

GWINNETT GAZETEER

Lawrenceville
Gwinnett County, Georgia

Lawrenceville

William Maltbie, native of Connecticut, suggested the name for the town. The four streets bordering the square were named for four distinguished men, Pike, Perry, Clayton and Croghan. The next four streets were given the names of well known trees. On the north was Oak Street, on the east Chestnut, on the south Sassafras and on the west Pine. These names should be retained.

Lawrenceville was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly December 15, 1821. Luke Robinson was representative and George Reid state senator at that session of the General Assembly. The act reads as follows:

Sec 1.-Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia in General Assembly met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That James Wardlaw, Hugh B. Greenwood, James McClure, John Gaddess, Sr., and Pascal Brooks and their successors in office shall have full power and authority to pass all bylaws and regulations which may be deemed necessary for the improvement and repairing the streets, springs and internal police of said town: Provided, nevertheless, that such bylaws, rules and regulations shall not be repugnant to the constitution of the United States and the constitution and laws of the State and that no penalty thereby imposed shall extend to corporal punishment, except to people of color; nor shall any tax upon the people of the town be imposed which shall exceed one dollar on each poll for the same year.

Sec 2.-And be it further enacted, That the said commissioners shall continue in office until the second Tuesday in January in the year of 1823, on which day and on the second Tuesday in January in each and every year thereafter all free male white citizens of said town who are entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly shall assemble at the courthouse of said county and by ballot elect five commissioners who shall continue in office for one year, at which election any two justices of the Inferior Court or justices of the peace may preside.

Sec 3.-And be it further enacted, That where any vacancy in the commissioners of said corporation shall happen by resignation or otherwise, the commissioners in office shall appoint some other person within the limits of said corporation to fill such vacancy; and the persons appointed shall continue in office the same length of time his predecessor would have done had no vacancy

occurred.

Sec. 4.-And be it further enacted, That the said commissioners and those hereafter appointed, or a majority of them, have power to appoint a clerk, marshal and such other officers as they may deem necessary to carry into effect all proceedings which they may adopt under the authority of this Act; and the said commissioners shall be exofficio justices of the peace so far as respects the carrying into effect the said Act of Incorporation, and they may impose fines for violation of their corporate rules, issue executions for fines and penalties and taxes and shall have power to exact a tax on all public shows which may be at any time exhibited or exposed to view for money within the limits of said corporation which shall be collected by said marshal in the same manner as executions from justices' courts.

Sec. 5.-And be it further enacted that the said Town of Lawrenceville be and the same is hereby declared to be the permanent site of the public buildings and of the administration of justice in said county.

Assented to 15th December, 1821.

David Adams,

Speaker House of Representatives. Mathew Talbot,

President of the Senate

John Clark, Governor.

By the above act of the General Assembly Lawrenceville became the permanent site of the public buildings of the county and of the administration of justice in Gwinnett County. The same act provided the town should be governed by a board of five commissioners selected annually by popular vote.

Transcription from: J. C. Flanigan's History of Gwinnett County. Volume II.

Electronic version - 2004 -gad.

