

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS APRIL TERM SUPERIOR COURT

We the grand jury, drawn and sworn for the April term, 1909, of Clarke Superior Court beg to submit the following report and recommendations:

We have, as a body, and through our various committees, made careful examination of the affairs of the county, with results as follows:

Ordinary.
We have examined the books of the ordinary, and find them kept in a neat and correct manner.

Treasurer.
We have examined the books and vouchers of the county Treasurer for six months, from October 10th, 1908, to April 10th, 1909, and find same correct and in proper form. The total receipts were \$69,336.74, and the total disbursements \$39,443.19, leaving on hand April 12th \$30,393.55, of which we find on deposit in the National Bank of Athens \$30,099.32, and cash in hands of Treasurer \$294.22. We are satisfied that the Treasurer gives careful attention to his duties and protects the interests of the county in every respect.

Tax Receiver.
We have examined the books of the Tax Receiver and find them neatly kept and in good condition.

Tax Collector.
We have made a thorough examination of the books of the Tax Collector and find them neatly and correctly kept.

Bonds of County Officers.
We find that all bonds required by law, of the officers of the county have been approved by the proper authorities and appear to be correct and solvent.

Pensions.
We have carefully examined the pension list and find thereon the names of 74 indigent soldiers, 17 wounded soldiers, 25 widows of indigent soldiers and 26 widows of wounded soldiers, all of whom, so far as we have been able to determine, have complied with the law.

County Farm and Paupers.
We find the farm in good condition, including the superintendent's house and outbuildings. We recommend that the old fence around the superintendent's house be replaced with a new one.

The stock at the farm are well cared for and in good condition. The county has under its care at the farm five white females, two colored females and three colored males, a total of ten, all well clothed, fed and cared for.

The county commissioners, through the untiring efforts and energy of Commissioner Pittard, have now, under construction fire new, two-room cottages and one four room cottage for the care of the poor, and stockade for female convicts.

The houses for the poor will be erected facing each other, with a street running parallel with them, giving an easier approach to the public road, just south of the superintendent's house, and when completed will be very attractive and more like home for the unfortunates who are compelled to live upon the county's bounty.

We thank Commissioner Pittard for drawing the plans and specifications for this needed improvement, and are satisfied that the county will be proud of the efforts put forth in procuring more suitable conveniences for the poor.

We commend Superintendent Kelly for his efficient and successful management of the county farm, and in the care and treatment of the inmates thereof.

We further wish to express our hearty approval and appreciation of the sacrifice made by Commissioner Pittard in giving a large portion of his time in managing and looking after the county farm, and feel it our duty to express the esteem in which Commissioner Pittard is held by the entire county. We know of no man more worthy to fill the position of county commissioner than he.

Sheriff.
We find that the sheriff's records are neatly and correctly kept.

Public Buildings and Jail.
We have inspected the court house and county jail, and find them in good condition and properly cared for. We recommend that ashes be removed from jail enclosure, to prevent water from flooding heater pit, and that heater be properly repaired.

Magistrates.
We have carefully gone over these books and find them, for the most part, neatly and correctly kept. In one or two instances, we find cases endorsed "Settled" without furnishing, so far as your committee could see, any data showing HOW these cases were settled.

Convicts and Convict Camps.
We have, in connection with a committee of three citizens, made a thorough investigation of the camps, mules, implements, machinery and convicts. We find the convicts in a most excellent condition. They give every indication of good health and spirits. Their entire quarters are clean, and your committee feel that these people are in the very best of hands. The quarters at the county farm are particularly nice and we feel that very few negroes, at their

own homes, are better provided for. The mules are in excellent condition and reflect the best of treatment. The wagons, implements, machinery, etc., are likewise in good condition. We feel that special praise is due Mr. Kelly, the efficient superintendent of the county farm, and Commissioner Pittard, who gives much of his time to the farm, for the most excellent conditions there noticeable.

County School Commissioner.
We have examined the annual report, including the financial statement of the County School Commissioner, and find same correct and in proper form. Same are hereto attached.

Particular attention should be called at this time to the fact that a large proportion of the revenues for our county schools has been cut off by the closing of the Athens Dispensary. We are informed by the County School Commissioner that the balance of funds from the profits of the Dispensary, to be used for the rural schools of the county will be exhausted by the close of the present school year, and unless some plan is devised to supply the deficit the county board of education will be forced to fall back on the old five months term of public schools, with such poorly paid teachers as must result in greatly reduced efficiency.

In view of this state of affairs, and believing that a return to the old system would be a serious injury to the educational interests of the county, we earnestly recommend the adoption of the Local Tax law in this county, that our county schools may be kept up to their present efficiency, and for the full nine months term which they have enjoyed for the past eight years.

