioned to know if we might yet indulge ourselves in his hospitality.—He frankly Said his house was at the will of the society.—the House then adjourned agreeable to the motion made.

W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw president protempore  
W. Slade. Secy.

Cap<sup>t</sup>. Zachary's 22<sup>nd</sup>. Jany. 1820.

This being the day in Course for the meeting of the agricultural Society, the first Order of the day, was the trial by Committee, of the absentees of the preceding meetings:—Goliheew Moore one the Committee being absent, Charles Taliferrio Esq<sup>r</sup>. was appointed to Supply the Vacancy.—The Secretary furnished the Committee with a list of the absentees.

The first query for discussion, "which is most destructive to the human family Spirituous liquors or the Sword."—It was stricken from the list without discussion.—some of the Gentlemen who were waiting on the examining Committee<sup>25</sup> were not well pleased with the manner in which the query had been disposed of, and moved that it be taken up again.—Agreed to—It underwent Considerable discus-

<sup>25</sup> Charles Taliaferro, from the Fisher's River section and a member of this examining committee, was an ardent supporter of the temperance movement, although the movement first reached Fisher's River and perhaps the entire county through the instrumentality of Solomon Graves, a member of the society, who lived in the vicinity of Mt. Airy. The Reverend H. E. Taliaferro later declared that when he first heard of temperance societies in Surry they were called "temple societies." *Fisher's River (North Carolina) Scenes and Characters*, pp. 44-49, 109, 109n.

sion; and was decided that spirituous liquors is most destructive. The 2<sup>nd</sup> query "Which tends most to the wealth and true interest of a Country agriculture or internal Commerce. decided in favor of agriculture.

James MCraw moved that the Other three Standing queries be postponed for discussion at next meeting.—agreed to.—

The Treasurer made known to the Society that some of the members had not yet paid the mite required of them, and that he was ready to wait upon those who might wish to do so: requesting those who were not now ready to pay at next meeting.

Majr. Franklin Suggested the propriety of establishing Some rule for the distribution of the books belonging to the Society.—The Secretary Said he was willing to trust the books he had procured in the hands of the members untill next meeting.—The Committee for trying absentees made report inpart "that the excuses given by James MCraw, John Sparger, Ransom Dudley and Jn<sup>o</sup>. Talbert were sufficient for their non-attendance at the preceding meeting.—leave was refused the Committee to set again, and they were considered as exempted. The question was taken "Shall absentees be hereafter tried by a Select Committee or by the house."—decided that they be tried by the House.—Charles Taliferrio Esqr. Jn<sup>o</sup>. Martin and James MCraw were appointed a Committee to Select at next meeting queries for discussion at the Succeeding meeting.

The house adjourned to meet at Perkins' the fourth succeeding Saturday at 11 O.Clock.

Jn<sup>o</sup>. Whitlock. Presd<sup>t</sup>,  
W. Slade Secretary

Perkins' 19<sup>th</sup>. Feby 1820

This being the day, and place, for the meeting of the Agricultural Society, the president being Seated, the Secretary proceeded to call over the names of the members; and it was ascertained that a large majority were present. Mr. Graves moved that the absentees be tried, before we go into the discussion of queries.—agreed.—The absentees of the Several preceding meetings who were present at this meeting, were all heard and excused.

Charles Taliferrio Esqr. said he tho<sup>t</sup>. it would be proper to adopt some rule applicable to those Subscribers who had never attended any of Our meetings. Several gentlemen Spoke upon this Subject, and it was agreed that the Secretary issue notices to those absentees to appear at next meeting, & make Known whether they Consider themselves members of the Society or not.

The Secretary, read the first query for discussion, "What is the best mode of procuring and applying manures."—Mr. Boothe, recom-

mended Sowing and ploughing in clover and Buck wheat.—W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq<sup>r</sup>. recommended gathering the Stalks from our farms, placing them in farm yards for the benefit of our Stock, in food and lodging out of the mud, whilst by trampling they would ferment and form an excellent manure: in addition to the offal of Corn Mr. MCraw Suggested the advantage of procuring and applying leaves in the same way.—And as to the manner of applying the manure he tho<sup>t</sup>. when it became Sufficiently rotten it should be hauled to the field and ploughed in directly it was Scattered, giving thereby no chance for the evaporation of its strength, by the exhalation of the Sun, Winds, rain &c.

Mr. John Martin advocated the plan recommended by Mr. Boothe, Mr. MCraw again eulogised his plan.—the question was taken”, and decided in favor of Mr. MCraw’s plan.

The Secretary read the next query, “What is the proper time to Sow Our Wheat, and what must be the Order of the ground.”

W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Said he tho<sup>t</sup>. it most proper to fallow the land in Sept. sow the wheat about first of October, and harrow it in.—Doct<sup>r</sup>. Franklin tho<sup>t</sup>. the application of a heavy roller over the land would be preferable to harrowing.—It was decided in favor of the Doctor’s plan.

The next and last query was then read by the Secretary, “Which is the best plough to be used in fallowing our lands and tending our Crops.”

W<sup>m</sup>.MCraw said from his little experience with the dagon he preferred it to any plough he had ever Seen used in fallowing. Mr. Roberts advocated the Shovel & bull-tongue ploughs; saying they were more Convenient and he tho<sup>t</sup>. would answer a better purpose in Stony, rooty, or hilly ground; he tho<sup>t</sup>. the dagon would on hilly ground do no good turning it over, as it would Certainly fall back in the furrow.—Mr. Graves Suggested the advantage of ploughing hilly land always on a level, by the assistance of what is termed “a Water level. but Said perhaps in many instances the ploughs mentioned by his friend Mr. Roberts, might be useful, particularly in listing our land.—Doct<sup>r</sup>. Franklin & Mr. Boothe Spoke in favor of the dagon.— to which the preference was given.

