

## Record of Road Reports commencing Dec. 1857

Commissioner's Office, December 7<sup>th</sup> 1857,

This being the time for a regular session of the County Commission, the Board met and proceeded to business. Present Messrs John Majors, John H. Johnson and Harrison Masie.

Whereas at the September<sup>Session</sup> 1857, of the Board, the following petition was presented—

To the Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio.

We, the undersigned petitioners, being land holders, and residing in said county, respectfully represent that in consequence of the laying out and opening of the "Grade Road from the County line by way of Somerton to Barnesville," an alteration can be made to advantage in the County Road from Somerton to Miltonsburg, commencing near W. T. Bacco House on the lands of Joseph Brown and running with said Grade Road to the West line of the said Brown's land, thence the nearest and best route to the top of the hill on the lands of David Deague, thence with the old road to the north boundary of Barclay Broomhall's lands, and thence with said line to the end of the lane of the said Broomhall.

We therefore request the Commissioners to appoint viewers to view the proposed alteration, and make report thereon pursuant to the Statute in such cases made and provided.

The foregoing petition was signed by Joseph Brown and thirty other persons. And the Board of Commissioners being satisfied that the Petitioners have pursued the course required by Statute, and that at least twelve of them are freeholders, and Joseph Brown and John A. Groves having given sufficient bond conditioned for the payment of costs, the Board appointed Robert Clancy, William Stanton and Elijah Gregg, viewers, and Asa Garretson, Surveyor. To meet at Joseph Brown's on Saturday, September 19, 1857, and after being qualified proceed to discharge the duties of their appointment, and report thereon in writing to the Commissioners at their next session, commencing on the first Monday of December, 1857.

Said Order was delivered to Joseph Brown on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 1857. And at the present session of the Board the following Report of the aforesaid viewers was presented:

To the Commissioners of Belmont County

In obedience to your Order we met at the house of Joseph Miller, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of 9<sup>th</sup> month 1857, and after being duly qualified, proceeded to the discharge of our duties, as required by said Order.

After a careful examination of the present road, together

with the route described in the said Order, and comparing the respective distances with the grade of each route, we are of the opinion that so much of the Alteration as is represented in the Surveyor's Plot between Stations Ten and One inclusive, will be of public utility, and would recommend therefore that it be established in lieu of the present road, and made a public highway, and that it be opened thirty feet wide.

With regard to the remaining Alteration on the Lands of Barclay Broomhall, we would remark, that we find that nearly five perches will be added to the distance while the grade of the road will be increased, though far below many other points over which it is passing. We think if the new route is adopted, which would be an advantage to the owner of the premises, it ought to be opened and put in good order by himself. And then, if no objection were made, we apprehend it might serve for all the travel that would be likely to pass over it.

No applications for damages presented.

All of which is respectfully submitted

William Stanton  
Robert Clawdy  
Elijah Gregg } Viewers

9th Month 22<sup>nd</sup> 1857.

Viewers' Fees - \$1.50 each	\$4.50
Surveyors " for Surveying and Plotting	4.00
Chairmen and Markers \$1 each	3.50 = \$11.50 paid

Said Report having been read in open meeting on three different days of the present session, and no objection being made thereto, the Commissioners Order that the said Road, be established a public highway, as recommended by the Viewers. And require the Supervisor through whose District said road passes to open and work the same according to Law.

Whereas, at the September Session, 1857, of the Board, the following Petition was presented:

To the Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio,

We, the undersigned petitioners, being Land holders, and residing in said County, respectfully represent that in consequence of the laying out and opening of the Grade Road from the County line by way of Somerton to Beallsville, an Alteration can be made to advantage in the County Road from Somerton to Beallsville, commencing at the South End of Somerton and running

with said Grade Road near a Tobacco house on the Lands of Joseph Miller, north of Ground Mill, thence down Captina Creek to where the said County Road crosses Captina Creek

We therefore request the Commissioners to appoint Viewers to view the proposed alteration, and make report thereon pursuant to the Statute in such cases made and provided.

The foregoing petition was signed by Joseph Miller and sixteen other persons, and the Commissioners being satisfied that the petitioners have pursued the course required by Statute, and that at least Twelve of them are freeholders; and Joseph Brown and John A. Grove having given sufficient bond conditioned for payment of costs, Robert Cloudy, William Stanton and Elijah Gregg were appointed Viewers, and Asa Ganettan, Surveyor, to meet at Joseph Miller, on Saturday September 19th 1854, and after being qualified, according to law, proceeded to discharge the duties of their appointment, and make report thereon in writing to the Commissioners, at their session in March 1854.

