

# Christine Williams Announces Candidacy For Register Of Deeds



Mrs. Christine W. Williams has announced her candidacy for an 8th term as Duplin County Register of Deeds, a job she describes as creating and maintaining records of life and death and many of the most important events in the lives of our people between birth and death. This office which, according to Mrs. Williams, was used for more than 100 years only for recording deeds and mortgages now creates and maintains for constant public inspection 10 different sets of records which have become very important to our people all during their lives and to their families at the time of deaths and in settling estates.

The Duplin Registry now keeps records of births, marriages, military discharges, mortgages on both land and personal property; deeds, maps, notary public commissions, jury files, corporation and business records and death records. Some land records and marriages date back to 1749. The records in the County Registry truly speak out as permanent records of our people and the most important events in their lives since 1749.

**Grateful For Opportunities to Serve**

In announcing her candidacy for another term, Mrs. Williams stated: "I am very grateful to the people of the County for giving me the opportunity to serve you as Register of Deeds since 1952 and I am running again on my record of service and experience. If re-elected to another term, I promise to continue to devote my energies to studying the laws affecting this office and study the best methods of record keeping available to continue to create and maintain the best set of records possible to meet the ever changing needs of our people. Your vote and support will be rewarded by the best efforts of myself and the fine people who are associated with me in the office."

**Joy In Service**

Helping our people with their record problems has been my way of life since 1952 and every experience in creating, maintaining, and restoring records has been a joy and a challenge except the frustration of the leaks, the dust and dirt and the noise of the building renovation during the addition of a second story over the Registry last year while the roof was disrupted and while we had to continue working to serve the people with their record needs, while trying to protect the records which we consider to be the most valuable of our County possessions — except the people themselves.

There were times when I was not sure whether we or the records would survive the ordeal; but, now that it is over, I realize just how much I have learned to love and respect every record we worked so hard to protect and salvage and every microfilm image we have created for security and current use.

In making her announcement, Mrs. Williams stated: "During the perils of the renovation, I was suffering from decayed vertebrae following an auto accident and the months of drilling, noise and leaks added to the misery. Our building maintenance supervisor, who is younger than I am, had to retire because of the strain of the construction. The Xerox Corporation had to replace our rented xerox machine with less than one-third of its normal life used because of the damage caused to its many parts by the dampness and unstable temperatures for such a long period. I am very thankful that my ortho-

pedic doctor at Duke was able to discharge me several months ago after my bone problems had improved to such an extent that further visits were unnecessary. I have never felt better than I do now, and there is now no reason why I should not continue work, and, I would like very much to continue in the same position that I have learned to love for the past 27 years.

The next few years are going to be difficult in the Registry because of our unstable economy and I feel that my experience can be helpful to our people, and, if I serve another term, I will still be below the suggested retirement age of 70 when another term is ended.

I sincerely trust that the people of Duplin County will vote in the May Primary to continue four more years of the concern that I have shared with our people and the valuable records we are creating and preserving in the office of the Duplin County Registry."

**Probate of Land Documents**

This office now performs the judicial function of certifying acknowledgements to documents to be recorded and make the decision that a document is in form to be recorded. In 1963, the Supreme Court ruled that a deed which is improperly acknowledged or defectively probated will be treated the same as if never registered at all. All staff members, even the newest ones, are trained to perform this judicial function in order that the public may get this service at all times. Whether the Register of Deeds office probates and records papers correctly according to law, can determine whether a land title is good or bad. This duty was performed by the Clerk of Court until 1969 when it was given to the Register of Deeds by State Law.

**Indexing**

The law requires the indexing and cross indexing of all documents within 24 hours after the filing time has been marked. All indexing is required to be in standard manners and forms so documents can be easily located by the public and depended upon by the public for all kinds of searches involving insured land titles, family history searches and proving eligibility for many kinds of benefits by the use of birth, death and marriage records. Indexing is one of the most important functions of the office and carries heavy liability. As far back as 1868, the Supreme Court ruled that the Register of Deeds is liable to any party injured by failure of the Register of Deeds to index a deed or other instrument within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. In 1932, the Supreme Court ruled that the Register of Deeds is liable to any person injured by mistakes in indexing of documents. In the land records alone, there are many months in the Duplin Registry during which we index 7 to 10 million dollars in loans for which the Register is liable for each correct entry on a set of indexes on which there are 1,139 alphabetical and family name divisions on the grantor side and 1,054 divisions on the grantee side. The office maintains 9 separate sets of indexes for different kinds of records for which the Register of Deeds is liable to any person injured by failure of the Register of Deeds to index and cross index any document according to law and in a manner in which it can be easily located.

