

INTRODUCING A FEW DURHAM CITIZENS.

We introduced quite a number of leading Durham citizens to our readers last year. Since then our list of readers has multiplied. However, we shall confine our comments to only a few, chiefly some who were not played up last year.

Along with the University's most prominent engineer, Mr. H. G. Baity, we are giving you a glimpse of our friend W. M. Piatt as he appeared to the eyes of a New York artist.

That word "friend" in the foregoing paragraph means what it purports. More than seventeen years ago the editor returned to Clinton from Louisiana to find Mr. Piatt the engineer for the town's extensive water, sewage, and street developments. He became a subscriber to the Sampson Democrat; when we took over the Chatham Record, exactly ten years ago to-day,



W. M. PIATT
Durham, N. C.

I believe, to enter that business in the smaller Durham of nearly fifty years ago. He is an enthusiastic member of several of the fraternal organizations and was just back from the Junior convention held at Lexington, and was off this week for the Odd Fellows' meeting at Charlotte. If one had time to talk for several days with Mr. Bagwell he could learn the whole history of Durham.

A few minutes with Chief of Police Proctor served to give me a better conception of the magnitude of the police department of the city of Durham. We small town folk can hardly realize that the department has a half-hundred men in its employ. Eight of them are plain-clothes officers. A large picture of the whole force shows it to be composed of men of unusual



H. G. BAITY
Chapel Hill, N. C.

Two of North Carolina's Distinguished Engineers as Seen by a New York Artist

his name was transferred to that paper's subscription list, and when the State's Voice was established he was among the original subscribers. Seventeen years as a subscriber to three of our papers in succession is a real record.

Mr. Piatt's father was a free-lance Pennsylvania editor and the son has inherited a liking for personal journalism. Mr. Piatt has pursued his profession in numerous North Carolina towns and cities while retaining his residence in Durham, and is, therefore, quite broadly known. He and his two fine assistants, J. M. Maxwell and P. D. Davis, were quite busy. I took a few notes about Mr. Piatt and Messrs. Maxwell and Davis, but, unfortunately, have mislaid them. Mr. Maxwell is one of the Duplin Maxwells and Mr. Davis is a native of Wayne. The former is of the Outlaw-Grady connection and is planning to be on hand at the coming reunion of those clans down in old Duplin. Both the younger men have been well trained for their profession. Mr. Maxwell is a graduate of the State University and Mr. Davis of State College.

It is interesting to hear Mr. Piatt tell of his boyhood days as an enthusiastic Democrat in a Republican stronghold. When he was a mere lad, he staged a celebration on the election of his candidate as governor and building a bonfire had almost the whole population of the town assembled to hear addresses by leading citizens of the community from whom he had adroitly secured co-operation. The governor became his friend and welcomed him to his office as he would a mature politician.

Mr. Piatt easily ranks among the leading men of his profession in North Carolina.

An Old-Timer.

Mr. W. B. Bagwell is one of the old-timers. Born in Raleigh, at nine he moved to Morrisville, where he lived twenty years. For forty-seven years he has been a resident of Durham and in his old age is at leisure and is a very interesting gentleman. He was one of the pioneer wholesale grocery men of Durham, the second,

ly fine appearance. We were in hopes that we might show our readers a picture of Durham's clever police chief-tain.

R. O. Everett should already be known by name to every mature citizen of the State. He is one of Durham's leading attorneys and as a legislator proved himself of no mean ability. It was only two weeks ago that we wrote of him in connection with his brother, S. C., of Greenville, and to that article we refer you for his origin.

Mr. Everett married the charming daughter of Mr. H. McD. Robinson, of Fayetteville, and thus became allied with some of the oldest and most honored families in the Cape Fear sec-



tion. He is interested in much besides the law. At present, as chairman of the historical association of Orange and Durham counties, he is preparing to wage a campaign for the establishment of a government park at the Alamance Battle Ground.

In Mr. Everett's office we found a native of Dunn, Mr. A. R. Wilson, who last year turned from business to the practice of law, and attributes much of his good start to Mr. Everett, though they are not associated in a business way. Mr. Wilson has a neighboring office to his mentor. That

other Harnett county contribution to Durham, A. A. McDonald, formerly clerk of the Harnett court, seems to be doing well in the law. Both he and Mr. Wilson were very appreciative of the quality of the State's Voice. There are plenty of Harnett people at home who do not know there is such a paper published in the county.

On our former visit to Durham in the interest of the State's Voice the court was engaged in that big Hesse trial and it was difficult to meet the court house officials. On our visit the other day, we had the pleasure of meeting several whom we did not meet last year and of renewing acquaintance with others. In the latter group were Supt. of Schools Barbour and County Welfare Officer W. E. Stanley, the latter of whom we found to be one of our most enthusiastic readers.

