



Lawyer, legislator, judge, and political leader during the troublesome Reconstruction times, the subject of this sketch also wrote history for a hobby; and, through his efforts and research, aided, of course, by his wide personal knowledge of local county affairs and large family connections, a published history of Hertford County from its earliest Colonial days until 1906 has been available since 1906. Subsequent researchers and historians have used Winborne's "Colonial and State History of Hertford County" as a basis for their work, and it has been an invaluable aid for those who sought accurate source material for articles regarding the life of Hertford County, and, also, for study or leisurely reading. "Judge" Winborne, as he was best known and familiarly called, died at his home in Murfreesboro February 24, 1919.

In addition to his History of Hertford County, he was author of a biography of the Winborne family, a publication which antedated his other work. From his research in family records developed the idea of preparing the county history. Stanley Winborne, Utilities Commissioner of North Carolina, and B. B. Winborne, Jr., who still resides in Murfreesboro, are the sons of the author, and from them the publishers of this newspaper secured permission to reprint the chapter from his history entitled "Hertford County's List of Officers."

Judge Winborne, in his published work on his family history, wrote his autobiography, as follows:

The eldest son of Samuel D. Winborne was born on April 14, 1854, at the family homestead, Cedar Hill, in Maney's Neck, Hertford County, North Carolina. At the time of his birth his uncle, Dr. R. H. Winborne, was attending lectures at the University of Virginia, and at the suggestion of the latter he was named Benjamin Brodie, in honor of a distinguished English surgeon, for whom Dr. Winborne had great admiration. In youth he attended Buckhorn Academy, a flourishing classical school, of which Capt. J. H. Picot, a graduate of Columbia College, of New York, was principal. In 1871 he entered Wake Forest College, where he remained for one year, and thereafter continued his studies in Columbian University in Washington, D. C., receiving from the latter the degree of B. L. in June, 1874. He then studied for one year in the office of Judge W. N. H. Smith and Hon. George F. Strong, of Raleigh, N. C., and began the practice of law in June, 1875, in Winton, N. C., having received his license from the Supreme Court of the State the preceding February and before he had attained his majority. He soon won his way to the front rank of his profession, and for a number of years has been one of the leading and most successful members of the bar in the eastern part of the State. In 1877 he was elected Solicitor of the Inferior Court of Hertford County—a court of limited criminal jurisdiction—and served in this capacity for a number of years. In 1891 this court was abolished, and a criminal court of general jurisdiction was established in its stead. At the earnest solicitation of the citizens of his county, he accepted the judgeship of this latter court, and served for a term of six years, except for a short interval when he resigned to serve in the Legislature of 1895—being reappointed judge after its adjournment by Governor Carr.

From 1878 to 1894 he served as chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of Hertford County, and it was under his management that the ascendancy of the Republican Party in the county was overcome. He was one of the thirty-three Democrats in the State, elected to the House of Representatives in the fall of 1894, and in the Legislature of 1895, he took an active and leading part. In 1896 he was one of the North Carolina delegates to the National Democratic Convention in Chicago. He was again elected a member of the Legislature, and served in the session of 1905. In this body he was chairman of the Democratic caucus, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and of other important legislation, and took a leading part in the debates of the session. On December 23, 1879, he married Miss Nellie H. Vaughan, a daughter of Col. Uriah Vaughan, of Murfreesboro, N. C., and a lady of exceptional beauty and rare loveliness of character. They were blessed with the following children:

Uriah Vaughan Winborne, born May 13, 1884, who died in infancy on August 5, 1884.

Stanley Winborne, born August 25, 1886, and now a young man of bright promise and a student at the University of North Carolina. He was named for Judge Stanley Matthews, whose intellectual and legal ability his father greatly admired.

Benjamin Brodie Winborne, Jr., born November 10, 1889, and now attending school in Murfreesboro, N. C.

Micajah Winborne, born February 3, 1896, died June 6, 1896. A more comprehensive sketch of the subject hereof will be found in the Biographical History of North Carolina, published in 1905.

—R. W. W.

HISTORICAL EDITION

Hertford County Herald

"A PAPER WORTH WHILE"

IN THE YEAR 1939

AHOSKIE, NORTH CAROLINA

SECTION A—8 PAGES

Eminent historians, each a leader in thought and action during his time, wrote and published their works before Ahoskie, which celebrates its Golden Anniversary this year, had attained any place in the life and affairs of Hertford County. Two of them had passed away before Ahoskie, as a town, had entered the picture, and the other, Judge Winborne, completed his historical work only fourteen years after the postoffice was established and before Ahoskie had gotten beyond the baby stage. Consequently scant reference is made to the town; the name, in its several spellings, denoting either a "ridge" lying next to a swamp and extending all the way from the present town to the village of St. Johns, the swamp itself, or the Baptist Church, which was organized and built 85 years before there was a post office at Ahoskie and 89 years before the town was incorporated.

