

SESSOMS RESIGNS AND ENTERS PLEA OF GUILTY IN COURT

Clerk of Superior Court Withdraws from Office Following His Indictment

POSTPONED 'TILL OCTOBER

State's Attorney Asks That Case Be Delayed Until Charges Can Be More Fully Investigated—J. B. Williams Appointed Clerk

Under indictment charging forgery in connection with certain state pension warrants, William Fleet Sessoms, for more than 22 years clerk of the superior court of Sampson county, Tuesday morning resigned his office and later entered a plea of submission to the charges, throwing himself upon the mercy of the court.

Immediately following this sudden move by the clerk, he was released on bond of \$5,000 and further hearing of the case postponed until the October term of superior court.

Shortly after Mr. Sessoms' resignation, Judge Henry A. Grady, resident judge of this district, appointed John B. Williams to fill the vacancy created. Mr. Williams at the time of his appointment was nearing the end of his second term as register of deeds.

Came as a Surprise

While the resignation of the clerk was not to be unexpected in view of the known circumstances of the case, it did come as somewhat of a surprise as he has steadfastly refused to concede that he would take such steps. Since the first rumors several months ago of irregularities in his office, Mr. Sessoms has denied by action and implication his guilt, and it is reported that only through insistent advice of his friends in the bar association did he finally decide on the course taken.

The definite charge as to the amount of the defalcations has been made, although it has been intimated that several thousands of dollars have been misplaced. It was this condition that brought about the continuance of the case, Solicitor Powers asking that the state be given time to fully investigate the charge and determine its extent.

Wrote His Resignation

The Sessoms case had been placed on the docket of this term, and was set for Thursday of this week. However, following a conference with his attorneys and friends Monday night, Mr. Sessoms decided to bring the matter to a head, and Tuesday morning wrote Judge Grady, tendering his resignation.

When informed of this move on the part of the clerk, Judge Frank A. Daniels, presiding in court here, immediately adjourned court until 2:30 Tuesday afternoon, in order to have the new clerk appointed. He at the same time announced that the Sessoms case would be taken up at that time.

Mr. Sessoms in Court

The case was called when court convened at the afternoon session, and Mr. Sessoms appeared for the first time as defendant in the court in which he had officiated for more than a score of years. He was accompanied by Major George E. Butler, as chief counsel, who in turn was aided by practically every member of the Sampson bar.

The case was called by number, and Major Butler immediately asked and received the court's attention. Showing decided emotion, due perhaps to his position as defender of a life long friend, the counsellor told the court that it was his client's wish to enter a plea of submission, and not to contest the case. Mr. Sessoms, standing at his side, nodded his head in agreement with the attorney.

Asks for Continuation
Solicitor Powers then took the floor, and asked that the case be continued. The solicitor told the court that there are many angles that should be investigated, and that it will take several weeks to fully investigate all of these. He was supported in this by Messrs. H. H. Wilkerson and G. H. Humber, special representatives of the state and state treasurer's and auditor's offices.

Following the granting of this continuance, Major Butler informed the court and the state solicitor that the local attorneys and Mr. Sessoms himself, will do all in their power to aid the state in straightening out the matter. He added that it was the desire of Mr. Sessoms, his attorneys and friends that the matter be fully cleared, in order that such restitution as is possible may be made.

Mr. Sessoms then left the court, and with Major Butler's aid soon re-

SESSOMS LONG IN SERVICE OF COUNTY

After serving as clerk of the superior court of Sampson county for 22 years, Mr. W. F. Sessoms Tuesday morning tendered his resignation in a letter to Henry A. Grady, judge of this district, the resignation to go into effect immediately. Mr. Sessoms was born in Hayne 54 years ago and made western Sampson his home before moving here. He began his work in public life as deputy clerk under the administration of W. K. Pigford. For three and a half years he served in this capacity and in 1902 he was elected as the clerk of superior court for this county. Since that time he has been the successor to himself in every election. When first elected he had a majority of 503 votes, but his popularity in a later election gave him 2,800 votes majority.