Said Order was delivered to Joseph Brown on the 7th September 1854, and at the present session of the Board the following Report of the Viewers was presented.

To the Commissioners of Belmont County

Pursuant to your Order we met on the 23rd of 9th month 1854, and after being qualified proceeded to view the alteration on the Road from Samerton to Beallsville, as described in said Order, and which is presented in the Surveyors plot of the same, to which we refer.

We found that the present Road connecting the two points is 131 1/2 perches in length, a considerable portion of it being steep grade, and requiring a good deal of labor to keep it in order. On the new route the distance is 57 perches to the "Grade," on comparatively level ground, and with the exception of a few perches very little labor will be required in the opening of the Road.

In addition to the labor saved in keeping up 74 1/2 perches of Road, Ground Mill being situated near its junction, with the "Grade," it becomes necessary for the convenience of the public that a road should be established on the line indicated, as the present outlet is liable to be closed at any time by the owner of the premises. We are therefore of the opinion that the proposed alteration will be of public utility, and recommend that it be established, and made a public highway, and that it be opened thirty feet wide. And further, there has not been any application for damages presented.

All of which is respectfully submitted, William Stanton }  
Deed of Viewers, Surveyor, } \$10.50 - paid } Viewers  
Chairmen and Markers } Robert Cloudy }  
Elijah Gregg }

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The foregoing Report having passed three readings at the present session of the Board, and no objections being made thereto, the Commissioners Order that the said Road be established a public highway, as recommended by the Viewers, and require the Supervisor through whose District the said Road passes, to open and work the same according to law. (Order to Supervisor issued Apr 10, 1858)

Whereas, at the September Session, 1854, of the Board, the following petition was presented;

To the Commissioners of Belmont County

The undersigned, freeholders of Belmont County respectfully represent, that an Alteration of so much of the County Road leading from Belle Air to intersect the National Road at the house of Joseph Woodmante, as run through the lands of Robinson Keyser, commencing at the South East boundary line of said Keyser land and terminating at or near a large Mulberry Tree near the corner of his Orchard, would be of public utility. And that said Alteration would place the Road on as good ground as that on which the old one is located, and shorten rather than increase the distance.

We therefore respectfully ask that you take such action in relation to said Alteration as you are authorized by the Statute in such cases made and provided, and that so much of the old road as is embraced in the new (of said Alteration be granted) be vacated. For that your petitioners doth ever pray.

The foregoing petition is signed by Robinson Keyser, and Twelve other persons. And the Commissioners being satisfied that the Petitioners had pursued the course required by Statute, and that at least Twelve of them are freeholders, and Robinson Keyser and John S. Anderson having given sufficient Bond conditioned for the payment of costs, James Kelsey, James McGregor and James Alexander were appointed Viewers, and Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor. To meet at Robinson Keyser's on the 24th September, 1854, and after being qualified according to law, proceed to the discharge of the duties of their appointment, and make Report <sup>thereon</sup> in writing to the Commissioners at their next session, commencing on the first Monday of December, 1854.

Said Order was delivered to Robinson Keyser on the 9th day of September 1854. And at the present session of the Board the following Report of the Viewers was presented

To the Commissioners of Belmont County

The undersigned, appointed by you to view the ground for the alteration of the county road in the annexed Order described, do Report that they met at the time and place in said Order mentioned, and having been first duly sworn faithfully and impartially to discharge the duties required of us by said Order, did view the ground for the alteration of said Road, as in said Order described, and caused the same to be surveyed and marked, which will more fully appear by the Report of Thomas Mitchell, who ~~did~~ surveyed and plotted said alteration of said Road. And we are of opinion that should said Road be established and opened upon the ground as now located by us, that the interests of the public would in no wise be prejudiced thereby, and that the same would in all respects be equal, and in our opinions preferable, to the old. And we are further of opinion that forty feet would be a sufficient width to establish and open said part of said Road so altered, and we do hereby vacate so much of said old Road as is rendered useless by the establishment of the new. We are of opinion that Robinson Keyser is not entitled to any damages on account of said alteration of said Road

James Kelsey }  
James Alexander } Viewers  
James McGregor }

Surveyor's fees \$5.00  
Viewers and Chairmen 6.00 } \$11.00 paid

The foregoing Report having passed three readings at the present session of the Board, and no objections being made thereto, the Commissioners Order that the said Road be established a public highway, as recommended by the Viewers, and require the Supervisor through whose District the said Road passes, to open and work the same according to law.

