

**JOURNAL OF THE  
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION  
WHICH CONVENED AT  
ALEXANDRIA ON THE 13TH DAY  
OF FEBRUARY, 1864**

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D. TURNER, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

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ALEXANDRIA, VA., Feb. 13th, 1864.

The members of the Convention elected to alter and amend the Constitution of the State of Virginia, assembled in the United States District Court Room, and were called to order by W. W. WING, at 12 o'clock, M.

On motion of W. W. WING, Dr. L. W. WEBB, of Norfolk, was elected temporary Chairman, and W. J. COWING, of Alexandria, temporary Secretary.

Mr. WING moved that a Committee on Credentials, consisting of five members be appointed. The motion being put it was adopted, and the President appointed the following named members: Messrs. G. R. BOUSH, E. R. GOVER, John W. STONE, John HAWKHURST and Dr. A. WATSON.

Mr. WING then moved the appointment of a Committee, consisting of three members, to report permanent officers for the Convention.

The motion was adopted, and the President appointed the following named members: Messrs. W. W. WING, S. F. BEACH and LeROY G. EDWARDS.

On motion of Mr. WING, the Convention then adjourned until 12 o'clock, M., on Tuesday next.

ALEXANDRIA, Tuesday, Feb. 16th, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

Mr. BOUSH, from the Committee on Credentials, made the following report:

“Your committee have examined and found correct the commissions of the following named gentlemen:

JOHN W. STONE, of Princess Anne County.

GEORGE R. BOUSH, and PHILIP G. THOMAS, of Norfolk County.

WARREN W. WING, of Norfolk Senatorial District.

JOHN J. HENSHAW, JAMES M. DOWNEY and E. R. GOVER, of Loudoun County.

LeROY G. EDWARDS, of the Senatorial District of the Counties of Princess Anne and Norfolk and City of Portsmouth.

WILLIAM H. DIX, of Accomac County.

ARTHUR WATSON, of Accomac and Northampton Counties.

LEWIS W. WEBB, of Norfolk City.

ROBERT B. WOOD, of Elizabeth City.

T. S. TENNIS, of Elizabeth City, York, Warwick, Charles City and New Kent Counties, James City and the City of Williamsburg.

WILLIAM P. MOORE, of Northampton County.

JOHN HAWKHURST, of Fairfax County.

S. FERGUSON BRACH, of Alexandria and Fairfax Counties.

WALTER L. PENN, of Alexandria County.

G. R. BOUSH, Chairman."

The report of the committee was accepted.

Mr. WING, from the committee on permanent organization and Rules for the government of the Convention, made the following report:

"The committee on organization and Rules respectfully report that they recommend as officers of the Convention the following:

A President.

A Secretary.

A Reading Clerk.

A Sergeant-at-Arms.

A Doorkeeper.

To be elected by ballot.

The Rules of the House of Delegates, so far as they are applicable, are recommended as the Rules of the Convention, subject to such modifications as the Convention may from time to time find necessary.

W. W. WING, Chairman."

Mr. HAWKHURST moved to amend by striking out "Reading Clerk" and substituting therefor "Stenographic Reporter."

Mr. WING thought the expense would be too great with the limited means in the Treasury.

Mr. DOWNEY favored the amendment, but as it was not seconded,

Mr. BOUSH moved to amend by adding to the Report of the Committee "And also a Stenographic Reporter." The amendment was adopted. The report of the Committee was then concurred in as amended.

Mr. WING offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the pay of the President be the same as a member.

Mr. DOWNEY offered an amendment fixing the salary of the President at eight dollars per diem, which was lost. The resolution was then adopted.

Mr. THOMAS offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the pay of the Clerks and Reporter of this Convention shall be six dollars per diem each.



On motion the election of permanent officers was then gone into.

Mr. WING nominated LeRoy G. Edwards, of Norfolk, for President, and Mr. GOVER nominated Dr. A. Watson, of Accomac county.

The first ballot resulted as follows :—LeRoy G. Edwards 10 ; Dr. A. Watson 5 ; W. W. Wing 1.

Mr. EDWARDS was declared duly elected and was conducted to the chair by Dr. Webb. He accepted the honor conferred upon him by a few appropriate remarks.

Mr. WING nominated W. J. Cowing of Alexandria, for Secretary. There being no other nominations he was declared unanimously elected.

Mr. WING nominated Wm. F. Mercier, of Loudoun County, for Reading Clerk. There being no other nominations he was declared unanimously elected.

Mr. WEBB nominated Mr. G. P. Kneller, of Norfolk County, for Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mr. BEACH nominated Mr. Brooks of Fairfax County.

The first ballot resulted as follows :—Mr. Kneller 15 ; Mr. Brooks 2. Mr. Kneller having received a majority of the votes cast was declared duly elected.

The following named gentlemen were put in nomination for Doorkeeper : Edward Sullivan, of Alexandria ; Wm. Hough, of Loudoun County ; John Hanna, of Fairfax County ; Joseph Colton, of Alexandria County.

On the third ballot Mr. Colton received nine votes, Mr. Hough five and Mr. Hanna two. Mr. Colton having received a majority of the votes cast was declared duly elected.

