

governor, but the account given by some of those who were most concerned in the organization give it as perpetuating the name of Abram Alexander. (The writer has in his possession a table made by this chairman of the Mecklenburg Convention, but this is not offered as evidence to prove that the Declaration was made as alleged.)

The name of the town is said by Wheeler to have been in honor of John Louis Taylor, who was on the Supreme Court Bench in the state from 1818 to 1829, but local authority gives the honor to General Zachary Taylor, "old Rough and Ready", afterwards President, but at that time in the full tide of his career in Mexico.

Following the provisions of the Act of 1847, the first Court of Pleas and Quarters Sessions was held by the justices of the peace of the new county, on the first Monday in June 1847, at James Cross Roads. As far as can be now ascertained, on account of the destruction of the old records of the county in the Civil War, the court was composed of the following justices; Robert Allen, Robert C. Martin, Robert Carson, Moses Alexander, Davault Little, Joshua White, Isaac E. Bradburn, John Stine, Jesse Brown, Enoch Chapman, Peter Barnes, Sion Harrington, A. C. McIntosh, John N. Bennett, John A. Murchison, Azol Sharpe and R. L. Steele. The court was organized by electing James Thompson, chairman, whose name, of course, should be included among those above mentioned. The court then proceeded to election of county officers, as follows: County Court Clerk, Alfred Carson; Sheriff, Reuben Watts; Register of Deeds, Moses Austin; Entry-taker, Calvin Jones; Coroner, B. W. Newland; Superintendent of Schools, R. L. Steele.

The committee appointed to locate the county seat ascertained the center of the county to be somewhere near where the town is located, probably a little west of the town. The land for the town was donated by the following persons: Joseph M. Bogle, 22 acres; William Matheson, 13 acres, and James James, 11½ acres. The commissioners appointed to lay out the town and to sell the lots and also as a committee of public buildings, consisted of Sion Harrington, R. L. Steele, George Swaim, J. H. Newland and A. C. McIntosh. George Swaim was elected treasurer of the building committee, and served for a time and finding that he would have to be absent, he turned the business over to A. C. McIntosh as his agent, and he was later elected treasurer of the committee.

The first sale of town lots took place on August 10 and 11, 1847, and 52 lots were sold, amounting to \$6,158; again in November, 1847, another sale brought \$399.50; another sale in March, 1848, \$136.75; and another in May 1853, \$142.50; making a total of \$6,675. The prices at which some of the lots were sold may be of interest.

- No. 1. E. C. Sloan Store Corner by Abel Shutford, \$341.
- No. 2. Masonic Hall, Now Bank Corner, R. B. Bogle, \$210.
- No. 3. G. W. Flower's Store Corner, Moses Teague, \$111.
- No. 4. Hardware Store Corner, J. H. Newland, \$197.
- No. 5. Below Drug Store, George Swaim, \$200.
- No. 6. W. L. Moose Corner, Hiram James, \$225.
- No. 7. Garage Corner, A. Carson \$614.