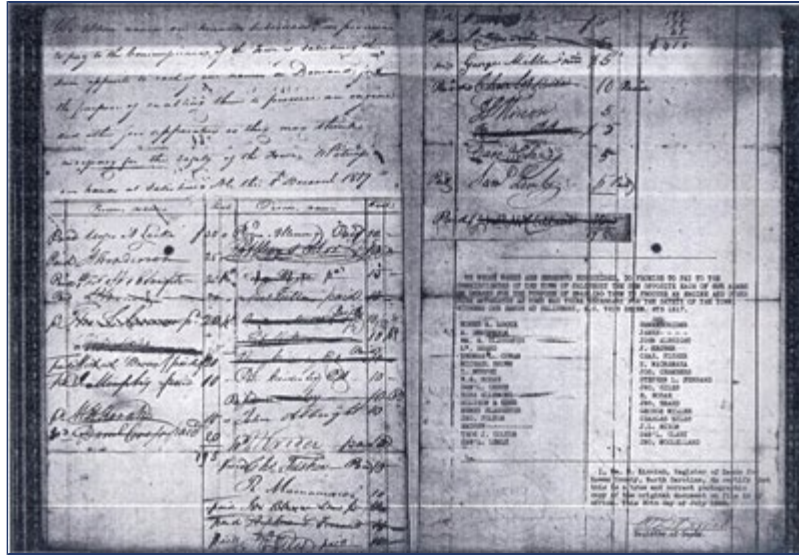


Salisbury Purchases Fire Engine, 1817

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Our friends at the [Salisbury Fire Department](#) send this scan of a photo of a nearly 200 year-old county record of the first fire engine purchase, when 32 citizens contributed \$175 dollars to "procure an engine and other apparatus." The action was recorded by the Rowan County Register of Deeds on December 8, 1817. What was bought? According to [this SFD history page](#), they obtained a single hand pumper (both hand-powered and likely hand-pulled), leather hose, and leather buckets. However, the first formal fire company was still a few decades away, with the formation of the Salisbury Vigilant Fire Company in 1855. Salisbury was also only one of some 20 cities and towns in the state that operated a steam engine in its day. [Read more SFD history](#). Click once or twice to enlarge:



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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?