On motion Mr. Thomas Forkner, W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq<sup>r</sup>. and Mr. Golihew Moore were appointed a Committee to Select at next meeting querries for discussion at the Succeeding meeting.—The Committee appointed last meeting for the purpose, chose those querries for discussion at next meeting. To Wit, 1<sup>st</sup>. “Would a Convention for amending this States Constitution be best or not. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Which is the proper Steps to be taken to cherish this Society and lead to its further improvement. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Which is the best way to clear new ground, Grub or not Grub it.

The Treasurer being absent the Secretary rec<sup>d</sup>. the Contributions

of several members, with a list of their respective names and the amount paid by each.

The house adjourned to meet again at Perkins' the fourth Saturday in March next

Jn<sup>o</sup>. Whitlock President

W. Slade Secretary

Perkins' 25<sup>th</sup>. March 1820.

This being the day & place for the meeting of the Agricultural Society; a majority of the members were present and proceeded to business.

The absentees of the last meeting who were present at this were heard and excused.—The Secretary made Known to the house that in obedience to orders he had issued notice to John A. Hugh[e]s to attend this meeting: Several Gentlemen recommended expelling him. — Mr. James MCraw moved that the Secretary issue him a Second notice, that unless he appeared at next meeting he would be expelled. — agreed to. —

Mr. Graves moved that the 9<sup>th</sup> article of the Constitution be amended by Saying Some Specify<sup>d</sup>. number of the members Shall have power to do business, instead of a majority. — It was taken in question and decided that in future any ten members Shall have the power of doing business. The Order of the day was taken up by the Secretary's reading the first query Standing for discussion. "Would a Convention for altering this States Constitution be best or not." — Mr. Boothe the founder of this query spoke in its favor, by Saying there was not a fair representation in the Gen<sup>l</sup>. assembly.

Charles Taleferrio Esqr. Said he was ready to admit there was defects in the Constitution, but it was a Subject of such momentous importance he felt afraid to have it ripped up.

M. Franklin Esqr. Said he approached the Subject with awe, but would vote for it. — Mr. Graves Spoke lengthily on it, with much zeal, pointing out many defects. 1<sup>st</sup>. the Constitution Contained no provision for an amendment. 2<sup>nd</sup>. it Said nothing about the age of a person in the legislature or the Judges of our Courts. — nor made no provision for removing Judges from the bench. 3<sup>rd</sup>. the election of the Executive Should be vested in the people instead of the Gen<sup>l</sup>. Assembly. 4<sup>th</sup>. he tho<sup>t</sup>. it would answer equally as well or better for our Gen<sup>l</sup>. assembly to meet biennially instead of annually: whereby we might save one half the expence, which might fairly be estimated at forty thousand dollars a year: this Saving applied to internal improvement would far more promote the interest of the State.

5<sup>th</sup>. He tho<sup>t</sup>. it would be better to have fewer members in the legislature. — The question was taken and decided in favor of a Convention.

The Secretary read the 2<sup>nd</sup>. query "Which is the proper Steps to be taken to cherish this society and lead to its further improvement."

Mr. Franklin Esq<sup>r</sup>. said this was a very nice question, and he tho<sup>t</sup> the further improvement of the Society depended on the punctual attendance of the members, and that all pay their mites Cheerfully, deal freely with each other expressing opinion, &c.

Mr. Boothe recommended offering premiums to those who might raise best Crops. — Mr. Franklin readily Concurred with the gentleman Charles Tarferrio Esq<sup>r</sup>. said the man who had best land would Certainly get the prize. — Mr. Franklin tho<sup>t</sup>. not, that good Culture was also necessary, and ought to be more aimed at than the Selection of the best Spot of ground.

The propriety of offering premiums for the best Crops of Corn and Small grain to the acre and, the best hog or Cow raised, *the* means for defraying premiums &c. Were under Consideration. — C. Taliferreo Esq<sup>e</sup>. moved that the question be postponed for further discussion at next meeting. — agreed to.

The Secretary read the next and last query, "Which is the best way to clear new ground, grub or not grub it."

Mr. Boothe said for his part he never Considered that ground was Cleared at all if it was not grubb<sup>d</sup>. — Cap<sup>t</sup>. Zachary was for not Grubbing: Mr. Roberts preferred grubbing well: and Said if it was not grubbed when you Cleared the land you might be always grubbing & shrubbing. — Mr. Graves readily concur<sup>d</sup>. with Mr. Roberts. — Cap<sup>t</sup>. Zachary Said those gentlemen were not acquainted with the right manner of Shrubbing, they would Cut the Sprouts off against the Stump whereby many more would soon be produced: his method was to Cut the bark off with the Sprouts.

C. Taleferreo Esq<sup>r</sup>. recommended grubbing Clean in the Summer months and if possible Cut the timber at the Same time and let it remain 12 or 18 months on the ground, which will mellow and enrichen it more than many have an idea of: — and Shrubs never put up after it. Mr. Franklin Said he was well pleased with this body discussion between practical men, he tho<sup>t</sup>. mellowing with the timber upon the ground, yielded more manure than the roots left in it, Said Clear in the Summer months.

Mr. Davis said he Cleared a piece of ground once without grubbing & spent much labor shrubbing it for 4 or 5 years,—at last grubbed it & found that it produced much better afterwards, than it ever had before. — It was decided in favor of Grubbing.

