

INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES
OF MISSISSIPPI

Prepared by

The Historical Records Survey
Division of Women's and Professional Projects
Works Progress Administration

No. 18. FORREST COUNTY (HATTIESBURG)

* * * *

Jackson, Mississippi
The Historical Records Survey
June, 1938

The Historical Records Survey

Luther H. Evans, National Director
C. C. Fisher, State Director

Division of Women's and Professional Projects

Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator
Ethel Payne, State Director

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Harry L. Hopkins, Administrator
Roland B. Wall, Deputy Administrator in Charge

FOREWORD

The Inventory of County Archives of Mississippi is one of a number of bibliographies of historical materials prepared throughout the United States by workers on the Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration. The publication herewith presented, an inventory of the archives of Forrest County, is number 18 of the Mississippi series.

The Historical Records Survey was undertaken in the winter of 1935-36 for the purpose of providing useful employment to needy unemployed historians, lawyers, teachers, and research and clerical workers. In carrying out this objective, the project was organized to compile inventories of historical materials, particularly the unpublished government documents and records which are basic in the administration of local government, and which provide invaluable data for students of political, economic, and social history. The archival guide herewith presented is intended to meet the requirements of day-to-day administration by the officials of the county, and also the needs of lawyers, business men and other citizens who require facts from the public records for the proper conduct of their affairs. The volume is so designed that it can be used by the historian in his research in unprinted sources in the same way he uses the library card catalog for printed sources.

The inventories produced by the Historical Records Survey attempt to do more than give merely a list of records - they attempt further to sketch in the historical background of the county or other unit of government, and to describe precisely and in detail the organization and functions of the government agencies whose records they list. The county, town, and other local inventories for the entire country will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia for local government as well as a bibliography of local archives.

The successful conclusion of the work of the Historical Records Survey, even in a single county, would not be possible without the support of public officials, the historical and legal specialists, and many other groups in the community. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

The Survey was organized and has been directed by Luther H. Evans, and operates as a nation-wide project in the Division of Women's and Professional Projects, of which Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator, is in charge.

Harry L. Hopkins
Administrator

PREFACE

Work on the Historical Records Survey began in Mississippi in February 1936 as a part of the program of the Federal Writers' Projects. In November 1936 the Mississippi Survey became a separate unit of Federal Project No. 1 and in July 1937 C. C. Fisher, editor-in-chief, was made state director.

To attain its general objective the Survey in Mississippi has examined, thoroughly and carefully, records kept by state, county, and municipal governments. In addition, preliminary lists of historical manuscripts, maps, and early imprints in private and unofficial collections have been prepared. Much has been accomplished in locating and inventorying the records of all churches in all counties. In completing this particular task the Survey will include the records of defunct churches if it is possible to locate them.

In Mississippi the Survey has stressed the completion of a state-wide examination of county records with the view to preserving them, making them more accessible, and disclosing their intrinsic value in the development of Mississippi as a Territory and a state. The Survey plans to publish the Inventory of the County Archives of Mississippi in 82 units, one for each county in the state. Each unit will be numbered separately from 1 to 82, its number depending on the relative position of the county in an alphabetical list of all counties. The inventories of the state archives, of manuscript collections, of church records, of early imprints, and of municipal and other local records will be published separately.

By assembling and preparing concise, detailed inventories of, and guides to, the archives of all counties, the Survey will make available a series of publications which will: display for comparison the records system of the 82 counties of the state the study of which may lead to the adoption of a simplified, standardized method of keeping records which will eliminate unnecessary and overlapping records; give a comprehensive medium which will familiarize the general public with history as it is shown by the records, and arouse interest in it; and help office holders to a better understanding of the exact scope of their office records and show them the record work of their predecessors.

Although every effort has been made to attain absolute accuracy in this inventory, the Survey cannot assure the user that this degree of perfection has been realized. Because of the many and varied systems of record keeping in use, the same records may have been given different names in different counties and what may seem an error is in reality only an evidence of the general non-uniformity existent throughout the 82 counties of the state.

The inventory is arranged so that the records of the executive branch of county government come first, followed by judicial, law enforcing, fiscal, and miscellaneous agencies. The legal development of each office or agency is given in a section which precedes the inventory of the records of the office or agency.

At first skeptical or antagonistic, county officials have come to realize the worth of the Survey. In many counties it was necessary for Survey field workers to sort, rearrange, and put the records in their proper places before the actual inventorying could be started. As work progressed the need for the complete reorganization of records in these counties became so apparent that locally-sponsored projects were organized to index, transcribe, restore, rebind, and set in order the confused, jumbled mass of county archives. The Survey, because of its limited quota,

has not been able to complete this extra work with its own workers. However, it assisted gladly in making all preliminary arrangements and in preparing project proposals. It furnished technical supervision and gave its utmost cooperation to county officials in the systematizing of their records.

A further indication of the established value of the Survey is the fact that county officials are eagerly seeking its help in remedying a badly confused condition existing in the keeping of the highly important sectional indexes. These indexes, intended to show clearly and concisely all land conveyances and other instruments touching or concerning the title to land in the counties, have for a variety of reasons, not accomplished their purpose satisfactorily.

The law of 1888 which directed that the indexes be provided, did not define clearly the method and manner in which they should be kept. Consequently, the result has been that in no two of the 63 counties which have indexes are the indexes kept alike. Only five of the 63 indexes are modern and efficient. The other 58 range from almost totally valueless to fairly complete, and in 19 counties there are no indexes.

After analyzing this condition, the Survey demonstrated that it could offer an intelligent solution to the situation. A standardized, uniform index was prepared and presented to chancery clerks and to boards of supervisors. So great has been the response, that to date, June 1938, 52 counties have requested the Survey to inspect their indexes and make recommendations for improvement and standardization. The boards of supervisors in 17 counties have approved WPA projects to revise the sectional indexes of their counties, and in ten of these 17 counties, projects have been established and work is progressing to the complete satisfaction of the county officials. Forrest County was one of the first to approve a project and work was started in April 1938. (See Governmental Organization and Records System, p. 13, infra.)

The Historical Records Survey has given valuable assistance to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Through a project initiated by the Survey, more than 900 volumes of loose newspapers have been sorted, arranged by date of publication and bound. Bulky old case records of the superior court of chancery, the high court of errors and appeals, and of the supreme court have been put in order, labelled, indexed, and made readily accessible for the first time. The Survey is preparing to make a complete inventory of all records, books, papers, and other historical materials collected by the department since its organization in 1902.

A project, sponsored by the secretary of state, and designed to arrange, index, and rebind the records of all offices or bureaus of state government, has been put into operation. This work is highly important in that it will at the same time determine the amount of space and equipment needed to house properly the surplus state records, provide a safe depository in Jackson for future accumulation of records, and protect the invaluable historical manuscripts, private collections and records now scattered throughout the state. In this connection the Survey has been collaborating with the state officials and with the director of the Department of Archives and History in preparing a feasible plan to present to the legislature. It has been suggested that the state convert the Old Capitol into an archives building or make use of one or more of the abandoned asylum buildings in North Jackson.

The survey of the records of Forrest County was started January 11, 1936 and was finished May 15, 1937. John W. York, Historical Records Survey field worker, examining the records of both Forrest and Perry Counties during that time, completed

the survey unaided by other paid workers until Martin L. Bartee was assigned to the project on April 16, 1937. No advisory committee was formed but county officials gave the Survey enthusiastic and generous cooperation. Prominent among these who aided York and Bartee were: Luther M. Cox, circuit clerk; Eustus E. Hudson, chancery clerk; George W. Boone, sheriff and tax collector; W. V. Ford, assessor; S. J. Maxwell, surveyor; D. W. Holmes, county prosecuting attorney; Olin R. Lovitt, superintendent of education; and C. E. Fairley, Luther G. Lee, J. Frank Williams, Jr., A. M. Brown, J. P. Bounds, all members of the board of supervisors.

The Survey has followed general regulations and procedure applicable to all WPA project units in the 48 states. Mississippi WPA officials have always given the Survey their cordial support and assistance. The Survey acknowledges also the help accorded by the Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and State Librarian who gave its workers access to the valuable source materials housed in their respective departments.

The records of Forrest County are in as good condition and as accessible as it is possible for them to be under the existing circumstances. The courthouse is too small and is inadequate for the steadily increasing needs of the populous county. The offices of the circuit clerk and the chancery clerk especially are overcrowded and congested.

The inventory of the records of Forrest County was prepared in the state office of the Survey in Jackson, Mississippi, by an editorial staff headed by Robert E. Strong.

C. C. FISHER
State Director
The Historical Records Survey

Jackson, Mississippi
June 1938

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part A. Forrest County and its Records System		Page
1.	Historical Sketch of Forrest County	3
2.	Governmental Organization and Records System	7
3.	Housing, Care, and Accessibility of Records	13
4.	List of Abbreviations, Symbols, and Explanatory Notes	15
Part B. County Offices and their Records		
I.	Board of Supervisors	20
	Proceedings. Petitions. Allowances. Claims. Warrants. Bonds. Insurance. Roads. Public Service Corporation Assessments.	
II.	Recorder	27
	Land Deeds. Mortgages and Deeds of Trust on Land. Chattel Deeds and Deeds of Trust. Sixteenth Section Records. Homesteads. Tax Sales and Releases. Corporations. Dis- charge Record. Maps. Miscellaneous.	
III.	Clerk of the Chancery Court	34
	Case Records. Dockets and General Court Records. Pro- ceedings. Fees. Newspapers. Wills and Estates.	
IV.	Clerk of the Circuit Court	39
	Case Records. Dockets and General Court Records. Pro- ceedings. Judgments. Grand Jury Records. Juvenile Records. Naturalization. Protests. Fees. Certificates. Bonds. Marriage Records. Licenses.	
V.	County Court	48
	Case Records. Affidavits. Dockets and General Court Records. Proceedings. Judgments. Fees.	
VI.	Justice of the Peace	57
	Case Records. Dockets. Reports.	
VII.	County Prosecuting Attorney	62
VIII.	Sheriff	64
	Dockets. Writs and Executions. Prisoners. Fees.	
IX.	Constable	67
X.	Coroner	69
	Dockets.	
XI.	Tax Assessor	70
	Assessments. Tax Rolls. Homestead Exemptions. Maps.	

Table of Contents

	Page
XII. Tax Collector	74
Cash Receipts. Reports. Tax Receipts. Licenses. Corres- pondence.	
XIII. Treasurer and Auditor	78
Dockets and Ledgers.	
XIV. Registrar	82
Registration and Poll Records.	
XV. Superintendent of Education	84
Administrative. Financial. Teachers. Reports. In- surance. Agricultural High School. School Children. Adult Education. Correspondence	
XVI. Health Department	93
Reports. Vital Statistics. Examinations. Com- municable Diseases. Immunizations. Laboratory Reports. Miscellaneous.	
XVII. Pension Board of Inquiry	97
XVIII. Surveyor	99
XIX. County Engineer	100
XX. Ranger	101
XXI. County Agent	102
Cotton Control. Reports.	
XXII. Home Demonstration Agent	104

Appendix

Chart of Government of Forrest County	10A
Bibliography	106
List of County Officials	108
Chronological Index	112
Index to Inventory Entries	117
Index to County History and Office Essays	132

1. HISTORICAL SKETCH

Forrest County was created from the Second Judicial District of Perry County by an act of the legislature approved April 19, 1906 (L. M., 1906, pp. 174-179; see also Governmental Organization and Records System, p. 7, infra.) Brought into existence during the saw mill and lumber era of South Mississippi, the economy of the county has been predominantly industrial although agriculture has not been unimportant. Forrest County was named in honor of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, famous Southern cavalry leader. The act creating the county provided that Hattiesburg, a fast-growing lumbering and railroad center, should be the county seat. This city was the seat of justice of the Second Judicial District of Perry County formed in 1892 (L. M., 1892; pp. 392-394).

The county is situated in south-central Mississippi in the midst of the Long Leaf Pine Belt and is a regular parallelogram with an area of 462 square miles. It was first a part of Washington County which was established by proclamation of Governor Winthrop Sargent June 4, 1800 as the third county in the Mississippi Territory (Toulmin's Digest, 1807, p. 3). This county embraced all the country extending east from the Pearl River to the Chattahoochee River - now the eastern boundary of Alabama - and north from the 31st parallel to the northern boundary of the Territory, just above the 32nd parallel. From this vast county containing approximately 2,600 square miles, 18 counties in Mississippi and 29 counties in Alabama have been formed wholly or in part. (Thomas McAdory Owen, History of Alabama, Chicago, 1921, 4 vols., vol. II, p. 138).

Although this expanse of land was claimed for the Territory, it did not actually come into the possession of the United States until 1805 when its native owners, the Choctaw Indians, ceded it to the government as the culmination of the first move made to extinguish Indian titles within the limits of the Territory. The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 (8 Stat. L., Treaties, pp. 200-13), created the need for a southern route to New Orleans and Natchez. On November 16, 1805, Mount Dexter, situated near the present town of Macon in Noxubee County, was the scene of a treaty whereby the Choctaws granted the United States 4,374,244 acres of land lying in the extreme southern part of the Territory above the 31st parallel and including present-day Forrest County (7 Stat. L., pp. 98-100). This treaty, known as the First Choctaw Cession, threw new lands open to white settlement, made possible the westward extension of a post road from Georgia (2 Stat. L., pp. 338, 397), and separated the Indians from the trouble-making Spaniards who still held Florida. (Clarence Edwin Carter, The Territorial Papers of the United States, Washington, 1937, 5 vols., vol. V, The Mississippi Territory, pp. 317-18, 434.)

Greene County was organized in this area on December 9, 1811 (Turner's Digest, 1816, p. 105) and from it on February 3, 1820 Perry County was formed (L. M., 1820, pp. 27-28). In 1906 the limits of the territory taken from Perry County to create Forrest County were described as "Beginning at the northeast corner of Township 5 north of range 12, west of St. Stephen's Meridian, then running south along the line dividing ranges 11 and 12 to the southwest corner of township 1, south of range 12, west, then running west along the line dividing Harrison and Perry Counties to the southwest corner of township 1, south of range 13, west, then running along the line dividing Pearl River County and Perry County to the southwest corner of township 5, north of range 14, west, then running west along the line dividing Perry and Lamar Counties to the southwest corner of said last named township, then running along the line dividing Perry and Lamar Counties, to the northwest corner of said last Counties, to the point of beginning" (L. M., 1906, chapt. 165, pp. 174-179). In 1912

the townships on the southern border were made part of Stone County established at that time (L. M., 1912, p. 403). Otherwise, the boundaries of Forrest County have not been changed and at present it is delimited on the north by Covington and Jones Counties, on the east by Perry County, on the south by Stone County, and on the west by Lamar and Pearl River Counties.

Until they relinquished their title to the region, the Choctaw Indians used it chiefly as a hunting ground. It was not until the early 1880's that farmers and traders penetrated the upper portions of the Piney Woods along the Leaf River and its tributary creeks.

In 1841 Col. J. F. H. Claiborne, pioneer Mississippi historian, described the section in the following stylistic language: "This country is thinly settled and adapted chiefly to grazing. It is intersected by large creeks that afford fine water power, more than two-thirds of the land yet belongs to the government and will not be entered for years to come at present prices. Much of it is covered exclusively with the long leaf pine; not broken, but rolling like the waves in the middle of the great ocean. The grass grows three feet high and hill and valley are studded all over with flowers of every hue. The flora of this section of the State and thence down to the sea board is rich beyond description.....Thousands of cattle are grazed here for market. The unbroken forests abound with game. The red deer troop along by dozens; for miles the wild turkeys run before you in the road, and the sharp whizzing of the startled partridge is constantly on the ear. But for this panorama of life, the solitude of a ride through this region would be painful. The houses on the road stand from ten to twenty miles apart; the cheering mile posts and the gossiping traveler are seldom met with; the armless pines look gaunt and spectral and fall sadly on the soul.....The people are for the most part pastoral, their herds furnishing their chief revenue.