Roads and Bridges.
Our committees have travelled over and inspected as many of the roads and bridges as we could, in the time allotted for this work, and find the permanent work now in progress on the county roads to be a fine work, also find that a great many of the cross roads in the county have been badly neglected, largely due to lack of force, but understand they will be attended to in the near future.

We call especial attention to the report made to the Grand Jury by County Engineer Strahan, touching the comparative cost of macadam roads and sand clay roads, the former costing about \$5,000.00 per mile, the latter about \$400.00 per mile, exclusive of grading.

We commend the commissioners' action in replacing all the larger wooden bridges over waterways and other places with iron bridges, and also the building of culverts in place of small bridges.

We recommend that the commissioners adopt the policy of discontinuing any road improvement where satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with property owners affected by such improvement.

We further recommend that all complaints pertaining to the working, changing, grading and re-locating of the roads be carried direct to the commissioners, thereby giving them an opportunity to consider the wants of the people, and in such cases where the Grand Jury has jurisdiction over the subject matter, upon failure of the board of commissioners to act, they can then call this body's attention to same.

Clerk Superior Court.
We find the office of the Clerk in excellent condition, the books and other records neatly and accurately kept. It is our opinion that the present incumbent of this office is discharging his duties in a most intelligent and efficient manner, and we note with pleasure the new system of indexing used in his office.

We recommend that the County Commissioners employ some one to index all records of deeds prior to 1897, consisting of 22 deed records, estimated at 500 deeds to the record, at a cost to the county which they may consider satisfactory.

We further recommend that eight of the deed records be rebound at an estimated cost of \$30.00, and that a cabinet be placed in the clerks office, suitable for filing papers, at an estimated cost of \$40.00 to \$50.00.

County Commissioners Administration.
We commend the perfect fairness and frankness of Commissioners and Clerk of Commissioners during the examination made of the books, minutes, vouchers and all matters pertaining to their office.

While the letter of the law has not been evaded in one or more instances, we do not find that such evasions have militated against the county.

We commend the order and system employed in the office of the clerk of county commissioners, avoiding probability of errors and facilitating the tracing of any entry from its origin to final disposition.

After checking their books and vouchers we find them to be correct and note vigilance in making purchases for the protection of the county's interests.

208,978.80
County Farm 12,615.00
Convict Camps, including live stock, road equipment and machinery 19,963.50
241,557.30
Cash in hands of county treasurer 27,633.43
Balance of bond issue, on hand 17,760.12
286,950.85

Liabilities.
Past due bonds 25,000.00
Road Improvement bonds 92,500.00
117,500.00

Excess of assets over liabilities \$169,450.85
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We find, after investigation, that there are no grounds for the complaints that the commissioners are trading with themselves, but on the contrary, the larger purchases have been made from other firms, by competitive bids.

We find that although Mr. Holman does hold two offices he does not draw compensation for but one viz: Superintendent of roads.

We commend the superintendent of roads for the care of the county mules, machinery and convicts, as evidenced by their condition.

We recommend that all grievances against the administration be presented in writing, through the proper channel, viz: the clerk of the commissioners, and we are convinced that the cause will be corrected or satisfactorily explained.

We recommend that a fire proof cabinet be purchased for the protection of valuable papers, of necessity kept in the clerk of commissioners office.

We heartily commend the efficient work of County Engineer Strahan. We wish to repeat a recommendation of a former Grand Jury that the county commissioners furnish the grand jury room in more comfortable and suitable manner. More comfortable chairs should be provided for the Grand Jurors, and better tables and desks would be more in accord with the improved conditions of the court house.

We recommend the appointment of Mr. J. W. Daniel as Notary Public for the 24th district to succeed Mr. Jesse Daniel, resigned.

We recommend that our representative introduce, at the next meeting of the general assembly, a bill to regulate the operation of automobiles in Clarke county. This bill should cover the matter of speed these machines are to travel, put an age limit on operators, so that small and inexperienced persons could not handle them, and should make it absolutely necessary for operators to have their machines under such perfect control when passing teams or pedestrians, as to bring same to an immediate standstill if necessary.

Knowledge has come to this body of the most flagrant disregard for the rights of others, by some automobile operators in Clarke county and it is believed that sooner or later serious accidents will result if something is not promptly done to curb this improper use of the highways.

