

Tributes To Judge Webb

A Prince of a Man. (Charlotte News.)

The death of such an one as the distinguished and princely Judge James L. Webb calls from us more than an expression of lamentation. We would bring a brief word of veneration and appreciation for a great spirit that has left us and speak a gratitude for an illumined, dominating mind which was its strong moral will that was and majestic in its high and dedicated without stain to the public service.

Judge Webb was a man of native strength of character. Hereditary instincts toward nobility were those encircling springs that kept feeding his celestial faith and to all of these added the courage and resolution, a will that he kept under close direction. He was a righteous man, whom the sense of a big, loving, righteous God was part of the substance of his being. In him the fundamentals of Christianity came to bloom again with its austere simplicity as well as its gracious loveliness, its strength and its integrity, its tenderness and deathless hope for mankind.

Judge Webb's long career in the courts, first as solicitor and then as jurist, threw him unavoidably into contacts with the worst elements in our society, but in the essential goodness of man and in the eventual working out of a better society, he never lost his optimistic attitude. His bright-faced tangent to all humanity, his justness and reasonableness, his almost infinite considerateness of his faultful fellows, is infectious good humor—all of these graces that radiated from him whether he sat as a jurist or passed the streams of humanity on street level marked him as a man of intimate contacts with the source of all goodness and righteousness.

He has served his generation wisely and well. He was an honor to the judiciary of North Carolina. To be helpful to his erring fellow-man rather than merely to magnify his great office by an audacious austerity was his ruling passion and he came to be a judge than whom there has been none more beloved in the state, seeking always to temper the stern mandates of judicial duty with a gleam of mercy.

The poet of ancient Greece reminds us that men could always tell when the goddess came to Thebes because of the blessings that were left in her track. So, also, shall it be that Judge Webb once passed beneficently this way and deposited a life and an influence that shall continually shed their bright illuminations along man's road.

His Life a Monument. (Greensboro News.)

Death, again invading the ranks of North Carolina's veteran leaders during a week which had already seen two answer its summons, struck a third time Wednesday when it claimed Judge James L. Webb, dean of the state's judiciary and venerated citizen of the commonwealth.

Judge Webb, oldest member of the distinguished Shelby family which has given to the state a coterie of faithful public servants, offered what is believed to be a record unequalled by any living North Carolinian; he had held public office for more than 40 of the 76 years of his life. And never once, during that prolonged period, beginning with the Shelby mayoralty and continuing through his legislative service, his term as solicitor and then for the 26 years during which

he sat on the superior court bench, has any untoward incident of deed, word or thought been charged against him. Towering above his judicial record was his sterling character, the conscientiousness, the seriousness and the human touch which he carried into his private life and into the courtroom.

Even-tempered in his deliberations, Judge Webb may not go down in annals as a great jurist. But none can be credited with a more conscientious desire to do the right thing, the fair thing and the just thing. Ever in his rigid official duties, the jurist mingled tenderness of heart, a generosity of spirit and a strain of mercy and understanding

of human nature and a cognizance of human weakness which endeared him to his fellow citizens and brought abiding confidence in the judiciary where he so long served. No more accurate criterion of the esteem and affection in which he was held can be offered than the mere record that never in his long judicial career was he opposed for re-election.

For such a man, conscientious yet understanding in his duties on the bench, sympathetic and generous in his dealings with his fellow man, sterling in his character and Christian in his example, all of North Carolina joins with his fellow townsmen in dropping a tear and offering sincere tribute at the bier of Judge James L. Webb. His life will be his greatest monument.

"Judge Jim's" Warm Heart. (Charlotte Observer.)

Judge "Jim" Webb, as he was familiarly known over North Carolina, passed into peaceful rest at his home in Shelby, yesterday morning, and the state mourns one of its most popular citizens and the legal fraternity one of its most brilliant members, for Judge Webb was a jurist of high attainment, having established reputation as one of the best equipped barristers who ever adorned the bench of North Carolina. One of his dominant qualities was to temper justice with mercy, whenever occasion developed, and yet he ruled with an even hand, his judgments being based on the equities of the case. He was a man of warm heart and ever responsive to the call of the needy and distressed, and being possessed of a most companionable disposition, he gathered friends around him from every section of the state. In the course of his circuits he had visited every county seat in North Carolina, thus having been privileged to come into contact with the people of North Carolina as a whole, and it was this contact that brought him into admiration in every North Carolina locality. As jurist he was rated among the finest and most accomplished produced in the state and his passing is occasion for the bowing of the head of North Carolina in sorrow.

An Upright Judge.

(Raleigh News & Observer.)

Judge James L. Webb, whose death is lamented, had a record of rare success and usefulness. He held office almost continuously for 50 years, with the record of never having an opponent or suffering a defeat. As mayor, postal inspector, state senator and president pro tem of the senate, as solicitor for 12 years and superior court judge for more than a quarter of a century his public record was honorable and useful to a high degree. He was an upright judge, learned in the law and held the scales of justice evenly.

In private life he was wise and successful in his investments, his judgment was excellent, and his counsel marked by wisdom. He was a model husband, father and neighbor, honored by Wake Forest college where he was educated, by his people who gave him for 50 years every evidence of loyalty, by his party which trusted in his leadership, by his church in which he was a faithful member, and by the whole state which he served many years with ability and fidelity.

WEBB PICTURE TO BE GIVEN

Shelby, N. C., Aug. 4.—A handsome oil painting of the late Judge James L. Webb, for nearly a half century an official in the state courts of North Carolina, will be presented to the county of Cleveland Thursday morning at 10 o'clock by members of his family.

