

ABOUT MOORE COUNTY AND ITS PEOPLE

(continued from page one)

ting law in Carthage for a number of years, moved to Raleigh, where he became a prominent member of the bar and reared several sons who are now prominent in law, medicine, and the ministry, the doctor being a member of the General Assembly from Wake. I think of Dr. Seawell, who was active forty years ago in the Alliance work, in which work his son Judge H. F. Seawell got his first lessons in speaking and won a confidence in his ability to express himself that stood him in good account at college and as a young lawyer. Herbert Seawell, Sr., came in one of being a relative of the writer's. Dr. Seawell married a daughter of Lott Croom of Pender, who married a great-aunt of mine—but "Old Man Lott" married four or five women in his long career and another in his succession of wives was Herbert's grandmother. I think of R. L. Burns, a college mate, who spent his whole career as a lawyer in his own county town. I think of Judge Purnell; of the splendid gentleman who was the sire of Mrs. Herbert Seawell; of D. F. McDonald, stalwart in body and mind; of Tyson and Jones, who built up a great business which had to succumb when automobiles succeeded the buggy.

Present Day Citizens.

But all the worthies are not dead. Carthage boasts of that great judge, Justice Adams of the supreme court, a man of modest deportment but possessed of a great legal mind and much legal lore.

Squire N. J. Muse is an old-timer who is full of interesting lore about the county and a man of parts. Dr. Shields, 83 years old but active in business and informing in conversation, is head of the Shields Drug Store, one of the popular resorts of the community.

Walter Williamson, merchant and a successful one, might readily make his living with his pen or typewriter. His advertisements are unique. They are prefaced by editorials which often hit the mark and hit it hard. One could write a story of real romance by taking notes of Mr. Williamson's rendering of family traditions. The Williamsons from which he is derived are supposed to have been children of a religious martyr in Germany who were brought to Scotland and there established a line of Williamsons. The first American settlers first located in a more northern State, thence trekked southward, along with the Kennedys, to upper Moore County. But unless one can hear the whole story from Mr. Williamson's lips, he cannot understand the romance in the life of plain pioneer people in early North Carolina. I have what I hold to be a promise on the part of this unique merchant of Carthage to write an article some time for *The State's Voice*. It is interesting to note that Mr. Williamson has a book in manuscript.

At The Court House.

I thought I should get a lot of information about John Willcox, clerk of the court. He has a whole volume of the Willcox family, founders of one of the earliest industrial plants in the North. Thence came the founder of the North Carolina branch of the family and set up at Gulf, Chatham County, the first iron ore smelting plant in North Carolina. The family finally got settled in the Horseshoe Bend and there John Willcox resides today, coming over every morning to his job at Carthage. On his farm he has fine cattle, hogs, and sheep, and a fine family of youngsters. His popularity is attested by the fact that he has been twice elected clerk of the court and is expecting to be re-elected this fall. I judge that it would be hard to beat him. Mr. Willcox is a graduate of the State University and when in college was a pitcher on the varsity baseball team. He still likes his ball, also fishing and hunting. Expecting to get much from the Willcox records and failing to get time to consult them freely, I failed to make any records at all—but the above pretty well pictures John Willcox. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church and of the Junior Order.

Sheriff C. J. McDonald was reared in the Eureka community of Moore County. He was a lieutenant of artillery in the World War. He came to his present job from the superintendency of the Moore County highway force. He is serving his third term and is a candidate to succeed himself. We regret to say that we failed to do more than meet Sheriff McDonald. He is hard to find in his office, being apparently a busy man. And he has the reputation of being a real sheriff.

Register of Deeds W. J. Harrington, on our recent visit to Carthage, was just recovering from that attack of which you doubtless read—of an angry bull. It was a nigh escape. Also his aged mother had just passed away. However, we had met and formed a high estimate of Mr. Harrington on a former visit. He is said to be one of the most popular and beloved men in the county. At the age of 58 he is living on the paternal farm, which he early aspired to own some day. He "quitted" from the country schools at the age of 13. He owns that old homestead and

has converted it into a modern dairy farm. It was his own fine Guernsey bull that came so near killing him. Mr. Harrington seems a fixture in the office of register of deeds. However, I notice that he has at least two good men out against him—Ed Muse and Wiley Purvis.

