

THIRTY-ONE MEN HAVE SERVED AS SHERIFF

For 150 Years Rutherford County Has Been Unusually Fortunate in Securing Men of Ability, Honesty and Integrity in This Important Office.

By CLARENCE GRIFFIN.

During Rutherford County's 151 years of history a total of thirty-one men have served the county in the capacity of sheriff. This office has, throughout the entire history of the county, been one of the most important of the local political offices. While the duties of the office has varied from 1779 to the present, in many ways, it is notable that the men who have held this office have always had charge of, or been responsible for the major part of the county's most important work.

Two men have held this office for a period and then at a later date succeeded in being chosen again. They were William Carson and William Wilkins. The longest period any one man served in this office in the history of the county was William Carson. He was sheriff for a total of twenty-seven years, serving from 1798 to 1809 and from 1821 to 1837. His portrait now adorns the sheriff's office. The shortest term in the list was that of Garland Dickerson, who served three months. He became sheriff in October, 1820, by virtue of his office as Coroner, and refused to be a candidate when the sheriff was appointed in January, 1821.

V. McFarland, and now the grandson of John McFarland and son of J. V. McFarland holds the office. Robert Irvine and Abram Irvine were brothers, also John H. Alley and Frederick F. Alley.

Six of these sheriffs have served their state or country in the capacity as a commissioned officer in the time of war. They are Richard Singleton, Andrew Hampton, John Lewis, and James Withrow, in the Revolution; Abram Irvine Colonel in the War of 1812, and M. O. Dickerson, captain in the Indian Removal of 1838 and in the War Between the States. Several of the other sheriffs also served as soldiers in time of war.

The county has been unusually fortunate in securing as officials men of integrity, ability, and above all, honesty. During the entire period of the county's history there has been only one defaulter in this office. This defaulter became involved in unsuccessful speculation ventures, lost his property and carried six other prominent Rutherford county men to ruin. His six bondsmen finally reimbursed the county for the defaulter's shortage, but it broke them up.

Method of Election.

In the early days of the county the office of sheriff, while a responsible one, did not appeal to the public men at large. Until 1810 there was no standard circulating currency and the task of collecting taxes was no easy one. One of the sheriff's deputies in 1785 reported that he had collected "above 500 bushels of Indian corn," a quantity of pelts, (and shall I tell?) three gallons of good West India rum as taxes in his "company" during the year. Early county officials, including sheriffs, often took their pay for services rendered "in kind." The court records as late as 1810 record expense

bills which were paid in produce collected by the sheriff in lieu of "hard money" for taxes.

The sheriffs, until 1830, were elected in January of every year by the justices of the peace. One notable instance is that until 1830, no sheriff was ever defeated. He served until he apparently became tired of the office and then refused to be a candidate. During that entire period there is only one or two instances where the incumbent had opposition when the justices met in January. Whether the election of sheriff was a "cut and dried affair" to use a popular expression, or did not appeal to many office seekers is a mere matter of speculation.

In 1829, in response to public demand, the General Assembly passed a public local act, under which the sheriffs were to be elected bi-annually by the popular vote of the people, the election to be held at the same time the representatives and senators to the General Assembly were voted on. Since that time, with the exception of minor changes made in 1868 and since, the sheriff's office has not been bothered much with legislative acts.

List of Sheriffs.

Those who have served Rutherford County as sheriff from the formation of the county in 1779 to the present are as follows:

- Oct. 1779-Jan. 1781—Richard Singleton.
- Jan. 1781-Jan. 1784—Andrew Hampton.
- Jan. 1784-Jan. 1787—John Lewis.
- Jan. 1787-Jan. 1788—Jonathan Hampton.
- Jan. 1788-Jan. 1789—William Neville.
- Jan. 1789-Jan. 1790—James Withrow.
- Jan. 1790-Jan. 1792—Robert Irvine.
- Jan. 1792-Jan. 1795—Abram Irvine.
- Jan. 1795-Jan. 1796—Daniel Camp.
- Jan. 1796-Jan. 1798—James Boyle.
- Jan. 1798-Jan. 1809—William Carson.
- Jan. 1809-Jan. 1814—John Alley.
- Jan. 1814-Oct. 1820—Frederick F. Alley.
- Oct. 1820-Jan. 1821—Garland Dickerson (Sheriff by virtue of his office as Coroner)
- Jan. 1821-1837—William Carson.
- 1837-1839—William Wilkins.
- 1839-1843—James W. Carson.
- 1843-1846—William Wilkins.
- 1846-1848—M. O. Dickerson.
- 1848-1856—Mat H. Kilpatrick.
- 1856-1860—A. B. Long.
- 1860-1872—Martin Walker.
- 1872-1878—John E. McFarland.
- 1878-1884—Noah Walker.
- 1884-1888—J. B. Blanton.
- 1888-1892—G. W. Long.
- 1892-1894—Ed Beam.
- 1894-1898—James V. McFarland.
- 1898-1908—Elijah A. Martin.
- 1908-1918—C. E. Tanner.
- 1918-1924—J. W. Beason.
- 1924-1930—W. C. Hardin.
- 1930—J. Ed McFarland.

