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LIFE

In Cleveland County's Early Days

By MAMIE JONES

At long last the great day came! The second Monday in March, 1841! The day on which the justices of peace living within the confines of the new county—Cleveland—just recently erected by the legislature out of the western portion of Lincoln county and the eastern portion of Rutherford county, were to meet at the home of 'Squire William Weathers in the Zion community and there hold the first session of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, and set up the organization for government for the new county.

In Cleveland

At long last the great day which the justices of peace live just recently erected by the le the eastern portion of Rutherford Weathers in the Zion community Quarter Sessions, and set up th

This system of county government by justice of the peace was handed down from Colonial days. "The early leaders adopted almost entirely the same type of government to which they had been accustomed in England." (Griffin)

MEN OF MEANS

The justices were usually men of means and standing in the community. They were appointed by the governor upon recommendation of the county representative in the legislature. At the time this county was organized the commission was for life, unless removed or resigned. Later, the law was changed and appointments were made for only one year at a time.

Doubtless the greater portion of the 30 men who gathered that March morning more than 100 years ago, had been serving as justices in their respective counties of Rutherford and Lincoln; though we find four recently appointed who were sworn in that day.

The following is a transcript of the record of the first day's proceedings as it appears in the Minute Docket of Book Number 1 of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, now in the office of the register of deeds of Cleveland county.

Be it remembered that at a