"No regard is paid to diet or weather. The houses are chiefly built of logs, partly left unchinked at all seasons of the year; great quantities of fruit are consumed; the cotton and corn fields are planted over with melons of which all eat with impunity and frequently as they are plucked, warm from the sun; many of the men spend days in the woods herding cattle or deer stalking; and they swim water courses and catch the drenching winter rains without thinking of hot teas, warm baths, and dry clothes to keep them from taking cold. The universal practice is to let the drenched garments dry on the system. All ages plunge with impunity into the streams, and the children and the ducks live in the water together. Yet there is little or no sickness, scarcely ever a fever, not a doctor within fifty miles; the men are robust, active, and long-lived; the women beautiful, and the children lively as crickets and ruddy as rosebuds.....Land may be had at government prices, or improved with comfortable cabins, a fine spring and a clearing may be had at a small advance. The most juicy and richly flavored grass-fed beef can be had at three or four cents; butter at a bit a pound; eggs and fowls, potatoes, etc., at a mere song; cheese for a trifle; venison for the shooting of it; and an owner of five hundred or one thousand head of cattle will thank you for penning, milking, and salting his cows. It is literally a land of "milk and honey"--for the wild bee builds her nest in many a hollow tree, and hives by the dozen garnish the gable ends of every farm house." (J. F. H. Claiborne, "A Trip Through the Piney Woods", in Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, Franklin L. Riley, ed., Oxford, Miss., 1906, 10 vols., vol. IX, pp. 514-16).

There was no concentration of population in the land now Forrest County until after the New Orleans and North Eastern Railroad, now part of the Southern Railway System, was projected through South Mississippi in 1882 from New Orleans

northeast to Meridian in Mississippi. The railroad established a round house, repair shop, and relay station which was the beginning of the village that grew into the city of Hattiesburg. (Dunbar Rowland, Mississippi, The Heart of the South, Chicago, 1925, 4 vols., vol. II, p. 721). The most active development followed the completion in 1897 of the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad between Hattiesburg and the port of Gulfport on the Mississippi gulf coast. This railroad chartered by the state in 1882 (L. M., 1882, pp. 849-62), because of financial difficulties occasioned by its failure and inability to obtain title to government granted lands, had been 15 years in connecting the Forrest County region with a nearby outlet for its yellow pine lumber. Once finished however, the railroad transformed the section into one great, roaring, lumber camp with hundreds of saw mills.

In 1900 Captain J. T. Jones of Buffalo, New York, one of the first northern capitalists to make heavy financial investments in Mississippi, purchased the railroad. (See "Historical Sketch" in Inventory of the County Archives of Mississippi, No. 24, Harrison County, Gulfport, Jackson, Miss.) Under this new ownership, the road was extended northwest to Jackson and a branch line was built from Maxie, a town south of Hattiesburg, west to Columbia in Marion County, then northwest to Mendenhall in Simpson County, south of Jackson, to connect with the main line, thus giving Hattiesburg and Forrest County complete north to south transportation and making Hattiesburg a financial, railroad and commercial center (Rowland, op. cit., p. 722).

The rapid rise of Forrest County was the direct result of the exploitation of the virgin stand of long leaf or yellow pine. In comparison with the clearing of land for lumber the clearing of land for farming was negligible although by 1920 the value of farm property in the county was \$3,373,000 and the value of its crops was \$1,070,000 (ibid.). As the timber was cut a flourishing naval stores business developed, turpentine, resin, and pine tar being the chief products. The output of yellow pine through the port of Gulfport in 1912 amounted to 19,035,353 feet, much of this footage coming from the Forrest County area, and by 1917 the average export of lumber through the port was 300,000,000 feet per year (Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Mississippi Official and Statistical Register, Jackson, Miss., 1917, p. 967). It is safe to assume that an almost equal amount of lumber was shipped north entirely by rail during the same period. Evidence of the furious activity of the lumbering industry is the fact that there were 53 stations on 160 miles of mainline of the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad, most of them saw mills and saw mill towns. (See "Historical Sketch" in Inventory of the County Archives of Mississippi, No. 24, Harrison County, Gulfport, Jackson, Miss.)

In 1900 the population of Perry County, including the Second Judicial District which became Forrest County in 1908, was 14,692. In 1910 the combined population of Perry County and Forrest County was 28,407, an increase of 13,725 or 93.5 percent (Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Population, vol. II, table I, p. 1029). The population of Hattiesburg in 1890 was 1,172, and in 1900 was 4,175 (Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Population, vol. I, part I, table 5, p. 234). In 1910 it had grown to 11,733 (Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Population, vol. II, table II, p. 1060), in 1920 was 13,270 and in 1930 was 18,601 (Fifteenth Census of the United States, Population, vol. III, part 1, table 12, p. 1281). The coming of the railroad and the development of the lumber industry, between 1890 and 1920, increased the population of the county seat from 1,172 to 13,270.

According to the census of 1930 the number of people in Forrest County was 30,115 of which 20,236 were native white and 9,646 were negro (ibid., table 13, p. 1283). The urban population was 18,601 while the rural population was 11,514 (ibid.). The total assessed value of all property as of January 1, 1936, less the

Historical Sketch

(First entry, p. 24)

assessed value of urban and rural exempt homes (see Tax Assessor, p. 70 , infra.), is \$11,151,940 (Walker Wood comp. and ed. , Mississippi Blue Book, Biennial Report of the Secretary of State to the Legislature of Mississippi, 1935-37, Jackson, Miss., 1938, p. 205). Of the approximate area of 295,680 acres, 104,003 are devoted to farm lands with 29,378 of this amount being in crop land. The remaining 191,677 acres are chiefly cut-over pine lands. (Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Agriculture, vol. II, part 2, table I, p. 1051). The value of cotton, corn, and all other crops raised on 1,143 farms in 1936 was \$867,043, with an average gross income of \$1,076.99 per farm compared with a state average of \$963.99 per farm. Livestock and livestock products were worth \$363,957. The 1935 sales of manufactured products in the county amounted to \$5,068,080. (Value of Mississippi Farm Production in 1936, Bulletin, State Department of Agriculture, Jackson, Miss., 1937).

In 1910 the legislature passed an act creating a state normal school and authorizing municipalities to issue bonds for not more than \$100,000 to obtain a site for the college (L. M., 1910, pp. 105-9). The city of Hattiesburg and Forrest County each issued bonds for \$50,000 ("Minutes of the Board of Supervisors", vol. II, p. 28, see entry 2) and Hattiesburg by offering \$258,000 in cash, 120 acres for the site, and an additional section of land was chosen by the college board of trustees as the location for the new school. The college called Mississippi Normal College was opened in September 1910. (Rowland, op. cit., pp. 332-33). In 1924 the name of the college was changed to State Teachers' College (L. M., 1924, chapt. 295).

Not long after the United States entered the World War in 1917 the War Department established one of its many cantonments in Forrest County. It was named Camp Shelby in honor of Governor Shelby of Kentucky and soldiers chiefly from Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio were trained there. As many as 60,000 men were concentrated at the camp at one time. The camp was discontinued in 1920.

With Hattiesburg as the focal point and business and market center for a considerable area in South Mississippi, Forrest County is traversed north to south by the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad and by the Southern Railway System. The Mississippi Central Railroad connects the county seat with Natchez to the west on the Mississippi River and the Bonhomie and Hattiesburg Southern Railroad, extending to the east 27 miles, joins it with the Gulf, Mobile and Northern Railroad and the southeastern section of the state and Mobile, Alabama. United States Highways No. 49 and No. 11 cross the county north to south while several state highways cross it east to west.

The original courthouse was a one-story, brick and frame structure erected in 1893 for the Second Judicial District of Perry County by order of the board of supervisors of that county in 1892 ("Transcribed Minutes of the Board of Supervisors of Perry County", vol. 1, p. 327, see entry 1). In 1904 the board voted to demolish this building and erect the raised-basement and two-story, brick and stone-trim courthouse that is still in use (ibid., vol. 3, pp. 252-55). This building was completed in 1905-6 and was accepted by the board on May 21, 1906 (ibid., vol. 4, p. 32). It has not been remodeled or enlarged and it is not adequate for the present-day needs of the county. (See also Housing, Care, and Accessibility of Records, pp. 13-16, infra.)

2. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

Forrest County was established under the provision of the Constitution of 1890 which specifies that "no new county shall be formed unless a majority of the qualified electors voting in each part of the county or counties proposed to be dismembered and embraced in the new county shall separately vote therefore; nor shall the boundary of any judicial district in a county be changed unless, at an election held for that purpose, two-thirds of those voting assent thereto" (Const., 1890, sec. 260).

The creation and organization of Forrest County from the area comprising the Second Judicial District of Perry County was authorized by an act of the legislature approved April 19, 1906 (L. M., 1906, pp. 174-79). The act provided for the organization of the new county by directing the board of supervisors of Perry County to rearrange the voting precincts of the two judicial districts of Perry County and call special elections for the first Monday in May 1907 in the two districts, at which the qualified electors of the districts could vote for or against the projected county. The elections resulted in the necessary two-thirds majority in favor of the establishment and the governor proclaimed that Forrest County should be created as of the first Monday in January 1908.

The act further stipulated that the following officers, provided for by the Constitution of 1890, be elected at the general elections of November 1907 to serve four years: sheriff, assessor, coroner, surveyor, clerk of the chancery court, clerk of the circuit court, treasurer, superintendent of education, two justices of the peace and two constables for each of the supervisors' districts, one representative in the legislature, and five persons to constitute a board of supervisors. Hattiesburg was made the county seat.

The board of supervisors of Perry County administered the business and governmental affairs of the new county until the first Monday of January 1908 at which time the newly-elected officers of Forrest County went into office. The board also divided both counties into five supervisors' districts or beats.

Forrest County was attached to and became a part of the second supreme court district, the eighth chancery court district, the twelfth circuit court district, the second senatorial district, the sixth congressional district and the second district for the election of railroad commissioner. It assumed a proportionate part of the old county debt of Perry County. The school districts of Forrest County as they had been created in the Second Judicial District of Perry County were not changed, but the sixteenth section school funds, both principal and interest, belonging to the sixteenth sections of Forrest County were turned over to the treasurer of Forrest County by the treasurer of Perry County.

The act directed that all records of the office of the chancery clerk, circuit clerk, and sheriff of Perry County at Hattiesburg as kept and preserved for the Second Judicial District before the creation of Forrest County should remain the records of Forrest County. It also specified that the clerk of the chancery court of Perry County should transcribe in appropriate books to be furnished by Forrest County all the records of his office and of the offices of other Perry County officers affecting title to land situated in Forrest County. It was required that the transcriptions be typewritten, that the clerk should receive ten cents a hundred words for making the transcriptions, to be paid by Forrest County, and that the clerk certify the transcriptions and show the original book and page from which the transcriptions were made.

The title to all property, real and personal, and rights of action vested in Perry County at the time of the creation of Forrest County were vested in the new county. All contracts entered into by Perry County before Forrest County was established, so far as they affected the Second Judicial District, were carried out by Forrest County. The venue of all suits, both criminal and civil, pending in the circuit court, the chancery court, and in the justice of peace courts of the Second Judicial District of Perry County was not changed. The registration books of the Second Judicial District were made the registration books of Forrest County, but the poll books for the Second Judicial District were revised by the election commissioners of Perry County. The real and personal assessment rolls of the Second Judicial District were made the rolls of Forrest County.

The officers of the county were duly elected in November 1907 and the first meeting of the Forrest County board of supervisors was held the first Monday in January 1908 ("Minutes of the Board of Supervisors", vol. 1, p. 1, see entry 2.)

The first officers were: John L. Davis, J. P. Pace, Solomon E. Perkins, J. C. McDonald, and William A. Conn, members of the board of supervisors; T. E. Batson, chancery clerk; J. C. Magruder, sheriff and tax collector; T. J. Mixon, circuit clerk; Herbert Gillis, treasurer; E. J. Currie, superintendent of education; William S. McKinnon, tax assessor; Henry E. Clark, surveyor; David Fairley, coroner and ranger; and J. W. Bolton, A. D. Hartfield, W. C. Hardee, W. J. Wall, B. A. Ward, W. F. Wedgesworth, S. B. Randall, A. D. Carter, and James E. Davis, justices of the peace; and George Hartfield, county attorney. (Ibid.)

Forrest was the 77th county established of the 82 counties comprising modern Mississippi. It is not only comparatively new in age but it is new in tradition and economy as it was organized in the portion of Mississippi last to be settled. Mississippi was admitted as a state in 1817 (3 Stat. L., pp. 472-473) and by 1832 all titles to Indian lands had been extinguished. By 1854 the entire area of the state had been converted into counties, those originating later being formed by dismembering and dividing counties already in existence. For a detailed account of the treaties with the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians and of the organization of counties from land obtained from the Indians see Inventory of the County Archives of Mississippi, No. 55, Pearl River County (Poplarville), Jackson, Miss., 1938, pp. 8-11.

Forrest County with an area of 462 square miles, is the fifty-sixth county in size. The largest, Yazoo, contains 905 square miles, the smallest, Alcorn, contains 386 square miles (Wood, comp. and ed., op. cit., p. 207). The most populous county, Hinds, has 85,118 inhabitants (Fifteenth Annual Census of the United States, 1930, Population, vol. III, part 1, table 11, p. 1276) and the least populous, Stone has 5,704 (ibid., p. 1279). The population of the state is 2,009,821 of which 989,807 are native white and 1,009,718 are negro. Mississippi is the only state in which the number of negroes exceeds the number of whites. (Ibid., tables 1, 2, p. 1265.)

Government in Mississippi has developed to meet the economic and social requirements of a rural and agricultural community that has not been materially affected by urban and industrial influences. Early settlers were attracted by the fertile soil and the equable climate. Their descendants have clung tenaciously to the one-crop economy of cotton-growing. Only in the last few years

has any progress been made in diversified farming, livestock raising, dairying, and the development of latent industrial resources. The state has the largest rural population of any of the states, 83.1 percent being classed as rural and 67.7 percent as rural-farm (ibid., table 1, p. 1265). Only 13 cities have a population of more than 10,000 and in 1930 Jackson, the capital and largest city, had 48,282 inhabitants (ibid., table 12, p. 1281). However, local statistics claim a population of 60,000 in 1938 (Jackson, The Crossroads of the Deep South, Bulletin, Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Jackson, Miss., 1938). Meridian is the second largest city with a population of 31,954 followed by Vicksburg with 22,943. Hattiesburg, the county seat of Forrest County, with its population of 18,601 in 1930 is the fourth largest city in the state. (Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Population, vol. III, part 1, table 12, p. 1281.)

In the creation of counties in Mississippi, as in other states, administrative convenience was frequently considered; but perhaps more weight was given to local pride, to ambitions of a growing urban center, to the desire of individuals to exercise greater influence in county administration, to transitory jealousy or antagonism, or to some considerations having to do primarily with the courts (Institute for Government Research of the Brookings Institution, Washington, Report on a Survey of the Organization and Administration of State and County Government in Mississippi, Jackson, Miss., The Research Commission of the State of Mississippi, 1932, p. 623).

Tradition was an important factor in the establishment of counties. The first settlers brought with them ideas of government to which they had become accustomed. Institutions existent in older states were frequently, and with slight modification, transplanted to Mississippi. In the minds of most people of the time, county government bulked larger and seemed more important than the central government of the state. It was the only government with which many persons ever came in close contact. Thus, there are today in the county and in the internal organization of the county, survivals of institutions which can be traced through the original American colonies back to medieval England. (Ibid., p. 624.)

Furthermore, in the early history of Mississippi there was real need for the county. The people lived in separate communities, each with its own local needs. A high degree of centralization in government would at that time have been impractical. Roads were poor. Rivers were widely used for transportation. Communication was difficult and expensive. Judicial convenience contributed to the establishment of the county as a fact and tradition. (Ibid.)

The county in Mississippi, as in other commonwealths, is a territorial area established by the state government for convenience of administration. The supreme court of Mississippi remarked that "A county is a governmental agency, created for local purposes"; but the court added that it is also "for many purposes, a corporation....or at least is clothed with corporate functions" in relation to certain subjects. (Rainey vs. Hinds County, 78 Miss., p. 313.) Thus the county in this, as in other states, is not a municipal corporation; it is a quasi-municipal corporation. It cannot be sued, except by virtue of a law passed in the legislature. (Ibid.)