W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq<sup>e</sup>. one of the examining Committee appointed last meeting being absent Meshack Franklin Esq<sup>r</sup>. was chosen to officiate in his Stead.

The Secretary rec<sup>d</sup>. the querries of the members and delivered them



to the examining Committee appointed for the purpose of Choosing querries for discussion at next meeting: Who chose the following Viz. 1<sup>st</sup>. "In preserving Wheat from the Weavel is it best to hand Stack or Shock it." 2<sup>nd</sup>. What is the best method of preparing meadow land, & what the best Seed to Sow on it." 3<sup>rd</sup>. "Which is the best grain to Sow on exhausted lands wheat or Rye."

4<sup>th</sup>. Shall this Society give premiums for the greatest production of any Crop from an acre.

Ch<sup>s</sup>. Taleferrio Esq<sup>r</sup>. nominated Col. Graves, M. Fleming and Matthew Davis as the Committee to Select at next meeting querries for discussion at the Succeeding meeting: who were all three chosen without discussion.

The house adjourned, to meet at Forkner's meeting-house the 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in next month.

John Whitlock, President  
W. Slade Secretary

Forkner's Meeting-House 29<sup>th</sup>. April 1820.

This being the day & place for the meeting of the Agricultural Society, the president took his Seat; and the Secretary after calling the names of the members made Known that only nine members were present, the house Consequently adjourned to meet again at this place the fourth Saturday in May next

John Whitlock Presd<sup>t</sup>.  
W. Slade Sec<sup>y</sup>

[Forkner's Meeting House]

The Society met according to adjournment, Saturday, The 27<sup>th</sup>. of May 1820.

The Secretary of the Society being absent, Upon Motion of Captain Zachary, Mr. S. Graves was appointed Sec<sup>y</sup>. pro. tempore. The following Members were absent. Viz. W<sup>m</sup>. Slade, H. Booth, A. MCraw, Jno. Martin, Jas Martin, Jno. Sparger, Tho. Forkner, N. Bryson, Jas. MCraw, Sam<sup>l</sup>. Gordon Martin Cloud, Jno. Talbert, Dabney Walker, G. Moore, A. Grigory, Chas. Taliaferro, W<sup>m</sup> Easley & M. Forkner.

Mr. Jno A. Hughes who had been notified by the Secretary in pursuance to the order of the Society, to appear and render reasons for his absence at Several previous meetings of the Society, appeared at this meeting and rendered such reasons for his nonattendance heretofore as were satisfactory and he was Therefore excused — he also stated to the Society his wish to be considered a transient Member of the Society which the Society taking under Consideration it was resolved That he be enroll<sup>d</sup>, as a transient member of this Society.

The following Members Viz. Alex<sup>r</sup>. Dotson, Jonathan Roberts, S.

Graves, Ransom Dudley, Capt. J. Zachary, Jas. W. MCraw, B. Hammock, and Evan Davis were reported to the house as absentees, and being Severally Call<sup>d</sup>. upon, rendered reasons for their nonattendance, which were sustain<sup>d</sup> and they excused — On the recommendation of Mr. S. Graves, Mr. Jno. Davis was unanimously admitted as a regular member of this Society.

On motion of W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq. The several queries which stood for discussion at this meeting of The Society, were postponed to the next meeting.

On Motion of Mr. S. Graves it was resolved by the Society That The Article of the rules of order for the Government of this Society, Requiring That each member of the Society shall produce in writing a query on Some Subject, be Suspended so far respects the present meeting.

On motion of Mr. M: Fleming the committee for the examination of queries, were re-appointed to make choice of Suitable queries for discussion at the next meeting—

The house then adjourned to meet again at Forkner's meeting house at the hour of twelve o'clock on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in June next:—

Jno. Whitlock president

S. Graves Sec<sup>y</sup>.

pro. tem.

Forkner's Meeting-house 24<sup>th</sup>. June 1820.

The Society met agreeable to adjournment, and proceeded to business by hearing the excuses of absentees for their non-attendance at Several preceding meetings: all who were present were heard and excused.

The 1<sup>st</sup>. query Standing for discussion was read by the Secretary, "Which is the proper steps to be taken to cherish this Society and lead to its further improvement."

W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq<sup>r</sup>., Charles Taleferrio Esq<sup>r</sup>. and Co<sup>l</sup>. Graves Spoke upon this noble unlimited query, each warmly urging the necessity of our Walking uprightly; With a zeal for the improvement of ourselves & Others, acting always friendly to each Other: and Keeping an eye to the respectability of persons whom we admit as members of our body. This Course was unanimously agreed to by the house.

The next query, "In preserving wheat from the Weavel is it best to hand-Stack or Shock it."

Matthew Davis and C. Taleferrio Esq<sup>r</sup>. recommended Shocking, which was agreed to.

The 3<sup>rd</sup>. query, "What is the best method of preparing meadow land, and what the best Seed to Sow on it."

C. Taleferrio Esq<sup>r</sup>. Said he would Clear the land in July or August, Cut the Stumps higher than in Common Clearing; break it not deeper than barely to level it well. and Sow it in Timothy about the Common time of Sowing wheat. —Co<sup>l</sup>. Graves regretted that the quarry had not inquired what quality of land was best for meadows.—Charles Taleferrio Esq<sup>e</sup>. tho<sup>t</sup>. black Stiff Pink Clay soil best. —Co<sup>l</sup>. Graves Said the Gn<sup>t</sup>. of the hollow Could not have meadows of this Sort, as this is a Sandy Soil; But perhaps there might be a grass found that would Suit this soil. — Mr. Mordecai Fleming Said his Corn Crib was the best meadow. — C. Taleferrio Esq<sup>e</sup>. Said one acre of good timothy was worth at least as much as three acres of Corn. — Mr. John Martin tho<sup>t</sup>. the Egyptian Oats and Clover might be used to advantage on Our Gray Soil. C. Taleferrio tho<sup>t</sup>. the herds Grass would answer better, where the land was very wet and marshy. — It was decided that it is not advisable to bunk the land farther than to level it, and that Timothy is the best Seed.