Several of these men took other parts in the political life of the county. James Withrow, Richard Singleton, John H. Alley and William Wilkins served as representatives in the General Assembly from Rutherford county. Richard Singleton, Martin Walker and Jonathan Hampton served as members of the state senate from Rutherford county. Garland Dickerson was for a number of years coroner of the county and M. O. Dickerson served in the State senate. William Wilkins was clerk of the county court of pleas and quarter sessions and M. O. Dickerson was for several years clerk of the Superior court. A number of minor offices were held at various times by the above list of men.

Political Affiliations.

Politics were of small consideration in the early days in picking a sheriff. Indeed, it was for many years after the county was formed before political parties came into existence. A few years before the War Between the States the sheriffs were invariably Whigs, Rutherford county being one of the leading Whig counties of the west. Since 1860 eight Democrats and five Republicans have held the office. The Democrats were A. B. Long, J. B. Blanton, G. W. Long, Ed Beam, Elijah Martin, C. E. Tanner, J. W. Beason and W. C. Hardin. The Republican sheriffs have been Martin Walker, John E. McFarland, Noah Walker, J. V. McFarland and the present sheriff, J. E. McFarland.

Rutherford county now has six living ex-sheriffs: G. W. Long, of Rutherfordton, R-4; Ed Beam, of Marion; James V. McFarland, C. E. Tanner, J. W. Beason and W. C. Hardin, all of Rutherfordton.

DEATH CLAIMS R. E. L. FREEMAN

Well Known Citizen and Poultryman Dies—Funeral Was Held Last Thursday.

Rutherfordton, R-1, Dec. 15—The county was shocked last week to learn that Mr. R. E. L. Freeman, well known citizen and poultryman, who lived about three miles South of town had died Tuesday night, Dec. 9 at 10:50 o'clock after an illness of about three weeks. He suffered a stroke of paralysis about twenty days ago and never recovered. He was one of the county's best known and most highly respected citizens.

He leaves a widow and one adopted son and two brothers, John A. Freeman of Jacksonville, Fla., and Jud Freeman of Oklahoma.

Funeral services and burial were held Thursday noon at Bear Wal-low church in Henderson county.

Mr. Freeman was 55 years of age and formerly lived in Henderson county. He has made Rutherford his home for the past 10 years or more.

He was a candidate for county commissioner in the Democratic primary two years ago.

MAGAZINE IS PAL OF BOYS

Those boyhood years between the ages of ten and twenty are the impressionable years—the formative years when the fundamental character of a boy is molded into the pattern it will maintain throughout the remainder of his life.

That is why so much importance is placed on the factors that govern the lives of adolescent boys—their companions, their environment, their reading, the food they eat, etc. At this age is determined whether the boy will develop into a cheerful or surely man, generous or selfish, intelligent or dull, ambitious or indolent.

School teachers, librarians, Scout leaders and others engaged in boy

activities have found that THE AMERICAN BOY—YOUTH'S COMPANION magazine is one of the most favorable influences a boy between ten and twenty can have. Its stories and articles are a force for good—wholesome, alive, inspiring.

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TRUSTEE'S SALE OF LAND

By virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust made by John N. McMurry and Ora McMurray, his wife, to the undersigned Trustee, dated April 15th, 1929, and duly recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Rutherford County, State of North Carolina, in the Record of Mortgages and Deeds of Trust No. 5, page 239, to which reference is hereby made and default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by the said Deed of Trust, whereby the power of sale contained therein has become operative, said Trustee will on

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1931.
at 12:00 o'clock noon, sell for cash to the highest bidder, at public auction, at the Court House door, in the town of Rutherfordton, North

Carolina, all of the following described real estate, situate in the County of Rutherford, State of North Carolina, to-wit: A certain lot or parcel of land in the County of Rutherford, City of Forest City, State of North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning on a stake on the Southwesterly side of West Main street which stake is located at a point 350 feet South 60 degrees and 30 minutes East from the corner of the Southeasterly intersection of West Main street and a street not named, the same being W. H. Payne's Northeastly corner, and running thence with W. H. Payne's lines South 37 degrees and 30 minutes West 146 feet to a stake, J. N. McMurry's corner; thence with J. N. McMurry's line South 60 degrees East 100 feet to a stake on C. S. Hemphill's line; thence with C. S. Hemphill's line North 37 degrees and 30 minutes East 148 feet to a stake on the Southwesterly side of West Main street; thence with the Southwesterly side of West Main street North 60 degrees and 30 minutes West 100 feet to the place of beginning.