The Constitution of 1890 stipulated that a new county cannot be created unless a majority of the qualified electors of the county or counties concerned, voting at a special election, approve of such creation (Const., 1890, sec. 260; cf., p. 7, supra.) The same section specified that no county may contain less than 400 square miles and that no existing county may be reduced below that size. Thus it appears that the legislature cannot abolish a county without the consent of a majority of the electors of the area concerned. However, the legislature is not prevented from changing county boundaries without the consent of the people.

The principal functions of the county can be classified as follows: (1) administering the fiscal and business affairs of the county; (2) enforcing state laws and decrees; (3) administering justice; (4) holding elections; (5) collecting taxes; (6) maintaining the peace; (7) acting as a recording agency; (8) administering education; (9) regulating health and sanitation; (10) supervising agricultural work.

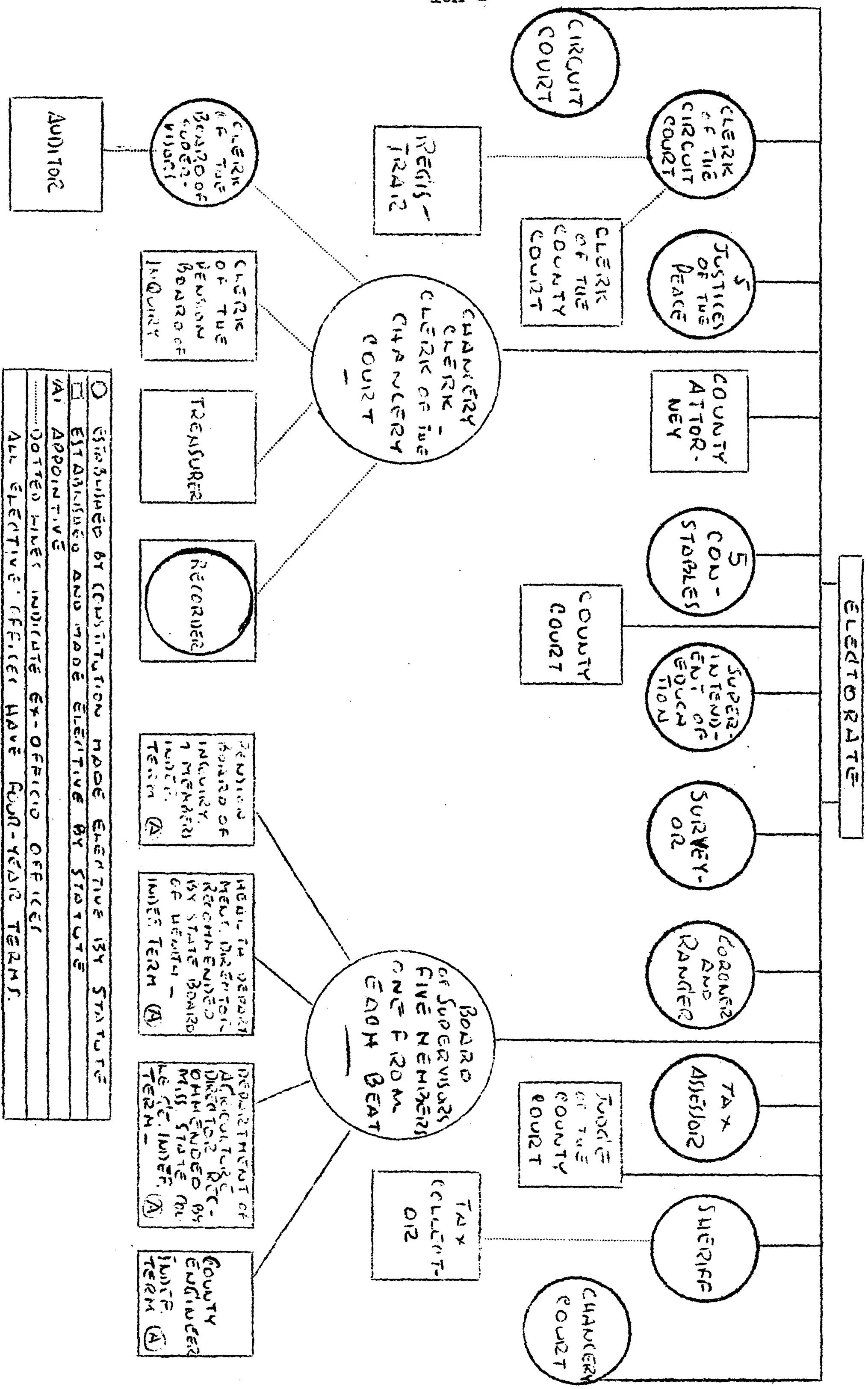
The board of supervisors, given extraordinary powers and duties, administers the business and fiscal affairs of the county. This semi-legislative body has exclusive and absolute disbursing power, may borrow money and issue bonds. On it are conferred general authority of organization, supervision and control; the power to levy taxes, purchase supplies, care for county building, and make all contracts for public works. It is given jurisdiction over all matters of county police and over many in the field of county education, public health and welfare, agriculture, and forestry. As a matter of course, the board of supervisors occupies an all-important, paternalistic position in the political, economic, the social makoup of the county.

The chancery clerk has been delegated a multitude of unallied duties, functions, and responsibilities which make his office unusual in American county government. As the business of conducting the affairs of the county has grown in volume and complexity, more and more administrative burdens have been imposed on the chancery clerk. Consequently, he has become the most important and influential county official and in many counties is in reality the county's chief executive. In general the duties which have been conferred upon the chancery clerk, in addition to his functions as clerk of the court, are those of: clerk of the board of supervisors, recorder, auditor, clerk of the pension board of inquiry, treasurer, and accountant.

Laws are enforced through the district attorneys, the county attorneys, by the sheriffs, and by the constables. The coroner and ranger is also a law enforcement officer.

Justice is administered in all counties through justice of peace courts, a circuit court, and a chancery court. In Forrest and 12 other counties a county court is also maintained. The justice courts have jurisdiction in civil suits involving not more than \$200 and in offenses in which punishment does not exceed fine and imprisonment. The county court has jurisdiction concurrent with the justice of peace courts in all matters civil and criminal and it has jurisdiction concurrent with the circuit and chancery courts in all matters of law and equity in which the value of the matter in controversy does not exceed \$1,000. In Forrest County it has exclusive jurisdiction in matters and causes of eminent domain, in the partition of personal property, and in actions of unlawful entry and detainer. In counties not having a county court the justice courts possess this jurisdiction. The county court is the court of appeal from city and justice courts. The circuit court is the court of appeal from the county court in Forrest County and from other inferior courts in counties where no county court exists. It has jurisdiction in litigation exceeding \$1,000 and is a court of criminal prosecution. The clerk of the circuit court is the ex-officio clerk of the county court. The chancery court has jurisdiction in all matters of equity; divorce and alimony; matters testamentary and of administration; minors' business; and in cases of idiocy, lunacy, and persons of unsound mind. At the head of this judicial system is the state supreme court to which appeals from the circuit and chancery courts may be made.

CHART of GOVERNMENT of FOREST COUNTY



ESTABLISHED BY CONSTITUTION MADE ELECTIVE BY STATUTE
 ESTABLISHED AND MADE ELECTIVE BY STATUTE
 APPOINTIVE
 DOTTED LINES INDICATE EX-OFFICIO OFFICER
 ALL ELECTIVE OFFICERS HAVE FOUR-YEAR TERMS.

The clerk of the circuit court is registrar of elections and keeper of election records. The board of supervisors has power to define the election districts of the county and it may change the boundaries of these districts. The board is required to call special elections when petitioned to do so by 25 percent of the qualified electors of the county. Three election commissioners, appointed by the state board of election commissioners to serve for two years, have general jurisdiction over all elections.

The sheriff is by statute, the ex-officio collector of real and personal taxes.

The sheriff, as elsewhere, is charged with maintaining the peace in his county. Constables, regularly elective county peace officers, while primarily attached to the justice of the peace courts, are directed by law to assist other proper officials including the sheriff, in preserving the peace. The coroner and ranger can be classified as a conservator of the peace.

The clerk of the chancery court is the recorder of deeds, deeds of trust, mortgages, wills, court proceedings, and a wide variety of other documents.

The superintendent of education directs the county educational program as part of the state educational system.

In many counties, a health officer, recommended by the state board of health, but appointed and paid by the counties, regulates county-wide health and sanitation work. In others, this program is carried on by a county health department with an organized staff headed by the health officer, as is the case in Forrest County.

Agricultural activities are conducted by county agents of agricultural demonstration and home economics, recommended by the Extension Department of Mississippi State College and appointed by the boards of supervisors with the approval of the United States Department of Agriculture. These county agents, men and women, as part of the county extension departments in agriculture and home economics, have for their general purpose the dissemination of useful information among the farmers farm women, boys and girls, the developing of agricultural resources and the improving of homes of the counties.

While no active, aggressive plan has been advanced to establish and maintain uniformity in records, some measures have been passed which show that lawmakers and officials have not been unmindful of the importance of a standardized system.

The boards of supervisors are directed to supply all county offices with necessary record books, transcripts of records of other counties which relate to or affect titles of property in their counties, the original entries of land and the necessary township maps, and provide for the safe and orderly keeping of all the records thereof (Code, 1930, sec. 222). The boards are further instructed to rebind all record books of conveyances and of last wills and testaments, of indexes thereto, and all other record books of the county that need to be rebound, and to transcribe into new record books all conveyances and other instruments of records and indexes thereto, that need to be transcribed for preservation (ibid., sec. 224). The board may provide a complete abstract of titles to land in the county (ibid., sec. 226), but in many counties have not done so. The boards are definitely directed to supply the office of the chancery clerk with a sectional index to all land conveyances in their respective counties (ibid., sec. 227) but in at least 18 counties this index has not been provided.

The 1930 Code prescribes the forms for many dockets, records, and books, but since these are generally purchased locally by the various boards, they vary in

size, quality, and typographical makeup according to the ability and equipment of local printers.

No provisions have been made for the destruction of unimportant and obsolete records.

The courts and the boards of supervisors are given authority to reestablish any records destroyed, lost, or stolen (ibid., secs. 2332-47).

The state organizations of chancery clerks and of circuit clerks have endeavored to standardize their own forms but the movement has not progressed much beyond the discussion state.

Various state agencies have made earnest efforts to standardize the reports made to them by county departments, especially the state auditor of public accounts who issues uniform blanks to the assessors, to the collectors and to the boards of pension inquiry. With respect to the work of this official the report of the Brookings Institution on county government in Mississippi had this to say "The state auditor's office has been given the function of prescribing uniform accounts and assisting in their installation, and of making audits of county offices. This auditing work has not been effective, partly because of an inadequate field staff, partly because the state auditor is an elective official, and partly because inspection of county offices has been merely an incidental function of an office which is primarily a state department, with its main interest centered in the operations of the one central office of the state. The need in Mississippi for fiscal supervision and control of local subdivisions have not yet been adequately met." (Institute for Government Research of the Brookings Institution, op. cit., p. 609.)

Carelessness, indifference, and ignorance have been the greatest deteriorating factors in the preservation and protection of records. As early as 1816 the Territorial Assembly enacted a law giving the justices of the county court power to inspect the offices of clerks who "have neglected to record deeds, wills, and other matters of consequence, in due season, and have carelessly and confusedly kept the files of papers in their offices, and have neglected to make out proper indexes of the matters recorded, whereby great injury may ensue to persons concerned". (Turner's Digest, 1816, p. 195.)

Legislation in 1803 and again in 1816 empowered the governor to appoint an officer to translate and preserve the records and papers which were kept during the administration of the Spanish government in Mississippi (1779-1795). This official was directed to "make a faithful translation and record in well bound books all the records....and record in separate books those records relating to trials and judgments in suits, and those relating to conveyances of real and personal estate.... and make a complete index in alphabetical order of the contents of each volume to be therein contained". (Ibid., pp. 390, 491.)

In 1902 the State Department of Archives and History was established to provide for the care and custody of official archives, the collecting of materials bearing upon the history of the state, the editing of official records and other historical material, the diffusion of knowledge in reference to the history and resources of the state, the preparation and publication of annual reports, and the encouragement of historical work (Code, 1906, sec. 1633). Through the work of this department much progress has been made in bringing about an increased interest in preserving and protecting all records.

The records of Forrest County have been standardized to the extent that at least 95 percent of deed, deeds of trust, and court records are kept in heavy leather bound, insertable loose-leaf record books. Containers vary in size and composition. An examination of the records showed that manufactured brands of permanent, non-fading black ink have been used in making handwritten transcriptions and in making marginal notations such as satisfactions of deeds of trust. Rubber stamps have not been used generally for dating and endorsing documents but when such stamps have been utilized, black ink rather than red, green, or purple ink has been used. Practically all permanent records have been typewritten and black or blue ribbons have been used. A good quality of ledger paper has been purchased for the record books but less durable paper has been used in the documents kept permanently on file, especially in those documents inscribed upon printed forms and furnished by others than county officials.

Forrest County was one of the first counties in the state to utilize a plan originated by the Historical Records Survey whereby WPA projects are set up to prepare sectional indexes for counties that have none or revise faulty indexes already existing. The Forrest County sectional index as it is kept at present is valuable but inadequate because its originator designed it in bound volume, rather than in insertable, loose-leaf form. Such an index has not permitted recording in chronological order the entries showing devolution of title to land. It has been necessary to make these entries in an unconnected, haphazard manner wherever space could be found throughout the 18 bound volumes comprising the index. Establishing a complete chain of title has been difficult under these circumstances.

Chancery clerk Eustus E. Hudson of Forrest County sponsored an indexing project on behalf of the county with the result that work has been started which will make available an efficient, workable, loose-leaf sectional index. The county is contributing materials, supplies, work space, and typewriters. Ten WPA workers headed by an experienced abstractor and under the technical supervision of the Historical Records Survey, are making a thorough recheck of all land records. Using their findings and the existing index they will transcribe briefly and accurately on loose-leaf, printed forms, every fact relating to the devolution of title to land in Forrest County. By the adaptation of loose-leaf forms the index can be kept in definitely in perfect chronological order.

3. HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF RECORDS

The Forrest County courthouse is situated in Hattiesburg on Main Street. In the basement is the office of the health department as well as the county court room and its ante-rooms. On the first floor are the two offices and the vault of the chancery clerk, and the offices of the board of supervisors, tax assessor, the superintendent of education, the circuit clerk, and the sheriff and tax collector. On the second floor are the offices of the county attorney, and the joint office of the county agent and the home demonstration agent. A court room used by both the chancery court and the circuit court, jury rooms, witness rooms, and a hall take up the remainder of the second floor.

The building, of brick and stone-trim construction and two stories in height with a raised basement, was erected in 1905-6. (See p. 6, supra.) Its outside measurements are 120x90x50 allowing 540,000 cubic feet of space. It is simple and unadorned with a tile roof and is approximately 70 percent fireproof, having wood floors, except in the basement, plastered walls and ceilings throughout. The building has not been damaged by fires or floods. Ventilation and lighting are uniform

Housing, Care, and Accessibility of Records

good in all offices and the building has a modern steam heating system. The one fire proof vault houses approximately 20 percent of the entire quantity of records.

The east or main entrance opens into a hall extending the length of the building. All offices on the first floor are entered from this hall. The tax assessor's office, the first room to the right of the entrance, measures 20x25x14 and has one door 7x3 and six windows each $6\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$. On the west side of the room are 50 linear feet of wood shelving containing 50 linear feet of bound volumes. Steel cabinets having drawers 18x12x27 contain 50 linear feet of unbound material. The room is not crowded but there is not room for expansion. Accommodations and equipment for workers and public users are adequate. The assessor keeps about 50 percent of his records in his office. The remaining records, all non-current, are stored in the chancery clerk's vault.