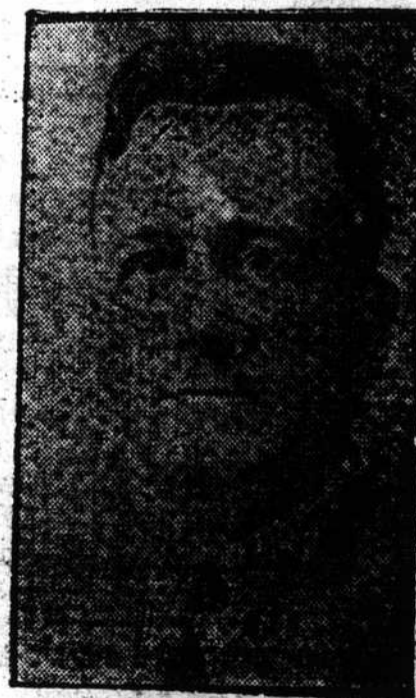
It was our first privilege to meet Sheriff E. G. Belvin and then lack of time served to limit our chat. He was one of the deputies for years under the late Sheriff Harward and succeeded him upon his death. Even a few moments sufficed to convince me that Durham county has a genial and clever gentleman as sheriff.

Mr. A. J. Barbee is register of deeds and unless he dies will be the same, I suspect, as long as he wants the job. At twenty he left the farm to join the army. When the World War came on, he became a member of the "Old Hickory" Division and went through the terrible drives participated in by that heroic body. In the Quinton Drive he was wounded upon the cheek by a piece of shrapnel. After 14 months over seas, he returned and became deputy register of deeds in October 1919, serving thus for nearly ten years. In 1929 he succeeded the late M. G. Motley as register and has been elected to two terms since and is the nominee for re-election this fall.

Our Former Lieutenant-Governor

It became our privilege as a resident of Pittsboro for more than eight years to become well acquainted with J. Elmer Long, former lieutenant-governor. He is a native of Alamance and cannot get over it. As his practice extends to that county, he finds great pleasure in meeting his old friends at the Graham courts. His father was long a prominent citizen of Alamance. Mr. Long married one of the charming Peay daughters of the Pittsboro community and their visits to the old homestead, where Mrs. Long's sister Mrs. De Graffenreid holds forth, are quite frequent. As an associate of Attorney D. L. Bell in the firm of Long and Bell at Pittsboro, Mr. Long is frequently found pleading in the Chatham courts.

If you do not know Elmer Long you should take the first opportunity to become acquainted with him.

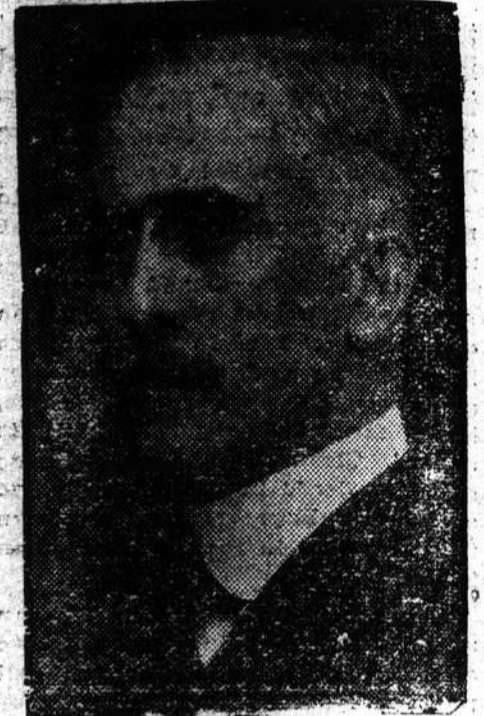


J. ELMER LONG
Former Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. J. D. Fridgen had a long business career before becoming guardian of Durham county's cash. He was born in Nash county. For thirty years he operated one of Durham's most popular shoe stores. He has been treasurer for six years and will probably retain the job as long as he wants it. Not a cent has the county borrowed, except through bond issues, during his administration of Durham's finances. Not a dollar has the county defaulted during the depression. Not a

cent did the county lose through the disastrous bank failures of Durham, though there were goodly sums on deposit. He had observed the legal requirements and had adequate security.

One batch of notes upon Durham citizens was mislaid, but this is a sufficient number of them to introduce to you at one time. But I do wish to call your attention to a unique situation in the county and city health department. "Doctor" Epperson they call the superintendent but he informed me that he is not a physician at all, and that health department work is not a curative business. Nevertheless, I believe Mr. Epperson is the only non-physician superintendent of health in the state. The notes I took of his career were among those mislaid, but I believe he is a native of Oklahoma and a graduate of the University of that State.



R. H. SYKES
Attorney and Bank President
Durham, N. C.

Highway Organization Has Dual Handicap.

The tragic death of John D. Waldrop, chief engineer of the highway department, was itself a great loss to the highway organization. The serious illness of Chairman Jeffress follows as a more trying handicap, even if fortunately it shall be only a temporary one.

Mr. Jeffress has accomplished marvelously. The tax upon his energies has been incalculable. Only a unusual gift for organization and quickness of perception, tenacious memory of details, and prompt decisions have made it possible for him to accomplish the task that became his two years ago. And the writer's extensive travels through numerous counties make him to marvel at the degree of the success attending his undertaking to maintain a highway system of more than fifty thousand miles with a fund that a few years ago would have been dissipated upon half as many miles.

The State of North Carolina has a deep concern in the restoration of Chairman Jeffress to his wonted state of health and activities.

Olive Succeeds Tom C. Daniels.

It was a gracious act on the part of the Legionnaires of North Carolina to elect last year the oldest of their number, Captain Tom C. Daniels, as commander of the North Carolina Department. And his administration has been marked by the good sense that one might expect of a Trinity man of the late eighties and nineties. Again the Legionnaires seem to have chosen wisely, and the Dispatch congratulates both Captain Daniels on his successful administration and Hubert Olive upon his promotion.