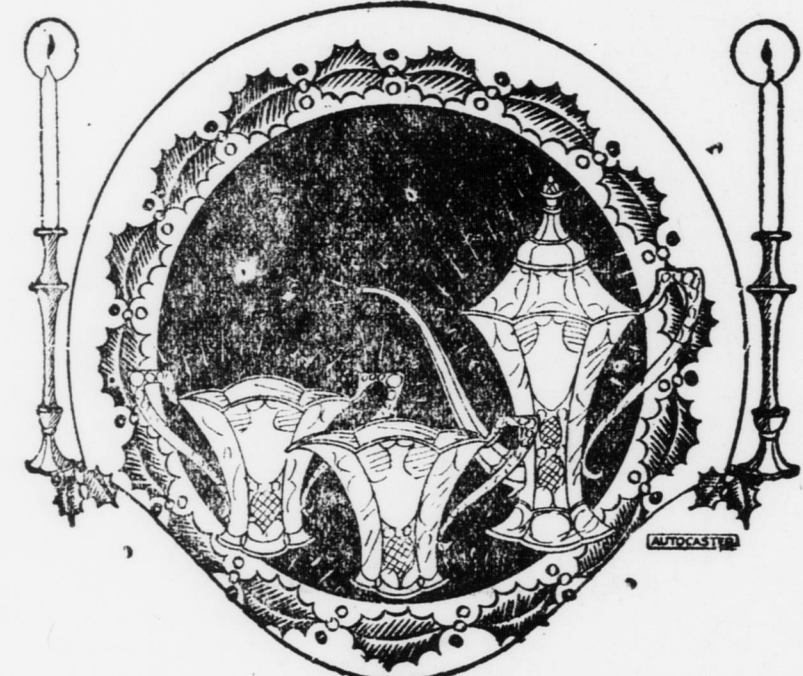
This property is sold subject to a prior Deed of Trust executed by John N. McMurry and wife, Ora McMurry, to the Commercial National Bank of High Point, North Carolina, Trustee, dated April 15, 1929, and recorded in Book A-5, of Mortgages and Deeds of Trust, at page 301, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Rutherford County, executed to secure the sum of \$5,852.77, the payment of which Deed of Trust the purchaser will assume. This, the 8th day of December, 1930.

THE COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK OF HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA, TRUSTEE.

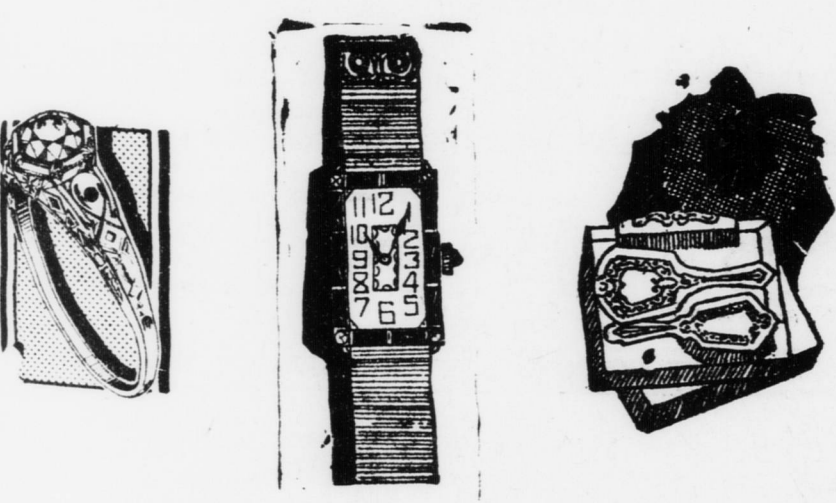
10-4t. By R. R. BLANTON, Att'y.

If the Federal Farm Board loses the five hundred million dollars authorized for its use by Congress, the farmers of the Nation would not get more than a fair share of public money.—W. M. Schilling. Federal Farm Board.

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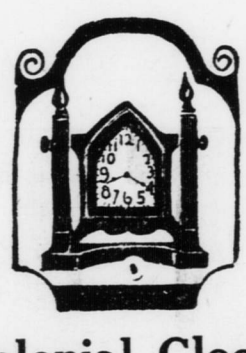


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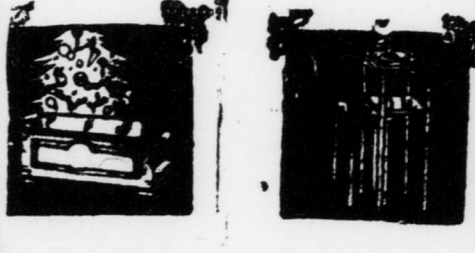


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