Hertford County has been the native home of official North Carolina historians for almost a century. Wheeler's and Moore's histories have at various times and for many years been approved textbooks in North

HERTFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE



It hasn't changed much since the turn of the century. The above photograph was taken about a quarter of a century ago. Other views of the courthouse—before and since this one—appear in other sections of this issue.

Carolina schools. Both of these men were born in the county. Short sketches of each are given on another page of this edition. These two men, and Judge Winborne, have given the county an unofficial ranking as breeder of historians.

Volunteer historians who have prepared articles for this newspaper entered into their work with the knowledge that they had a record to "shoot at" and, though the time for material gathering and writing was limited to a few weeks, or months, they have produced sketches that should command wide reading, and all of them have contributed new and interesting facts about their towns and sections. There has been no attempt by any of them—nor were they expected—to write detailed local histories. (Sketches, or brief reviews, were asked for.)

From the material gathered here, it is to be hoped that some future historian—maybe, one of the contributors to this edition—may gather data, facts, and leads for a future historical work on Hertford County and its people, bringing up to date the history by Judge Winborne. To do that, several years and many dollars will be prime necessities. What has been done by the contributors to this edition was voluntary and without compensation.

HERTFORD COUNTY'S LIST OF OFFICERS*

HERTFORD'S CONGRESSMEN

1802-07—Gen. Thomas Wynns, near Winton.
1813-17—William Hardy Murfree, Murfreesboro.
1839-45—Kenneth Rayner, near Harrellsville.
1859-61—W. N. H. Smith, Murfreesboro.
1875-81—Jesse J. Yeates, Murfreesboro.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS

January, 1862-April, 1864—W. N. H. Smith.
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS
1801—Gen. Thomas Wynns.
1809—Gen. Thomas Wynns.
1848—Kenneth Rayner.
1860—John W. Moore.

MEMBERS OF GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL

Col. James Jones, Col. Matthias Brickle, Gen. Thomas Wynns, John A. Anderson, Maj. Jesse J. Yeates.

CONSULS AND MINISTERS.

1855—John H. Wheeler, Minister to Nicaragua.
1885-89—Thos. R. Jernigan, Consul to Japan.
1895—Hunter Sharp, Consul to Japan.
1893-97—Thos. R. Jernigan, Consul to Shanghai, China.
1932—Thad A. Eue.

MISCELLANEOUS

1831—Clerk of the Board of Commissioners under the Convention with France: John H. Wheeler.
1837—Superintendent of U. S. Mint at Charlotte: John H. Wheeler.
1842-44—Treasurer of the State: John H. Wheeler.
U. S. Senate from Arkansas: April, 1848-53—Solon Borland, a Murfreesboro boy.
Solicitor of First District: 1849-58—W. N. H. Smith; 1860-66—Jesse J. Yeates.
Chief Justice of the State: January, 1878-November, 1889—W. N. H. Smith.
Judge of Criminal Court: 1891-97—B. B. Winborne.
Chairman of Judiciary Committee in House of Assembly: 1800—Robert Montgomery; 1805—B. B. Winborne.
First Constitutional Convention of November 12, 1776: Delegates—Lawrence Baker, William Murfree, Robert Sumner, Day Ridley, and James Wright.
Hillsboro Convention of 1788, to consider the adoption of U. S. Constitution: Delegates—Maj. Geo. Wynns, Gen. Thomas Wynns, Rev. Lemuel Burkitt, Maj. Wm. Little, and Maj. Samuel Harrell.
Fayetteville Convention of 1789, which adopted the U. S. Constitution: Delegates—Gen. Thomas Wynns, Robert Montgomery, Col. Hardy Murfree, Henry Hill, and Henry Baker.
Constitutional Convention of 1835: Kenneth Rayner.
Secession Convention of 1861: Kenneth Rayner.
Constitutional Convention of 1865: R. G. Cowper.
Constitutional Convention of 1868: Jackson B. Hare.
Constitutional Convention of 1876: Jordan J. Horton.

ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE

Hertford County was represented in the Colonial Assembly and in the Senate and House of the General Assembly of North Carolina from the time it became a sovereign State in December, 1776, up to the present time, as appears below.