The 4<sup>th</sup>. quarry, "Which is the best grain to Sow on exhausted land, wheat or Rye." — W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq<sup>e</sup>. recommended Rye as best. — Matthew Davis prefered wheat. Charles Taleferrio Esq<sup>e</sup>. tho<sup>t</sup>. wheat Straw was best food for Cattle, agreeable to quantity, but that Rye affords most Straw & is Consequently better for the improvement of land.

Mr. John Martin & Mr. Thomas Forkner, Said they had made experiments by Sowing wheat & Rye upon land of equal quality, and found that wheat yielded Considerably most, and that the Straw was far preferable for manure.—It was decided that wheat is best.

The next & last quarry, "Shall this Society give premiums for the greatest production of any Crop from an acre."

On motion of C. Taleferrio Esq<sup>e</sup>. this quarry was postponed for discussion at next meeting.

Mr. Thomas Forkner nominated Mr. John Martin, Mr. James MCraw and Mr. James W. MCraw as the Committee to Select at next meeting querries for discussion at the Succeeding meeting: all three were chosen without a division.

The Committee appointed for the purpose Selected the following querries for discussion at next meeting. Viz.

1<sup>st</sup>. "Is it best to plough land in wet weather, or wait untill dry weather.

2<sup>nd</sup>. "Whether will one acre of land be of more worth to the farmer in grass than one of the Same Strength in Corn, for one year."

3<sup>rd</sup>. "Which is the most useful agricultural Knowledge, or a Knowledge of the learned arts and Sciences."

4<sup>th</sup>. "Whether would it be best for each farmer to manufacture his own raw materials, or export and exchange them for those already manufactured."

On motion of C. Taleferrio Esq<sup>e</sup>, Col. Graves, W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq<sup>e</sup>. and Mr. Mordecai Fleming, were appointed a Committee to Settle With the Secretary and Treasurer at next meeting, and make report to the house.

Mr. Jn<sup>o</sup>. Martin moved that the Society Convene at Perkins' on the 4<sup>th</sup>. of July in uniform, for the Celebration of that day: which was negatived.

The house adjourned to meet again at this place on the fourth Saturday in July.

Jn<sup>o</sup>. Whitlock President  
W. Slade Sec<sup>y</sup>,

Forkner's meeting-house 22<sup>nd</sup>. July 1820.

The Society met agreeable to adjournment: and proceeded to business by hearing the excuses of Several members who were marked as absentees as Some preceding meetings.—Mr. Hugh Boothe was fined for his nonattendance at April and May Meetings, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  Cents for each day.

Mr. Jacob A. MCraw was fined 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  Cents for nonattendance at May meeting. —Mr. Martin Cloud was fined for nonattendance at April & June meetings, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for each day. — Mr. James Martin was fined 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for nonattendance at December meeting. — Maj<sup>r</sup>. Forkner was fined 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for nonattendance in April.

The Committee appointed last meeting to Settle with the Treasurer and Secretary, made the following report: "The Committee appointed by the Society to Settle with the Treasurer and Secretary have performed the duty assigned them and beg leave to report: that it appears from the books of the Treasurer receipts up to the present date to the amount of

	\$11.25
have been made in his office.	
Credit to which he is intitled to the Amount of \$8.50	8.50
	-----
as p <sup>r</sup> . Vouchers exhibited	
Bal. remaining in Treasurers hands	\$2.75

Mordecai Fleming  
S. Graves

The Secretary read the first query Standing for discussion, "Shall this Society give premiums for the greatest production of any Crop from an acre." — after considerable discussion it was decided that we will give a premium of five dollars to any member of the Society or other Citizen of the County who Shall raise the greatest Crop of Corn from an acre in the year 1821.

On motion of C. Taliferrio Esq<sup>e</sup>. the other Standing queries were postponed for discussion at next meeting.

On motion of Col. Graves it was resolved that the article of rules of order for the government of this Society requiring that each member Shall produce in writing a query on Some Subject, be Suspended So far as respects the present meeting.

The house adjourned to meet again at this place on the fourth Saturday in August next.

John Whitlock President  
W Slade. Secretary

Forkner's meeting-house 26<sup>th</sup>. August 1820

The Society met agreeable to adjournment, and proceeded to business by first hearing the excuses of absentees: Mr. Goliheew Moore was fined 12½ Cents for nonattendance at June meeting. — Mr. Evan Davis was fined 12½ Cents for nonattendance at June meeting. — Mr. Rewel Jackson was fined 12½ Cents for nonattendance at June meeting. — Mr. Alex<sup>r</sup>. Dobson was fined 12½ Cents for nonattendance at July meeting.

Certain articles of impeachment against Mr. Rewel Jackson handed in by Mr. Boothe being under Consideration; the Society decided that they have not Cognisance of the facts therein alledged.

The Secretary read the first query Standing for discussion. "Is it best to plough land in wet weather or wait until dry weather."—Mr. Matthew Davis Said in wet Spells he always plough<sup>d</sup>., between Showers: but when ever it appeared that the wet Spell had broken he waited until the ground got dry before he plough<sup>d</sup>. it more. — Charles Taleferrio Esq<sup>e</sup>. and Mr. Jonathan Roberts tho<sup>t</sup>. it best not to plough any when the ground is very wet, which was the opinion of the house.