(Order to Supervisor issued Apr 10. 1858)

Whereas, at the September Session, 1854, of the Board, the following petition was presented:

To the Commissioners of Belmont County,

We, the undersigned, Freeholders of the said County, respectfully petition your honorable Body for a change and alteration of, and the vacation of a portion of the county Road leading from the Town of Stettinsville to a point on Large McMahons Creek about two miles above Glencoe, near or on the Lands of Wm. V. Bigger. The portion to be changed being about fifty rods on the farm of Robert G. Duncan and Frederick Ault, near the old Road, thence south about twenty five rods to a locust tree, thence about fifteen rods in

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South Eastern direction, until it intersects the Old Road. And we also petition for the vacation of that part of the Old Road which will not then be used.

The foregoing petition is signed by Joshua L. Anderson and sixteen other persons. And the Board being satisfied that the petitioners had pursued the course required by Statute, and that at least Twelve of them are freeholders, and Robert G. Duncan, S. M. Howey, W. S. Campbell and John A. Gore having given sufficient Bond conditioned for the payment of costs, John Welch, William Wearnock and John Taggart, Viewers, and James H. McMullen, Surveyor, do meet at Robert G. Duncan on the 17th day of October, 1857, and after being qualified according to law, proceed to the discharge of the duties of their appointment, and report thereon in writing to the Commissioners at their next Session, commencing on the first Monday of December 1857.

Said Order was delivered to Robert G. Duncan of the 7th September, 1857. And at the present Session of the Board the following Report of the Viewers was presented:

To the Commissioners of Belmont County

We, the undersigned, appointed Viewers by the Commissioners of said County, to view the ground for the alteration of a County Road leading from St. Clairsville to Big Mt. Mahons Creek, beginning on the farm of Robert G. Duncan; and the vacation of that part of the present Road that will not be used after said alteration—

do leave to Report that after being duly qualified, we have this day proceeded, according to the direction of said Order, by actual view of the premises, and by the aid of James H. McMullen, Surveyor, to examine fully the proposed alteration and vacation aforesaid. And we hereby agree to Report, and recommend to the Commissioners, that the said alteration and vacation be made, as Surveyed by the Surveyor aforesaid.

And we further recommend to the Commissioners that the said Robert G. Duncan be required to make and grade the new Survey of said Road so as to fully accommodate the public travel, before obstructing, in any way, the Road now in use, at his own cost.

No application was made for damages, and no damages were offered. Given under our hands this 17th day of October, 1857,

John Welch

William Wearnock } Viewers.

John Taggart }

Viewers fees \$4.50

Surveyors " 2.50 = \$7.00

The foregoing Report having passed three readings at the

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present Session of the Board, and no objection being made thereto, the Commissioners Order that the said Road be established a public highway, as recommended by the Viewers. And require the Supervisor through whose District the said Road passes to hereafter work the same according to Law. (Order to Supervisor issued April 10, 1858)

Whereas, at the September Session, 1857, of the Board, the following petition was presented:

To the Commissioners of Belmont County

This 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1857, a petition praying for ~~the~~<sup>an</sup> alteration in the State Road that leads from the National Road, (one half mile west of Monistown,) to Barnesville, on that part running through the lands of Thomas Alexander, the same to commence at or near a coal Bank on James Tallman's place, from thence an Eastern course to the Creek, thence a north Eastern course to the old Road. and that part of the old Road to be vacated.

Said petition was signed by Thomas Alexander and Eighteen other persons. And the Commissioners being satisfied that the petitioners had pursued the course required by Statute, and that at least Twelve of them are freeholders; and Thomas Alexander and Charles B. Atkinson having given sufficient bond, conditioned for the payment of costs, Robert Heaney, Sr. Job Sheppard, (of Nathan) and Job Ayres, Viewers, and Job J. Thompson, Surveyor. Do meet at Thomas Alexander on Saturday, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1857, and after being qualified according to law, proceed to the discharge of the duties of their appointment, and make Report thereon in writing to the Commissioners at their next Session, commencing on the first Monday of December, 1857.

