

For many years there had been a growing demand for a list of the principal officials who had served Harnett County since its formation in 1855, and none had been available.

In the hope of supplying this void, the writer has through the years accumulated all the facts obtainable about the men and women who have filled the office of sheriff, clerk superior court, register of deeds, and members of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the North Carolina General Assembly, since the creation of the County until the present.

In some of the offices, the exact years of service by the officer could not be found in the records in the courthouse for the reason that the courthouse was twice destroyed by fire and all records therein were burned in the offices of the clerk of superior court and register of deeds, except for a very small number of the books in the register of deeds' office which were saved, at the risk of his life, by Mr. H. T. Spears who was at that time the register of deeds. These two fires occurred on the mornings of October 15, 1892 and January 9, 1894, making it all but impossible to give accurate and correct account of the years of service by the said officials prior to these dates.

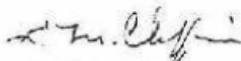
Many of the descendants and relatives of former officials were interviewed who graciously furnished such information as they had and were happy to give all assistance possible. Many older persons have likewise furnished information from their acquaintance with several of the former officials. A few letters and personal memoranda of some of the former officials were found which gave light to many of the dates, and from tombstones and markers in the Greenwood Cemetery at Dunn and the Summerville Cemetery at Millington and from a few family burial grounds other dates appeared.

And particularly helpful to the writer were the writings and notes of Mr. Allen M. Shaw, a former register of deeds, and of Mr. D. P. McDonald, a former county auditor, who through the years between about 1918 and 1930 had jotted down much information with a few dates which gave leads to the years of service by some of the officials in the 1860's, 1870's and 1880's which, except for such information, this almost perfect

list of the persons who filled the said offices, could not have been written. Both these fine gentlemen and former leaders of their day in the County passed on many years ago and their contribution is at this date irreplaceable.

The writer is under obligation especially to Mr. J. H. Withers, Jr., and his sister, Mrs. Jean Withers Pipkin and her husband E. J. Pipkin, the son, daughter and son-in-law of Dr. J. H. Withers, a former clerk of Superior Court; to Mr. Daniel Hugh Green; Mrs. Lucile Spears Johnson, a daughter of a former register of deeds; Mrs. Alma Green McLaughlin, a daughter of a former sheriff and senator; to our County Historian, Malcolm Fowler, who himself is a son of a former sheriff; Miss Margaret Shaw, daughter of a former register of deeds; and to many others for their kindly co-operation at all times in the search for the truth of the men and women mentioned in this list.

The present Sheriff, Mr. Wade H. Stewart, the present Clerk Superior Court, Mrs. Elizabeth F. Matthews, and the present Register of Deeds, Mrs. Inez Harrington, together with their assistants, were most helpful and accommodating at all times in placing the records and books of their offices at the disposal of the writer and of aiding him in every possible way, and to them go his thanks for their splendid assistance.



L. M. Chaffin

Lillington, North Carolina,

This 17th day of May, 1966.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE IN THE NORTH  
CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM HARNETT COUNTY

<u>Session</u>	<u>House Member</u>	<u>Senate Member</u>
1856	Eldridge Stewart & J. P. Bethea	D. M. McDiarmid
1858	W. L. McKay & J. S. Harrington	J. T. Gilmore
1860	C. Wright & J. S. Harrington	Duncan Shaw
1862	Jesse Shephard & John McCormick	W. B. Wright
1864	A. D. McLean & Neil McKay	W. B. Wright
1865	Neil McKay	A. D. McLean
1866	E. C. Williams	A. D. McLean
1868	Neill S. Stewart	J. S. Harrington
1870	Neill S. Stewart	J. S. Harrington
1872	J. R. Grady	
1874	John A. Spears	George W. Pogram
1876	David H. McLean	
1879	C. H. Coffield	
1881	(No representation)	Neill S. Stewart
1883	Daniel Stewart	
1885	Daniel Stewart	Daniel Morrison
1887	Thomas W. Harrington	
1889	William Pearson	John McCormick
1891	M. V. Prince	
1893	Neill A. Smith	J. A. Green
1895	Neill McLeod	
1897	L. B. Chapin	I. W. Taylor
1899	Dan Hugh McLean	
1901	W. A. Stewart	F. P. Jones
1903	Thomas W. Harrington	
1905	W. A. Stewart	H. L. Godwin
1907	J. C. Clifford	
1909	Neill A. Stewart	Thomas W. Harrington
1911	Charles Ross	W. G. Turner
1913	E. F. Young	
1925	Felix M. McKay	J. R. Baggett
1917	Geo. W. Grantham	
1919	Geo. W. Grantham	J. A. McLeod
1921	Geo. W. Grantham	
1923	N. A. Townsend	
1925	N. A. Townsend	Walter P. Byrd
1927	N. A. Townsend	
1929	J. McKay Byrd	Neill McK. Salmon
1931	J. R. Young	
1933	J. R. Young	J. R. Baggett
1935	Fred S. Thomas	
1937	Fred S. Thomas	P. A. Lee
1939	Neill McK. Ross	
1941	D. H. Senter	Fred S. Thomas
1943	Mack M. Jernigan	
1945	Mack M. Jernigan	L. M. Chaffin
1947	Allison Overby	
1949	Howard Parker	L. M. Chaffin
1951	Carson Gregory	
1953	Carson Gregory	J. R. Young
1955	Carson Gregory	
1957	Carson Gregory	Robert Burrum Morgan
1959	Carson Gregory	
1961	Carson Gregory	Robert Burrum Morgan
1963	Dr. H. D. Mabe, Jr.	
1965	Carson Gregory	Robert Burrum Morgan Robert Burrum Morgan

For many years there had been a growing demand for a list of the principal officials who had served Harnett County since its formation in 1855, and none had been available.