The superintendent of education occupies the second office to the right. This room is 25x25x15 and has one door 7x3 feet and three windows each $6\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$. On the east side are 78 linear feet of steel shelving containing 78 linear feet of bound volumes. On the west wall, steel cabinets containing 48 file boxes 12x4x14, hold 48 linear feet of unbound material. The room is not crowded but there is no room for expansion. Accommodations for workers and public users are adequate. Approximately 90 percent of the superintendent's records are kept in this room, the remaining 10 percent being stored in chancery clerk's vault.

The circuit clerk's office is centrally located on the right side of the entrance hall. This room measures 20x30x14 and has two doors 7x3 and five windows each $6\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$. On the east and south walls are 350 linear feet of steel shelving containing 350 linear feet of bound volumes and 432 file boxes each 12x4x14 containing 216 linear feet of unbound material. The room is not crowded but there is no room for expansion. Accommodations and equipment for workers and public users are adequate. Approximately 80 percent of the circuit clerk's records are kept in this room; ten percent are stored in the chancery clerk's vault; and ten percent are kept in the office of the judge of the county court.

The office of the sheriff and tax collector is located in the northwest corner of the building and is a room 25x40x14 with three doors 7x3 and eight windows each $6\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$. On the east and west walls are 30 linear feet of steel shelving and 30 linear feet of wood shelving (under counter) containing 60 linear feet of bound volumes and 10 linear feet of unbound material in 24 file boxes, 12x4x18. The room is badly crowded and there is no room for expansion. Accommodations for workers and public users are inadequate and 20 percent additional space is needed. The sheriff and tax collector keeps approximately 40 percent of his records in this room, the remaining 60 percent being stored in the chancery clerk's vault and office.

On the south side of the first floor are the two offices and vault of the chancery clerk. The first floor to the left of the entrance opens into the main office. This room is 20x50x14 and has four doors each 7x3 and seven windows each $6\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$. On the east, west and north walls are 1044 linear feet of steel shelving containing 1044 linear feet of bound volumes, and 28 cabinet drawers 13x16x24 and 168 file boxes, $10\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 4$ containing 175 linear feet of unbound material. The room is extremely crowded. There is no room for expansion, although 25 percent additional space and shelving are needed. Accommodations for workers and public users are inadequate. Approximately 65 percent of the chancery clerk's records, 50 percent of the board of supervisors records and 20 percent of the sheriff's and tax collector's records are in this room. At the front of this room and entered from it is the second office of the chancery clerk, a room 16x20x14 with two doors each 7x3 and three windows, each $6\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$. On the north and west walls are 62 linear feet of shelving,

30 feet steel and 32 feet wood (under counter) containing 62 linear feet of bound volumes and 180 steel file boxes 12x4x16 containing 90 linear feet of unbound material. This room is crowded, and there is no room for expansion except that additional shelving could be added on the north wall. Equipment for workers and public users is fair. Approximately ten percent of the chancery clerk's records are in this room, the remainder being kept in the other chancery clerk's office and vault.

To the rear of the chancery clerk's office in the southwest corner of the first floor is the office of the board of supervisors, a room 20x20x14 with two doors each 7x3 and six windows each $6\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$. No records of the board are kept permanently in this office. However, land rolls, assessment rolls, plat books, and other records may be found in this office from time to time as the board uses them in its work. The room is not crowded but there is no space for expansion. Accommodations for workers and public users are adequate.

The chancery clerk's vault is entered from the office of the board, and is 10x15x14 with one steel door $6\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ and one window $6\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$. On the east, west, north, and south walls are 500 linear feet of wood shelving containing 500 linear feet of bound volumes and 30 file boxes 12x4x14 containing 100 linear feet of unbound material. The vault is extremely crowded and there is no room for expansion. Accommodations for workers and public users are inadequate. Approximately 25 percent of the chancery clerk's records, 10 percent of the circuit clerk's records, 10 percent of the superintendent of education records, 40 percent of the sheriff and tax collector's records, 50 percent of the tax assessor's records and 25 percent of the board of supervisors's records are kept in this vault.

The office of the county health department is located on the south side of the basement floor. This room measures 50x30x12 and has three doors each 6x3 and six windows each $5 \times 2\frac{3}{4}$. On the north and south walls are 60 linear feet of unbound material in 28 steel filing boxes 48x15x27. The room is not crowded but there is no room for expansion. Accommodations for workers and public users are adequate. All of the records of the county health department are kept in this room.

The county court room, with adjoining witness room, jury room and the office of the county judge occupy the remainder of the basement floor.

On the second floor in the east corner of the building, the county agent has an office which measures 25x25x14 with one door 7x3 and six windows each $9 \times 2\frac{3}{4}$. On the east and west walls, 32 steel file boxes 48x15x27 and three wooden cabinets 4x4x12 contain 80 linear feet of unbound material. As the room is crowded and there is no room for expansion, 25 percent additional space is needed. Accommodations for workers and public users are inadequate. All records of this bureau are kept in this room.

The home demonstration agent occupies this office also, using about one-fourth of the space. In one steel cabinet with 8 file boxes 14x12x27 there are 96 linear feet of unbound material. There are 16 linear feet of bound volumes but no shelving on which to place them. The part of the room used by this bureau is crowded and there is no space for expansion. Accommodations for workers and public users are poor, and at least 25 percent additional space is needed. All records of the home demonstration agent are kept in this room.

List of Abbreviations, Symbols,
And Explanatory Notes

(First entry, p. 24)

In a room 12x16x14 in the southeast corner of the building on the second floor, the county attorney has his office. This room has two doors each 7x3 and four windows each 9x2 $\frac{1}{4}$. No public records are kept in this office.

The chancery and circuit court room, witness and jury rooms on opposite sides of the hall to the front, and a jury rest room extending entirely across the west end of the building to the rear of the court room, occupy the greater portion of the second floor.

4. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

Abbreviations

AAA	.....	Agricultural Adjustment Administration
alph.	.....	alphabetical (ly)
ASP	.....	American State Papers
approx.	.....	approximately
arr.	.....	arranged
art., arts.	.....	article (s)
bmnt.	.....	basement
bd. of sup.	.....	board of supervisors
chapt.	.....	chapter
ch. clerk	.....	chancery clerk
chron.	.....	chronological (ly)
cir. clerk	.....	circuit clerk
Const.	.....	Constitution
co.	.....	county
co. agt.	.....	county agent
dept.	.....	department
hdw.	.....	handwritten
home dem. agt.	.....	home demonstration agent
ibid.	.....	Ibidem (the same as preceding)
infra.	.....	below or after
J. P.	.....	Justice of the peace
L. M.	.....	Session Laws of Mississippi
loc. cit.	.....	the place cited
Miss.	.....	Mississippi
MDAH	.....	Mississippi Department of Archives and History
no., nos.	.....	number (s)
numer.	.....	numerical (ly)
off.	.....	office or officer
op. cit.	.....	work cited
p., pp.	.....	page (s)
Poindexter's Code, 1824	.....	George Poindexter, (comp.) <u>The Revised Code of Mississippi In Which Are Comprised All Such Acts of the General Assembly of a Public Nature</u>

List of Abbreviations, Symbols,
and Explanatory Notes

(First entry, p. 24)

		<u>As Were In Force At The End of the Year 1823.</u> Natchez, Miss., Printed By Authority. Francis Baker, Printer, 1824.
ptd.	.....	printed
sec., secs.	.....	section (s)
sh.	.....	sheriff
<u>Stat. L.</u>	.....	United States Statutes At Large
<u>supra.</u>	.....	above or before
tax assr.	.....	tax assessor
tax col.	.....	tax collector
Toulmin's <u>Digest, 1807</u>	.....	Harry Toulmin, (comp.), <u>The Statutes of the Mis- sissippi Territory Re- vised by the Honorable Harry Toulmin, One of the United States Judges For The Mississippi Territory.</u> Natchez, Miss., Published by Authority, Samuel Ter- rel, Printer, 1807.
twp.	.....	township
Turner's <u>Digest, 1816</u>	.....	Edward Turner, (comp.), <u>Statutes of the Missis- sippi Territory, The Constitution of the United States With The Several Amendments There- to; And Such Acts of The Congress As Relate To The Mississippi Territory.</u> Natchez, Miss., Published By Authority, Peter Isler, Printer, 1816.
tpw.	.....	typewritten
vr.	.....	vault
vol., vols.	.....	volume (s)
WPA	.....	Works Progress Administra- tion

Symbols

x used in all measurements means by.
-- indicates that the records are current.

Explanatory Notes

In this inventory the entries have been grouped, with one general exception, in the order of the importance of the records to their respective offices and to related matters. In arranging the records of the courts, this procedure was not followed. Here they are grouped so that the records show the progression of cases, suits, and prosecutions from original filing to consummation.

Insofar as possible to determine, records have been listed under the office of their origin.

Record entries are cross-referenced to establish their relation and to condense into one entry a complete series.

Wherever the contents of certain entries are duplicated or wherever similar records are found in other entries, cross-references are made under these same subject headings as follows: "see entry (number of entry)".

If there are entries related in subject matter to other entries or to subject headings, they are cross-referenced under the entries and subject headings by the words, "see also entries (number of the entries)".

Exact titles of records are indicated by capital letters, assigned titles by capitals in parenthesis. Numbered or lettered labelling of records is designated in parenthesis in the first line following the quantity; for example, 20 vols. (1-20), or 20 vols. (A-T).

Where no reason for the creation or for the discontinuance of records is given, and where no cross-reference appears, the reason for such creation or discontinuance could not be ascertained.

If no arrangement is indicated, none exists. If the kind of indexing is not shown, no index exists. Indexes to records are not themselves indexed.

Since measurements of records are always given in inches, the symbol for inches is omitted. The dimensions of volumes and bundles are given in sequence of height, width, and thickness; for file cases and all other containers, in sequence of height, width, and depth.

Unless otherwise specified in the introductory or office essays or in the individual entries, it is to be assumed that the records are deposited in the county courthouse.

The location given for the records are the locations of these records at the time the survey was made. These are, of course, subject to change, as it has been found that the records in the courthouse are moved frequently from place to place.

The condition of the records is assumed to be good unless otherwise stated.

On maps and on plat records, the names of the author, engraver, and publisher, and information on scale have been omitted only when these data were not obtainable.

List of Abbreviations, Symbols,
and Explanatory Notes

(First entry, p. 24)

Sargent's Code, 1799 refers to the typescript of the original manuscript laws of the Mississippi Territory framed by Governor Winthrop Sargent and the Territorial judges in 1799 and 1800. These laws, written by hand on heavy paper approximately 14x20 are preserved in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. In December 1937, in order that the fragile and brittle papers might be retired from active use the Historical Records Survey prepared typescripts of the laws and placed a copy in the department for public use.

Citations to the acts of the Legislature of Mississippi refer to page numbers of the official publications.

(First entry, p. 24)

I. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The administrative and legislative body of Forrest County is a five-member board of supervisors. This particular form of governing group was established by the Constitution of 1869 (Const., 1869, art. VI, secs. 20-21). It was continued by the Constitution of 1890 which is the fundamental law of the state at the present time (Con 1890, sec. 170). The county is divided into five districts or beats and the qualified voters of each beat elect one member to the board every four years. To be eligible for membership on the board a person must be a resident freeholder in the district for which he is chosen and he must be the owner of real estate valued at least at \$300. (Code, 1930, secs. 195-96.)

Each member of the board must execute a bond with sufficient sureties in a penalty equal to five percent of all state and county taxes as shown by the assessment rolls and the levies to have been collectible in the county for the year immediately preceding the commencement of his term of office (ibid., sec. 197). The assessed value of all property in Forrest County in 1935 was \$11,151, 940 (Wood, comp and ed., op. cit., p. 212).

The terms of the members of the board, set at two years in 1869 (Const., 1869, art. VI, sec. 20), was increased to four years in 1890 (Const., 1890, sec. 102). The compensation of each member of the board in Forrest County is \$6 for each day while in session or while inspecting roads and bridges or performing any other service required by law, but the total salary for any one year cannot exceed \$1,600 (L. M., 1932, p. 492). Meetings are held regularly on the first Monday of each month as stipulated by law (Code, 1930, sec. 201).

In this body is vested a wide variety of executive and administrative powers. The constitution and statute law give it full jurisdiction over roads, ferries, and bridges (Const., 1890, sec. 170) and over all matters of county police (Code, 1930, sec. 214). The board is required to construct and maintain the courthouse and the jail of Forrest County (ibid.); it may insure the county buildings (ibid., sec. 233), and it may appropriate not in excess of \$250 annually in aid of any fire department for protection (ibid., sec. 234).

Together with the superintendent of education, the various school boards, the district trustees, and the trustees of the Agricultural High School at Brooklyn, the board organizes and directs the educational system of the county (ibid., secs. 6568, 6584).

As permitted by law, the board of supervisors in Forrest County has established county departments of agriculture (ibid., sec. 278; L. M., 1932, p. 517), home economics (Code, 1930, sec. 281), and health (ibid., sec. 4926). It may borrow money in any one year in anticipation of taxes up to \$100,000.00 and levy a special tax to repay the loan (ibid., secs. 251-52). It may call special elections to decide any issue affecting the entire county when petitioned to do so by 25 percent of the county's qualified electors; supervise public works and perform a multitude of other duties allotted to it. (Ibid., secs. 195-311).

The greater part of the business of this governing group is concerned with the finances of the county. It has general authority to levy taxes for county purposes (ibid., sec. 214) and to direct the appropriation of money that may come into the county treasury for objects authorized by law (ibid., sec. 256).

Board of Supervisors

(First entry, p. 24)

The counties formed after the Mississippi Territory was organized in 1798 were governed locally by the court of general quarter sessions of the peace and the court of common pleas. These courts were established by Governor Winthrop Sargent and the Territorial judges in 1799 by the set of laws known as Sargent's Code, and until 1807 the two courts shared the responsibilities of county government. The laws specified that a competent number of persons in each county be appointed by the governor to serve as justices of each court (Sargent's Code, 1799, pp. 6, 11).

As a county administrative body the court of general quarter sessions of the peace was empowered to divide the county into townships, appoint annually in each township one or more constables and one or more overseers of the poor (ibid., pp. 81-83). It was assigned the important function of estimating the amount necessary to meet the average annual expenses of the county, and it was given complete jurisdiction over the building and maintenance of all public roads (ibid., p. 84). Duties in this capacity included appointing a proper number of highway supervisors or overseers in each township; appointing three disinterested men to view and examine the route of a proposed road; ordering a surveyor with two other men to measure the route; and constructing and maintaining bridges (ibid., pp. 105-9). The court was required to inquire into the state of prisoners in jails and to see that the jails were clean and secure (ibid., p. 102). The county coroner could certify his inquisitions to this court (ibid., p. 41) and the sheriff and the jailor made regular reports to it.

The general quarter sessions was also authorized to appoint men to adjust boundary disputes between individuals and men to view and decide on the height and efficiency of fences (ibid., pp. 118-120). An emergency measure enacted to give the governor power to establish ferries, specified that the court fix the ferry rates from time to time (ibid., p. 131). A law passed September 21, 1799, recognizing the increasing importance of cotton-growing in the Territory, delegated the court to recommend suitable persons to be appointed by the governor as inspectors of cotton, cotton gins, and cotton presses (ibid., pp. 153-55).

The governor issued all licenses to taverns, alehouses, dramhouses and public houses, but it was necessary for applicants to obtain a recommendation from the court of general quarter sessions and pay the clerk of the court a fee of \$25 before the governor would grant such licenses (ibid., pp. 34-39).

In administrative matters the court of common pleas was given power to appoint biennially, with the approbation of the governor, commissioners to apportion taxes. Likewise it could appoint three or more commissioners, also with the approbation of the governor, to assess the taxes, using the budget estimate made by the quarter sessions as the basis of the assessments (ibid., pp. 84-92).

This court was given power to borrow money to erect courthouses and jails, pillories, stock, and whipping posts (ibid., pp. 96-98), to issue warrants to the county treasurer (ibid., pp. 108-9, 161-64), and through its prothonotary to certify the accounts of the commissioners (ibid., p. 92). It was authorized to contract for the building and keeping in repair of large bridges (ibid., p. 108).

