

## **Junius Irving Scales (1832-1880)**

*Researched and written by Elon University School of Law student Erin Milligan, Summer 2011*

Educated at the University of North Carolina, Junius I. Scales graduated in 1853 with high honors.<sup>1</sup> Following graduation, Scales taught until he began studying law under Judge Pearson, a state Supreme Court associate judge and prominent pro-Union Whig.<sup>2</sup> Pearson conducted law school at his home near the community of Richmond Hill where his students lived in log cabins attended classes outdoors.<sup>3</sup> Following law school, Scales moved to Graham in Alamance County and began practicing law until he was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1857.

In 1861, Scales and his family moved to Carrollton, Mississippi where he stayed until the start of the Civil War. He enlisted in the Carrollton Company and was elected captain. On September 20, 1863, at the battle of Chickamauga, Scales and twenty of his sharp shooters were captured and sent to the Federal War Prison at Johnson's Island on Lake Erie where they stayed until the end of the war. After the war, Scales and his family moved back to North Carolina where he eventually returned to law.<sup>4</sup>

He moved to Greensboro around 1869 and was later joined by his brother, General Alfred Moore Scales. The brothers founded a lucrative practice under the name Scales and Scales.<sup>5</sup> While maintaining the practice, Scales was elected alderman of Greensboro and went on to represent the district in the General Assembly of North Carolina. His fellow representatives regarded him as a "wise counselor, a safe legislator and an eloquent advocate."<sup>6</sup> Scales was known for his abilities as an orator and was a successful lawyer until his death on July 11, 1880 from heart trouble caused by his capture during the war.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Caldwell, Bettie D. *Founders and Builders of Greensboro, 1808-1908, Fifty Sketches*. Greensboro, NC: J.J. Stone &, 1925. 242. Print.

<sup>2</sup> "North Carolina Supreme Court Justices - Chief Justice Richmond M. Pearson." *Carolana - One Vision - Many Dreams!* 2009. Web. 24 June 2011. <<http://www.carolana.com/NC/Courts/rmpearson.html>>.

<sup>3</sup> *Winston, Salem & Greensboro Directory, 1879-'80*. Web. 25 July 2011.

<<http://www.greensborohistory.org/archives/printed/CityDirectories/1879citydir.htm#-S->>.

<sup>4</sup> Caldwell 242.

<sup>5</sup> *Winston, Salem & Greensboro Directory, 1879-'80*.

<sup>6</sup> Caldwell 242.

<sup>7</sup> Caldwell 242.