I thought I took some notes on Mr. W. T. Huntley, but I cannot locate them. He was more interested in telling me of the good in others than in speaking of himself. Apart from his good words for his fellow officials, he was particularly complimentary to Postmaster Wallace, Republican though Mr. Wallace is. And I had proof of the efficiency of the Carthage postoffice myself. Mr. Huntley's name had been on *The Voice* list as Utley, but he had not missed a copy of the paper. From some offices we get notices of "cannot be found" if an initial of one of its leading citizens happens to be wrong—which occasionally happens as *The Voice* list is not in type but is prepared each mailing on the typewriter. Mr. Wallace has lived in Carthage since he was ten. He has been postmaster eleven years. He saw active service in the World War. His college education consisted of two years at Wake Forest.

But back to Mr. Huntley. He is tax collector and as popular as such an official can well be. He is derived from the Anson Huntleys, I believe, though reared in Moore.

I find I am mistaken about Mr. Huntley's being reared in Moore. He is a native of Cheraw, S. C., and came to Moore as freight agent for the S. A. L. from 1910 to 1915 he resided in Raleigh, where he held a position with the same railroad. He resides in Aberdeen and not in Carthage. He is serving his second term as tax collector and will almost unquestionably be re-elected.

Supt. H. Lee Thomas, of the county schools, is well equipped for his position, both by education and experience. He is an A. B. graduate of Elon and A. M. of the State University. Graduating at Elon in 1917, he was engaged in war activities for a year or two. His teaching experience covers two years at Lakemont, N. Y., one year at Ferrum Training School, Va., one year at Mt. Tabor, this State, and six at Dover. Before coming to Moore as superintendent of county schools in 1929, he had served as superintendent of the Onslow schools. Moore is now completing its consolidated school system by the erection of seven new buildings at a cost of \$221,000. Mr. Thomas is one of the big bunch of Broadway Thomases.

County Agent E. H. Garrison is a South Carolinian and was educated at Clemson College. Dr. M. E. Street of Glendon is quoted as saying that Mr. Garrison is worth a million dollars to Moore county—and that is enough to say of anybody. He has served Moore well in urging an extensive planting of lespedeza.

Carthage's Ministers.

I had the pleasure of meeting three of Carthage's fine ministers. Rev. E. C. Durham is a Chatham product and was no stranger. In addition to being a minister he is somewhat of a poet. Mr. Durham, while located at Clinton two or three years ago, had to retire for a while because of ill health, but is now apparently vigorous and active.

I suspect the Carthage Baptist Church has the only pastor in the State who has served as a radio announcer. Mr. Ives had that experience while attending the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He is a native of Connecticut but was reared in Moore County. He was educated at Buie's Creek, Wake Forest, and the Louisville Seminary. He has been serving as pastor since 1917 at various points. He has been at Carthage two years.

Rev. W. S. Golden is pastor of the Carthage Presbyterian Church and is a gentleman who at once impresses one with his intellectual grasp. He is a native of Talladega, Ala., but took his college course at Davidson, this State. He also attended Union Theological Seminary, where he took the B. D. degree in 1916. His ministry includes a considerable period at Westminster Church, Richmond, five years at Sanford, this State, where he married Miss Floy Jones, and recent years at Carthage.

I should say that Carthage is fortunate in her ministers.

Meeting the Moore Lawyers.

Moore has quite a number of lawyers. I doubt whether I know them all. But all of us know U. L. Spence, by reputation at least. He was one of the strong men in that famous long parliament of 1931. He is a native of Stanly, but the family is of the Albemarle Spences. He was educated at Oak Ridge and the University, taking his law course at the latter school as a class-mate of T. W. Bickett, Roland Hayes, and other notables. He married a daughter of Sheriff Kenna Worthy and a sister of Fred Worthy, now district marshal. His first legislative experience was as senator, along with Major H. A. London, as a representative in 1903 of the district composed of Richmond, Scotland, Moore and Chatham. His services in the House in 1929 and 1931

were quite notable. Mr. Spence is a man worth knowing.

