

Frank W. Hancock, Democratic Nominee for Congress, 5th District Is Descendant of John Hancock

Young Lawyer From Oxford
Has Served in Both
N. C. Houses.

WAS WELL BORN

Co-author Newest School Bill.

By Upton G. Wilson.

Thirty-six years old, happily married, father of six interesting children, a lawyer by profession, former member of both the State Senate and House of Representatives, co-author of the school bill bearing his name and Democratic nominee to Congress from the Imperial Fifth District—that, in brief, is Frank Hancock.

How he got that way in so short a time it is the purpose of this story to tell.

Was Well Born

To begin with, he was well-born. On his father's side is a descendant of Attorney William Hancock, who was a brother to John Hancock of the famous signature; yet Frank did not come into the world with expensive silverware in his mouth. His father is Frank W. Hancock, Sr., of Oxford, a successful druggist but not wealthy.

On the maternal side of his house he numbers among his progenitors such distinguished educators as F. P. Hobgood, of Oxford, his grandfather; William Royall, his great-grandfather, and William Bailey Royall, his great uncle, both of whom were prominently connected with Wake Forest College.

Thus his greatest patrimony was that of birth. It was his

good fortune to have back of him men of education and solid worth, rather than of fortune, and upon this foundation he has securely builded. North Carolina recognizes in him one of her most brilliant and promising sons.

His Education

Beginning his education in the Oxford public schools and continuing it in private preparatory schools, Hancock took his law degree at the University of North Carolina. He is altogether a product of the educational institutions of his own Commonwealth.

He obtained his higher education with borrowed money and repaid this money with his own earnings after his graduation from law school. Born without the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth, during his youth he was not to have pockets lined with gold of other men's earnings.

Though all his breezes have not been unfavorable, he has sailed under his own canvas and has held rigidly to his course, despite adverse winds and currents.

Gives Others Credit

With characteristic gratitude, however, he credits others with no small responsibility for the success he has so far achieved. "In the molding and fashioning of my life and character," he says, "I feel that several people have played a very important part. First of all I would mention my father and mother second, I would mention my maternal grandfather and grandmother, Dr. and Mrs. F. P. Hobgood. I never knew my grandfather and grandmother on my father's side, as they



FRANK HANCOCK

The strides taken by this young Oxford lawyer within the last decade have lifted him from struggling country barrister, through both the State Senate and House of Representatives, to the nomination by the Democratic Party of North Carolina to Congress from the "Imperial Fifth" District.

died before my birth. Third, I would mention my business associate, A. H. Powell, with whom I have been intimately in contact since 1919. From a business standpoint he has perhaps exerted more influence over me and has been more responsible for my attitude in dealing with men than any other person.

"He has a golden touch. He lives up to high ideals but does not preach them. Those in trouble find him a rock in the weary land of their experience."

Has Golden Touch

Undoubtedly many who know Frank Hancock are firm in the conviction that he, too, has a golden touch and find him a rock to which they may safely anchor in time of storm and stress.

Of him Miss Jeannette Biggs, former teacher, says: "He is friendly by nature and there is something about him which makes men enjoy his company and comradeship." She has analyzed him correctly. He is friendly by nature and there is something about him which makes men enjoy his comradeship.

Not in this generation, perhaps, has there appeared in North Carolina a man with so much personal magnetism. During his pre-primary campaign he went into communities in which he was a total stranger and left with everybody calling him Frank and promising to vote for him, a promise which most of them kept.

Instinctively people trust Frank Hancock. There is something about the man which invites confidence. For one thing, he is entirely different from the common run of office seekers. One simply cannot vision him in a long coat and high hat mechanically shaking hands with his constituents and murmuring polite phrases the while.

Hancock is human. Good nature exudes from every pore. His naturalness is refreshingly attractive. Had he not chosen politics as a profession he might have succeeded on the stage. The greatest actors are those who do not act at all, but merely do things naturally. That is Frank Hancock.

Makes Big Stride

From an obscure country lawyer to a great party nominee to Congress in the short space of a decade is an extraordinary stride for a man still this side of forty to make, and to make this stride with no organization at his back and no rich friends to furnish the sinews of war, as it were, is more remarkable still.

Hancock has courage and vision. Two years ago his name was attached to an educational bill that at the time wasn't popular. Teachers detested it and county superintendents of schools loathed it. Some young legislators would have been afraid to sponsor the bill, but not so with Hancock. He believed in it.

Time has justified his faith. Instead of the Hancock bill becoming a stone around his neck to drown him politically, it turned out to be a veritable life preserver. The Hancock law reduced taxes in many counties and whatever reduces taxes is popular with the people.

It was noticeable that throughout his campaign Hancock appealed to members of no particular class, profession or industry. The people accepted him on his face value; and he has a face which will pass current anywhere. It isn't exactly a handsome face, but it is an honest, friendly face.

Makes Few Promises

In campaigning, Hancock



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made few promises. He merely assured the people that if nominated and elected he would do his best for them. He used no catch phrases and resorted to no word subterfuges. After he had spoken no one was in doubt as to what he had said. On the vexing question of prohibition he made his stand clear. The people know that he is opposed to the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment and weakening of the Volstead law.

