THE CHARLOTTE TOWN RESOLVES

By Miscellaneous

RESOLVES ADOPTED IN CHARLOTTE TOWN,

MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA,

MAY 31, 1775

Charlotte Town, Mecklenburg County, May 31.

This Day the Committee met, and passed the following

RESOLVES:

Whereas by an Address presented to his Majesty by both

Houses of Parliament in February last, the American Colonies

are declared to be in a State of actual Rebelion, we conceive

that all Laws and Commissions confirmed by, or derived from the

Authority of the King or Parliament, are annulled and vacated,

and the former civil Constitution of these Colinies for the

present wholly suspended. To provide in some Degree for the

Exigencies of the County in the present alarming Period, we

deem it proper and necessary to pass the following Resolves,

viz.

1. That all Commissions, civil and military, heretofore

granted by the Crown, to be exercised in these Colonies, are

null and void, and the Constitution of each particular Colony

wholly suspended.

2. That the Provincial Congress of each Province, under

the Direction of the Great Continental Congress, is invested

with all legislative and executive Powers within their

respective Provinces; and that no other Legislative or

Executive does or can exist, at this time, in any of these

Colonies.

3. As all former Laws are now suspended in this Province,

and the Congress have not yet provided others, we judge it

necessary, for the better Preservation of good Order, to form

certain Rules and Regulations for the internal Government of

this County, until Laws shall be provided for us by the

Congress.

4. That the Inhabitants of this County do meet on a

certain Day appointed by this Committee, and having formed

themselves into nine Companies, to wit, eight for the County,

and one for the Town of Charlotte, do choose a Colonel and

other military Officers, who shall hold and exercise their

several Powers by Virtue of this Choice, and independent of

Great-Britain, and former Constitution of this Province.

5. That for the better Preservation of the Peace, and

Administration of Justice, each of these Companies do choose

from their own Body two discreet Freeholders, who shall be

impowered each by himself, and singly, to decide and determine

all Matters of Controversy arising within the said Company

under the Sum of Twenty Shillings, and jointly and together all

Controversies under the Sum of Forty Shillings, yet so as their

Decisions may admit of Appeals to the Convention of the Select

Men of the whole County; and also, that any one of these shall

have Power to examine, and commit to Confinement, Persons

accused of Petit Larceny.

6. That those two Select Men, thus chosen, do, jointly

and together, choose from the Body of their particular Company

two Persons, properly qualified to serve as Constables, who may

assist them in the Execution of their Office.

7. That upon the Complaint of any Person to either of

these Select Men, he do issue his Warrant, directed to the

Constable, commanding him to bring the Aggressor before him or

them to answer the said Complaint.

8. That these eighteen Select Men, thus appointed, do

meet every third Tuesday in January, April, July, and October,

at the Court-House, in Charlotte, to hear and determine all

Matters of Controversy for Sums exceeding Forty Shillings;

also Appeals: And in Cases of Felony, to commit the Person or

Persons convicted thereof to close Confinement, until the

Provincial Congress shall provide and establish Laws and Modes

of Proceeding in all such Cases.

9. That these Eighteen Select Men, thus convened, do

choose a Clerk to record the Transactions of said Convention;

and that the said Clerk, upon the Application of any Person or

Persons aggrieved, do issue his Warrant to one of the

Constables, to summon and warn said Offender to appear before

the Convention at their next sittinbg, to answer the aforesaid

Complaint.

10. That any Person making Complaint upon Oath to the

Clerk, or any Member of the Convention, that he has Reason to

suspect that any Person or Persons indebted to him in a Sum

above Forty Shillings, do intend clandestinely to withdraw from

the County without paying such Debt; the Clerk, or such Member,

shall issue his Warrant to the Constable, commanding him to

take the said Person or Persons into safe Custody, until the

next sitting of the Convention.

11. That when a Debtor for a Sum below Forty Shillings

shall abscond and leave the County, the Warrant granted as

aforesaid shall extend to any Goods or Chattels of the said

Debtor as may be found, and such Goods or Chattels be seized

and held in Custody by the Constable for the Space of Thirty

Days; in which Term if the Debtor fails to return and discharge

the Debt, the Constable shall return the Warrant to one of the

Select Men of the Company where the Goods and Chattels are

found, who shall issue Orders to the Constable to sell such a

Part of the said Goods as shall amount to the Sum due; that

when the Debt exceeds Forty Shillings, the Return shall be made

to the Convention, who shall issue the Orders for Sale.

12. That all Receivers and Collectors of Quitrents, Public

and County Taxes, do pay the same into the Hands of the

Chairman of this Committee, to be by them disbursed as the

public Exigencies may require. And that such Receivers and

Collectors proceed no farther in their Office until they be

approved of by, and have given to this Committee good and

sufficient Security for a faithful Return of such Monies when

collected.

13. That the Committee be accountable to the County for

the Application of all Monies received from such public

Officers.

14. That all these Officers hold their Commissions during

the Pleasure of their respective Constituents.

15. That this Commission will sustain all Damages that may

ever hereafter accrue to all or any of these Officers thus

appointed, and thus acting, on Account of their Obedience and

Conformity to these Resolves.

16. That whatever Person shall hereafter receive a

Commission from the Crown, or attempt to exercise any such

Commission heretofore received, shall be deemed an Enemy to

his Country; and upon Information being made to the Captain of

the Company where he resides, the said Captain shall cause him

to be apprehended, and conveyed before the two Select Men of

the said Company, who, upon Proof of the Fact, shall commit him

the said Offender, into safe Custody, until the next setting of

the Convention, who shall deal with him as Prudence may direct.

17. That any Person refusing to yield Obedience to the

above Resolves shall be deemed equally criminal, and liable to

the same Punishments as the Offenders above last mentioned.

18. That these Resolves be in full Force and Virtue, until

Instructions from the General Congress of this Province,

regulating the Jurisprudence of this Province, shall provide

otherwise, or the legislative Body of Great-Britain resign its

unjust and arbitrary Pretentions with Respect to America.

19. That the several Militia Companies in this county do

provide themselves with proper Arms and Accoutrements, and hold

themselves in Readiness to execute the commands and Directions

of the Provincial Congress, and of this committee.

20. That this committee do appoint Colonel Thomas Polk, and

Doctor Joseph Kennedy, to purchase 300 lb. of Powder, 600 lb.

of Lead, and 1000 Flints, and deposit the same in some safe

Place, hereafter to be appointed by the committee.

Signed by Order of the Commitee.

EPH. BREVARD, Clerk of the Committee

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Prepared by Gerald Murphy (The Cleveland Free-Net - aa300)

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