

Resolutions Offered by Peter Turney

To the Secession Meeting
Winchester, Franklin County, Tennessee
24 February 1861

RESOLUTIONS¹

1. **Resolved**, That the action of the State of Tennessee², on the 9th inst., is to us a source of unfeigned mortification and regret, as we hoped that her course would have been so different as to have, by the 4th day of March³ next, divorced Tennessee forever from her present bonds of political union, and have united her fate – for weal or woe, with her seven proud and gallant sisters of the South, which have so divorced themselves.

2. **Resolved**, That while against our wills and earnest desire, we as Tennesseans are forced to remain citizens of the Federal Union, our hearts, sympathies, and feelings are with the Confederate States of America, and we still hope that the [state] will review and reverse her action, and give birth to another State upon the National Flag of the Southern Republic.

3. **Resolved**, That we hope that the Northern fanatics have read the speeches of the Presidents – Davis and Lincoln (made *en route* for their respective seats of government), and seen the difference, and from it learned a lesson of common sense, which will cause them to hush their insane croaking about the ignorance of the Southern people, since they must see that while the Confederate States have for their representative a gentleman, a scholar, and a statesman, the Federal Union has a wag, a mental dwarf.

4. **Resolved**, That the speeches of President Lincoln, intimating coercion, deserve and will receive the supreme contempt of every true Southern heart; and when the Federal Government, under the administration of Mr.

Lincoln, shall call for troops to invade or coerce the seceding States, old Franklin will respond as becomes freemen who know their rights and dare to maintain them – not to aid the Federal Government, but to resist, even unto death, the Federal policy. If war must come, our fate is and should be with our sisters of the South; their cause shall be our cause – with them we will stand, or with them fall.

5. **Resolved**, That we earnestly petition the Legislatures of Alabama and Tennessee . . . to change the line between the two states, so as to transfer the county of Franklin to the State of Alabama, unless, before this can be done, Tennessee secede from the Union, thereby giving to us a government having our consent. And that copies of this and the next resolution be sent to the governors of Alabama and Tennessee as early as can be.

6. **Resolved**, That upon the conditions of the 5th resolution, we declare ourselves out of the Union, subject to be ratified by the States of Alabama and Tennessee, as provided in said resolution, which we again earnestly request may be early attended to.⁴

[These resolutions were adopted by the several hundred Franklin County citizens in attendance “with loud and protracted applause and cheers” and without audible dissent.]

¹ Michael D. Foreman, “The Secession of Franklin County,” in *The War of 1861-65: A Franklin County Perspective* (Winchester, TN: Franklin County Historical Society, 1998), pages 7-10.

² Tennessee voters rejected secession in a state-wide referendum on 9 February by a vote of 69,673 to 57,798. In Franklin County, however, secession was supported by a margin of 1,240 to 206. Ibid.

³ Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated 16th President of the United States on 4 March 1861.

⁴ In “The Secession of Franklin County,” Michael Foreman assumes that copies of these resolutions were sent to the Tennessee and Alabama legislatures, but notes on page 11 “there are no records of their [sic] having been sent or of any action having been taken by either government.”