

Levi Scott (1827-1911)

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

Known as the “Father of the Greensboro Bar,” Levi Scott began his career teaching at Greensboro High School in the late 1840s.¹ While teaching, Scott began studying law under John A. Gilmer.² He obtained a license to practice in state superior courts in 1852. Scott was elected as clerk of the superior court in Guilford County, a position he held until 1856 when he was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives under the Whig party. He served only one term. In 1858, Scott was elected solicitor of Guilford County where he served a four-year term and was re-elected in 1862. At that time the Confederate Government also appointed him to the position of receiver of sequestered property. In this position, which he held until the end of the war, Scott was in charge of collecting all debts owed to Northern creditors by Southern debtors for the benefit of the Confederate states.

Scott served as counselor to North Carolina Governor Zebulon B. Vance during the war.³ Vance was avoiding the war chaos in Raleigh used Scott & Scott law office which Scott shared with his brother, William. It was in the brothers' office that Vance wrote his proclamation of support to the citizens of North Carolina to help maintain law and order. Scott as well as his former teacher, Hon. John A. Gilmer, and Jesse H. Lindsay were present when the proclamation was written.⁴

In his fifty years of practicing law at the Courts of the Fifth Judicial District Scott never failed in attendance at his sessions, showing his extreme devotion to the profession.⁵

¹ Arnett, Ethel Stephens. *Greensboro, North Carolina, the County Seat of Guilford*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1955. 48. Print.

² Powell, William S. *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*. Vol. 5. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1979. 304. Print.

³ Weatherly, Andrew Earl. *The First Hundred Years of Historic Guilford, 1771-1871*. Greensboro, NC: Printed by Greensboro Print, 1972. 95. Print.

⁴ Arnett, Ethel Stephens. *Greensboro, North Carolina, the County Seat of Guilford*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1955. 398. Print.

⁵ Stockard, Sallie Walker., and Ruth F. Thompson. *The History of Guilford County, North Carolina*. Greensboro, N.C. (P.O. Box 9693, Greensboro 27429-0693): Re-published by Guilford County Genealogical Society, 1983. 117. Print.