**Saving County Tax Money**

In making her announcement, Mrs. Williams stated: I have been fortunate during the past 27 years in serving as Register of Deeds because I have been able to locate staff members who, together with me, have dedicated ourselves to making our Duplin County records and services second to none, at the lowest possible cost to our taxpayers. The office had five staff members in 1952 in addition to the Register, and 27 years later after the work has tripled and the office has taken on several additional duties by law, we are now trying to manage with six staff members in addition to the Register.

We have been able to do this because all staff members are trained to perform not only the judicial duties of approving or rejecting docu-

ments for recording, but also the adjudication of evidence used regarding the correction of birth records, the establishment of delayed birth records and performance of all other functions required by law to be performed in the Registry. This plan requires more training, coordination, and cooperation of the staff, and, it requires more dedication and skill; but it gives the public service at all times and saves the taxpayers much more money because fewer workers can perform more work than less trained ones because they are trained in all areas of work performed in the office and can serve the public with all their needs.

The quality of records created and the value of these records to the public depend to a great extent on the quality of the people who work in this office and the skill and quality that goes into the planning and management of this office. When the present County pay plan was set up in 1976, the importance of the legal, judicial and judgmental functions of this office, which are shared by even the newest employees, were not given due consideration, and the beginning salaries in this office were set at two (2) pay grades below the beginning salaries of secretaries and record clerks in the other county offices. I am still working with the County Commissioners in trying to get adjustments in the pay plan for the Registry to reflect the responsibilities of even the newest positions in this office, so that we can avoid giving legal training to new employees and then have some of them go on to higher paying jobs.

**Birth and Death Records**

The first birth records were recorded in 1913 and for many years, they were poorly prepared. The midwives and doctors who made them and the local Registrars out in the townships who copied them for filing with the Register of Deeds could not visualize that they would ever be so important for so many reasons as they are today. Only Robeson County has birth records rated as poorly as the Duplin birth records. The Duplin Registry is fortunate in that the County Board of Education has loaned the Registry the Duplin County School Census Cards that were preserved for use in helping to get birth certificates corrected, birth certificates filed which were not filed at the time of birth, and ages proven for many people who can use their age from a school record if a birth certificate was not recorded.

The next few years will be the most difficult one regarding birth certificates because all our people becoming age 65 should now have certificates on record, and if on record, most of them contain errors and will need experienced assistance in getting corrections made.

Death records were first filed in 1913 and many of the early ones are in poor condition because many people were buried in home-made caskets without the use of an undertaker and many were not filed at all during the early years of filing.

**Modern Records with Tight Security Created by County People**

During the past 27 years in which I have served, we have worked hard studying new methods and procedures to meet the record needs of our people regardless of the work and sacrifices involved.

We have not contracted out any work to commercial companies. This has saved money for our people and given the people quicker services. We have one of the rarely found offices where you can wait for a deed or other paper to be recorded. This gives our people quick service and saves our taxpayers the cost of postage and mailing. It enables our people to take newly recorded deeds by the ASC office to transfer allotments or to take a new deed or deed of trust to a lending agency without making another trip to Kenansville. We offer instant location of all records through modernized indexing and filing systems. We are one of the few Registries which prepares heavy duty plastic birth certificates with the names and birthplaces of the parents shown along with other facts relating to birth.

More than one-third of the North Carolina courthouses have lost records by fire and

they had no security copy of their records on microfilm or other form. (Lenoir County lost all their records in 1895). We personally microfilmed (with the aid of CETA workers) each page of every record book. The Commissioners approved the purchase of a microfilm camera and a reader-printer out of Revenue Sharing funds. We placed a copy of the microfilm in cassettes in the Registry office so that the public can use them to instantly locate a desired page, push a button and get a copy. A copy of all microfilm is stored in a local bank vault and the original copy of all microfilm is stored for security in an underground, bomb proof, air controlled vault in Pennsylvania. The staff of no other county registry in the State of North Carolina has performed this service for all their records. One other county has exactly the same microfilm program as ours, but, a commercial company was employed to do the whole procedure. The cost of commercial companies is much greater than when done by our local people and there is a tendency among commercial companies to not give proper emphasis to getting good microfilm images of the older records and those of poor quality which were made up to 230 years ago.

The Duplin microfilm program is kept up to date daily and offers: 1. Security in case of disaster. 2. The public an opportunity to make instant copies from the microfilm, and 3. saves much wear and tear on our record books which are priceless to our people.

In addition to making microfilm, the Duplin office still records all documents in record books for use by our people and the generations to come; but, we are using smaller indestructible plastic binders which get 875 pages in each book and which fit two to a roller shelf instead of one to the shelf — thus saving valuable vault space for the future.

