REV. JAMES M. WEBB WAS MAN OF MANY TALENTS

Was Clerk of Rutherford Superior Court, Legislator, Newspaper Editor and Minister Grandfather of Judge James L. Webb

By CLARENCE GRIFFIN.

A character of prominence and outstanding ability in Rutherford county a century ago was Rev. James Milton Webb, a man of many talents.

He was the grandson of Judge James Webb, who is, incidentally, a Rutherford county man. The Rev. Mr. Webb, was a minister of the gospel, clerk of the superior court, a representative in the General Assembly and a newspaper editor. Strangely enough, Mr. Webb combined these occupations in a splendid manner and there was one period in his career when he was a newspaper editor, minister and clerk of the superior court at the same time.

Mr. Webb was born in Rutherford county October 2, 1802. He grew to young manhood on the farm, and the first years of his life were perhaps no more eventful than that of any other young man of his period. He was elected to the General Assembly when twenty-six years of age. He represented the county in the house of commons for three terms of one year each, in 1828, 1830 and 1831. He was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1834. However, he had been called to preach before that time, and was in 1833, elected pastor of the Concord Baptist church. He continued as pastor of this church from 1833 to December 5, 1848.

He was twice married, first to Miss Catherine White, and to them were born two children. The first Mrs. Webb died September 30, 1848. Mr. Webb was twice married, first to Miss Catherine White, and to them were born two sons and one daughter. One of Mr. Webb's sons was Rev. George M. Webb, a noted Baptist pastor, who was the father of Junius James L. Webb and Judge E. Y. Webb.

In 1833 Mr. Webb was elected clerk of the superior court of Rutherford county to succeed James Morris. He was the county's second superior court clerk. He held this position, giving universal satisfaction until his resignation in November, 1849, which was brought about by ill health. He was succeeded in this position by his son, the Rev. John R. Logan, who was a newspaper editor, minister and judge of the superior court.

Mr. Webb continued as pastor of the First Baptist church in Rutherford county until his resignation in November, 1849, as already stated. He then moved his family to Yadkin county. He was given an annuity and was allowed to reside in the county October 2, 1802. He grew to young manhood on the farm, and the first years of his life were perhaps no more eventful than that of any other young man of his period. He was elected to the General Assembly when twenty-six years of age. He represented the county in the house of commons for three terms of one year each, in 1828, 1830 and 1831. He was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1834. However, he had been called to preach before that time, and was in 1833, elected pastor of the Concord Baptist church. He continued as pastor of this church from 1833 to December 5, 1848.

He was twice married, first to Miss Catherine White, and to them were born two children. The first Mrs. Webb died September 30, 1848. Mr. Webb was twice married, first to Miss Catherine White, and to them were born two sons and one daughter. One of Mr. Webb's sons was Rev. George M. Webb, a noted Baptist pastor, who was the father of Junius James L. Webb and Judge E. Y. Webb.

In 1833 Mr. Webb was elected clerk of the superior court of Rutherford county to succeed James Morris. He was the county's second superior court clerk. He held this position, giving universal satisfaction until his resignation in November, 1849, which was brought about by ill health. He was succeeded in this position by his son, the Rev. John R. Logan, who was a newspaper editor, minister and judge of the superior court.

The following year, 1834, Mr. Webb was elected to the legislature of North Carolina, and was re-elected to the legislature in 1835 and 1836. He was a member of the House of Representatives for two terms, and one of the debates of his period was the question of the admission of Missouri to the Union.

Mr. Webb died April 24, 1854. His grave is in the family cemetery at the old home place, two miles north east of Rutherfordton, on the Ash River, opposite the old courthouse. It is the last resting place of Mr. Webb, who was a man of many talents and abilities.