We were presented a petition bearing several hundred names, from among the best citizens of East Athens, urging that they be relieved of the low and disorderly houses in that section. In finding indictments against the offenders wherever sufficient evidence was adduced, we have gone to the extent of our power, but we wish to express our sympathy with the movement to rid the city of these pest holes of evil, and to urge upon the city authorities the necessary steps to suppress this glaring evil, especially the forfeiting of license of such hackmen whose business contributes largely to their maintenance.

While in the performance of our duty and the observance of our oaths, and the charge of the court, (see note of the Judge below—C. H. Brand, Judge.) it has been our mandatory duty to find many indictments against persons who have already been punished (in many cases sufficiently, we think) in the Mayor's court. We ask the court to take into consideration such previous punishment and to exercise clemency wherever the ends of justice permit.

We find that Mr. Jack F. Jackson has met all the requirements as Game Warden. He reports no infraction of the game law.

We recommend that the clerk of this Grand Jury be paid an additional sum of ten dollars as compensation for services rendered.

We desire to extend the thanks of this body to Judge C. H. Brand and to Solicitor General Clifford Walker for their several courtesies extended to us in the discharge of our duties as Grand Jurors.

The term of office of Commissioner John T. Pittard having expired, we have unanimously re-elected him as commissioner for the ensuing term.

We recommend that these presentments be published as usual.

John D. Moss, Foreman.
Martin J. Abney, Clerk.
William T. Lester.
Samuel E. Suddeth.
Lemuel J. Edwards.
Robert A. Washburn.
John M. Fowler.
Walter L. Childs.
William R. Colle.
Andrew H. Milstead.
Benj. F. Hardean.
Edward D. Sledge.
Jno. N. Carlton.
Alfred L. King.

Henry Comer.
William H. Kytte.
John W. Chibly.
Arthur E. Griffith.
Harry Hodgson.
Thomas J. Scott.
Myer Stern.
Frank M. Halley.
Thomas C. Puryear.

Clarke Superior Court, April Term, 1909.

It is ordered that the foregoing presentments be spread upon the Minutes of the court, and be published as recommended by the Grand Jury, with this statement by the Judge that the court did not ask the Grand Jury to investigate cases which had been tried by the Mayor of the City of Athens, where it appeared that the facts disclosed a violation of a criminal statute of this state, (which the jury did not mean to say.) They investigated such violations of the law under their sworn duty as provided by Section 830 of the penal Code of Georgia.

CHARLES H. BRAND,
Judge Superior Court Clarke Co.
Seal. \$30+Whist grand Jurors are bound only to notice or make presentments of such offenses as may or shall come to their knowledge or observation after they shall have been sworn, yet they have the right and power, and it is their duty, as Jurors, to make presentments of any violations of the laws which they may know to have been committed at any previous time, which are not barred by the statute of limitations.

To the Grand Jury April Term Superior Court, Clarke County, 1909.
I herewith present my annual report of the Public Schools of Clarke county, from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1908, to which is appended statement of all funds received and paid out for school purposes from April 1st, 1908 to April 1st, 1909.

Number schools.—White 12, Colored 14. Total 26.
Number of Teachers—White males, 8. Females, 23. Total 31.

Colored males 2. Females, 25. Total colored 27.
Total white and colored 58.
Number Normal trained teachers—White, 22. Colored 12. Total 34.

Grades of Teachers—Whites, State Licenses 2. 1st grade 27. 2nd 2. 3rd 0.
Colored, State License 0. 1st grade 4. 2nd, 16. 3rd 7.

Enrollment—White males, 326. White females, 378. Total 704.
Colored males, 642. Colored females 747. Total 1389.

Total white and colored 2083.
Average attendance for nine months White males, 215 62-180. Females, 263 50-180. Total 478 114-180.
Colored males 227 63-180. Female 322 14-180. Total 649 77-180.

Total white and colored 1028 9-180.
School Property.—Houses belonging to Board of Education.
White 11. Value, \$7800.00. Colored 5. Value \$2700.00.
Total number 16. Total value \$10,500.00.

Value of other school property \$800.00.
Total value \$11,300.00.
Libraries, white 8. Volumes, 582. Value \$650.00.
Libraries colored 1. Volumes 110. Value \$110.00.
Total value \$760.00.

The law requires that a census of the school population be taken in each county, every five years. Under instructions from State School Commissioner this census was taken in April 1908, and following is report of same:

Districts	White Males	White Females	Total White	Colored Males	Colored Females	Total Colored	Total
Athens	34	63	97	77	77	144	251
Whitehall	63	80	143	46	56	102	245
Puryear	34	27	61	140	113	253	314
Sandy Creek 36	36	72	108	129	158	287	395
Buckbranch	94	96	190	169	199	368	558
Bradberry's	47	39	86	59	64	123	209
Kenney's	64	36	100	102	96	198	298
Princeton	44	64	108	65	56	121	229
Total	416	441	857	787	819	1606	2463

By reference to census report of 1903, we find there has been an increase of three whites and 182 colored, in last five years, making a total increase of 185.