**Legal Notice**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF DUPLIN  
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
FILE: 78 CVS 488  
J.B. PAGE, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
JACK MCGULLOUGH, Individually and JEROME BURROUGHS T/A BURROUGHS SPRAYER, MFG., Defendants.  
ISAIAH FREEMAN and HERMAN BRANCH, T/A H. & B. TRUCKING COMPANY, Defendants.  
NOTICE OF EXECUTION SALE OF REAL PROPERTY UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF AN EXECUTION directed to the undersigned Sheriff from the Superior Court of Cumberland County, in the above captioned, I will on the 27th day of December, 1979, at (time) 12:00 Noon at (Location) The front door of Duplin Co. Courthouse, Kenansville, NC which is within Duplin County, North Carolina, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash, to satisfy said Execution, all right, title, and interest, except for defendant's Homestead Exemption, which the Defendant, Herman Branch, now has or had at the time of the seizure of the below listed property.

All that certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in Kenansville Township, Duplin County, North Carolina, and described as follows: Bounded on the North and West by the lands of H. E. Phillips, thence South by the lands of T. K. Byrd, and on the East by the run of Mirrey Branch and the lands of Robert L. West, and more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the intersection of the center line of the run of Wolf Branch with the center line of the run of Mirrey Branch, and being the most northern corner of the Robert L. West tract of land as recorded in Book 588, page 383, of the Duplin County Registry, and runs thence with the center line of the run of Mirrey Branch North 9 degrees 00 minutes East 280 feet and North 45 degrees 26 minutes East 132.7 feet to a stake, J.L. Farrior's corner formerly now H.E. Phillips; thence with H.E. Phillips' line South 85 degrees 22 minutes West 1790.6 feet to a stake; thence South 1 degree 43 minutes East 670.5 feet to a stake on the run of a small branch; thence with that branch South 54 degrees 09 minutes West 523.7 feet, North 75 degrees 00 minutes West 168 feet, North 60 degrees 00 minutes West 166 feet and North 85 degrees 00 minutes West 170 feet to the head of a ditch; thence with said ditch and branch South 17 degrees 57 minutes West 1056 feet to the center of the old Bowden-Kenansville Road; thence with the center of said road South 12 degrees 57 minutes East 1121 feet to the point in the center of the New Road; thence with the center of the New Road, South 17 degrees 01 minutes East 312 feet, thence leaving the road North 75 degrees 23 minutes East 1913.7 feet to a stake; thence North 53 degrees 05 minutes East 77 feet to a stake; thence North 23 degrees 23 minutes East 196 feet to a stake; thence South 86 degrees 19 minutes East 338 feet to a stake in the line of the Robert L. West tract of land as recorded in Book 588, Page 383, of the Duplin County Registry; thence his line North 25 degrees 00 minutes West 146.5 feet to the center of Mirrey Branch; thence down the run of the Branch as it meanders, North 33 degrees 31 minutes East 585 feet and North 1 degree 50 minutes West 742 feet to the Beginning, and containing 104.5 acres, more or less.

EXCEPTING, HOWEVER, from the foregoing lands the defendant's Homestead Exemption described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron PK nail in the centerline of State Road 1301 said nail being located 826.55 feet South of the Centerline of State Road #1300 where it intersects with State Road #1301 and running from said beginning corner so located North 78 deg. 16 minutes 1 second East 215.68 feet to an iron stake; thence North 16 degrees 5 minutes 19 seconds West 295.24 feet to an iron stake in a road; thence with the center of said road South 83 degrees 53 minutes 45 seconds West 31.77 feet to an iron stake; thence continuing with the road easement South 80 degrees 1 minute 45 seconds West 178.23 feet to an iron stake in the centerline of State Road #1301; thence with the centerline of State Road 1301 South 14 degrees 51 minutes 15 seconds East 292.40 feet to the beginning, containing 1.41 acres more or less including road right of way.

KNOW YE ALL MEN PRESENT that this property is being sold subject to all liens, mortgages, and encumbrances pending against such property.

This 26th day of November, 1979.  
T. E. Revella, Sheriff  
Duplin County, N.C.  
(2-26-4-OCSD-146)

**Long Range Planning**

Since 1952, the Registry has used every available means to make sound long range plans for the future to save money for our people while creating and maintaining the best public records and services. I pledge to continue this for another four years, if re-elected. The Registry is the only Duplin county office which has not asked for more office space during the past 20 years, thus saving great building cost.

**Prior Service**

From 1933 to 1941, I served as manager of the County Agriculture Adjustment Office. During most of those eight years, field men measured all of the planted crops with steel tapes and our office calculated the acreage in each field. These were the years when I learned to love all our County people and every plot of land in the County. Being Register of Deeds has expanded my opportunities to serve our people and I am grateful for all of them.

# 4% On Competency Test

By Emily Killeter

There was an increase in the number of students passing the competency tests this fall, said Gary Sanderson, assistant superintendent of Duplin County schools.