Clement Barrett, a nephew of the late Rev. W. C. Barret, is a young lawyer of promise. He was educated at Oak Ridge and Wake Forest. He spent three years in the real estate business in New York. He got his law license in 1930 and already is seeking the Solicitorship of the county court as the Republican candidate.

But that position is now held by Attorney M. G. Boyette, who has won distinction as prosecuting attorney during a period of several terms. Mr. Boyette, one of the good old Duplin Boyettes, won his LL. B. degree at Wake Forest in 1922. He immediately began his practice at Carthage and soon won the respect of both the bar and the public. He has served as chairman of the county executive committee, as chairman of the Carthage school board and in other capacities which indicate the confidence of the people in his character and ability. Our friend Barrett will have a hard time beating M. G. Boyette.

But let's look at the judge of the county court—Judge George H. Humber. He was elected to head this court when it was first instituted in 1925 and has been constantly re-elected. Judge Humber has taken the judgeship seriously and discontinued practice in the courts. He is a student, and that means that he knows really something about the law. He received a degree from Trinity College in 1898 and then studied law at the State University. Judge Humber is a candidate for re-election, but it is easy to see that it irks him to get out and ask for votes.

J. Vance Rowe, mayor of Aberdeen, a young lawyer of fine personality and real ability, is contesting the nomination with Judge Humber. He is a veteran of the World War and commander of the Sandhills Post, No. 134, of the American Legion. It looks as if Judge Humber will have to hustle if he expects to continue his unbroken record as the only judge of Moore's county court.

R. L. Burns left four sons. E. J. is the lawyer, a graduate of Duke. H. E. is city clerk of Southern Pines. R. L. Jr., who had his inning in big league baseball, is now employed at the Hemp rayon plant. Paul is still a high school student. There are also two daughters, Mrs. R. C. Moore of New York, and Miss Emma Muse Burns, 15, a Carthage school girl and the pet of the family. R. L. Burns was one of the notable football team at Wake Forest in 1888 and 1889. He was a good speaker. As a member of the legislature, he and A. M. Scales introduced the first State highway act. Mr. Burns was the man who first recommended Frank Page for appointment as highway commissioner. He was ably seconded by W. N. Everett. In view of those two services, Bob Burns should be considered, in a great measure, the father of the highway system in the State. The choice of Frank Page was the making of the system. I don't believe I ever saw Bob Burns after his graduation, but it was a pleasure to meet and chat with E. J., his successor in the legal profession.

There are three Hoyle brothers practicing law in North Carolina. Thos. C. of Greensboro is much older than his brothers, S. R. of Carthage and K. R. of Sanford. S. R. formerly resided at Sanford and served as representative from Lee. He has served as a member of the State Democratic executive committee and as chairman of the Lee County committee. He and his brother, K. R. were once newspaper men but not finding that job so easily done according to Hoyle turned to the law. A brother is an editor in another State. And S. R. Hoyle has the reputation of being a real student of the law. He is a member of the American Legion and active in business, county, city, and social movements. He is this year a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the senate, being opposed by U. L. Spence and S. H. Miller, a late entrant. It looks like a race. Mr. Miller is a Carthage hardware merchant, and, if I mistake not, was the dry candidate for the repeal convention that did not materialize, being elected by a big majority.

H. F. Seawell, Jr., is a young man of much promise. Back of him is a heredity of distinction. Son of Judge and Mrs. H. F. Seawell, and grandson of the late esteemed Dr. Seawell and of that old-school gentleman A. H. McNeill, who served as clerk of the Moore County court for 37 years, and with a strain of that good old Swiss Croom blood in his veins, Herbert, Jr., can scarcely afford to lower his ideals or his standards of private or public life. And there is evidence that he does not. He is a teacher in the Baptist Sunday school and it was by who, along with that Christian gentleman, C. C. Jones of Cameron, headed the vigorous fight in Moore last fall against repeal. Mr. Seawell is U. S. referee in bankruptcy, but is a candidate in the Republican primary for nominator for the Legislature. He is therein opposed by that other capable young Moore Republican attorney O. D. Wallace.

But any one of that array of Democratic candidates will probably beat the Republican winner in the

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