In the hope of supplying this void, the writer has through the years accumulated all the facts obtainable about the men and women who have filled the office of sheriff, clerk superior court, register of deeds, and members of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the North Carolina General Assembly, since the creation of the County until the present.

In some of the offices, the exact years of service by the officer could not be found in the records in the courthouse for the reason that the courthouse was twice destroyed by fire and all records therein were burned in the offices of the clerk of superior court and register of deeds, except for a very small number of the books in the register of deeds' office which were saved, at the risk of his life, by Mr. H. T. Spears who was at that time the register of deeds. These two fires occurred on the mornings of October 15, 1892 and January 9, 1894, making it all but impossible to give accurate and correct account of the years of service by the said officials prior to these dates.

Many of the descendants and relatives of former officials were interviewed who graciously furnished such information as they had and were happy to give all assistance possible. Many older persons have likewise furnished information from their acquaintance with several of the former officials. A few letters and personal memoranda of some of the former officials were found which gave light to many of the dates, and from tombstones and markers in the Greenwood Cemetery at Dunn and the Summerville Cemetery at Millington and from a few family burial grounds other dates appeared.

And particularly helpful to the writer were the writings and notes of Mr. Allen M. Shaw, a former register of deeds, and of Mr. D. P. McDonald, a former county auditor, who through the years between about 1918 and 1930 had jotted down much information with a few dates which gave leads to the years of service by some of the officials in the 1860's, 1870's and 1880's which, except for such information, this almost perfect

CLERKS OF SUPERIOR COURT

Benjamin F. Shaw, March 11, 1855 to September 11, 1878  
Dr. J. W. Atkins, September 11, 1878 to 1886  
J. Atkins Cameron, 1886 to January 1, 1891  
George E. Prince, January 1, 1891 to January 8, 1895  
Felix M. McKay, January 8, 1895 to December 5, 1898  
Dr. J. H. Withers, December 5, 1898 to December 3, 1906  
Floyd H. Taylor, December 3, 1906 to December 7, 1914  
Walter P. Byrd, December 7, 1914 to December 2, 1918  
Arthur A. McDonald, December 2, 1918 to December 4, 1922  
L. M. Chaffin, December 4, 1922 to December 5, 1938  
Howard Godwin, December 5, 1938 to March 1, 1950  
L. M. Chaffin, March 1, 1950 to December 4, 1950  
Robert Burrum Morgan, December 4, 1950 to December 31, 1951  
Elizabeth F. Matthews, Acting Clerk, January 1, 1952 to December 31, 1952  
Robert Burrum Morgan, January 1, 1953 to December 6, 1954  
Elizabeth F. Matthews, December 6, 1954 to present

Sheriffs, Clerks of Superior Court, Registers of Deeds, and Members of the House and Senate, of Harnett County since the creation of Harnett County in 1855.

The following is a complete list of all Sheriffs, Clerks of the Superior Court, and Registers of Deeds of Harnett County since the Act of the General Assembly of 1855 creating Harnett County, together with the Members of the House and Senate who have represented the County since such creation.

This list shows the dates and years of service of these officials, but since the records in the courthouse are silent as to a few of them, an approximate date is given which is as correct as can be ascertained from other sources.

#### SHERIFFS

James A. Johnson, March 11, 1855 to 1858

James Robert Grady, 1858 to 1870

Kenneth McNeill, 1870 to 1876

John A. Green, 1876 to 1890 *M. Jackson*

Colon McCartan, 1890 to 1894

John H. Pope, 1894 to 1898

Silas A. Salmon, 1898 to 1904 *John H. Pope*

William Franklin Pearson, 1904 to his death, October 7, 1905

Charles Franklin Pope, October 12, 1905, date of his appointment by Board of County Commissioners, to 1906

James B. Lenier, 1906 to 1912 *John H. Pope*

Isaac W. Smith, 1912 to 1914

J. McKay Byrd, 1914 to 1916

William H. Turlington, 1916 to 1920

J. William McCartan, 1920 to 1924 *John H. Pope*

Arthur F. Fowler, 1924 to 1926 *John H. Pope*

L. Kyle Matthews, 1926 to 1928

John Henry Tart, 1928 to 1930 *John H. Pope*

Arthur F. Fowler, 1930 to 1932

William E. Salmon, 1932 to 1954 *John H. Pope*

Claude R. Moore, 1954 to 1958

Wade H. Stewart, 1958 to present