On motion of Mr. Mordecai Fleming the other standing queries were postpon<sup>d</sup>, for discussion at next meeting. — And the house resolved that the article of rules of order for the government of the Society, requiring each member to hand in a query on Some Subject be Suspended So far as respects the present meeting. — The house adjourned to meet again at this place on the fourth Saturday in September next.

John Whitlock President  
W. Slade. Secretary

Forkner's Meeting-house 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. 1820.

The Society met agreeable to adjournment, and proceeded to business in usual Order. — A. J Grigory was fined 12½<sup>c</sup> for nonattendance at May meeting & the Same for July meeting. — Jon<sup>a</sup>. Roberts was fined 12½<sup>c</sup> for nonattendance at June meeting. & Jn<sup>o</sup>. Davis 12½<sup>c</sup> for July.

On motion of Mr. Mordecai Fleming the house decided that this

Society Shall take Cognisance of offences done out of Society as well as in it.

On motion of William MCraw the house agreed to wait on Ruel Jackson until next meeting

On motion of Mr. Mordecai Fleming all previous querries was postponed for discussion at next meeting. — The house adjourned to meet again at this place the fourth Saturday in October next.

Jn<sup>o</sup>. Whitlock President

William MCraw Sec<sup>y</sup>. pro. tem

Forkner's Meeting-house 28<sup>th</sup>. October 1820.

The Society met agreeable to adjournment. — The officers having Served the time for which they were elected and the former President being absent Dr. Benja. Franklin was Chosen President pro. tem. and W<sup>m</sup>. Slade Secretary pro. tem. — Being thus organised the Society proceeded to elect officers for the next twelve months Jn<sup>o</sup>. Whitlock Esq<sup>e</sup>. was unanimously elected President again, and W<sup>m</sup>. Slade Secretary.—Mr. Mordecai Fleming was elected Treasurer. —

On motion of Mr. Alex<sup>r</sup>. Dobson Ruel Jackson was expelled from this Society, for ungentlemanly Conduct towards his neighbour Mr. James Roberts.

The Secretary read the 1<sup>st</sup>. query. "Whether will one acre of land be of more worth to the farmer in grass than one acre in Corn for One year." — Mr. Mordecai Fleming Said he was but little acquainted with the value of grass, therefore wished to hear Some gentleman better prepared to Speak upon it than himself.—Charles Taleferrio Esq<sup>r</sup>. Spoke much in favor of Grass: Saying when your meadow is once prepared it requires no more labor in Several years, except barylly the Saving of the grass: and he thot. its production worth three acres of land tended in Corn, which required much labor. — Meshack Franklin Esq<sup>r</sup>. and Mr. Boothe also Spoke in favor of grass; thinking its Cultivation Cheaper and its Value much greater.

The house Concurred with those gentlemen by a large majority.— 2<sup>nd</sup>. query "which is most useful agricultural Knowledge or a Knowledge of the learned arts and Sciences.

On motion of Ch<sup>s</sup>. Taleferrio Esq<sup>e</sup>. this question was postponed for discussion at next meeting. — 3<sup>rd</sup>. and last query, "Whether would it be best for each farmer to manufacture his own raw materials or export and exchange them for those already manufactured." — the house decided that it is expedient for us to manufacture our own materials as far as practicable.

On motion of Mr. Fleming, Mr. Alex<sup>r</sup>. Dobson & Mr. Boothe were appointed a Committee to Settle at next meeting with the former treasurer. — Ch<sup>s</sup>. Taleferreo Esq<sup>r</sup>., Mr. Dobson and Mr. Boothe were

appointed by the president a Committee to Select new queries for discussion at next meeting. — “Who Selected the following. Viz. 1<sup>st</sup>. “Whether is a Stock farm or a grain farm the most advantageous for this Section, (Surry County N<sup>o</sup>. C.) 2<sup>nd</sup>. “Which is the most advantageous Stock for the farmer to raise Cattle or hogs.” —3<sup>rd</sup>. “Which is the best way for the farmer to dispose of his grain, raise Stock or Sell it.”

The house adjourned to meet at Mr. Mordecai Flemings on the fourth Saturday in November next.

Benja. Franklin President pro. tem.  
W. Slade Sec<sup>y</sup>. pro. tem.

Mordecai Fleming's 25<sup>th</sup>. November 1820.

The Society met agreeable to adjournment, and proceeded to business in usual Order: — Mr. G. Moore was fined 12½c for non-attendance at September meeting. — The House rec<sup>d</sup>. from Meshack Franklin Esq<sup>e</sup>. reports from the Massachusetts and Maryland agricultural Societies: — the Secretary read them to the Society, who were all much pleased to hear of the exhibition of Such fine domestic animals and the liberal premiums given to the owners of the best of them.

The Secretary read the 1<sup>st</sup> query “Which is the most useful agricultural Knowledge or a Knowledge of the learned arts and Sciences.” — On motion of Charles Taliaferrio Esq<sup>e</sup>. this question was postponed for discussion at next meeting.

The 2<sup>nd</sup>. query was read “Whether is a Stock farm or a grain farm the most advantageous for this Section, Surry County N<sup>o</sup>. Carolina.” — on motion of Charles Taliaferreo Esq<sup>e</sup>. this question was also postponed for discussion at next meeting.