On December 10, 1807, the Territorial General Assembly established a single county court in each county to supersede the inferior court system set up by

Board of Supervisors

(First entry, p. 24)

Governor Sargent. By the act the governor was empowered to appoint and commission five persons in every county as justices of the peace and of the quorum to hold county court. To this court was delegated many of the judicial, and all of the administrative functions vested in the former courts. (Toulmin's Digest, 1807, chapt. XXVIII.)

In its administrative capacities this county court had full power and authority to establish and maintain roads, bridges, and ferries, fix ferry rates, mark and lay out prison bounds, and make rules for prisons (ibid., pp. 133, 291-97).

As counties were established their county courts were directed by the organization acts to erect courthouses and jails and keep them in repair (ibid., pp. 85-124). Similarly the courts were empowered to levy taxes, but on December 17, 1812, an act of the general assembly made the county court by general statute law the tax-levying body with power to direct appropriation of the money which came into the county treasuries (ibid., pp. 411-412). The court was authorized to clear and open navigable streams by the act of March 1, 1805 (ibid., pp. 292-307), and from March 4, 1803 until December 12, 1812 it was commissioned to erect a public pound at the respective courthouses and appoint a keeper (ibid., pp. 391-92). It licensed taverns and retailers of spirituous liquors and fixed their rates and prices (ibid., p. 397); it licensed grist mills, saw mills, and cotton gins, and fixed their rates (ibid., pp. 344-347); and it licensed billiard tables, the fee being \$100 (ibid., p. 241). By the act of December 24, 1812 the county court was directed to appoint inspectors to superintend elections for members of the house of representatives (ibid., p. 257). It was assigned the duty of making reasonable allowances to clerks, sheriffs, and constables for public services in either county court or superior (circuit) court, not to exceed \$50 yearly for sheriffs and clerks and \$1 a day to constables for necessary attendance in superior court (ibid., pp. 273-274).

The constitution adopted in 1817, the year Mississippi became a state, made no definite provision for the perpetuation of the county court other than specifying that the legislature could direct and establish such inferior courts as it considered necessary (Const., 1816, art. V, sec. 1). Accordingly, by the act of February 5, 1818 (L. M., 1818, p. 58), a county court was organized to consist of a chief justice and two associate justices elected by a joint vote of both houses of the general assembly and commissioned by the governor as justices of the peace and of the quorum and to serve during good behavior.

This court was delegated all the powers of county administration given by the laws of the Mississippi Territory in force at the time of the adoption of the Constitution of 1817. It was authorized to lease the lands donated to Mississippi by the United States, the sixteenth section in each township, and to provide for the erection of one or more school buildings in each township. Leases were to be made for no longer than three years and the lands were to be protected against improper waste of soil and timber (ibid., p. 23).

On November 28, 1821 the general assembly relieved the county court of a portion of its police power by creating in each county a board of commissioners composed of one commissioner from each captain's district. To this body was allotted all the authority of the county court with respect to roads, highways, ferries and bridges. However, the court appointed these commissioners and the chief justice of the court served as president of the board. The court itself retained powers in taxation, licensing, elections, in erecting or purchasing

Board of Supervisors

(First entry, p. 24)

public buildings, caring for the poor, auditing and allowing all accounts, and in providing clerks' offices with supplies and equipment. (L. M., 1821, p. 37.)

The Constitution of 1832 abolished the county court by dividing its judicial functions among a newly-created court of probate, a superior court of chancery, a circuit court, and justices of the peace; and by giving its administrative duties to a county board of police (Const., 1832, art. IV, secs. 1, 14-16, 18, 20, 23).

This board was composed of five members chosen by the qualified electors of each county to serve for two years. It was given full jurisdiction over roads, highways, ferries, and bridges, and over all other matters of county police. It could order county elections to fill vacancies which occurred in the offices of the counties. The clerk of the court of probate was made the clerk of this board. (Ibid., art. V, sec. 20.)

The act of March 2, 1833 which established and defined the powers and jurisdiction of the board of police, directed the county court in each county to divide the county into five districts and the qualified electors of each district to name a member to the board thus continuing the precedent of district, rather than county-wide representation, a precedent which still prevails in 1938 (L. M., 1833, p. 43). The board of police continued as the county administrative body, acquiring more duties and powers under its general scope of authority, through the War Between the States until 1869. At this time the constitution adopted preparatory to the reentry of Mississippi into the Union, changed the name to board of supervisors. (Const., 1869, art. VI, secs. 20-21).

Under the present form of local government the clerk of the chancery court is clerk of the board of supervisors (ibid.; Const., 1890, sec. 170). From 1799 until 1832 the clerk of the county court was ipso facto clerk of the county governing body. From 1832 until 1869 the clerk of the court of probate was clerk of the board of police (Const., 1832, art. IV, sec. 20). Since Forrest County was not established until 1908, only its clerks of the chancery court have served as clerks of the board.

The clerk must attend all meetings of the board (Code, 1930, sec. 198) and it is his duty to keep and preserve the records of the proceedings and the orders of the board (ibid., sec. 211). As clerk of the board he is ex-officio county auditor (ibid., sec. 295) and in effect, is county treasurer (ibid., secs. 254-55, 4546-47; L. M., 1932, p. 514; see Treasurer and Auditor, p. 78, infra.)

As chancery clerk he receives copies of the assessment roll forms from the state board of public contracts and as clerk of the board delivers one copy to the tax assessor and keeps the other copies (Code, 1930, sec. 3134). He is required to enter in the rolls all changes in assessments made by the board (ibid., sec. 3174). After the board completes the assessment roll the clerk makes copies of it, delivering one to the state tax commission and the other to the tax collector, and filing the original as a public record (ibid., sec. 3181).

The clerk certifies the tax levy of Forrest County to the state auditor of public accounts, the tax collector of the county, to the state land commissioner, and to the state tax commission (ibid., sec. 3228).

The board of supervisors may procure or have made a complete abstract of titles to lands in the county (ibid., sec. 226). It is required to provide the chancery

clerk with a sectional index to all land conveyances and other instruments concerning the title to land in the county (*ibid.*, sec. 227). In Forrest County both of these records have been obtained by the board. The sectional index is being revised and made more usable and efficient. (See Governmental Organization and Records System, p. 13, *supra.*) The board must furnish the clerk of the board with account books (*ibid.*, sec. 3972), supply printed warrants, and provide a book for the registration of warrants (*ibid.*, secs. 261-62). In all respects, during the 30 years that Forrest County had been in existence, the record work of the board has been above the average.

Unless otherwise specified, all records of the board of supervisors are kept in the offices or vault of the chancery clerk, who as clerk of the board, is custodian of the records.

Proceedings

1. TRANSCRIBED MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PERRY COUNTY, 1892-1907. 4 vols. (1-4).

Transcribed record of the proceedings of regular and special meetings of the board of supervisors of Perry County from the time the Second Judicial District of Perry County was established until Forrest County was organized from the District, showing names of members attending each meeting, regulations, orders, resolutions, motions, and action taken on all matters relating to roads, bridges, improvements, allowances, budgets, claims, schools, sixteenth section loans, maintenance of courthouse, jail, and county offices, reports of county officers and departments, tax equalization, and reports of special committees appointed by the board. The transcript is certified to by the chancery clerk of Perry County. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. Indexed alph. by subject or name of item. Typed. 580 pp. 12 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3.

2. MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1908--. 16 vols. (1-16).

Record of the proceedings of regular and special meetings of the board of supervisors of Forrest County, showing names of members attending each meeting, regulations, orders, resolutions, motions, and action taken on all matters relating to roads, bridges, improvements, allowances, budgets, contracts, claims, schools, sixteenth section loans, maintenance of courthouse, jail, and county offices, reports of county officers, departments, and depositories, tax equalization, and reports of special committees appointed by the board. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. Indexed alph. by subject or name of item. Hdw. and typed. 580 pp. 18 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3.

3. MATTERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1918--. 17 file drawers; 10 file boxes; 12 bundles.

Original papers of the board of supervisors, including exemptions from ad valorem tax, reports of county officers, departments and depositories, maps, plans, specifications, and bids for erection of buildings and construction of roads, convict camp reports, objections to assessments, reports of fines collected by circuit clerk, reports of justices of the peace, back tax assessments, petitions asking board to call special elections, paupers' applications, applications for sixteenth section loans, reports of collection of gasoline tax, lists of cases lost by state in justice of the peace courts, and courthouse and jail matters. Contains: Road Petitions, 1934--, entry 4; Bids, Bonds, Contracts, and School Petitions, 1929--, entry 5; Invoices, 1929--, entry 7; Cancelled Warrants, 1935--, entry 13; Reports, Forrest County Highway Department, 1925--, entry 16; Road and Bridge, 1929--, entry 17. Filed chron. by date filed with board. Hdw. and typed, and hdw. and typed on ptd. form. File drawers 18 x 12 x 24; file boxes 12 x 4 x 18; bundles 4 x 3 x 12.

Board of Supervisors - Petitions;
Allowances; Claims; Warrants

(4-9)

Petitions

4. ROAD PETITIONS, 1921-33. 1 file box. 1934-- in Matters of the Board of Supervisors, entry 3.

Original petitions made to board of supervisors by freeholders asking for repairs to road and bridges or changes in location, including plans and specifications for construction and maintenance. Filed chron. by date presented to board. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 4 x 18.

5. BIDS, BONDS, CONTRACTS, AND SCHOOL PETITIONS, 1922-28. 1 file box. 1929-- in Matters of the Board of Supervisors, entry 3.

Original papers of the board of supervisors, including bids to furnish office supplies and furniture for courthouse, road machinery, surety bonds, and construct dipping vats; also includes original petitions made to board by freeholders asking for reduction in tax levies and for election to vote on bond issues. Filed chron. by date presented to board. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18.

Allowances

6. REGISTER OF ALLOWANCES, 1904-26. 4 vols. (B, 1-3).

Transcript of register of allowances for general county expenses of Perry County, 1904-7, and register of allowances for general county expenses of Forrest County, showing to whom allowed, court authorization, volume and page in minutes, chancery clerk's office, chancery clerk, circuit clerk's office, circuit clerk, board of supervisors, sheriff's office, sheriff, tax assessor, superintendent of education, county farm, convicts, courthouse and jail, roads and bridges, habeas corpus, jurors, witnesses, court stenographer, tick eradication, election expenses, miscellaneous, date of entry and total. Arr. numer. by warrant no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 18 x 18 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

For subsequent records, see entry 10.

Claims

7. INVOICES, 1923-28. 14 vols. 1929-- in Matters of Board of Supervisors, entry 3.

Invoices of purchases of materials and supplies for the county, showing from whom purchased, date, amount, description of articles purchased. Arr. chron. by date of purchase. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 14 x 6.

8. CLAIM DOCKET BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1908--. 22 vols. (1-22).

Clerk's record of claims filed against the county for services rendered, supplies, materials, and damages, showing claim number, name of claimant, amount of claim, date presented, date service rendered, purpose, orders, date allowed, and final disposition. Arr. chron. by date of presentation. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 325 pp. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Warrants

9. REGISTER OF WARRANTS, 1908-26. 8 vols. (1-3, 3-7).

Register of warrants issued in payment of general county obligations, showing number, payee, fund, purpose, amount, dates registered, issued, and cancelled, and remarks.

Board of Supervisors - Bonds;
Insurance; Roads

(10-16)

Arr. numer. by warrant no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.
For subsequent records, see entry 10.

10. WARRANT REGISTER AND DISBURSEMENT REGISTER, 1927--. 7 vols. (1-7).
Register of warrants, allowances, and disbursements, showing administrative, judicial protection of persons and property, health, highway, charities, education, interest, non-government cost, date, amount, warrant number, volume and page in minutes, and total. Arr. numer. by warrant no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 275 pp. 12 x 18 x 3.

For prior records, see entries 6 and 9.

11. WARRANT RECEIPTS, 1908-33. 106 vols.
Stubs of warrants issued against consolidated school, pension, agricultural high school and general funds, showing date, warrant number, amount, term allowed, payee, purpose, fund, and volume and page in minutes. Contains: Pension Roll 1923--, entry 222. Arr. numer. by warrant no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½.

For subsequent records, see entry 12.

12. LOOSE LEAF COUNTY WARRANT REGISTER, 1934--. 16 vols.
Duplicate copies of warrants issued in payment of general county obligations, showing warrant number, claim number, volume and page in minutes, amount, date, payee, purpose, fund receipt, date issued and cancelled. Arr. numer. by warrant no. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 13 x 5.

For prior records, see entry 11.

13. CANCELLED WARRANTS, 1908-34. 2 trunks and 12 bundles. 1935-- in Matters of Board of Supervisors, entry 3.
Cancelled county warrants returned to clerk for filing, showing warrant number, claim number, payee, date issued and cancelled, amount, purpose, fund. Arr. numer. by warrant no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. Trunks 34 x 20 x 24; bundles 6 x 4 x 12.

Bonds

14. RECORD OF OFFICIAL BONDS, 1908--. 2 vols. (1, 2).
Record of official bonds and oaths of county officers, elected or appointed, giving names of principal and sureties, office, amount of bond, date sworn, transcript of oath, date approved, term of office. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of officer. Typed. 275 pp. 18 x 12 x 2.

Insurance

15. INSURANCE REGISTER, 1932--. 1 vol.
Register of insurance policies on county property, showing name of insurance company, name of agent, amount taken out, number and kind of policy, description of property insured, date, amount of premium, date of expiration. Arr. chron. by date of purchase. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 14 x 18 x 1.

Roads

16. REPORTS, FORREST COUNTY HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT, 1920-24. 1 vol. 1925-- in Matters of Board of Supervisors, entry 3.
Record of reports of highway construction and maintenance in the county, showing

Recorder

(17-18)

road, beat, date, name, number days worked, class of work, number of miles worked, amount, materials, supplies, kind and cost, total cost, and remarks. Arr. chron. by date filed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 600 pp. 13 x 9 x 4.

17. ROAD AND BRIDGE, 1919-28. 1 file box. 1929-- in Matters of Board of Supervisors, entry 3.

Original bids, plans and specifications for roads and bridges, contracts and contractors' bonds, showing date, amount of bid, number miles of road, number and location of bridges, name of contractor, terms of contract, date and amount of bond. Filed chron. by date submitted. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18.

Public Service Corporation Assessments

18. ASSESSMENT ROLL, PUBLIC SERVICE, 1935--. 2 vols.

Certified copies of assessment rolls of real and personal property owned by public service corporations in Forrest County, made out by state railroad assessors, approved by state tax commission, and sent to clerk of the board, showing name of corporation, description and valuation of property subject to taxation in each municipality, school district, and road district in the county. Arr. alph. by name of corporation. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 100 pp. 14 x 18 x 1.

II. RECORDER

The clerk of the chancery court of Forrest County is the recorder. The first clerk went into office in January 1908, with the other original officers, and the duties of the recorder have been discharged by regularly elected clerks of the chancery court since that time.

The functions of recorder have been given to the clerk of the chancery court by constitutional provisions and by statute law. However, in no instance is he referred to as the recorder. It is provided that certain records shall be kept by the clerk of the chancery court or by the chancery clerk.

As recorder the clerk receives and records all deeds and conveyances (Code, 1871, sec. 2302; Code, 1880, sec. 1209; Code, 1892, sec. 2454; Code, 1906, sec. 2784; L. M., 1924, chapt. 239; Code, 1930, sec. 2146). All charters granted to private corporations are recorded in his office (Code, 1871, sec. 2401; Code, 1880, sec. 1030; Const., 1890, sec. 189; Code, 1892, sec. 835; Code, 1906, sec. 900; Code, 1917, sec. 4072; Code, 1930, sec. 4145). He is required to keep an abstract of land titles. (Code, 1892, sec. 301; L. M., 1898, chapt. 37; Code, 1906, sec. 320; Code, 1917, sec. 3693; Code, 1930, sec. 226), and it is obligatory that he keep a sectional index to all land conveyances (Code, 1890, sec. 302; Code, 1906, sec. 321; Code, 1917, sec. 3694; L. M., 1920, chapt. 255; Code, 1930, sec. 228). Both of these records have been provided by the board of supervisors in Forrest County. The recorder is further required to enter all conveyances on the sectional index (L. M., 1920, chapt. 255; Code, 1917, sec. 3694a). It is his duty to report divorce statistics to the state board of health within ten days after the adjournment of chancery court (Code, 1906, sec. 1671; Code, 1917, sec. 1413; L. M., 1928, chapt. 152; Code, 1930, sec. 1426). As clerk of the chancery court he is the recording officer for all matters that come within the jurisdiction of the court, including last wills and testaments which are probated; all letters testamentary, of administration, and guardianship;

Recorder

(Next entry 19, p. 29)

all accounts allowed; all inventories, appraisements; and reports duly returned (Code, 1871, sec. 991; Code, 1880, sec. 1808; Code, 1892, sec. 561; Code, 1906, sec. 510; Code, 1917, sec. 267; Code, 1930, secs. 326-328). The recorder in Forrest County keeps a register of marks and brands (Code, 1871, sec. 303; Code, 1880, sec. 914; Code, 1892, sec. 1736; Code, 1906, sec. 1913; Code, 1917, sec. 1562; Code, 1930, secs. 5468-5470).