Besides holding the office of clerk he has served as chairman of the county Republican executive committee, district congressional and senatorial chairman and was an energetic and consistent worker for the party which he represents. Mr. Sessoms held these party positions until several months ago when he resigned.

J. B. WILLIAMS TO BE COURT CLERK

Present Register of Deeds is Named by Judge Grady to Succeed W. F. Sessoms

John Blainey Williams, for nearly six years register of deeds, became clerk of the superior court Tuesday afternoon when he accepted the vacancy made by the resignation of W. F. Sessoms.

The county commissioners are expected to soon pick a successor to Mr. Williams, who, in order to allow court to function, will no doubt enter upon his new duties immediately.

When the announcement was made of the appointment of Mr. Williams to this important office, it was generally conceded that Judge Grady had displayed excellent judgment in his choice of a man to fill the vacancy. Mr. Williams, it was pointed out, has established himself as a thoroughly capable man in his office, and his friends expect him to prove an excellent court official. This opinion was concurred in by Judge Frank A. Daniels, who, after the appointment had been made, said that it was very pleasing to him, as he is sure that Mr. Williams will make an excellent clerk.

Mr. Williams came to Clinton from Newton Grove, where he was born 1878. He is the son of Mr. George R. Williams, one of the best known men in Upper Sampson. The new clerk's first appearance in public life was when he ran for register of deeds, and his conduct of that office has won him a strong following all over the county.

FAISON WOMAN HONORED BY CHURCH SOCIETIES

Members of the Missionary society of the Methodist church of Faison entertained the other church societies of Faison and the members of the auxiliaries of Mount Olive and Warsaw last Wednesday from 4 until 6 o'clock in honor of Miss Ruth Merritt, who will leave shortly for Nashville, Tenn., to complete her training for a missionary, at the home of Mrs. R. A. Moore.

The home was attractively decorated in yellow and white, summer flowers being used to carry out the chosen colors. The hostess was assisted by Mrs. H. J. Faison and a bevy of Faison ladies. A delightful musical program was given by Miss Jones of Mount Olive; Allen Oakes Mesdames Taylor, Gibbons, McCallum of Faison; Mrs. Carroll of Warsaw; Mrs. A. Witherington and Miss Merritt also appeared on the program. Miss Merritt was presented a number of lovely gifts. An ice course was served at the conclusion of the affair.

Mr. Williams was then set about fighting matters in his office, in order to turn it over to his successor. Later in the afternoon he had a wire from Judge Grady, in which his resignation was accepted and he was informed of the appointment of Mr. Williams as his successor.

MANNING THINKS WATER PLAN WILL MEET WITH LAWS

Although He Holds Bowie Road Unconstitutional, Attorney Favors Waterways

MORRISON HAS A SPEECH

Governor Waiting for Special Session Which Will Open This Week—Bailey Joins in Fight for Water Terminal

By W. T. BOST

Raleigh, Aug. 5.—Governor Morrison in semi-seclusion today working on his message to the general assembly, finds a staunch ally in Judge James Smith Manning, attorney general, who believes in the constitutionality of the port and terminal act and sees no necessity for sending it to referendum.

Judge Manning isn't "putting out," in the language of the street, and the fierce aggression which was ascribed to him in the attack on the Bowie railroad bill, is rather an overemphasis, in the light of his talks to the newspaper boys. The judge had long since advised that no money should be spent on the Bowie lost province roads beyond the preliminary survey for the purpose of getting information. There has been no charter for the road yet and there is nothing before the house at this writing. If a charter is taken out and the road building begins, the attorney general will then proceed to bring the act before the supreme court and test its constitutionality. He has really not become stirred over the Bowie road, according to folks who talked with him this morning. He told the Daily News correspondent that he had made his position clear in the premises.

He answered all questions relating to the constitutionality of the port and terminals bill with a gesture and a capacious grin. Anybody who desired to know whether the boat measure is constitutional or not could read the constitution. That was all that he had done.