The 3<sup>rd</sup>. query read, “Which is the best Stock for the farmer to raise Cattle or Hogs.” — Mr. Boothe Spoke much in favor of Cattle. — Charles Taliaferrio Esq<sup>e</sup>. preferred the hogs: thinking them far the most prolific and their growth much the quickest. — The House gave the preference to Cattle, by a large majority.

The Secretary read the 4<sup>th</sup>. and last query, “Which the best way for the farmer to dispose of his grain, raise Stock or Sell it.” — C. Taliaferrio Esq<sup>e</sup>. Said it depended upon the price of it.—He tho<sup>t</sup>. it was best to Sell it when it was \$1. pr Bushel. & when it was Worth only 50 cents it would be better to feed it to Stock. — Mr. Boothe Said every bushel of grain fed to stock was worth \$1. and tho<sup>t</sup>. it would in 3 years double itself which would be much better than Selling the grain and putting the money to interest. — The House decided that it is best to feed it to Stock. —

It was thought by the Society that the queries which had been postponed would be Sufficient for discussion at next meeting. — The

House resolved that the Clause of the Constitution requiring each member to hand in a query at every meeting be Suspended, So far as respects the present meeting. — Mr. Davis, Doctor Franklin and Mr. Mordecai Fleming were appointed a Committee to select at next meeting querries for discussion at the Succeeding meeting.

The Committee appointed last meeting to Settle with the former treasurer were unable to do So, as he was not present. — The Committee were reappointed to Settle With him at next meeting. — The Society resolved that all those who have been fined pay the Same to the Treasurer at next meeting. — The House adjourned to meet again at M. Flemings on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in December next.

Jn<sup>o</sup>. Whitlock. President

W. Slade Secretary.

At a stated meeting of the agricultural Society of Surry began and held at M Flemings on Saturday The 23<sup>rd</sup>. day of Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1820. Mr. J. A. McCraw was fined 12½ Cents for nonattendance at Sept Stated meeting Jonathan Roberts was fined 12½ Cents for non attendance at Sept Stated meeting. The first Query which was postponed at our last meeting. Which is the most useful a Knowledge of the learned arts and sciences or a Knowledge of agriculture, which was discussed and decided in favor of agricultural Knowledge. The Second Query which was postponed at our last stated meeting. Which is the most profitable a stock farm or a grain farm in this Section of the Country Viz Surry County N Carolina was discussed and decided in favor of a stock farm.

The same committee was appointed to settle with the treasurer at our next stated meeting.

Mr. Mathew Davis Mordeca Fleming and Benj. Franklin was appointed to select Querres to be discussed at our next meeting and have selected the following Viz.

1 Whether is a dairy establishment worth one thousand dollars most profitable or a capital of one thousand invested in a farm.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Would not the inhabitants of Surry County be benefited by a more extensive Cultivation of the tobacco plant

3<sup>d</sup> Whether is it best to lay out the money arising in fines for good books or give it in premiums

4<sup>th</sup>. Which is the most proper time to apply Our stable manure for a Corn Crop.

Squire Taliaferro Jn<sup>o</sup>. Martin & Jacob A McCraw were appointed a committee to select querries at our next stated meeting. The resolution of the society at Nov. stated meeting requiring those Who have fines against them to come forward and pay them at this meeting be postponed until our next stated meeting. No other Business before



the house they adjourned to meet at this place on the fourth Saturday in January next

J Whitlock Prest

Benj Franklin S T.

Mordecai Fleming's 27<sup>th</sup>. Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1821

The society met agreeable to adjournment, and proceeded to business in usual order: after hearing the excuses of Several absentees; the Sec<sup>y</sup>. read the 1<sup>st</sup>. query, "Whether is a dairy establishment worth \$1000. most profitable or a capital of that amount invested in a farm." — On motion of Co<sup>l</sup>. Graves this query was postponed for discussion at next meeting.

The 2<sup>nd</sup>. query, Was read, "Would not the inhabitants of Surry be benefited by a more extensive Cultivation of the tobacco plant" — Dr. Franklin and Ch<sup>s</sup>. Taliaferro Esq<sup>e</sup>. warmly advocated this query. — Co<sup>l</sup>. Graves questioned the policy; tho Said he intended to raise Some this year. Mr. Boothe positively objected to it: Saying it would be better to keep our attention to raising Cattle and fostering domestic manufactures instead of raising tob<sup>o</sup>. to buy foreign goods. — The question was taken and decided in favour of a more extensive Cultivation of the tobacco plant.

3<sup>rd</sup> query was read, "Whether would it be best to lay out the money arising from fines for good books or give it in premiums.—On motion of Mr. Boothe this query was postponed until next meeting.

4<sup>th</sup>. query was read, "Which is the most proper time to apply our Stable manures for a Corn Crop." On motion of Mr. Boothe this query was also postponed until next meeting.—The Committee appointed to Settle with the former Treasurer being unprepared to make report, were Continued until next meeting. — The house resolved that the Clause of the Constitution requiring each member to hand in a query on Some Subject be Suspended So far as applies to this meeting. — The resolution requiring those who have fines against them to make payment was postponed until next meeting.

The house adjourn<sup>d</sup>, to meet again at this place the 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in Feb<sup>y</sup>. next.

Jno. Whitlock President

W. Slade Sec<sup>y</sup>.

Mordecai Flemings 24<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1821.

The Society met agreeable to adjournment, and proceeded to business in usual order. — The president begging leave of absence M. Davis was elected pro tem. Mr. Jon<sup>a</sup>. Roberts was fined 12½c for nonattendance at Jan<sup>y</sup>. meeting.—Mr. Jn<sup>o</sup>. Davis was fined 12½c for

nonattendance at Nov<sup>r</sup> meeting. Mr. Evan Davis was fined 12½c for nonattendance at Jan<sup>r</sup>. meeting.

