

SALARY VS. FEES.

Clerk of the Court W. H. Humphrey Gives Revenue and Expenses of His Office and Makes Some Observations.

To the Editor of The Robesonian:

Having recently noticed in The Robesonian and The Rowland Sun editorial items advocating a law placing the officers of Robeson county on salaries instead of fees or commissions as at present, and having seen it intimated that the officers would not be willing to make public the income of their respective offices, I decided to make careful investigation regarding the office of the clerk of the court and give the people, through your columns, the advantage of the same.

I find that the actual gross income for the year ending June 1st, this year, was \$4,233.32, and that the expenses in the way of clerical assistance, postage and furnishing and repairing typewriters, etc., amounts to \$1,651.39. Nothing is included in the above expense bill for incidental expenses other than those mentioned and for the many benevolences to which the clerk is almost daily called upon to contribute. This leaves, as you will see, clear of the expenses above mentioned \$2,581.93. The bill passed by the Legislature in 1907, I believe, allowed the clerk \$2,500 salary, but only \$500 for clerical assistance, which amount was hardly sufficient several years ago. On account of an increase in salaries for clerical assistance and the increased amount of work, especially this year, when over four hundred of our citizens were indicted for failing to list their taxes (increasing our criminal docket to more than four times its usual number of cases), the amount would be still more inadequate.

I know there is a growing sentiment in favor of salaries, and I do not think this objectionable if salaries were adequate and if sufficient allowance was made for clerical assistance; and I do not hesitate to say, further, that I believe the revenue to the county on the basis of \$2,500 for salary and \$500 for clerical assistance would be approximately \$1000 a year from the clerk's office alone. But, as intimated, the above allowances are not adequate, when we take into consideration the responsibilities of the office and the fact that so much gratuitous work is expected of the clerk in the way of information, correspondence, etc. The clerk ought to be allowed to keep a stenographer, as he can be of so much more service to the people if he has one.

There is a very large per cent—perhaps 25 per cent—of the work of this office for which the clerk never does realize any compensation, for which he would, of course, be expected to demand and collect the cash, as he would have no discretion in the matter of indulging any one for their fees. The fact is that about 75 per cent of the work done in the office is done on time and a great many of the items are so small that it does not pay to try to collect them, and so they become a loss to the office.

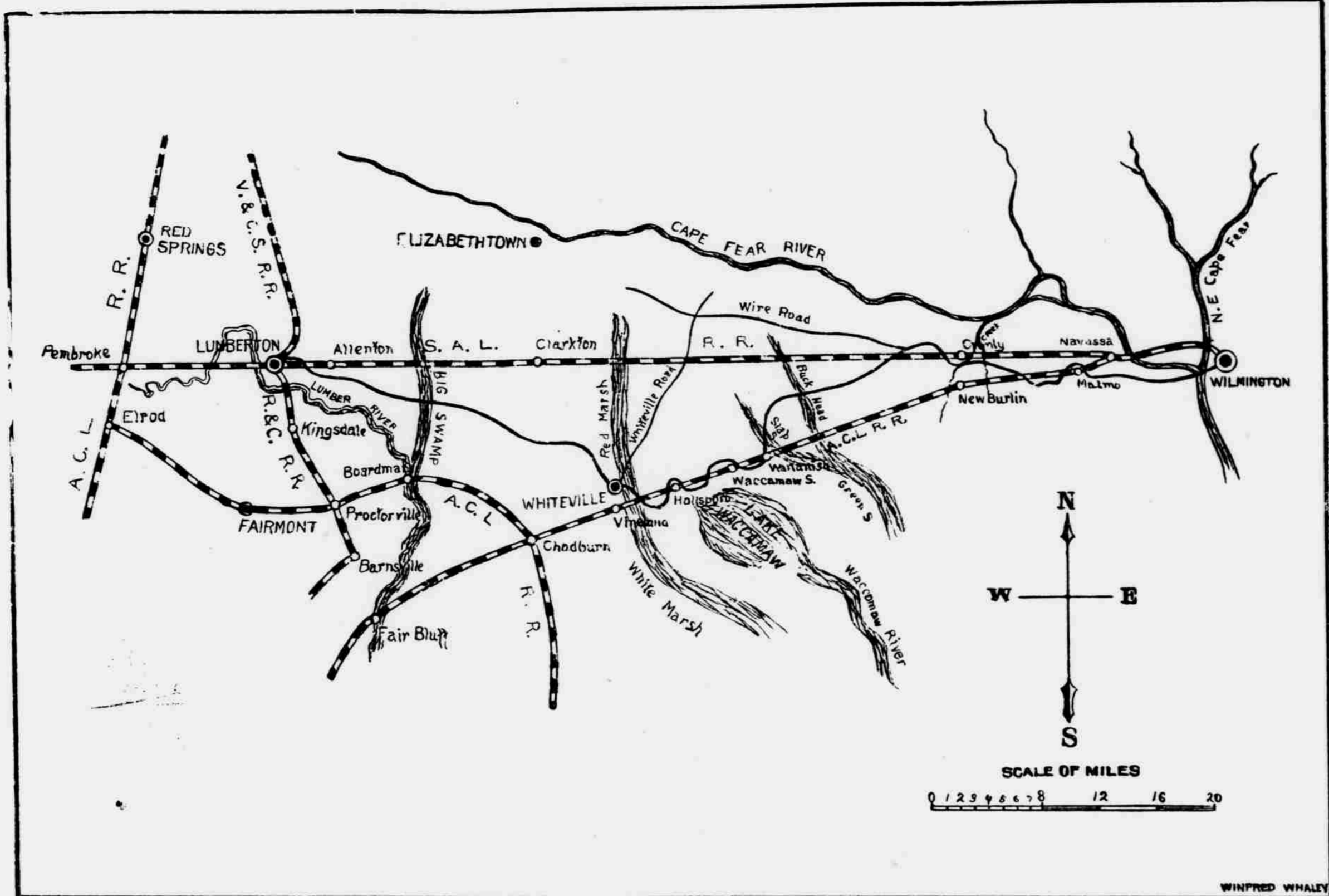
However, we should not lose sight of the fact that the salary system would work a great inconvenience to the public in many instances. For instance, people from almost all over the county transact more or less business with the clerk by phone or by mail, asking for certain services to be rendered and nothing said about fees, or with the promise to settle fees at some future day. Of course, in such cases as this, under the salary system the effect would be that the work could not be done until the fees were paid. In some instances this would work an inconvenience to the people; but I do not argue that it would be any inconvenience or disadvantage to the clerk. On the other hand, in these cases, the salary system would be an advantage to the clerk.

