

William Lafayette Scott (1828-1872)

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

William Lafayette Scott graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1854 with first honors, as valedictorian of his class.¹ In 1852, William began teaching at Edgeworth Female Seminary in Greensboro where he remained until 1854.² In 1854, William became Lieutenant-colonel in the 21st North Carolina Regiment.³

William received his license to practice law in 1856. From 1856 to 1857, Scott practiced in Georgia with Benjamin H. Hill.⁴ He returned to Greensboro following Hill's death and formed the firm Scott & Scott with his brother, Levi, in Greensboro in 1857.⁵ In April 1865, North Carolina Governor Zebulon B. Vance used the brothers' office to avoid the chaos erupting in Raleigh due to the Civil War. It was in Scott's office that the Governor wrote his proclamation for support to the citizens of North Carolina.⁶

Following the conclusion of the war, Greensboro was placed under military control and General Canby appointed Scott as military mayor of Greensboro.⁷ He took the place of elected Mayor Richard Sterling and held the position until 1869.⁸ Scott is credited with making more improvements in the city than any mayor before him, including paving Elm Street.⁹

¹ Jones, Cecil, and Nellie R. Jones. "Greensboro Mayors: Col. William L. Scott Took Office One Year After War Between States Came To End." *Greensboro Daily News* [Greensboro, NC], sec. 3: 8. Print.

² Powell, William S. *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*. Vol. 5. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1979. 443. Print.

³ "Phi Gamma Delta." Web. 24 June 2011.

<<http://www.phigam.org/netcommunity/page.aspx?pid=960>>.

⁴ Jones 8.

⁵ Arnett, Ethel Stephens. *Greensboro, North Carolina, the County Seat of Guilford*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1955. 33. Print.

⁶ Arnett 33.

⁷ "Full Text of "Greensboro, 1808-1904: Facts, Figures, Traditions, and Reminiscences"" *Internet Archive: Digital Library of Free Books, Movies, Music & Wayback Machine*. Web. 24 July 2011.

<http://www.archive.org/stream/greensboro18081900albr/greensboro18081900albr_djvu.txt>.

⁸ Jones 8.

⁹ Jones 8.