The recorder is required to file, certify, record, and alphabetically index homestead exemption declarations (Code, 1892, sec. 1974; Code, 1906, sec. 2150; Code, 1917, sec. 1825; Code, 1930, sec. 1769). Although not required to do so by law, the recorder in Forrest County provides a register in which may be recorded discharges of soldiers, sailors and marines who served in the World War. He must record all surveys made by the surveyor (Code, 1892, sec. 4398; Code, 1906, sec. 4963; Code, 1917, sec. 7746; Code, 1930, sec. 7148), and all town plats (Code, 1892, sec. 4402; Code, 1906, sec. 4967; Code, 1917, sec. 7750; Code, 1930, sec. 7152). With respect to tax sales and redemptions the chancery clerk must send redemption notices to owners of lands sold for taxes (Code, 1892, sec. 3818; Code, 1905, sec. 5333; Code, 1917, sec. 6967; L. M., 1922, chapt. 241; Code, 1930, sec. 3257). Also all redemptions of lands sold for taxes must be made through the chancery clerk (L. M., 1920, chapt. 231; Code, 1930, sec. 3263).

For four years, from 1799 until 1803, the office of recorder designated as such, existed in Mississippi county government. On February 28, 1799 Territorial Governor Winthrop Sargent and the Territorial judges established the office and gave to the recorder the following duties "...at his own proper costs and charges (the recorder) shall provide parchment or good large books of royal or other large paper, well bound, and covered; wherein he shall record, in a fair and legible hand, all deeds and conveyances which shall be brought to him for that purpose according to the true intent and meaning of this law" (Sargent's Code, 1799, p. 41).

The law set the recorder's fees at "twenty cents per sheet of one hundred words for recording mortgages, and the like fees for recording all other deeds and instruments in writing; and for copies of all records and deeds, per sheet, sixteen cents" (ibid., p. 78).

An act of the Territorial Assembly on March 4, 1803 made the clerk of the county court the register of deeds and conveyances (Toulmin's Digest, 1807, chapt. XXVIII, secs. 9-12, 15). At the same time, since he was register of the orphans' court (ibid. chapt. XXIV, sec. 23), he was designated and admonished to keep, preserve, and record all records of the orphans' court (wills, letters, testamentary and of administration, accounts, inventories) separate and distinct from the records of the county court. In this manner the clerk of the county court became the recorder in 1803, and he continued as such until 1832.

At that time the constitution established county courts of probate with the elective office of clerk of probate (Const., 1832, art. IV, secs. 18, 19). Both the recording and judicial duties of the clerk of the county court were given to the probate clerk (L. M., 1833, p. 505).

In 1869 the probate courts were consolidated with the chancery court and the duties of the clerk of the probate court were given to the clerk of the chancery court (Const., 1869, art. VI, sec. 16). No changes have been made in this arrangement and at the present time all duties of the recorder are discharged by the chancery clerk.

The term of office of the recorder is four years (Const., 1890, sec. 168). Between 1799 and 1803 the recorder was appointed by the Governor to serve during good behavior (Sargant's Code, 1799, p. 41), while the clerk of the county court who served as recorder was appointed by the governor with the assistance of the Territorial General Assembly (Toulmin's Digest, 1807, chapt. XXVII, secs. 9-12). In 1832 the office of clerk of the court of probate was made elective with a term of two years (Const., 1832, art. IV, sec. 19). When the clerk of the chancery court was given the duties of the clerk of the probate court (Const., 1869, art. VI, sec. 19), the term of office was increased to four years and was confirmed by the Constitution of 1890.

The clerk of the chancery court as recorder is paid in fees ranging from ten cents a hundred words for recording and indexing deeds and other instruments to not less than \$2.50 for recording charters of incorporations (Code, 1930, sec. 1786).

Land Deeds

19. LAND DEED RECORDS, (Transcript from Perry County), 1862-1907. 3 vols. (1-3).

Transcript of recorded copies of deeds and deeds of trust on land and chattels on property in the area of Perry County that is now Forrest County, showing names of grantor, trustee, beneficiary, grantee, kind of instrument, date of instrument, legal description of property, consideration and terms of agreement, signature and acknowledgment of grantor, clerk's fees for recording, date and exact time of filing, date of recording, clerk's attestation. For index, see entry 20. Arr. chron. by date of filing. Typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12½ x 3.

For subsequent records of deeds and deeds of trust on land and chattels, see entries 21, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32.

20. GENERAL INDEX TO TRANSCRIBED RECORD PERRY COUNTY TO FORREST COUNTY, 1862-1907. 1 vol.

Transcribed index to transcript of recorded copies of deeds and deeds of trust on land and chattels on property in the area of Perry County that is now Forrest County, entry 19, showing dates filed and recorded, names of grantor, trustee, grantee, beneficiary, kind of instrument, volume and page in record. Arr. alph. by name of grantor and grantee. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 12½ x 2½.

21. LAND DEED RECORD, 1908---. 50 vols. (1-50).

Recorded copies of deeds and conveyances to land in Forrest County, showing dates filed and recorded, kind of instrument, names of grantor and grantee, consideration and terms of agreement, date of instrument, legal description of land, signature and acknowledgement of grantor, clerk's fees for recording, date and exact time of filing, date of recording, clerk's attestation. Arr. chron. by date filed. For index, see entries 22, 25, 26. Typed. 575 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

For prior record of deeds, see entry 19.

22. GENERAL INDEX TO RECORD OF LAND DEEDS, 1908---. 8 vols. (1-8).

Direct and reverse index to record of deeds, entry 21, showing names of grantor and grantee, kind of instrument, dates filed and recorded, volume and page in land deed record. Arr. alph. by name of grantor and grantee. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 18 x 12½ x 2½.

Recorder - Mortgages and Deeds
of Trust on Land

(23-28)

Mortgages and Deeds of Trust on Land

23. RECORD OF MORTGAGES AND DEEDS OF TRUST ON LAND, 1908--. 72 vols. (1-72). Recorded copies of mortgages and deeds of trust on land, releases and cancellations, assignments of mortgages and deeds of trust; tax lien record, and deeds of trust to Federal Land Bank, showing names of grantor, trustee, and beneficiary, date and terms of agreement, number and amount of deed of trust or mortgage, rate of interest, date due, legal description of property, signature and acknowledgement of grantor, signature of trustee in making releases and cancellations, clerk's fees for recording, date and exact time of filing, date of recording, clerk's attestation. Contains: Sixteenth Section Loan Record, 1908-19, entry 34; Mortgage Loan Record (Sixteenth Section), 1908-21, entry 35. Arr. chron. by date filed. For indexes see entries 24, 25, 26. Typed on ptd. form. 500 pp. $18\frac{1}{2}$ x $12\frac{1}{2}$ x 3.

For other records of mortgages and deeds of trust on land, see entries 19, 27.

24. GENERAL INDEX TO RECORD OF MORTGAGES AND DEEDS OF TRUST ON LAND, 1908--. 8 vols. (1-8).

Direct and reverse index to record of mortgages and deeds of trust on land, entry 23, showing names of grantor and grantee, kind of instrument, dates filed and recorded, volume and page in record, date satisfied or cancelled, by whom and clerk's attestation. Arr. alph. by names of grantor and grantee. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 18 x $12\frac{1}{2}$ x 3.

25. SECTIONAL INDEX (City Property), 1908--. 11 vol. (1-11).

Index to record of land deeds, entry 21, and record of mortgages and deeds of trust on land, entry 23, in the city of Hattiesburg, showing block number, name of survey, names of grantor and grantee, kind of instrument, date of instrument, volume and page in records, lot number, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of survey and each survey arr. numer. by block no. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 4.

26. SECTIONAL INDEX (County Property), 1908--. 7 vols. (1-7).

Index to record of land deeds, entry 21, and mortgages and deeds of trust on land, entry 23, outside corporate limits of Hattiesburg, showing section, township, range, names of grantor and grantee, kind of instrument, date of instrument, volume and page in records, number acres of land, amount of timber, and remarks. Arr. numer. by twp., sec., and range. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 4.

27. AMORTIZATION RECORD, 1917-26. 1 vol. Discontinued as a separate record, now kept in Record of Mortgages and Deeds of Trust on Land, entry 23.

Recorded copies of deeds of trust on land in favor of Federal Land Bank of New Orleans, showing date recorded, name of grantor, trustee, and beneficiary, date of instrument, consideration, terms of agreement, legal description of land, signature of acknowledgement of grantor. Arr. chron. by date filed. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

28. TAX LIEN RECORD, 1932-33. 1 vol. Discontinued as need for separate record no longer exists. For prior and subsequent records, see entry 23.

Recorded copies of certificates of assignments of tax liens, and cancellations and releases of assignments, showing dates filed, made, and recorded, names of assignor and assignee, signatures of tax collector and assignor, number and amount of tax receipt. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of assignor. Typed. 474 pp. 18 x $12\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{4}$.

Chattel Deeds and Deeds of Trust

29. FEDERAL CROP MORTGAGE RECORD, 1931--. 3 vols. (18-20).

Recorded copies of mortgages on crops given as security for seed, feed, and fertilizer loans, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, amount of mortgage, legal description of land on which crop is located, signature and acknowledgement of mortgagor, volume and page in chattel deeds of trust record. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of mortgagor. Typed on ptd. form. 575 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

30. CHATTEL DEED RECORD, 1908--. 8 vols. (1-8).

Recorded copies of deeds on personal property, showing dates filed and recorded, names of grantor and grantee, kind of instrument, consideration, location and description of property, agreement, terms, date, signature and acknowledgement of grantor. Arr. chron. by date filed. For index, see entry 31. Typed. 510 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

For prior records, see entry 19.

31. GENERAL INDEX TO RECORD OF CHATTEL DEEDS, 1908--. 1 vol.

Direct and reverse index to chattel deed record, entry 30, showing names of grantor and grantee, kind of instrument, dates filed and recorded, volume and page in record. Arr. alph. by names of grantor and grantee. Hdw. on ptd. form. 510 pp. 18 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3.

32. CHATTEL DEEDS OF TRUST, 1908--. 19 vols. (1-19).

Recorded copies of mortgages and deeds of trust on personal property, showing dates filed and recorded, names of grantor, trustee, and beneficiary, consideration, terms of agreement, description of property, date signed, signature and acknowledgement of grantor. Arr. chron. by date filed. For index, see entry 33. Typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

For prior records, see entry 19.

33. GENERAL INDEX TO RECORD OF CHATTEL DEED OF TRUST, 1908--. 4 vols. (1-4).

Direct and reverse index to record of chattel deeds of trust, entry 32, showing names of grantor, trustee, and grantee, kind of instrument, dates filed and recorded, volume and page in record, date cancelled, by whom, and clerk's attestation. Arr. alph. by names of grantor and grantee. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3.

Sixteenth Section Records

34. SIXTEENTH SECTION RECORD, 1920--. 1 vol. 1908-1919 in Record of Mortgages and Deeds of Trust on Land, entry 23.

Record of loans made from sixteenth section school fund, showing name of borrower, township, range, amount of loan, date, date of payments, amount of each, rate of interest. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of borrower. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{4}$.

35. MORTGAGE LOAN RECORD, 1922--. 1 vol. 1908-1921 in Record of Mortgages and Deeds of Trust on Land, entry 23.

Recorded copies of mortgages given as security for loans made from sixteenth section school funds, showing number and amount of loan, date payable, names of mortgagor, mortgagee, legal description of property, volume and page in record, names of examiners, appraised value of property, amount of insurance on property, taxes, payments of interest, payments on principal, balance. Arr. alph. by name of mortgagor. For indexes, see entries 24-26. Typed on ptd. form. 230 pp. 19 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Recorder - Homesteads; Tax Sales and
Releases

(36-42)

36. SIXTEENTH SECTION INDEX, 1803--. 1 vol.

Transcript of legal proceedings concerning sixteenth section land transfers in the territory now comprising Forrest County, and sectional index to record of land deeds on sixteenth section lands, entry 19, and loan and mortgage records, entry 23, 35, showing section, township, range, names of grantor and grantee, kind of instrument, consideration, date of instrument, dates filed and recorded, volume and page in record, legal description of land, number of acres, amount of timber, and remarks. Arr. numer. by no. of sec., twp., and range. Hdw. on ptd. form. 305 pp. 18½ x 12½ x 3.

Homesteads

37. HOMESTEAD RECORD, 1932--. 1 vol.

Recorded copies of homestead declarations, showing name of declarer, legal description of land, signature and acknowledgement of declarer, dates signed, filed, and recorded, and certification of filing and recording. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of declarer. Typed. 310 pp. 18 x 12 x 2½.

Tax Sales and Releases
(See also entries 23, 28)

38. NOTICE TO OWNERS OF LANDS SOLD FOR TAXES, 1927--. 11 bundles.

Carbon copies of notices to owners of lands to be sold for non-payment of taxes, showing name of owner, legal description of land, number of acres, date of sale, to whom sold, and signature of chancery clerk. Arr. chron. by date sent to owner. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 8 x 18 x 2.

39. RECORD OF TAX LANDS SOLD TO INDIVIDUALS, 1908--. 2 vols. (1, 2).

Record of lands sold to individuals at delinquent tax sale, showing deed number, name of purchaser, date sold, to whom assessed, legal description of land, statement of fees and damages, amount due for redemption, date redeemed, by whom. Arr. chron. No index, 1908-1931. For index, 1931--, see entry 40. Hdw. on ptd. form. 155 pp. 17 x 15 x 2.

40. INDEX TO RECORD OF TAX SALES, 1931--. 3 vols.

Index to record of lands sold to individuals for non-payment of taxes, entry 39, showing name of owner, to whom sold, date volume and page in record. Arr. alph. by name of owner. Typed on ptd. form. 100 pp. 10 x 12 x 1.

41. RELEASE FROM DELINQUENT TAX SALE, 1932--. 1 vol.

Record of releases from delinquent tax sale, showing consideration, from whom received, legal description of property, to whom assessed, date sold, name of purchaser, date and signature of chancery clerk, statement of taxes, fees, and damages. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 150 pp. 8 x 15 x 1.

42. NOTICES OF STATE LANDS REDEEMED, 1933-34. 2 file boxes.

Carbon copies of notices of state lands redeemed showing of whom received, amount, description of land, section, township, range, acres, to whom sold, year, date, signature of clerk, statement of taxes and charges. Filed chron. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 3 x 15. Sheriff's off.

Corporations

43. CORPORATION RECORD, 1908--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Recorded copies of charters granted corporations engaged in business in Forrest County, showing copy of original charter and amendments, domicile of corporation, corporate title, names and addresses of incorporators, amount, par value, and class (common or preferred) of authorized capital stock, sale price per share of stock without par value, period of existence, purposes, amount of paid-in stock, signature and acknowledgements of incorporators, endorsement of secretary of state and governor, opinion of attorney general, certificate of secretary of state, proof of publication, to whom delivered for recording, date and exact time filed, number given instrument by clerk, fees for recording, time recorded, date returned. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of corporation. Typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3.

