

Northern Kentucky
Views Presents:

Workhouse Rules and Little Iron Bridge

FROM THE
Falmouth Outlook
1909

As reprinted in
The Quarterly Newsletter of
the Pendleton County
Historical and Genealogical
Society

www.nkyviews.com

Old-Timer Tells of Workhouse Rules: And Little Iron Bridge:

Copied from Falmouth Outlook, 1909

By The Old Timer

Well here is your old-timer friend back with you again. Thought it was time that I was back with you, elbowing my friends on Main and Shelby Streets.

This week I want to tell you about the workhouse rules which the town trustees adopted 75 years ago here. The date in fact was August 25, 1880, as well as I can remember:

“They shall be required to work for a period of eight hours each day they are confined at the work house.”

“They shall not be permitted to use any cursing or profane language while in charge of the manager of the workhouse.”

“Any person refusing to work in the workhouse or in the streets or allies when assigned work by any court trying the case, shall be detained in the workhouse or at the place where they are at noon or dinner time and not be permitted to have any dinner, or they may be bucked and gagged or tied up by the thumbs in the discretion of the manager at the workhouse.”

The rules were of course harsh as may be seen, but never the less they are in the City’s official minutes.

And would you like to know a little about the iron bridge built in 1880 that is still in use today over Burns Branch? If my memory serves me correctly, here is what the town council had to say at its September 30, 1880, meeting. “The new iron bridge on Main Cross Street over Town Branch, having been built according to the plans and specifications, and having been tested by the trustees, is received and it is ordered that the contractors, the Wrought Iron Bridge Co., of Canton, Ohio, be paid \$710 cash. They consenting to leave \$40 subject to a settlement between said company and A. R. Clarke and that a note for \$750 from date, bearing six percent per annum interest from date, be executed by the board of trustees to the said company for the balance in full for said bridge.”

Thus as you can see this bridge cost the city of Falmouth \$1,500 and has served the city well through the years - horse and buggy, and automobile.
