

from Richmond Hill, the law school established and taught by Chief Justice Pearson, later called Willard & Dick law school, near ~~Richmond~~. Later his brother joined him in law, the firm for Ten years was Webb & Webb. 1894 dissolving after Jim Webb went on the Superior Court Bench and his brother went to Congress (E. Yates Webb). He was licensed to practice law June 1877. His public career began as Mayor in 1880. and in 1883 he was elected to the State Legislature as a Senator, re-elected in 1887. served as Protem of the Senate. While in the Legislature he introduced the bill in Senate to build the now standing Governor's Mansion on W. Blount St., Raleigh, N.C. He had the pleasure of visiting often in this mansion while his daughter, Fay, (Mrs. O. May Gardner) lived there as the wife of the Governor 1929-1932. He enjoyed the Inauguration Day of his son-in-law and was always proud of his success.

When he came home from Wake Forest College Christmas, he decided to help Plato Blenheim edit The Shelly Banner, during the trying reconstruction period as the South labored faithfully to regain itself. He left college so near graduation that the books made for his graduation were turned over to his pal and class mate, Clarence Dixon, who later became one of the world's renowned Baptist ministers.

He had a public career for almost half a century and was never opposed for office by the Democratic party and was never defeated before the people. For 6 months he was Post Office Inspector under President Cleveland. He and his wife attended Pres. Cleveland's second Inauguration at Washington, D.C. In 1892 Governor Holt named him Solicitor of Superior Court and in 1894 he was re-elected for twelve years and in 1904, he was appointed Superior Court Judge by Governor Charles B. Aycock.

He was prominently mentioned for Lt. Governor of the State in 1889 but he refused to allow his name to go before the Convention. When he was appointed Solicitor by Gov. Holt and re-elected in 1894 when all the Democrats went down in the landslide. Solicitor Webb came within a few votes of receiving the Democratic nomination for Congress in the 8th district.

He was a Lt. in the Cleveland Guards, a Royal Arch Mason, a Pythian, a member of the First Baptist Church and Chairman of its building Committee for the new church, was baptized at South Broad Creek at old Concord Baptist Church, in Rutherford County, when a youth, Supt. of the First Baptist Church Sunday School for several years.

In 1878 he married Kansas Love Andrews and four children born to them, one dying in infancy. His only son, Ralph, born Dec. 15, 1878 died Jan. 9, 1905. His daughter, Midge, married S. R. Riley of Greenville, S.C. and his daughter, Fay, married O. May Gardner. (over)

Judge James S. Webb
[from The Asheville Citizen]

Judge James S. Webb, a man of superior mind and highly cultivated, breathed only the purest democratic principles from his childhood, and his manhood spent in the same atmosphere earnestly working for his party. He was a man of fine presence and commanding appearance - six feet one and a half feet tall - has rare ability as an orator and of convincing argument in a political campaign. Besides this he was a gentleman, and retained his character after it had been subjected to all tests and trials of political campaigns. He was a man of personal magnetism, of genial nature and honesty of purpose, beloved and respected by all who knew him. He was always affable and courteous, with a dignified bearing. His equanimity of temper and perfect control of his mind and thought made it impossible to disconcert him, or throw him off his guard. He presided over the Senate several times with ability and decided with a promptness, fairness and cordiness. He knew his duty and had the manhood to perform it. He was dignified without reserve, impartial, firm-minded, just and industrious.

When first appointed judge he went to many courts all over the State, where there were no court stenographers and the judge had to take down the greater part of evidence, a very laborious task.

Gov. Holt appointed him Solicitor in 1897 of the 11th Judicial District succeeding Frank T. Osborne of Charlotte (who went to Attorney Generalship) and Gov. Aycock appointed him Judge of the Superior Court, Nov. 14, 1906 to succeed Judge W. A. Hoke of Lincolnton (who went to Supreme Court as Associate Justice). His first court was at Windsor, Bertie Co. N.C. and he took the oath of office Tuesday morning in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court, the oath administered by Thos. Gilham, Esq. J. P. His wife was present.

For more than a century the name of Webb appears in our records, filling responsible stations and representing a high order of official and personal character.

Judge Webb held the first court in the new Court House Monday June 15, 1908. The first court held in Cleveland Co. was at Wm. Weathers home near old Zion Church on Sept. 8th A. D. 1841 - the county was organized and formed in 1841. This court presided over by Hon. Mathias E. Manly, Charles Denton, Judge Webb's Rinsman being first Sheriff. A small wooden Court house on Square used until 1845, then a brick building with two side steps used until present structure June 1908.