44. EXEMPTION RECORD, 1930--. 1 vol.

Recorded copies of approved applications for exemptions from county ad valorem tax, claimed by firms and corporations as new enterprises under provisions of new enterprise law of 1930, showing name of enterprise, kind of business, address, date from which exemption claimed, value of property in existence or to be built or acquired, signature and oath of applicant, approval of board of supervisors, volume and page in minutes, date and exact time filed, date recorded, clerk's attestation, endorsement or rejection by attorney general. Arr. chron. by date application filed. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Typed. 500 pp. 18 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3.

Discharge Record

45. SOLDIERS DISCHARGE RECORD, 1919--. 1 vol.

Recorded copies of discharges of soldiers, sailors, and marines serving in World War, showing name, personal history, war record, date enlisted, branch of service, date discharged, dates filed and recorded. Discharges are recorded upon request. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of veteran. Typed. 610 pp. 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4.

Maps

46. PLAT BOOK RECORD-MISCELLANEOUS PLATS, 1908--. 7 vols. (1-7).

Political and communications maps of towns, cities and subdivisions of county, showing township, range and section lines, lots and blocks of surveys, subdivisions, or additions, rivers, railways, and exact dimensions of highways, streets and alleys, with affidavit of surveyor on each map. Arr. numer. by sec., twp., and range. Author unknown. Hdw. and drawn on oil map paper. Poor condition. 35 pp. 20 x 24 x 3.

Miscellaneous

47. MEMORANDUM OF AUTOMOBILE SALES, 1930--. 1 vol.

Record of transfers of ownership of automobiles, begun in 1930, showing sales number, name of purchaser, manufacturer, model, motor number, other marks, from whom purchase from whom purchased by seller, signature of seller, address, affidavit, dates filed and recorded. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of purchaser. Typed on ptd. form. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Clerk of the Chancery Court

(Next entry 49, p. 35)

48. RECORD OF MARKS AND BRANDS, 1892--. 2 vols.
Record of livestock earmarks and brands, including transcript of record from the Second Judicial District of Perry County, now Forrest County, for period 1892-1907, showing dates filed and recorded, name of owner, description of earmark and brand, kind of livestock, and clerk's attestation. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of owner. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 16 x 10 x 2.

III. CLERK OF THE CHANCERY COURT

The identity of the clerk of the chancery court as such, has been obscured by the many duties and functions which have been heaped upon him through more than a century of county government development. The term "chancery clerk" is applied loosely to this functionary as the holder of a plethora of offices and it is synonymous with recorder, auditor, treasurer, clerk of the board of supervisors, and clerk of the pension board of inquiry. The records of the chancery clerk have been divided in this inventory. (Sec clerk of the board, p. 23; Recorder, p. 27; Treasurer and Auditor, p. 78; and Pension Board of Inquiry, p. 98.)

The first clerks of the chancery court were the clerks of the Territorial supreme court and of the superior court of the district of Washington. By the act of February 10, 1807 the General Assembly in empowering these courts to act as courts of chancery, gave the clerks of these courts the duties of keeping rolls, records, and proceedings of the chancery court separate from the proceedings in law in the other courts (Toulmin's Digest, 1807, chapt. II, secs. 43-48).

The act of December 22, 1809 transferred this judicial power to the superior courts of law and equity which name had been given to circuit courts previously established in each county. The clerks of the circuit courts were required to transfer all their records to the clerks of the superior courts of law and equity (Turner's Digest, 1816, pp. 178-79, arts. 116-18, secs. I, II, VI).

On November 27, 1821, using the power granted it by the first constitution of Mississippi (Const., 1817, art. V, secs. 4, 6) the General Assembly established a separate court of chancery for the state and divided the state into two districts, eastern and western (L. M., 1821, p. 105). A clerk was provided for in each district, to be appointed by the chancellor (Poindexter's Code, 1823, chapt. XIII, secs. 1, 2), and given the power to appoint deputies, administer oaths and take affidavits.

The act of February 4, 1825 formed Monroe County into a separate chancery district and instructed the clerk of the eastern district to turn over all records to the clerk of the Monroe district (L. M., 1825, p. 133). This act was repealed on February 25, 1827 and four chancery districts were organized in the state with a clerk in each appointed by the chancellor (L. M., 1827, p. 139).

The Constitution of 1832 made provision for the establishment of a superior court of chancery for the state but gave the legislature power to allot the circuit courts jurisdiction in all cases of divorce, in the foreclosure of mortgages, and in all cases where the value of the thing or the amount in controversy did not exceed \$500 (Const., 1832, art. IV, sec. 16). In 1833 this jurisdiction was given to the circuit courts thus making the clerk of the circuit court clerk of chancery again (L. M., 1833, pp. 408-10).

The office of clerk of the chancery court was made elective biennially in each county by the act of February 25, 1848 (L. M., 1848, pp. 110-11). An amendment to the Constitution of 1832 inserted by an act approved February 6, 1856 created a court of chancery in each judicial district of the state to be held by the judge of the circuit court (L. M., 1856, p. 25). The clerk of the circuit court was made clerk of the chancery court (ibid., p. 28).

In 1869 the probate court was discontinued by omission from the Constitution and its jurisdiction was given to the chancery court (Const., 1869, art. VI, sec. 16). Separate offices of clerk of the circuit court and clerk of the chancery court were provided for (ibid., sec. 19). The duties formerly assigned to the clerk of the probate court were given to the clerk of the chancery court (Code, 1871, sec. 996).

The Constitution of 1890 continued the office (Const., 1890, sec. 168). It has functioned in Forrest County continuously since the establishment of the county in 1908. The clerk is elected every four years by the qualified electors of the county in the general elections (ibid.) and he must make bond of not less than \$3,000 or more than \$20,000 (Code, 1930, sec. 325).

The clerk's duties at present are: to attend chancery court and keep its minutes; to keep all records, files, papers, and proceedings belonging to his office; record all last wills and testaments which may be probated, all letters testamentary, of administration, and of guardianship, all accounts allowed against estates, and all inventories, appraisements and reports duly returned. He shall issue process, keep a general docket, an issue docket, a motion docket, a register of claims, and an execution docket. He may conduct proceedings during vacation and at rules during vacation, his acts, judgments, orders, or decrees being subject to the approval or disapproval of the chancellor. He is required to keep a register of sureties on bonds; furnish the circuit clerk abstracts of certain decrees, and record all pleadings, exhibits, and proceedings of finally terminated suits in a final record book. He is custodian of all records of the probate court and board of police, except those required to be kept by the circuit court. Since Forrest County was established after both were superseded (Const., 1869, art. VI, secs. 16, 20), these records do not exist in the county. The clerk must also subscribe to such newspapers, not exceeding two, as the court or chancellor shall direct, and file and preserve them in his office. (Code, 1930, secs. 326-49.)

The clerks of the chancery court in Forrest County have kept full and complete records since the office began to function in January 1908.

Unless otherwise designated the records are kept in either the offices or vaults of the chancery clerk.

Case Records

49. CHANCERY CASES, PERRY COUNTY, SECOND DISTRICT, 1892-1907. 34 file boxes. (1-34).

Transcribed copies of original papers filed in cases tried in chancery court of the Second Judicial District of Perry County, now Forrest County, concerning all matters testamentary and of administration, in equity, divorce and alimony, minors' business, idiocy, lunacy, and persons of unsound mind, showing case number, names of parties litigant and of solicitors, and date filed. Arr. numer. by case no. For index, see entry 50. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18.

For subsequent original papers, see entry 51.

Clerk of the Chancery Court - Dockets
and General Court Records

(50-56)

50. INDEX TO CHANCERY CASES, 1892-1907. 1 vol.
Index to chancery cases, Perry County, Second District, entry 49, showing volume and page in dockets, case number, names of parties litigant, and file box number. Hdw. on ptd. form. 150 pp. 14 x 10 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

51. CHANCERY COURT CASE FILES, 1908--. 310 file boxes.
Original papers filed in closed and pending cases in chancery court concerning all matters testamentary and of administration, in equity, divorce and alimony, minors' business, idiocy, lunacy, and persons of unsound mind, showing case number, names of parties litigant and of solicitors, cause of action, and date filed. Numer. filed by case no. For index, see entry 52. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18.
For prior original papers, see entry 49.

52. INDEX TO CHANCERY CASES AND ATTORNEYS RECEIPT BOOK, 1908--. 3 vols. (1-3).
Index to chancery court case files, entry 51, showing volume and page in dockets, case number, file box number, names of parties litigant; also attorneys' receipt book for papers and case records withdrawn, showing case number, number and list of papers, attorneys' receipt, date withdrawn, clerk's receipt, date returned, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of plaintiff and solicitor. Hdw. on ptd. form. 230 pp. 18 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1.
For prior index to chancery cases, see entry 50; for prior attorneys' receipt book, see entry 59.

Dockets and General Court Records

53. GENERAL DOCKET CHANCERY COURT (Title Varies), 1908--. 9 vols. (1-9).
Record of suits, petitions, answers, demurrers, pleas, and other papers filed in cases tried and triable in chancery court, showing case number, date filed, names of parties litigant and of solicitors, cause of action, orders, decrees, copy of cost bills for clerk's and witness fees, lists of property in probate cases, appraisements, date of issuance of letters testamentary and of administration, amount of bond, date recorded, names of sureties, and itemized lists of sheriff's fines and costs. Contains: Chancery Clerk's Fees, 1921--, entry 61; Probate Docket, 1908-17, entry 66. Arr. numer. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. on ptd. form. 580 pp. 18 x 13 x 3.

54. ISSUE DOCKET CHANCERY COURT, 1908--. 4 vols. (1-4).
Record of cases, final hearings, and proceedings involving insolvent estates, and final accounts of executors, guardians, and administrators, in which order or decree of the court or issuance of process or notice is necessary for a final hearing triable at the approaching term of court in order filed and numbered on general docket, showing case number, date of hearing, names of parties litigant and solicitors, kind of issue, and disposition. Arr. numer. by docket no. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 320 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

55. MOTION DOCKET CHANCERY COURT, 1908--. 5 vols. (1-5).
Record of motions, demurrers, ex-parte petitions, exceptions, matters of administration or guardianship not directed to be placed on Issue Docket, entry 54, and matters brought before clerk during vacation and at rules, showing case number, cause of action, names of solicitors for or against motions, dates filed, kind of motion, names of parties litigant, and disposition. Arr. numer. by case no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 215 pp. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

56. SUBPOENA DOCKET CHANCERY COURT, 1912--. 1 vol.
Record of subpoenas issued for witnesses in chancery court hearings, showing case number, names of parties litigant and of witnesses, for whom summoned, to whom directed,

Clerk of the Chancery Court - Proceedings;
Fees

(57-61)

date issued, dates returnable and returned, attendance, mileage, amount of fees, and remarks. Arr. chron. by date of issuance. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 197 pp. 18 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 $\frac{3}{4}$.

57. LIS PENDENS RECORD, 1908--. 2 vols. (1, 2).

Record of notices filed at beginning of suit in any court to enforce lien upon, right to, or interest in real estate when claim is not based upon any instrument previously recorded or judgment duly enrolled, showing court of origin, names of parties litigant, description of land involved or levied upon, kind of suit or writ, brief statement of nature of lien, right, or interest sought to be enforced, dates of filing and recording lis pendens notice, result of suit or levy, and remarks. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 550 pp. 18 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2.

58. FINAL RECORDS, 1908--. 8 vols. (1-8).

Record of all proceedings in suits involving real estate or such parts of the proceedings required to be entered by the chancellor, showing names of parties litigant, date, case number, kind of suit, disposition; also motions, decrees, final hearings, final judgment, proof of publication, transcript of papers and exhibits; also record of all proceedings in other suits required to be entered by decree or order of chancellor. Arr. chron. by date of order. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Typed. 575 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

59. ATTORNEYS' RECEIPT BOOK, 1892-1907. 1 vol.

Transcribed record of papers and case records withdrawn by attorneys from chancery clerk's office in the Second Judicial District of Perry County, now Forrest County, showing case number, number and list of papers, attorney's receipt, date withdrawn, clerk's receipt, date returned, and remarks. Arr. chron. by date of withdrawal. Indexed alph. by name of attorney. Hdw. on ptd. form. 315 pp. 16 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

For subsequent record, see entry 52.

Proceedings

60. MINUTES OF CHANCERY COURT, 1908--. 16 vols. (1-16).

Record of proceedings of chancery court at regular sessions, during vacation and at rules during vacation, showing date and term of court, name of presiding chancellor, or clerk, numbers and titles of cases considered, disposition, approval or disapproval by chancellor of clerk's acts, judgments, orders, or decrees, and signature of chancellor. Arr. chron. by date of proceedings. No index. Hdw. and typed. 580 pp. 18 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3.

Fees

61 CHANCERY CLERK'S FEE BOOK, 1908-21. 4 vols. (1-4). 1922-- in General Chancery Docket, entry 53.

Record of costs in chancery court cases, showing case number, style of case, names of parties litigant, itemized list of fees, date paid. Arr. chron. by dates incurred. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 585 pp. 17 x 14 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Clerk of the Chancery Court - Newspapers;
Wills and Estates

(62-67)

Newspapers

62. HATTIESBURG AMERICAN, 1908-9, 1927--. 39 vols. Missing: 1910-26.
Copies of daily newspapers procured by the clerk of the chancery court at the direction of the chancellor, containing publications ordered by the court. Arr. chron. by date of publication. No index. Ptd. 27 x 18 x 2.

Wills and Estates

63. RECORD OF WILLS, 1892-1907. 1 vol.
Transcription of recorded copies of wills and last testaments filed for probate in chancery court in the Second Judicial District of Perry County, now Forrest County, showing dates filed and recorded, name of decedent, terms and condition. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of decedent. Typed. 250 pp. 18 x 12 x 2.
For subsequent record of wills, see entry 64.

64. RECORD OF WILLS, 1908--. 2 vols. (1, 2).
Recorded copies of wills and last testaments filed for probate in chancery court, showing dates filed and recorded, name of decedent, terms and conditions. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of decedent. Typed. 250 pp. 12 x 12 x 2.

For prior record of wills, see entry 63.

65. REGISTER OF CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATES, 1908--. 2 vols. (1, 2).
Records of claims filed against estates, showing name of decedent, names of claimants, description and amount of claim, date filed, and total amount. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of claimant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 16 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2.

66. PROBATE DOCKET, 1918--. 2 vols. 1908-17 in General Chancery Docket, entry 53.
Record of proceedings in the probate of wills and the regulation of the management and settlement of decedents' and minors' estates, showing file and case numbers, names of decedent and minor, names of executor, administrator, guardian, solicitors, date letters testamentary and of administration issued, amount of bond, date recorded, names of sureties, appraisements, inventories, total assets and liabilities, date notice to creditors published, balances, date annual accounts filed, volume and page in minutes, and remarks. Arr. numer. by file no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 325 pp. 13 x 16 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

67. PROBATE BAR DOCKET, 1923-29. 1 vol. Discontinued because of duplication with entry 66. For prior and subsequent records, see entries 53, 66, 68.
Record of proceedings in the probate of wills and the regulation of the management and settlement of decedents' and minors' estates, kept for convenience of attorneys, showing file and case numbers, names of decedent and minor, names of executor, administrator, guardian, solicitors, date letters testamentary and of administration issued, amount of bond, date recorded, names of sureties, appraisements, inventories, total assets and liabilities, date notice to creditors published, balances, date annual account filed, volume and page in minutes, and remarks. Arr. chron. by date of proceedings. Indexed alph. by names of decedent, estate, minor. Hdw. on ptd. form. 418 pp. 18 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

(68-69)

68. ADMINISTRATORS, EXECUTORS, AND GUARDIANS ANNUAL AND FINAL ACCOUNTS, 1908--.
3 vols. (1-3).

Record of annual and final accountings of the administrators, executors, and guardians of estates of decedents and minors, showing itemized statement of receipts and disbursements, name of decedent or minor, signatures and acknowledgements of administrator, executor, or guardian, and signature of chancellor approving or disapproving accounting. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of decedent or minor. Typed. 290 pp. 18 x 12 x 2.