Mr. Mordecai Fleming moved that the last Stated query be taken up first, as the person who laid it in wished to leave the House before we could reach it in regular Order. — agreed to—The Secretary read the query, “Which is the most proper time to apply our Stable manures.” Several gentlemen Spoke upon this Subject, Some Saying Scatter your manure in the fall season, others Saying Scatter it in the month of February and plough it in immediately. — It was decided that February is the most proper time. — The next query in order was read, “Whether is a dairy establishment worth \$1000 most profitable, or a Capital of that amount invested in a farm.—On motion this query was Continued. — The next and last query was read, “Whether would it be best to lay out the money arising from fines in good Books or give it for premiums. It was decided in favour of giving the money for Books. —

The Committee appointed to Settle with the former treasurer having performed the duty assigned them made the following report.—“We your Committee appointed to Settle with Mr. James Martin former Treasurer having done So, Beg leave to report that we found due the Society upon his Books a balance of three dollars and twenty-five Cents, which amount with the Books we tender to our present treasurer Mr. Mordecai Fleming.

Hugh Boothe  
Alex<sup>r</sup>. Dodson

Charles Taliaferreo Esq. one of the Committee appointed for the examination of querries having obtained leave of absence Co<sup>l</sup>. Graves was nominated to officiate in his stead.

The Committee Selected the following querries for discussion at next meeting Viz. 1<sup>st</sup>. Would it be best to fire the woods or keep the fire entirely from them.—2<sup>nd</sup>. Which is the best way to clear land, to Cut the timber or dead it.—

3<sup>rd</sup>. Whether it would be the advantage of our Society to become an auxiliariy to the Raleigh agricultural Society.—

4<sup>th</sup>. Is it best to plant our corn in the usual Check Style or drill it.

The House adjourned to meet at Forkner’s meeting house the 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in March next.

Matthew Davis Pres<sup>t</sup>. pro-tem  
W. Slade Sec<sup>r</sup>.

Forkner’s Meeting-House 24<sup>th</sup>. March 1821.

The Society met agreeable to adjournment, and proceeded to business in usual Order, Ransom Dudley was excused for nonattendance at February meeting, and fined 25 Cents for his Several other failures.

Mr. Matthew Davis recommended Mr. Robert Hammock as a gentleman whom he tho<sup>t</sup>. worthy of being admitted a member of our Society. — He was received by a unanimous Vote, and the President nominated Doctor Franklin and Ransom Dudley to Conduct him to the Secretary's table, where he Subscribed his name as a regular member.

The first query Standing for discussion was read by the Secretary, "Whether is a dairy establishment worth \$1000 or a Capital of that amount invested in a farm". M. Franklin and Mr. Boothe warmly advocated the dairy establishment. — Co<sup>l</sup>. Graves Spoke at Considerable length on the opposite Side. — It was decided in favor of investing the Capital in a farm. — The Secretary read the next query, — "Is it best to fire the woods or keep the fire entirely from them." — Several gentlemen remonstrated against the practice of firing the woods, as being destructive to the fertility of the Soil, the timber, and the range for Stock. — The House decided by a unanimous vote that it would be best to abolish the practice.

The Secretary read the next query, "Which is the best way to clear land, to Cut the timber or dead it." It was decided that it is best to cut the timber.

On motion of M. Franklin Esq<sup>e</sup>. the other two Standing queries were postponed for discussion at next meeting: — and it was resolved that the Clause of the Constitution requiring each member of the Society to hand in a query on Some Subject, be Suspended So far as applies to the present meeting. — The House adjourned to meet at this place the 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in April next. —

Jn<sup>o</sup>. Whitlock President  
W. Slade Secretary

Forkner's Meeting-house 28<sup>th</sup>. April 1821.

This being the stated day for the meeting of the Society—Jn<sup>o</sup>. Whitlock Esq<sup>e</sup>. the president being absent Matthew Davis was appointed President pro. tem.

Mr. James MCraw was fined 12½ cents for nonattendance at March meeting. — Mr. James W. MCraw was fined 37½ cents for his Several failures up to this time: and beg<sup>d</sup>. to be Considered as a Transient member in future. — agreed to. — Mr. Jn<sup>o</sup>. Davis was fined 12½ cents for nonattendance at March meeting.

The Secretary read to the house the first query Standing for discussion, "Whether it would be to the advantage of our Society to become an auxiliary to the Raleigh Agricultural Society. — On motion of Doctor Franklin this query was postponed until next meeting. —

The Secretary read the next query, "Is it best to plant our corn in the usual check Style or drill it". — decided on favour of drilling.

Mr. James MCraw moved that we alter the clause of our constitution

requiring us to meet monthly, and adopt our meeting quarterly. — as there was Some question of the propriety he amended the proposition by Saying let it Stand for discussion at next meeting. agreed to. — Mr. Boothe moved that no other querry be chosen & that clause of the constitution requiring us to hand in querries be Suspended So far as applies to the present meeting. agreed to — The House adjourned to meet at this place again on the fourth Saturday in May next.

Matthew Davis president. pro. tem  
W. Slade Secretary

Forkner's Meeting-House 23<sup>rd</sup>. June 1821.

This being the day & place for the meeting of the agricultural Society, — after Calling the names of the members the Secretary ascertain<sup>d</sup>, that there was not a quorum present. — the house adjourned to meet again at this place on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in July next. —

W. Slade Sec<sup>y</sup>.

Forkner's Meeting-House 28<sup>th</sup> July 1821.