The presentation ceremony will be held in the main court room of the county court house, where the painting will be hung following the presentation.

Clyde R. Hoey, representing the Webb family, will make the presentation speech and the painting will be received by Judge Wilson Warlick, who succeeded the veteran judge.

No other citizen in the history of the county was more beloved than the veteran jurist, known to high and low, black and white as "Judge Jim," and indications are that a large audience will attend the presentation.

Among the members of the family expected to be present are the widow, Mrs. J. L. Webb; two daughters, Mrs. O. Max Gardner and Mrs. Madge Webb Riley; a brother, Federal Judge E. Yates Webb, and Governor Gardner, a son-in-law.

The ceremony program was arranged by the Cleveland County Bar association.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Partin and Miss Amelia Love Partin, of Gaffney, also attended the presentation of Judge Webb's portrait Thursday. Judge Webb was Mrs. Partin's uncle, and was known and loved by many people in this city.

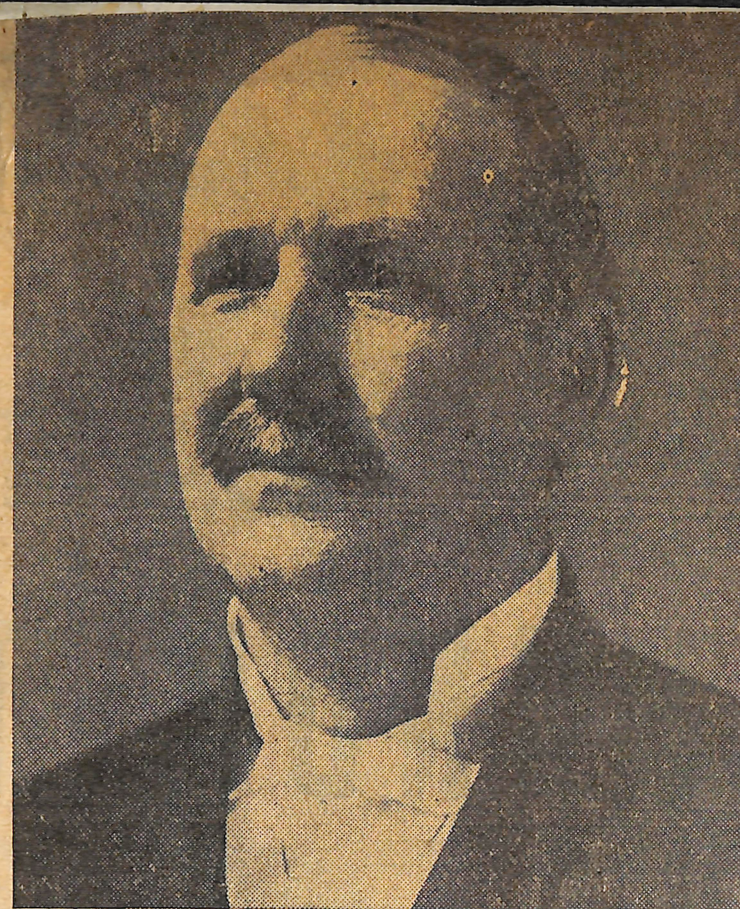
Oct. 1—1930

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Burgess, of New York City; Mr. Ralph Gardner of Woodberry Forest, Orange, Va.; Mr. George Webb of Birmingham, Ala.; Mrs. J. A. Darwin, of Athens, Ga.; and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Webb, of Atlanta, Ga., have arrived here within the past several days to be at the death bed of their beloved kinsman, Judge James L. Webb, who passed away this morning at ten o'clock at his home on S. Washington street.

The Governor's office will be closed today in respect to the memory of Judge James L. Webb, father of Mrs. O. Max Gardner, who will be buried at Shelby today. The order to close the office was given by Tyre C. Taylor, Private Secretary to the governor.

Quickel Begins November 10.

RALEIGH, Nov. 5.—A. L. Quickel of Lincolnton, named superior court judge to succeed the late James L. Webb of the 16th district, will take over his new duties at Dobson on November 10.



THE LATE JUDGE JAMES L. WEBB, kind and big hearted jurist who served district as solicitor and represented county in General Assembly.

—A Tribute To "Judge Jim"—

(EDITORIAL)

Shelby and Cleveland county today lost their most widely admired citizen in the passing of Judge James L. Webb, big-hearted friend of all the people.

Never in the history of the county, The Star feels secure in saying, has there been a man more universally loved. In his long and useful career as a public official he was not a friend to the few, and to only those closest about him, but to all men and women who came in contact with him. "Judge Jim's" passing will be mourned in humble abodes as well as in the homes of the high, for he was loved by every class, every creed, and every race.

A man of powerful physique he carried within his big body a great, sympathetic heart. It was, undoubtedly, his ambition to die in the harness of service and he almost realized that ambition, passing only a little more than one month after he adjourned his last court in Shelby. For near a half century he had served his people, and served them well, and behind him as he crosses the Great Divide he leaves, The Star believes, not a single enemy, or a touch of hatred in any heart, for of him it can be said that in every move during his career he was just, fair, and merciful.

It is quite a blow to any community and section to lose her most beloved citizen, but tomorrow as "Judge Jim" is carried to his last resting place, high and low will unite in saying that he has served long and faithfully and at the end of a noble career is entitled to the final rest and peace.