Referring to general school report of 1908, as before seen, we find that of the 2463 children 2083, about 85 per cent. were enrolled in the schools in the nine months of the school term; while only 1028, or about 50 per cent. of those enrolled, attend school, the entire term. This, however, is a better comparative attendance than has been reported previously.

Respectfully,
THOS. H. DOZIER, C. S. C.

Financial Statement April 1908 to January 1909.

April 1 To Bal \$2689.56
April 10 To amount received from Slater fund 166.00
April 17 To amount received from State Treasurer 800.00
April 20 To amount received from R. D. Moore, C. S. C. 8.03
May 9 To amount received from R. U. Bacon, C. S. C. 40.00
May 29 To amount received from Dispensary fund 1500.00
June 26 To amount received from R. U. Bacon, C. S. C. 28.00

Aug. 8 To amount received from Dispensary fund 1200.00
Sept. 5 To amount received from Dispensary fund 1500.00
Oct. 29 To amount received from Dispensary fund 600.00
Nov. 27 To amount received from Dispensary fund 1500.00
Dec. 22 To amount received from State Treasurer 731.46
Dec. 22 To amount received from Dispensary fund 500.00
Dec. 23 To amount received from R. D. Moore, C. S. C. 8.88
Dec. 24 To amount received from R. U. Bacon, C. S. C. 62.00
Oct. 13 To amount received from Slater fund 167.00
1909
Jan. 11 To amount received from Slater fund 167.00
8998.14
11687.70

By amt paid C. S. C. 1020.00
By amt. paid Board of Education 46.00
By amt. paid Insurance 42.75
By amt. paid Supplies and repairs 95.96
By amt. paid postage, printing and incidentals 375.85
By amt. paid White teachers 6646.76
By amt. paid Colored teachers 4334.17
By amt. paid Balance 126.21
11687.70

January to April, 1909.

To Bal. from 1908 \$126.21
Jan. 11 To amount received from R. U. Bacon, C. S. C. 113.14
Feb. 11 To amount received from State Treasurer 1427.92
Mar. 13 To amount received from Dispensary fund 1700.00
3241.00
By amt. paid C. S. C. 150.00
By amt. paid Board of Education 8.00
By amt. paid Building and Supplies 103.63
By amt. paid Postage, printing and incidentals 9.24
By amt. paid White teachers 2045.30
By amt. paid Colored teachers 941.71
3257.89

Bal. on hand April 1 \$109.39

County Commissioners Report.
The county commissioners of Clarke county made their regular report yesterday to the Grand Jury as required by law. It contains much information as to the work that has been done by the county in many directions during the past six months, and is as follows:

The law creating this Board, requires that we submit to each Grand Jury, a report in writing of our acts of proceedings six months, the object being to acquaint your body with work accomplished by us. We think this information can best be given you by submitting our entire records, while sitting as a Court, also, vouchers covering every transaction.

In as much as we do not handle any

money except that which passes through the hands of our Clerk paid to the treasurer and all amounts paid out by the Treasurer are by our drafts on the County Treasurer, these accounts should be a check one against the other, as the Treasurer cannot pay out any funds except on our order (with exception of Judge's orders and Jury script.)

With the progress of time and development, the work of this Board has increased and expanded, with new laws and change of methods in dealing with convicts, with rules and regulations laid down by Prison Commission with reports and detail work therewith, has made the clerical work heavy so that, the time of our clerk is almost all taken up by this work. He also, meets those having business with the Board and shapes matters for bringing to your attention.

Our Mr. Holman has charge of roads and Mr. Pittard has the farm in charge. Your Chairman looks after buildings and hears all complaints and requests, not presented to the clerk.

Bridges.
The August 1908 freshet caused us heavy loss. We had completed at considerable expense piers under Princeton, Epps and College avenue bridges, the latter we had recovered and re-erected. The high waters came from North, Northeast, and swept down the Sandy Creek bridge at Mitchell's bottom and brickyard, also College avenue and Whitehall bridges, the

bridge at Jennings mill was shifted at one end, Broad street bridge in which the county is half owner was damaged. Our Board thought it could be restored and so did King, the bridge builder, but our Engineer, Mr. Strahan after close examination found it in such a condition that he favored the removal. These considerations together with solicitations from Council, and the element of risk in the old bridge as restored, caused us to join the City in building the splendid iron bridge just completed at the cost of \$5,000, our part \$2500. We call to your attention that we did not comply with the law requiring competitive bids and advertisement for contract, for the reason that the city had secured bids and the delay would have been considerable and we considered the evasion only technical. We are glad to say we recovered and restored all the other bridges, supplying broken and lost lumber each with new material. We report all bridges in good shape. We have on hand and paid for a number of iron bridges for small streams and large drains.