Roads Necessary Expense

He answered a very direct question propounded to him by this representative.

"You hold that a vote of the people must precede the issuance of bonds for the Bowie roads, why could that not have been said about the appointment of a road commission which was empowered to issue \$65,000,000 worth of bonds and to spend the proceeds for roads?" he was queried.

"That aint even an interesting question," the judge retorted; "supreme court has held a difference in several cases."

The attorney general reverted to the "necessary expense" section of the constitution. Roads are indubitably a necessary expense. The freight rate discrimination might make, particularly in view of the proposed discriminations over which the state is excited now, a "necessary expense" situation. It might be a necessary expense to equip the state with terminals and even ships to protect itself. It might be an immediate necessity. Indeed, the attorney general without saying so, must feel that way about it. Certainly, he sees a very great difference between the ship and port measure and the railroad bill.

And that doesn't consider the feature which is very objectionable to many people, the unlimited character of the bond issue authorized. The judge has said that \$40,000,000 in bonds may be authorized under this act. He does not approve that. He thinks the people must act to validate the Bowie bill. And the hard luck of it is that if the people vote on the Bowie measure they will do it up. In a plebiscite it would stand no more show than does the port and terminal measure.

Legislators straggling in ask questions and look to others for the answer. It is impossible to get much of a clue on pre-legislative opinion. The impression still prevails that the friends of the measure can put it through, though there is no reason to think that Governor Morrison will change his position on the referendum.

Madison a Prophet

In the days of James Madison, fourth president of the United States this old port measure figured in constitutional questions.

The Madison writing was directed at the explanation of national dissatisfactions and the way other states preyed upon the less fortunate. Governor Morrison could hardly be regarded impatient in the light of (Continued on Page 5)



MRS. PARKER GETS REGISTER'S PLACE

Former Harrels Store Woman First of Her Sex to Hold County Office

Mrs. Nettie Parker, for two years assistant to J. B. Williams, register of deeds, was Wednesday morning chosen by the board of county commissioners to succeed Mr. Williams, following his appointment as clerk of the court. Mrs. Parker was immediately sworn in and entered upon her new duties.

Mrs. Parker, who is the wife of C. S. Parker, of Clinton, came to the county seat several years ago from her native home at Harrels Store. Prior to coming here she had taught for many years in the county schools, and has a wide acquaintance over the county. Her appointment to fill the vacated term gives her the distinction of being the first woman to hold an elective county office.

While no definite announcement has been made to that effect, it is presumed that Mrs. Parker will be a candidate to succeed herself when the Republican primaries are held late this month. She will no doubt have opposition however, as there were seven others in the race before the commissioners for the vacation appointment. They were Messrs. Clarence E. Shipp, of Turkey; E. A. Williams, of Mingo; J. W. Burge, of North Clinton; C. B. Graham, of Little Ocharie; J. R. Bass, of North Clinton; Kirby, Hall, of Westbrooks and Mrs. J. O. Matthis of Taylors Bridge.

The county commissioners declined to make any statement as to the reasons for their choice, but it is believed that Mrs. Parker's record in the office she now holds had much to do with their decision. The board, probably realizing the importance of carrying on the county work with as little friction as possible, was swayed in its selection by the fact that she is well acquainted with the work and will cause the office to function without the delays necessary to the installation of an inexperienced person.

FAIR PREMIUM LIST TO BE ISSUED SOON

The ninth annual premium list of the Sampson County Fair association, is now in the hands of printers and officials report that it will be completed and sent out in about two weeks.

MOORE'S CREEK PICNIC

Unless all signs fail, the annual picnic to be held at Moore's Creek Battleground Thursday, August 14, will surpass those of the past few years. Big plans are being made for a good old fashioned picnic. Many from this section, expect to attend and are already planning the big baskets of eats which they intend to take.