Mr. HAWKHURST offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the President be authorized to employ a reporter.

Dr. WEBB offered the following resolution, which was also adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Sergeant-at-Arms is hereby instructed to procure additional desks or tables for the use of the Convention.

Mr. WING offered the following resolution, which was also adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed to purchase a stove for the more comfortable warming of the room, and also to procure stationery for the use of the Convention.

Mr. WING also offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to confer with the President of the United States on the question of emancipation.

Mr. WATSON moved to amend by adding "and compensation" after the word "emancipation."

Messrs. BUSH and HAWKHURST objected to the resolution, and thought it unwise and untimely.

Dr. WATSON also thought the resolution premature.

Mr. HAWKHURST moved to lay on the table, which motion was not sustained.

The ayes and nays being called for on the passage of the resolution, the vote stood as follows:

*Ayes*—Messrs. LeRoy G. Edwards, (President), Moore, Penn, Thomas, Stone, Tennis, Webb, Wing.—8.

*Nays*—Messrs. Beach, Boush, Downey, Eix, Gover, Henshaw, Hawkhurst, Wood, Watson.—3.

So the resolution was lost.

Dr. WATSON offered the following resolutions which were adopted:

*Resolved*, That the President of this Convention be instructed to appoint the following Committees:

A Committee on the Judiciary, consisting of five members.

A Committee on the Elective Franchise, consisting of five members.

A Committee on Representation, consisting of five members.

A Committee on Emancipation, consisting of five members.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 12 o'clock, to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 17th, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

The proceedings of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. DOWNEY offered the following resolution which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the President be instructed to appoint the following additional Committees:

A Committee on Bill of Rights, consisting of five members.

A Committee on Executive Department, consisting of five members.

A Committee on Legislative Department, consisting of five members.

A Committee on Education, consisting of five members.

Mr. DOWNEY offered the following resolutions, which were also adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Clerk be authorized to purchase a Journal in which to record the proceedings of this Convention.

*Resolved, further*, That he be authorized to have twenty-five copies of the Journal printed daily for the use of the Convention.

Mr. WING offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the session of the Convention be opened with prayer, and that the President be authorized to confer with the clergy men of this city for that purpose.

Mr. DOWNEY offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to subscribe for one hundred and twenty-five copies of the *Virginia State Journal* (Daily) for the use of members of this Convention, and that the same be enclosed in wrappers ready for mailing.

Mr. BEUSH offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That a Committee of five be appointed by the President to determine who are citizens of the Restored Government of Virginia, and how citizenship may be relinquished.

Mr. WATSON offered the following amendment:

"That the Committee on the Elective Franchise be, and are hereby instructed to report on the above subject."

The amendment was accepted and the resolution was then adopted as amended.

Dr. WEBB offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Sergeant-at-Arms be authorized to have fifty copies of the Rules adopted by this Convention printed for the use of its members.

Mr. HAWKHURST offered the following resolution, which was rejected:

*Resolved*, That a Committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the propriety of ordering an election in Prince William County for a Delegate to this Convention.

Mr. WING offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

*Resolved*, That we proceed to the election of a Janitor, whose duties shall be to make fires and keep the Hall in order, and whose compensation shall be two dollars per diem.

Wm. Hough, of Loudoun County, and John Hanna, of Fairfax County, were then put in nomination for Janitor.

The first ballot resulted as follows :--Hough 12; Hanna 4.

Mr. HOUGH having received the highest number of votes cast was declared elected.

Mr. THOMAS offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That no person shall have access to this Convention as a newspaper reporter who disloyal, or who refuses to take the oath to the restored and vindicated Government of Virginia.

The resolution was debated at some length by Messrs. Penn, Boush, Downey, Thomas, Hawkhurst, Wing and Webb. On motion to have the ayes and nays taken on the adoption or rejection of the resolution, the vote stood as follows :

*Ayes*--Messrs. LeRoy G. Edwards, (President), Downey, Gover, Benshaw, Stone, Thomas, Travis, Wood, Webb, Wing.--10.

*Nays*--Messrs. Beach, Boush, Dix, Hawkhurst, Moore, Penn, Watson.--7.

So the resolution was adopted.

Mr. DOWNEY offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Sergeant-at-arms be authorized to purchase a suitable desk and table for the proper security of the papers and documents of this Convention.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 12 o'clock to-morrow.

—o—  
THURSDAY, Feb. 18th, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

Prayer by Rev. W. F. SPEAKE, of the M. E. Church.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. BEACH moved a reconsideration of the vote on the resolutions of the gentleman from Loudoun (Mr. Downey), providing for the appointment of additional standing committees, and adopted yesterday. The motion being sustained

Mr. BEACH offered the following resolutions as a substitute therefor, which were adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Committee to be appointed on the Elective Franchise, be also charged with the consideration of all such resolutions or propositions as may appertain to the Bill of Rights, the Division of Powers and the Qualification of Voters, and that said committee be denominated the "Committee on the Bill of Rights and the Qualification of Voters."