Buildings.
Sheriff's house and out building in good condition. Jail in good order and steam heated. We want to provide storage for coal and remove ashes from within the walls.

Court house is modernized and in good repair, the conveniences are all in, ladies waiting room, steam heat, electric and gas lights. We have contracted for completion of filling device for Clerk's office that should meet demands for years to come.

We have one other desire for the court house and then we will be done. It is to modernize the Ordinary's vault which will cost \$1,000 to \$1100. What is the suggestion of this body.

Buildings at Farm are in good repair. We are having extensive improvements made in the accommodation for the poor, for which we want credit given to our Mr. Pittard.

Roads.

This is the liveliest wire we handle. The importance of good roads cannot be estimated. It is the paramount interest of this Board and when we shall have accomplished it in every section of this county, we will ask for an honorable discharge from further service.

Road building is very expensive, and apparently it looks often as if we had not gotten our "money's worth" which worries us quite a bit. But the time has come when we feel that the flower that has been so long budding will soon be in full bloom. Within the next two years to finish all the main arteries (with the funds now in hand) with this accomplished, we can then finish the laterals with reduced force and expense.

We have had prepared a road register and map, the latter you will find on wall of your room and at our office.

We had with us last fall a road expert Mr. Keller whose opinion you will find in our minutes. We hope and believe that we have discovered the best material for road building in our top soil, which we find in many localities, near at hand. Notwithstanding the benefit coming to our citizens from good roads, they do not appropriate same and make us pay for every privilege, and often antagonize and resist us. While the burden of taxation is borne largely by the city, we feel that eventually the city will receive compensation justifying the expenditure.

In the management of the district roads, we have adopted the alternative plan, placing tax at \$3.00 or work 10 days. In almost every instance the tax is paid.

For pleasure driving solely the elastic clay is the best, but it will not stand the winter travel.

For traffic solely the macadam is best, but it is very expensive and is not within our reach.

For combination pleasure and traffic we think the sand clay or the sand top crowned road is the best. They stand the winter rains and travel, and we believe they are possible to obtain.

Water is a great enemy to roads. While we had beautiful and pleasant roads last summer, the winter and spring rains have given us trouble, where we did not have the soil or macadam.

The Jefferson road, graded to county limit, portion macadam, and surfaced.

The Jefferson river road, graded to county limit, portion surfaced.

The Tallahassee road, graded almost to county limit portion macadam and worked (not surfaced.)

The Lawrenceville road, macadam to bridge, graded partly (working there with one squad.)

The Epps road partly worked (not surfaced.)

The Watkinsville road graded and paved (macadam) to Princeton graded and worked to limit.

The Whitehall road graded and partly surfaced to limit at Simonton's bridge.

Barnett Shoals road partly worked—not surfaced, this is a very narrow road and needs considerable work which we hope to accomplish this summer.

The Lexington road is graded to limit and surfaced practically to the county line.

Winterville road partly graded, working on it now for permanent location.

Hull road partly graded and worked. This road needs considerable work.

The Danielsville road partly graded and surfaced to the Yerby place, this is a very satisfactory road so far as finished, and is a source of much fa-

vorable comment from citizens of Madison county. Notwithstanding this, we are asked by Mr. H. B. Mitchell to pay \$1,000 damage to his property by reason of a change of location near his place.

The Nowhere road partly graded and worked.

The Sandy Creek road partly graded, partly surfaced, and worked.

The Newton bridge road partly graded, and worked (more work needed which will be accomplished soon.)

We mention one fact the wagon cotton receipts for Athens the past season increased over the season before, we claim part credit at least to roads—the warehousemen give us credit for this.

Convicts.

You will find in our minutes that we have hired from Tattal county her quota of convicts, 24 men at \$5.00 per month. This with our quota of state men and 33 misdemeanor makes a total of 75 well cared for and humanely treated. We are under the control of the prison commission, but we invite your inspection of camps and men at work. We find it quite a task and considerable work making and carrying out instructions from the Prison Board.

The law requires us to keep two dogs with the sheriff. We bought two bloodhound pups (both of which died) and then we bought two dogs (one of which died, the other, we have at camp.) We have decided that this requirement is impracticable. Dogs are good as a restraint, but not very satisfactory for recaptures.