MISS LONDON SPEAKS

Miss Susan Landog, who is located in Raleigh with the Co-op Cotton association was one of the principal speakers Thursday at Bules Creek when the farmers and their families of Harnett county held a big get-together picnic.

PINELAND SCHOOL ADDS NEW COURSE TO CURRICULUM

A business college, the only one in this section, has been added to the course of study at Pineland School for Girls at Salemburg, and will be started with the opening of the fall term this year. Pineland has obtained the services of Miss India Hopper of Portsmouth, Va., as head of this new department. Miss Hopper has had long and successful experience in this line of instruction.

MR. BARRETT ABLE TO RESUME WORK

Ingold Man Hurt in Auto Smash Will Return to High School Work Soon

Prof. R. C. Barrett, principal of the Ingold high school, who was badly injured when his automobile was wrecked at a crossing here several months ago, is able to move about with the aid of crutches, and was a Clinton visitor Tuesday.

Prof. Barrett expects to return to his position at Ingold this fall, and is preparing for the opening of that school.

Although he appears to have recovered from his injury, Prof. Barrett is still suffering from an injury to one heel, which has refused to recover from the smashup. This member is still practically useless, and Prof. Barrett entertains some fear of permanent injury to his foot.

Mrs. Barrett suffered injuries at the same time of which she died in a few days.

AUTO GOES INTO CREEK; PASSENGERS ARE UNHURT

A bent steering arm, resulting from a collision with a farm wagon a short distance east of Mingo creek caused an automobile in which Vann L. Stephens and W. Judson Jones, Dunn business men, were riding, to overturn into the creek as Mr. Stephens, the driver, attempted to cross the bridge on Spring Branch road Thursday afternoon. Neither Mr. Stephens nor Mr. Jones was hurt beyond a few scratches. The car fell about ten feet into the water and settled on its side.

GOHEN HOLDS REVIVAL

A revival meeting will start at Goshen Methodist church Monday, August the 11th, and continue through the week. The services will be at 10 o'clock in the morning and at 8 in the evening.

BAREFOOT BARN BURNS

A tenant barn belonging to Mr. G. R. Barefoot on Dunn Route 1, burned last week. The barn and its contents, wagons, oats and harness were estimated at more than \$500.

COUNTY TO VOTE ON HOSPITAL PLAN

Commissioners Order an Election, To Be Held With the General Fall Election

The board of county commissioners at the regular monthly meeting Monday ordered a vote at the general election this fall on the question of a hospital for Sampson county. The notice of election calls for a special bond issue of \$100,000 and a levy of six and two-thirds cents to meet it.

The hospital project has been before the people of the county for several months, and no doubt will meet with much favor. The amount of the tax is very light, and as a much needed public improvement it should be carried, it is felt.

A special registration for the election is necessary under the law, and the registration books will be opened on Saturday, October 4, and each Saturday thereafter until October 25. The date of challenge is set for November 1. The election falls on November 4.

While there is a general opposition over the county to any increase in taxation, it is expected that the hospital measure will meet with favor, as there is no denying that the county as a whole needs, and will benefit materially, by such an institution. The amount spent by the county for necessary hospital attention now is far greater than the cost would be.

GEM THEATRE WILL INSTALL NEW MACHINES

The Gem theatre is expecting to install within the next 30 days two superior projecting machines. These machines are the most modern and complete machines known and will be a great addition to the theatre.

MRS. LAMB TO FAYETTEVILLE HOSPITAL

Mrs. Lillie Lamb, who was taken ill at her home on DeVane street about two weeks ago, was taken to the Highsmith hospital in Fayetteville last Friday. Mrs. Lamb's illness is said to be caused by some internal trouble. She is reported to be getting along as well as could be expected.

MISS KELLY SPEAKS HERE

Miss Kelly of Raleigh will be one of the speakers at the big co-operative meeting to be held in Clinton on next Wednesday, August 13, at 2 p. m. The meeting is being held by the cotton and tobacco co-operative organizations combined and a large attendance of farmers and their families is expected. The ladies are especially invited.