I do not wish to be understood as taking a position either for or against the salary system, but simply wish to put the people in possession of the facts. Then, I am in favor of the people having such a law in this particular as is satisfactory to them.

I have not referred to any of the other offices, as I do not presume to know about them.

Respectfully,
W. H. Humphrey.

Subscribe for The Robesonian.



CHARLOTTE, WILMINGTON ROAD FROM LUMBERTON TO WILMINGTON.

The rough sketch of the above map was drawn by Dr. T. C. Johnson and the map perfected and the cut made by Mr. W. W. Whaley, both of Lumberton. It is an excellent piece of work, and accurate. The road from Lumberton was through an oversight not designated, but it may be easily traced via Whiteville court house and Lake Waccamaw. This is quite evidently not the most direct route, but it is the best now and can be put in excellent condition for auto travel for many thousands of dollars less than a more direct route through Bladen county. Then, too, Lake Waccamaw is a delightful place to stop, and the road along all its distance is said to be much more attractive than any other that could be laid out between the two towns. It may easily be shortened 5 or 10 miles.

More About the Name Croatan.

To the Editor of The Robesonian:

In the issue of August 11 there were a few lines concerning the name Croatan. The name "James" Hunt is a mistake through the editor. The correct name is I. E. Hunt, of Hamer, S. C. I want you to understand that this is a lady you are dealing with, not "James" Hunt. I don't purpose to do injustice to Col. McLean and don't think I will to Lowrie. If you were doing yourself justice you wouldn't remind me of a pet pup, so much, because I'm sure you know the name Croatan is not a national name; it's the name of an island. You know it was a nickname. I know it was unjust to do it. I don't say Col. N. A. McLean did that, but do say his equals did give us that name. When McLean was speaking at Union chapel he was speaking to the Indians of Robeson county at their native home. You can't compare us with the Cherokee Indians of Jackson and Swain counties. I was not speaking of the Croatan Indian picnic but of the Indian picnic at Union chapel. A little amendment

to the name "crow-tan." I got the name when Hon. Hamilton McMillan was hired and paid to give us a national name. He nicknamed us later. He has been before a justice of the peace and took an oath that he did nickname us. I hope Lowrey will quit being a pet. I thank J. S. Lowrey of Elrod for his few words. Where there is one against me there is one with me.

Imer E. Hunt,
Hamer, R. 1, S. C.

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is when you do some great deed or discover some wonderful fact. This hour came to J. R. Pitt, of Rocky Mt., N. C. when he was suffering intensely, as he says, "from the worst cold I ever had," then proved to my great satisfaction, what a wonderful Cold and Cough cure Dr. King's New Discovery is. For, after taking one bottle, I was entirely cured. You can't say anything too good of a medicine like that. Its the surest and best remedy for diseased lungs, Hemorrhages, LaGrippe, Asthma, Hay Fever—any Throat or Lung Trouble. 50c, \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by All Druggists.

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Notice of Administration.

Having qualified as administrator of B. A. Townsend, deceased, late of Robeson county, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of July, 1911, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

J. A. Rowland,
Administrator.

This 29th day of July, 1910.

McNeill & McNeill, Atty's. 8-1-6 mon

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