

Yorkville, S. C., October 7th, 1912.

Mr. W. V. Sturgis

Dear Sir:—

As you know, the registered voters of York County will by their votes, decide on November 5th next, whether or not bonds shall be issued by the County in the sum of Seventy-five Thousand Dollars for the erection of a new Court House. That a new and adequate Court House is needed, cannot be doubted by any one who has had business with the County officials, or who has been called upon to act as a juror or witness in recent years. The main building of the present Court House was constructed nearly one hundred years ago. To this building there were added some rooms after the fire in 1892, but these additional rooms failed to give the space needed. York County is one of the richest counties in the State, and yet has among the poorest Court Houses. Aside from the necessity for a new Court House, pride in our county should lead us to have a Court House in keeping with that of other counties of equal wealth and population.

This fact is so evident that in 1911, the then Grand Jury was moved to make the following report:

"The Committee on County Buildings reports that the Jail is in as good condition as possible. The Court House is inadequate for the present needs, as the Clerk of the Court has to rent rooms outside of the Court House to keep part of his books; also the Treasurer and Auditor are badly crowded, as has been reported by former Grand Juries. Also, auditorium and jury rooms are too small. All officers need more room and light. The County Supervisor has to give up his room to the Grand Jury while they are in session, and it is too small for their comfort. The Auditor has to give half of his room to the Petit Jury. The Grand Jury, in a body, request our delegation in the Legislature to give us a modern Court House to conform to the growing needs of our prosperous county, for any one can see we have outgrown our present one by several years."

"M. L. Carroll, Foreman, (York), S. J. Sturgis (Catawba), A. O. Jones (Fort Mill), W. P. Boyd (Bethel), J. W. Betts (York), N. S. Black (York), W. I. Brison (King's Mountain), J. S. Wilkerson (Broad River), J. M. Campbell (Bethesda), M. L. Dickson (York), J. A. Harshaw (Bethesda), H. E. Moore (King's Mountain), J. N. Hogue (Broad River), W. H. Hill (Catawba), W. H. Ford (King's Mountain), B. F. Bennett (Fort Mill), T. M. Ferguson (York), J. E. Jackson (King's Mountain)."

The present bill provides that there shall be a levy of one mill upon all the taxable property in the county.

This levy is too high and will pay off the bonds in about ten years. It is therefore proposed and will undoubtedly be done, that the York delegation at the next session of the Legislature cut this levy to one-half mill on the dollar—or five cents on every one hundred dollars of assessed property in the county. This sum is so small that it will hardly be felt by the taxpayers.

We have taken the liberty of examining your assessment and find that your property is assessed by the Board at \$ 1500. Your increase in taxes, therefore, by reason of the bond issue will amount to only \$ 0.75.

Very Respectfully,

JNO. R. HART,  
E. W. PURSLEY,  
B. F. SCGGINS,  
W. B. MOORE,  
J. O. MOORE,

Committee.