CO-OPS PLAN PICNIC

Co-operative farmers from all over Sampson expect to gather at Moltonville at 10:30 a. m. Friday, August 15 for the big summer picnic of the organization. Speakers have been secured and a big day is promised.

Mr. E. Crosswell Robinson of Roseboro was a business visitor during this week.

AUGUST TERM OF COURT SEES MANY CASES ON DOCKET

Judge Frank A. Daniels Occupies Bench for Summer Term of Justice

LIQUOR CASES IN LEAD

Varied Cases Are Called—Grand Jury Instructed and Immediately Begins to Return Indictments to Court

The August term of superior court, with Hon. Frank A. Daniels presiding, opened Monday in the court here. With a heavy docket announced and a number of cases billed for the consideration of the grand jury, the term promises to be one of the most widely attended in many years.

The court room was packed when Judge Daniels called the court into session Monday morning, and hundreds listened to his well worded charge to the jurymen. Following the noon recess, bench cases were taken up and disposed of.

Grand Jury Busy

The grand jury in the meantime had been busy and the following indictments had been returned by Wednesday morning:

- Tom Stevens, assault with a deadly weapon.
- June Underwood, having whiskey in his possession.
- Maggie Boykin, having concealed weapon in her possession.
- Hall Banting, selling whiskey.
- V. C. Blount, false pretense.
- Charlie Gelant, carrying concealed weapon.
- Charlie Gelant, attempt to rape.
- R. A. Carter, forgery.
- Joe K. Giddens, forgery.
- J. D. and Lewis Byrd, assault with deadly weapon.
- J. C. Carr, false pretense.
- E. J. Weeks, larceny.
- Arthur Holland, transporting whiskey.
- J. W. Childers, larceny.
- Arthur Holland, selling whiskey.
- Raymond and Martin Bordeaux, violation of the fish laws.
- Archie Warren, nuisance.
- Henry Pope, driving while under the influence of liquor.
- W. C. Ammons, assault.
- John W. Johnson, assault with deadly weapon.
- Ros Williams, manufacturing whiskey.
- Sandy McArthur, cruelty to animals.
- Pharo Lee, assault with deadly weapon.

Dispose of Minor Cases

Following Judge Daniels' charge to the grand jury, the day Monday was spent in disposition of minor cases. Violations of the prohibition laws took most of the docket. The grand jury also started reporting, a true bill being found against June Faircloth, charged with the murder of Willie Matthews on May 3, at the latter's home in western Sampson.

The case of Archie and Rostus Faircloth, charged with being drunk and disorderly, was suspended with the payment of the cost and the defendants are to appear at the October and May terms of court to make a report on their conduct.

Houston Faircloth, charged with transporting liquor, was fined \$50 and costs and a new case was entered on the same charge. He was required to give a bond for \$200 and to report at each term of criminal court for two years to show good behavior.

John H. Matthews, who was charged from escaping from an officer, was placed under \$100 bond and must appear at criminal court for two years to make a report of his behavior. Prayer for judgment was continued for cost in his case.

Robert Shannon, Leslie McCallup and Gus Williams paid fines of \$10 and costs each, for gambling.

Had Too Much Wine

Quinten Bryant, an old negro, aged about 78, was charged with having wine in his possession and was required to pay the cost and to make his appearance at the next term of court to report on his good behavior. Evidence disclosed showed that the old man had about 40 gallons at his home.

I. H. Dreskell paid the cost for having wine in his possession and a capias was to be issued at any time for him should his conduct lead officials to believe that he was not abiding by the law.

Andrew Sheron, charged with being cruel to a mule, paid the cost in the case, which was suspended.

K. A. Edwards paid \$35 and cost for having liquor in his possession.

More Whiskey Cases
Following the disposition of the Sessoms case Tuesday afternoon several whiskey cases were tried and sentence was passed.
James Crockett was required to (Continued on Page 4)