The society met agreeable to adjournment, and proceeded to business in usual order: — the President being absent Mr. Matthew Davis was appointed President pro. tem.—Mr. Ransom Dudley was fined 12½ cents for nonattendance at June Meeting. — Mr. Goliheew Moore was fined 12½ Cents for nonattendance at Jan. meeting and excused for his Several other failures.

The Secretary read the 1<sup>st</sup>. querry, "Whether would it be to the advantage of our Society to become an auxiliary to the Raleigh Agricultural Society." Meshack Franklin Esq<sup>e</sup>. moved that it be postponed for discussion at next meeting. — agreed to. —

The proposition for altering the Clause of our Constitution requiring us, "to meet monthly and adopt our meetings quarterly" was taken up, and agreed to. — M. Franklin Franklin [*sic*] Esq<sup>e</sup> a transient member expressed considerable anxiety for the prosperity of our Society and agreed to Subject himself to fines as tho he was a regular member.

Mr. Jacob A. MCraw, Meshack Franklin Esq<sup>e</sup>. and Mr. G. Moore were appointed a Committee to Select querries for discussion at next meeting, who choose the following. 1<sup>st</sup>. Is it best to fatten hogs in close pens or lots, and what the best method of feeding them."

2<sup>nd</sup>. "Do the Society think proper to award a premium of five dollars to any member of its body who Shall raise the next Season, the greatest quantity of Cured hay from an acre of ground: timothy, clover or herds-grass."

3<sup>rd</sup>. Which the best method of preserving Cabbages through the winter."

4<sup>th</sup>. Is it best to pasture our Stubble land or Keep Stock entirely from it." — Cap<sup>t</sup>. Zachary, M<sup>r</sup>. Davis and M<sup>r</sup>. Moore were appointed a committee to Select querries at next meeting for discussion at the Succeeding meeting. — The house adjourned to meet again at this place the 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in October next.

Matthew Davis pres<sup>dt</sup>. pro. tem

W. Slade Secretary

Forkners-Meeting-house 27<sup>th</sup>. October 1821

The Society met agreeable to adjournment, and proceeded to business in usual Order. — after hearing the excuses of Several members for nonattendance the Secretary read the 1<sup>st</sup>. question, "Whether would it be to the Interest of our Society to become an auxiliary to the Raleigh agricultural Society." — On motion of M<sup>r</sup>. Boothe it was postponed for discussion at next meeting: — and agreed that Co<sup>l</sup>. Graves Should inquire to Know upon what terms we would be received by the Raleigh Society. — On motion of M<sup>r</sup>. Boothe the Other Standing querries were postponed for discussion at next meeting. — The Society resolved that the Clause of the Constitution requiring the members to hand in querries monthly be Suspended so far as applies to the present meeting. — The House adjourned to meet again at this place the 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in January next.

Jn<sup>o</sup>. Whitlock President

W. Slade Secretary

Forkners Meeting-House Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1822

This being the day appointed for the meeting of the agricultural Society the Secretary proceeded to Call the names of the members and upon ascertaining there was not a quorum present the House adjourned to meet again at this place on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in April next.

Jn<sup>o</sup>. Whitlock President

William Slade Secretary

Forkner's Meeting-House 24<sup>th</sup>. May 1823

The Agricultural Society of Surry County being desirous to assume its former regular course of proceedings, met this day for the purpose of forming arrangements to partake of the appropriation of the State of North Carolina for the promotion of Agriculture. But upon finding there was not a quorum present the House adjourned to meet again at this place on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in August next.

William Slade Secretary

Forkner's Meeting-house August 23<sup>rd</sup>. 1823

The Agricultural Society met agreeable to adjournment and proceeded to reelect John Whitlock Esq<sup>e</sup>. their President for the next year — and W<sup>m</sup> Slade their Secretary. — Mr. Fleming the former treasurer moved that Mr. Goliheew Moore be appointed treasurer for the next year; who was unanimously elected. The former treasurer moved that there be a Committee appointed to Settle with him at next meeting. W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq. — Gen<sup>l</sup>. S. Graves & Mr. Moore or a majority of them were appointed a Committee for that purpose.

On motion of Mr. Jacob A MCraw all the other business of the day was postponed to next meeting — The House adjourned to meet again at this place the 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in September next.

John Whitlock President  
William Slade Sec<sup>y</sup>.

[From a loose sheet inserted in the journal]

Querries for discussion 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday in Sept 1823.

query 1<sup>st</sup>. — Whether would it be to the advantage of our Society to become an auxiliary to the Raleigh agricul<sup>l</sup>. Society.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Is it best to fatten hogs in close pens or lots.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Do the Society think proper to award a premium of \$5. to any member of its body who shall raise next year the greatest quantity of Cured Hay from an acre of ground, Timothy, Clover, or hearsd grass

4<sup>th</sup>. Which is the best method of preserving Cabbages thro' the winter.

5<sup>th</sup>. Is it best to pasture upon our Stubble land or Keep Stock entirely from it.

On Motion of S. Graves the Committee appointed to settle with the former Treasurer have untill next meeting to make their report — to meet again the 4th Saturday of November

[From another loose sheet inserted in the journal]

Society to become an auxiliary to the Raleigh Agricultural Society.

2<sup>nd</sup> Is it be best to fatten Hogs in close pens or Lots —

3<sup>rd</sup>. The Society

On motion of W<sup>m</sup>. MCraw Esq<sup>e</sup>.

S. Graves was appointed Secretary  
pro. tem.