Duplin had a four percent increase in those passing the reading portion, and a seven percent increase in the math portion. Both increases were above the state level, which showed a two percent increase in the reading, and a four percent increase in the math. The county increases were also above those of the 17 school systems which make up Region Two, and showed a two percent increase in the reading, and a three percent increase in the math, according to figures released by the Duplin County Board of Education.

Sanderson said nine school systems scored lower than Duplin, three systems had the same percentage passing, and five systems scored higher than Duplin in the reading portion of the test. In the math portion, eleven systems scored lower than Duplin, and five scored higher in percentages of students passing the test, Sanderson said.

Last fall seven systems scored lower than Duplin in the reading, and nine scored higher. In the math portion of the test, five systems scored lower than Duplin, one system placed the same, and 10 systems scored higher in percentages passing, Sanderson explained.

This year, Duplin County had 593 students taking the reading portion of the competency test, and 540 passed. There were 592 students taking the math portion and 527 passed, said Sanderson. Of those taking the reading portion, there were 12 educable mentally retarded students of which one passed. In the math portion 12 EMR students took the test, and one passed, Sanderson said.

According to Sanderson, there are still nine students who have taken the test three times, and are seniors who have not passed the reading portion of the test. There are 16 students who took the competency for the third time this fall and have not passed the math. Sanderson says these students are not identified as EMR and have been given remedial help toward passing the test. He said the students who have not passed the test will continue to receive remedial help as long as requested until they are 21 years of age, and they will be allowed to take the test until that age. Students who do not pass the competency test before they graduate from high school will be allowed to take the test, and after passing, will receive a diploma to replace the certificate awarded at their graduation, Sanderson explained.

School systems in Region Two are: Carteret, New Bern City, Kinston City, Onslow, New Hanover, Sampson, Lenoir, Brunswick, Craven, Greene, Jones, Pamlico, Pender, Clinton City, Wayne and Goldsboro City.

Systems scoring better than Duplin on the reading portion of the competency test are Carteret, New Bern City, Kinston City, Onslow, New Hanover, Sampson, Lenoir, Brunswick, Craven, Greene, Jones, Pamlico, Pender, Clinton City, Wayne and Goldsboro City.

Systems scoring lower than Duplin on the reading portion of the competency test are Carteret, New Bern City, Kinston City, Onslow, New Hanover, Sampson, Lenoir, Brunswick, Craven, Greene, Jones, Pamlico, Pender, Clinton City, Wayne and Goldsboro City.

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test are Carteret, New Bern City, Kinston City, Onslow and New Hanover. Those scoring the same were Sampson and Lenoir. All others scored lower. School systems scoring better than

Duplin on the math portion were Carteret, Jones, Kinston City, New Hanover and Onslow. All others scored lower than Duplin County schools.

The Nutrition and Life Enrichment Services to the Aged will have its annual Christmas and Volunteers Appreciation parties at the Wallace and Warsaw sites from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on the following days: Wallace and Kenansville at Wallace, Dec. 19; and Warsaw and Faison at Warsaw Dec. 20. All senior citizens are invited to attend.

**KENANSVILLE CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTEST**

The Kenansville Beautification Committee will have their annual home Christmas decorations contest at 6 p.m. Dec. 17. There will be prizes for first, second and third places.

"Dixie," written by Daniel D. Emmett, was composed in the North for a minstrel show.

**CHRISTMAS AND VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION PARTY**

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# NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED DIAMOND-TYPE INTERCHANGE LOCATED AT THE CROSSING OF THE BENSON TO WILMINGTON FREEWAY AND SR 1722 (SUTTONTOWN ROAD) IN SAMPSON COUNTY**

**Project 6.271002 Sampson County**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will hold the above public hearing on December 19, 1979, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Goshen United Methodist Church located on SR 1722 (Suttontown Road). The hearing will consist of an explanation of the proposed project, right of way requirements and procedures, relocation advisory assistance and State-Federal relationship. The hearing will be open to those present for statements, questions, comments and/or submittal of written material pertaining to the proposed project. Additional material may be submitted for a period of ten days from the date of the hearing to Mr. George E. Wells, P.E., Manager of Highway Design, N.C. Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

This hearing is to obtain public input into the proposed plan for a diamond type interchange where the Benson-to-Wilmington freeway crosses SR 1722 (Suttontown Road) in Sampson County. This interchange is a new consideration and was not shown at previous public hearings.

A map setting forth the proposed interchange design is available for public review at the following locations:

1. Suttontown Rescue Unit Office Building Suttontown, N.C.
2. James G. Weeks Community Store Located on Goshen Church Road — Goshen Community

If any additional information concerning the public hearing is desired you may contact W. A. Garrett, Jr., P. E., Public Hearing Officer, N.C. Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, N.C. 27611 or telephone 919-733-3244.