Its Colonial representatives were as follows:

1762-63—Henry Winborne and William Murfree.
1764-65—Benj. Wynns and Robert Sumner.
1766-68—Benj. Wynns and Matthias Brickle.
1769-70—Peter Wynns and Edward Hare.
1771-72—Benj. Wynns and Edward Hare.
1773-74—Benj. Wynns, Sr., and Benj. Wynns, Jr.
1775-76—William Murfree and George Wynns.
After North Carolina declared her independence of the British Government and adopted its first Constitution, Hertford's representatives in the General Assembly of the State have been as follows:
1777—Senate, Robert Sumner; House, Jos. Dickinson, James Garrett.
1778—Robert Sumner; Wm. Baker, James Maney.
1779—Robert Sumner; William Wynns, Nathan Cotton.
1780—Pleasant Jordan; William Wynns, John Baker.
1781—John Baker; Lewis Brown, Thos. Brickle.
1782—John Brickle; William Wynns, Thos. Brickle.

IT WAS THE COUNTY HOME



For many years prior to 1938, this group of buildings served as the Hertford County Home for the aged and infirm. It is now the site for one of the State's modern prison camps, having been sold in 1937; and the county home was at that time transferred to Winton, adjoining the courthouse property. The former county home property shown here is located on the suburbs of the village of Union.

1783—John Baker; Lewis Brown, Thos. Brickle.
1784—John Baker; William Hill, Thos. Brickle.
1785—Robert Sumner; James Maney, Robert Montgomery.
1786—Robert Sumner; William Hill, Thos. Brickle.
1787—Robert Sumner; Thos. Wynns, Robt. Montgomery.
1788—Robt. Montgomery; Henry Hill, Henry Hill.
1789—Robt. Montgomery; Henry Hill, Henry Hill.
1790—Thos. Wynns; Robt. Montgomery, Henry Hill.
1791—Thos. Wynns; Robt. Montgomery, Henry Hill.
1792—Thos. Wynns; Henry Hill, James Jones.
1793—Thos. Wynns; Jethro Darden, Henry Hill.
1794—Thos. Wynns; Jethro Darden, Robt. Montgomery.
1795—Thos. Wynns; Henry Hill, Robt. Montgomery.
1796—Thos. Wynns; Jethro Darden, James Jones.
1797—Thos. Wynns; Jethro Darden, James Jones.
1798—Thos. Wynns; Robt. Montgomery, James Jones.
1799—Thos. Wynns; Robt. Montgomery, James Jones.
1800—Thos. Wynns; Robt. Montgomery, James Jones.
1801—Robt. Montgomery; James Jones, Abner Perry.
1802—Robt. Montgomery; James Jones, Abner Perry.
1803—Robt. Montgomery; James Jones, Abner Perry.
1804—Robt. Montgomery; James Jones, Abner Perry.
1805—Robt. Montgomery; Jas. Jones, Wm. H. Murfree.
1806—Robt. Montgomery; James Jones, Abner Perry.
1807—Robt. Montgomery; Lewis Walters, Abner Perry.
1808—Thos. Wynns; Lewis Walters, Abner Perry.
1809—Thos. Wynns; Boone Felton, Abner Perry.
1810—Thos. Wynns; Boone Felton, Lewis Walters.
1811—Thos. Wynns; Boone Felton, William Jones.
1812—Thos. Wynns; Wm. H. Murfree, Jethro Darden.
1813—Thos. Wynns; Boone Felton, William Jones.
1814—Thos. Wynns; Boone Felton, William Jones.
1815—Thos. Wynns; Thomas Deans, William Jones.
1816—Thos. Wynns; Thomas Deans, William Jones.
1817—Thos. Wynns; Boone Felton, Thomas Maney.
1818—Boone Felton; Jno. Hamilton Frazier, B. J. Montgomery.
1819—Jno. H. Frazier; B. J. Montgomery, Isaac Carter.
1820—Thos. Deans; Jas. Copeland, Jas. D. Wynns.
1821—David E. Sumner; Isaac Carter, Lewis M. Jeggitts.
1822—David E. Sumner; Isaac Carter, Lewis M. Jeggitts.
1823—David E. Sumner; Isaac Copeland, John Vann.
1824—James Copeland; John Vann, Isaac Carter.
1825—James Copeland; John Vann, Isaac Carter.
1826—Elisha H. Sharpe; B. J. Montgomery, Leonard Martin.
1827—David O. Askew; B. J. Montgomery, John H. Wheeler.
1828—David O. Askew; B. J. Montgomery, John H. Wheeler.
1829—B. J. Montgomery; Elisha A. Chamblee, John H. Wheeler.
1830—Jacob Hare; Isaac Carter, John H. Wheeler.
1831—B. J. Montgomery; Elisha A. Chamblee, Godwin C. Moore.
1832—B. J. Montgomery; Isaac Carter, Thos. V. Roberts.
1833—John Vann; Isaac Carter, Sipher Smith.
1834—Geo. W. Montgomery; Isaac Carter, Sipher Smith.
1835—John Vann; R. C. Borland, Kenneth Rayner.
The amendments to the Constitution in 1835 reduced Hertford's representation in the House to one member and made the sessions biennial.