The contest waged by Frank Hancock and his opponent, Hon. A. F. Sams, doubtless long will be remembered in the Imperial Fifth District. It was a contest between two gallant and clean-hearted warriors, with neither seeking unfair advantage of the other. A man of sincere purpose and splendid ability, Mr. Sams went down before the youth, vigor and personal popularity of his younger opponent, defeated but not dishonored.

Having been conducted on a high plane, the contest between Hancock and Sams for nomination to Congress left no sores. Mr. Hancock will enter the campaign this fall with no resentment to overcome because of the defeat of his opponent.

Ability as Legislator

Of Mr. Hancock's ability as a legislator and man of affairs his former teacher, Miss Jeannette Biggs, who already has been briefly quoted, says:

"Mr. Hancock's record in the Senate of 1927 and the House of Representatives in 1929 has given him a reputation which few men of his age in the State enjoy. In 1927, it was largely through his effort that the pensions for Confederate veterans were raised, and on all State-wide important legislation his judgment was recognized and respected. In the House of Representatives in 1929, Mr. Hancock was considered one of the outstanding leaders.

"Through his leadership the present school bill which bears his name was enacted into law. This bill . . . has in effect reduced the taxes on every farm and home owner of this State.

"By examining his record, it can be seen that neither in 1927 nor in 1929 did he vote for any bill calling for additional taxes. Though his position clearly indicated that he was forward-looking and progressive, there was also noticeable a conservatism which kept him from being extreme.

"In his home town of Oxford Frank Hancock commands the confidence and respect of all the people. . . . As a citizen he ranks among the first, and no man of his age in the town has done more for its improvement and general welfare.

"As a lawyer he ranks, according to members of the bar, as one of the best trial lawyers in this section of the State. In addition to the practice of his profession, he has had varied business experiences.

He is young in years but few men have had a broader and more diversified experience. Though it is admitted that he has a brilliant mind, the secret of his success has been his passion for work.

"Frank Hancock graduated from the Oxford graded schools when he was thirteen years of age; he received his preparatory school training at Warrenton High School and Horner Military School. After working one year, he later sent himself on borrowed money to the University of North Carolina and was a member of the Class of 1916.

"In 1915 he went out West as secretary to his uncle, Col. E. P. Hobgood, Jr., of Greensboro, special assistant to Attorney-General of the United States in connection with the prosecution of oil land suits. He also served under Ed. J. Justice in the same capacity.

Love and Marriage

"When twenty-two years of age Frank Hancock was married to Miss Lucy Osborn Landis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hamlin Landis, of Oxford. It is generally understood that Frank Hancock never loved any other girl, for he courted his wife for more than ten years. . . . His family life has been one of happiness

and unusual contentment. No man could be more perfectly in love with his family.

"Frank Hancock is a member of the Baptist Church, and his boys go with him to the Baptist Sunday School. For the past ten years he has been assistant teacher to Judge Wm. A. Devlin, of the Baraca Class. His wife and two little girls are members of the Episcopal Church.

"It is not difficult to trace and analyze the fine currents and movement of intellectual and spiritual life under which this young man has been reared. If blood counts for anything, and most of us think it does, Frank Hancock has high standards for emulation. . . . His father, F. W. Hancock, has been one of the most loyal and active supporters Democracy ever had. . . . He is a druggist by profession and has been a member of the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy for thirty years.

"Mrs. F. W. Hancock, Sr., his mother, a sister of Mrs. B. S. Royster, and of Col. F. P. Hobgood, one of the most brilliantly educated, cultured and gifted women of her day, and as a mother she has had much to do with the shaping of Frank Hancock's life. On many occasions it has been discovered that he had sought counsel of her and taken it, being sure always of her loving interest in his every undertaking."

This splendid tribute by his former teacher to the character and attainments of Frank Hancock is one of which any man may well be proud. A teacher usually knows her pupil. Her estimation is to be taken seriously. But one does not have to take Hancock on faith. His works also speak for him.

Already he has made his mark in business, politics and statecraft. Granted life and health, undoubtedly a more brilliant future awaits him in a larger and more dignified sphere. There are those who believe that one day the nation will know and admire Frank Hancock even as the Fifth District knows and admires him now.

"A speaker of grace and magnetism, Frank Hancock would be able to present his ideas on the floor of Congress with a force and cogency that would command attention," says Junius H. Cooper, his fellow townsman. "His youth gives him enthusiasm, alertness and the determination never to admit defeat; his legislative service gives him experience in lawmaking and a grasp upon the fundamental principles of Government; and his charm of manner gives him a personal appeal upon his associates that is irresistible."

The picture is not overdrawn. It was his charm of manner that gave Hancock his tremendous majority over his opponent in the recent primary. One suspects that his majority was about twice as large as even he dared hope it would be.

Hancock is modest. He has never been afflicted with a superiority complex. His good fortune astonished him more, perhaps, than a little bad fortune would have done. He is the sort of fellow to whom victory comes as a surprise. It is not difficult to rejoice in the success of such a man.

Seven days before Frank Hancock was nominated the stork visited his home, leaving Lizzie Hobgood Hancock. This made the sixth visit of the tall bird to the Hancock home. On previous visits he had left, named in order of their delivery, Franklin Willis, Mariana Thorpe, Charles Hamlin, Robert and Lucy Landis.

For this family and for the people of the Imperial Fifth District he may be trusted to do his best, and whatever tasks he undertakes, he will put into them enthusiasm, untiring energy and splendid common sense.

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