Said Order was forwarded to Thomas Alexander, and at the present Session of the Board the following Report of the Viewers was presented:

By virtue of an Order to us directed by the Commissioners of Belmont County, we, the undersigned, do certify that we have viewed that part of the Barnesville Road sought to be altered by the Petitioner, and find it to be a steeper grade than the old Survey, and that it would cause a Bridge necessarily to be built, at an expense of about one hundred and fifty dollars. We therefore report unfavorable to the alteration, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1857

Viewers fees \$4.50.

(\$4.50 paid to Treasurer by Thos. Alexander)

Job Sheppard } Viewers  
Job Mc Ayres }  
Robert Heaney }  
The foregoing Report passed three readings, and said Report being unfavorable, to the alteration, no further proceedings were had thereon.

Whereas, at the September Session, 1857, of the Board, the following Petition was presented:

To the Commissioners of Belmont County  
Gentlemen—The undersigned respectfully  
petition your honorable Board to authorize a Survey of  
the County Road from the Jefferson County line to the  
residence of Owen Dewees  
John C. Pickens

September 8, 1857.

Thereupon, Jesse Barton, Archibald Major and Solomon Bracken were appointed Viewers, and Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor, to meet at John C. Pickens on the 28th September, 1857, and after being qualified, <sup>according</sup> to law, proceed to the discharge of the duties of their appointment, and make report thereon in writing to the Commissioners at their next session, commencing on the first Monday of December, 1857.

Said Order was forwarded to John C. Pickens, and at the present Session of the Board the following Report of the Viewers was presented:

To the Commissioners of Belmont County—

Pursuant to your Order we met on the 28th September, 1857, and after being qualified, proceeded to view the County Road leading from the Jefferson County line to Owen Dewees, in Pease Township, and found part of the Road open and part of it closed. Commencing at the Jefferson County line the greater portion of Two Miles is closed, and then one mile and a half is open, and the balance of the Road, about three-fourths of a mile, is closed.

We are of opinion that the Road should be opened its entire length, and recommend that the Board of Commissioners so direct. And further, no application having been presented to us for damages, none have been allowed

Respectfully Submitted

Jesse Barton  
Archibald Major, } Viewers  
Solomon Bracken }

Viewers fees	\$18.00
Chairman's fees	6.00
Assessors " "	3.00
Surveyors " "	12.00 = \$39.00—all paid

The foregoing Report passed three readings at the present Session of the Board, and no objections being made thereto, the Commissioners Order that said Road be opened, as recommended by the Viewers. And direct that the Supervisor through whose District the said Road passes be required to open and work the same according to law.



We the Commissioners of Belmont County, having examined the foregoing Record of the Road business of the present session, do hereby certify that we believe the same to be correct.

Harrison, Massie  
John Major  
John H. Johnson

March Session, 1858

The Commissioners of Belmont County, convened in regular session, at their Office in St. Clairsville, on the 2<sup>d</sup> day of March, 1858. Present—Messrs. John Major, John H. Johnson and Harrison Massie, Esqrs. and proceeded to business.

Petition for Alteration of Road from Williamsburg to Barnesville  
At the December Session, 1857, of the Board, the following petition was presented.

To the Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio.

Your petitioners respectfully request that you represent that by an order of your Board the County Road leading from Williamsburg to Barnesville, in Vesner Township, was so changed as to run the same about one-fourth of a mile along the Central Ohio Rail Road, on the land of Isaac Reed. That the said change was made for the sole accommodation of the said Isaac Reed. That the old Road crossed under the C. O. R. Road at the Tressell, while the altered Road crosses the track of the said R. Road. This increases the danger to those using said Road, and that the change has greatly increased the danger to persons using said road, from the risk of frightening horses and stock. Passing so great a distance along the line of the Rail Road, and that the lives and property of those using said road are in constant danger when passing along said new road.

Your petitioners therefore pray you for an Order for views for an Alteration of said road from a point at or near the south west corner of Isaac Reed's Milldam, running in a south-western direction, keeping south of the dwelling house and barn of Isaac Reed, to a point ten or fifteen rods south of the present fork of the Williamsburg and Millwood Roads, all on the lands of said Isaac Reed. Also, to vacate the lately established Road between the above described points."