1836—Geo. W. Montgomery; Kenneth Rayner.
1838—Thomas B. Sharpe; Kenneth Rayner.
1840—B. T. Spiers; Wm. N. H. Smith.
1842—Godwin C. Moore; Starkey Sharpe.
1844—Richard G. Cowper; Jacob Sharpe.
1846—Richard G. Cowper; Kenneth Rayner.
1848—William N. H. Smith; Kenneth Rayner.
1850—D. V. Sessions; Kenneth Rayner.
1852—Richard G. Cowper; W. L. Daniel.
1854—Kenneth Rayner; W. L. Daniel.
1856—Richard G. Cowper; Joseph B. Slaughter.
1858—Richard G. Cowper; W. N. H. Smith.
1860-61—J. B. Slaughter; Jesse J. Yeates.
1861-62—J. B. Slaughter; Jesse J. Yeates.
1862-63—J. B. Slaughter; Jesse J. Yeates.
1863-64—J. B. Slaughter; Jesse B. Vann.
1864-65—James M. Wynns; John A. Vann.
1865-66—R. G. Cowper; W. N. H. Smith.
1866-67—James C. Barnes; Godwin C. Moore.
1867-68—James C. Barnes; Godwin C. Moore.

In 1868 a Constitutional Convention was held in North Carolina to alter the fundamental law of the State. The delegates to the convention were composed chiefly of "Carpet-Baggers" from the most vicious element of the Northern army and its sympathizers, who, after the cessation of hostilities, remained in the South, to rob and plunder the Southern States. But few of the true and loyal sons of the State were allowed to participate in the deliberations of the political bodies of those times. Jackson B. Hare was the delegate from Hertford County. The Constitution prepared by this posthumous or illegitimate convention was submitted to a portion of the people of the State for ratification, at an election held on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd days of April, 1868. The ex-slaves voted three days. A large per centum of the best and truest citizens of the State were disfranchised and not allowed to vote, and in their places the recent slave negro men were armed with the ballot and allowed to vote at the election as directed by these "Carpet Baggers" and the native traitors to our State. General Canby, the military potentate of North and South Carolina, sitting in Charleston, S. C., declared the Constitution ratified by the voters of the State. The chivalrous and proud people of the State had no alternative but to submit to the indignities heaped upon them by such cowards as Thad. Stevens and W. H. Stewart, the haters of the South, and its own Benedict Arnolds.

Under the Constitution of 1868, Bertie and Hertford counties formed the Fifth Senatorial District, and were given one senator in the General Assembly. The terms of office of the members of the Assembly began with their election and continued for two years. The General Assembly met annually on the third Monday in November. The Fifth Senatorial District was represented as follows:
1868-69—J. W. Beasley, R., Bertie County.

1869-70—J. W. Beasley, R., Bertie County.
1870-71—J. W. Beasley, R., Bertie County.
1871-72—J. W. Beasley, R., Bertie County.

The legislation and corruption of the above sessions of the General Assembly form the blackest pages of North Carolina's history. It is a lasting shame and disgrace to the Republican party of the State. It will never be forgotten by the true and honorable people of the State and their descendants. In the summer of 1872 the white people of the State succeeded in electing a large majority of the members of the General Assembly, and that body, by an act ratified January 10, 1872, by a three-fifths vote of all the members, amended the Constitution of 1868 in several particulars. One of the amendments was in changing the sessions from "annual" to "biennial." That same body, by an act ratified February 2, 1872, re-appointed the representation of the State, and put Hertford County in the First Senatorial District, with the six other counties east of Chowan River, and they were given two members. The members from the First Senatorial District, thereafter, were as follows:

1872-74—John L. Chamberlain, R., Camden County; C. W. Grandy, R., Pasquotank County.
1874-76—Wm. B. Shaw, D., Currituck County; Thomas R. Jernigan, D., Hertford County.
1876-78—Octavius Coke, D., Chowan County; W. C. Mercer, D., Currituck County.

In 1875 another Constitutional Convention was held in North Carolina, and presided over by Edmund Ransom, of Tyrrell County, who was elected as an independent to said convention. The members of the Republican and Democratic parties were about evenly divided. The Democrats secured the cooperation of Mr. Ransom by electing him president of the convention. This gave the Democrats one majority on the floor. Many important amendments were made in the organic law of the State by this body. Much of the sting of the Canby Constitution of 1868 was eradicated. No man of the majority could afford to be absent from his seat during this all-important session. The devotion of the Democratic members of this convention was never better shown than during the days of this momentous session of this exciting convention. Hertford County was represented in this convention by Jordan J. Horton, a Republican.

The time for the biennial meetings of the General Assembly was changed from the third Monday in November next after the election of the Governor to the first Monday in November next after the election of the Governor.

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