69. CORRESPONDENCE WITH ATTORNEY-GENERAL, 1932-34. 1 file box.

Copies of letters from chancery clerk to attorney-general asking for rulings and opinions on legal procedure in connection with the functions of the chancery court and the clerk's office, and original letters from attorney-general giving rulings and opinions. Filed chron. by date of writing. No index. Typed. 6 x 6 x 12.

IV. CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

The office of clerk of the circuit court was established in Forrest County under the provisions of the Constitution of 1890 (Const., 1890, sec. 168). The clerk is elected for a four-year term by the qualified electors of the county (ibid.; Code, 1906, sec. 4140; Code, 1930, sec. 6210) and he must make bond of not less than \$3,000 nor more than \$10,000 to be fixed by the board of supervisors, with two or more sufficient sureties (ibid., sec. 478).

The office has existed in Mississippi since February 28, 1799. At that time Governor Winthrop Sargent and the Territorial judges wrote the act which established a court of common pleas possessed of jurisdiction similar to that of the present-day circuit court. (Sargent's Code, 1799, p. 11.) Thus, it can be said that the clerks of the first courts of common pleas were the first circuit clerks.

On January 26, 1802, an act was passed by the General Assembly of the Territory to "provide for the more convenient organization of the courts" ("Original Acts of the Territorial Legislature", Series D, vol. 6, MDAH). By this legislation a superior court with a clerk to keep its records was established in each of the three districts then organized, the counties of Adams, Jefferson, and Washington.

The law of February 10, 1807 set up circuit courts in Wilkinson, Adams, Jefferson, and Claiborne Counties, to be presided over by the Territorial judges. A clerk, "a person of skill and probity" was appointed in each to "do all things that appertain to the duties of a clerk of the court". In these courts the clerks' bonds were placed in the amount of \$7,000 and a \$20 fine was exacted in the event they did not make up and enter a full and complete record of the final determination of any suit or prosecution. (Toulmin's Digest, 1807, chapt. II, secs. 8, 9, 49, 50.)

Two years later, the act of December 22, 1809 changed the name of the circuit court to "superior court of law and equity", bestowing on the court as the name indicates, jurisdiction in both law and equity. The clerks of the circuit courts were required to transfer all original papers, records, and other judicial proceedings to the newly organized courts in each county. (Turner's Digest, 1816, pp. 178-79.)

The Constitution of 1817, drafted the year the Mississippi Territory became a state, created a superior court for each county and provided that the judge appoint a clerk for each court, (Const., 1817, art. V, secs. 5, 11). Acts in 1818 (L. M., 1818, p. 7) and 1819 (L. M., 1819, p. 53) organized the courts accordingly. On June 22, 182:

Clerk of the Circuit Court

(Next entry 70, p. 41)

the legislature restored the name of circuit court, at the same time dividing the state into judicial districts with a judge and a clerk for each district (L. M., 1822, p. 36). The clerks of the superior courts then existing, became the clerks of the circuit court (Poindexter's Code, 1824; chapt. 13, sec. 1). Vacancies in clerkships were filled by appointment by the judge (ibid., sec. 10); the clerks were made liable to fine and imprisonment for making false entry or changing any records in their keeping belonging to their offices (ibid., sec. 15); they were given power to appoint deputies (ibid., sec. 12); and they were required to keep a list of freeholders provided by the assessor and the collector from which petit and grand jurors were to be drawn (ibid., sec. 122).

The Constitution of 1832 made the office of clerk of the circuit court elective and set its term at two years (Const., 1832, art. IV, sec. 19). In 1856 a constitutional amendment delegated to the judges of the circuit courts the duty of holding chancery court (L. M., 1856, p. 25). The clerks of the circuit courts were then required to keep the records of the chancery court in addition to those of the circuit court (ibid., p. 28). When the county courts were reestablished in 1865 (L. M., 1865, chapt. 11, sec. 1, p. 66; see County Court, p. 54, infra.), the circuit clerks were created custodians of the county court records as ex-officio clerks of the county court (ibid., sec. 5, p. 67). These courts were abolished in 1870, relieving the circuit clerks of this duty (L. M., 1870, chapt. XIII).

The legislature of 1870 charged the circuit clerks with the task of issuing marriage licenses and keeping all records pertaining to the issuance of the licenses (Code, 1871; chapt. 8, sec. 570). It was at this time that circuit clerks were prohibited from practicing law (ibid., sec. 567).

Between 1832 and 1869 the offices of clerk of the circuit court and clerk of the probate court could be held by the same person (Code, 1857, chapt. VI, art. 199). At present, in counties in which the population does not exceed 15,000, the offices of chancery clerk and circuit clerk may be held by the same person (Code, 1930, sec. 2918). Since the population of Forrest County is more than 15,000 (see Historical Sketch, p. 5, supra.), the county does not come within this limitation.

The term of office was increased from two years to four years in 1869 (Const., 1869, art. IV, sec. 19). In providing for the office in 1890 the constitution made no change in the term, keeping it at four years (Const., 1890, sec. 168). In 1892 the circuit clerk was made registrar of elections and custodian of election records (L. M., 1892, chapt. 68, p. 116, see Registrar, p. 82, infra.)

The present-day duties of the circuit clerk can be separated into three principal divisions: clerical-judicial and judicial, recording and licensing, and the functions pertaining to registration and elections. The records of this combined office have been divided in this inventory. (See Registrar, p. 82, infra.)

The clerk's clerical-judicial duties consist of attending all sessions of the circuit court, keeping its records and issuing process from the court. He is required to keep the minutes of the court (Code, 1930, sec. 750), keep a general docket, a trial docket, a criminal docket, an appearance docket, a subpoena docket, an execution docket and a final record book (ibid., sec. 479-485). He must keep a jury fee book (ibid., sec. 487), deliver to the clerk of the board of supervisors within ten days after each term of court a certified list of all allowances made by the court (ibid., sec. 486), and report to the clerk of the board within ten days after each term of court a list of all judgments rendered and suits disposed of at such term (ibid., sec. 489). He is also required to report to the clerk, within 30 days after adjournment of every term of court, a list of all penalties, fines, and forfeitures assessed by the court and of fines collected (ibid., sec. 618). The circuit clerk must report to the county auditor a list c

witness certificates payable out of the county treasury (ibid., sec. 1810).

In Forrest County the clerk of the circuit court is ex-officio the clerk of the county court. He is required to attend all sessions of the court and, so far as is practicable, keep its dockets, minutes, and records in the same manner as those of the circuit court are kept. (Ibid., sec. 699; see County Court, p. 54, infra.)

The clerk must procure and keep in his office one or more books styled "The Judgment Roll" in which he must enroll within 20 days after the adjournment of each term of circuit court and county court all final judgments rendered at each term (ibid., sec. 610). Final decrees of the chancery court and final judgments of the justice of the peace courts may be enrolled in the judgment roll if abstracts of such decrees or judgments rendered are filed with the circuit clerk (ibid., secs. 453, 2090).

As a recording and licensing official the circuit clerk issues marriage licenses (ibid., secs. 2362-2363), and he is required to keep all papers and records connected with marriage licenses and certificates of marriage (ibid., sec. 2368). He must make regular reports to the state registrar of vital statistics giving data concerning marriages (ibid., secs. 4933-4941). It is prescribed that the following professional licenses to practice shall be filed with the circuit clerk and preserved by him: dentists' (ibid., sec. 4307), pharmacists' (ibid., sec. 5863), physicians' (ibid., sec. 5854), osteopaths' (ibid., sec. 5861), embalmers' (ibid., sec. 4628), and veterinaries' (ibid., secs. 7323-7324). The clerk is also custodian of a certified jury list delivered to him by the clerk of the board of supervisors (ibid., sec. 2035), of the records of coroners' inquests (ibid., sec. 648), of dockets of justice of the peace courts after justices have gone out of office (ibid., sec. 2109), and of a list of persons liable for military duty, prepared by the assessor by order of the governor (ibid., sec. 5488)

A Federal law approved June 29, 1906 gave the circuit court jurisdiction in the naturalization of aliens (34 Stat. L., p. 898), and since 1918, when the first application for citizenship papers was made in Forrest County, the clerk of the circuit court has kept a naturalization register.

The circuit clerk is paid in fees which range from ten cents for swearing each witness to \$3 for issuing a marriage license, taking affidavit, and recording the certificate of marriage. He receives from the county treasury not more than \$200 annually as fees in state cases in which the state fails in prosecution. He may retain as commission on all money coming into his hands by law or order of the court, a sum fixed by the court not exceeding one-half of one percent of all such sums. For making final records required by law, furnishing transcripts of records, or copies of papers on file, recording instruments required by law to be recorded and copied, the clerk receives a fee of 15 cents for every hundred words. (Ibid., sec. 1788.)

Unless otherwise designated, the records of the clerk of the circuit court are kept in his office.

Case Records

70. CASE RECORDS, CIVIL AND CRIMINAL (Closed), 1913-34. 3 file boxes and 56 envelopes.

Original declarations, indictments, affidavits, motions, demurrers, pleas, answers, and other documents filed in criminal and civil cases tried and disposed of in circuit court, showing case number, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, style

Clerk of the Circuit Court - Dockets and
General Court Records

(71-75)

of case, offense charged, date of trial, and disposition. Arr. chron. by date of filing. No index. Numer. lists of civil cases are kept in State Docket Circuit Court, entry 74, and in General Docket, entry 77; numer. lists of criminal cases are kept in State Docket Circuit Court, entry 74, in General Docket, entry 75, and in State Bar Docket, entry 76. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. File boxes, 24 x 24 x 30; envelopes, 8 x 1 x 18. 3 file boxes, 1913-28 in courthouse basement; 56 envelopes, 1929-34.

For civil case records, see entry 72; for other criminal case records, see entry 71.

71. CRIMINAL CASES, 1920--. 68 file boxes. (1-68).

Original indictments, affidavits, motions, demurrers, pleas, answers, and other documents filed in criminal cases tried and triable in circuit court, showing case number, style of case, name of defendant and attorneys, offense charged. Numer. filed by case no. No index. Numer. lists of these cases are kept in State Docket Circuit Court, entry 74, in General Docket, entry 75, and in State Bar Docket, entry 76. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18.

For other criminal case records, see entry 70.

72. CIVIL CASES, 1920--. 116 file boxes. (1-116).

Original declarations, answers, pleas, motions, and other documents filed in civil cases tried and triable in circuit court, showing case number, style of case, names of litigants and attorneys, and cause of action. Numer. arr. by case no. No index. Numer. lists of these cases are kept in State Docket Circuit Court, entry 74 and in General Docket, entry 75. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18.

For other civil case records, see entry 70.

73. SUPREME COURT RECORD, 1908--. 6 file boxes.

Clerk's transcript of original declarations, indictments, affidavits, pleas, answers, demurrers, motions and all other documents concerning criminal and civil cases appealed to supreme court from circuit court, showing court of origin, case number, style of case, offense charged, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, date of trial and disposition in court of origin, date appealed, and decision of supreme court. No index. Typed. 12 x 12 x 24. 2 file boxes, 1908-29 in courthouse basement; 4 file boxes, 1930--.

For other supreme court records, see entry 115.

Dockets and General Court Records

74. STATE DOCKET CIRCUIT COURT (GENERAL DOCKET), 1908--. 9 vols. (1-9).

Record of criminal and civil cases tried and triable in circuit court, showing case number, style of case, offense charged, names of defendant, names of parties litigant, names of attorneys, cause of action, volume and page in minutes, disposition. Arr. numer. by case no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 13 x 3.

75. GENERAL DOCKET, STATE CASES, 1908--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of criminal cases tried and triable in circuit court, showing case number, offense charged, names of defendant and attorneys, and indictment filed, disposition, and volume and page in minutes. Arr. numer. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 550 pp. 18 x 13 x 3.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

(76-83)

76. STATE BAR DOCKET, 1908--. 9 vols. (1-9).

Record of criminal cases tried and triable in circuit court, kept for convenience of attorneys, showing case number, offense charged, name of defendant, volume and page in minutes, and court orders. Arr. numer. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 13 x 3.

77. GENERAL DOCKET, (Civil Cases), 1908--. 4 vols. (1-4).

Record of civil cases tried and triable in circuit court, showing case number, names of litigants and attorneys, cause of action, date declarations filed, date process issued, answers, pleadings, exhibits, disposition, court orders, and volume and page in minutes. Arr. numer. by case no. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 13 x 3.

78. COURT ISSUE DOCKET, 1908--. 9 vols. (1-9).

Record of cases triable at each approaching term of court, kept for convenience of judge in numerical order as filed and recorded in general dockets, showing case number, name of defendant, names of litigants, names of attorneys, style of case or offense charged, court orders, and volume and page in minutes. Arr. numer. by case no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 475 pp. 18 x 13 x 3.

79. COURT ISSUE DOCKET, 1923--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of civil and criminal cases appealed from justice of the peace courts and from city police court triable at each approaching term of circuit court, 1923-27, and at each approaching term of county court, 1927--, kept for convenience of judge and showing case number, name of defendant, names of litigants, names of attorneys, offense charged, style of case, volume and page in minutes, disposition and court orders. Arr. chron. by date appealed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 18 x 12 x 2.

80. EXECUTION DOCKET (Circuit Court), 1908--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of executions issued by clerk showing names of litigants and attorneys, case number, style of case, date and amount of judgment or decree, amount of costs, kind of writ, date issued, to whom directed, dates returnable and returned. Arr. numer. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

81. SUBPOENA DOCKET (State Cases), 1908--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Records of subpoenas issued for witnesses in state cases, showing case number, style of case, names of state's witnesses and of defendant's witnesses, date subpoena issued, to whom directed, dates returnable and returned, attendance and mileage. Arr. numer. by case no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 480 pp. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{3}{4}$.

82. SUBPOENA DOCKET (Civil Cases), 1908--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of subpoenas issued for witnesses in civil cases, showing case number, style of case, names of witnesses for plaintiff and for defendant, date subpoena issued, to whom directed, dates returnable and returned, attendance, mileage, and amount of certificate. Arr. numer. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 18 x 13 x 3 $\frac{1}{4}$.

83. ATTORNEYS RECEIPT BOOK, 1930--. 1 vol. Not kept prior to 1930.

Record of papers and documents withdrawn from clerk's office by attorneys, showing case number, itemized list of papers, attorney's receipt, date withdrawn, clerk's receipt, date returned, and remarks. Arr. chron. by date papers withdrawn. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. on ptd. form. 484 pp. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Clerk of the Circuit Court - Proceedings;
Judgments; Grand Jury Records

(84-90)

Proceedings

84. MINUTES CIRCUIT COURT, 1908--. 14 vols. (1-13, 1 unnumbered).
Record of proceedings of the circuit court in both civil and criminal sessions, giving date of each session, name of presiding judge, names of grand jurors and petit jurors drawn for duty, number and style of cases heard, charges and instructions of the court, and disposition of each case. Arr. chron. by date of trial. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Typed. 600 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

Judgments

85. JUDGMENT ROLL, 1908--. 4 vols. (1-4).
Enrollment of final judgments or decrees rendered in all courts, showing case number, amount of judgment, names of plaintiff and defendant, county and court in which judgment was rendered, dates rendered and enrolled, date and satisfaction, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of defendant. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½.

86. ABSTRACTS OF JUDGMENT, 1924--. 1 file box.
Abstracts of judgments rendered in cases appealed from justice of the peace courts to circuit court, 1924-26 and to county court, 1927--, showing case number, names of plaintiff and defendant, date rendered in justice of the peace court, amount of judgment, certification of justice of the peace, date appealed, date upheld by circuit or county court, date enrolled in judgment roll. Filed alph. by name of defendant. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18.

Grand Jury Records

87. GRAND JURY DOCKET, 1908--. 4 vols. (1-4).
Record of offenses investigated by grand jury, showing indictment number, names of defendants, names of witnesses, offense charged, date, and nature of indictment. Arr. chron. by date of session. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 450 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½.

88. INDICTMENTS, 1925--. 1 file box.
Original true bills or indictments returned by grand jury, showing indictment number, name of defendant, offense charged, nature of indictment, names of witnesses, signatures of foreman and of district attorney. Filed alph. by name of defendant. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18.

For prior record of indictments, see entries 89, 90.

89. SECRET RECORD OF INDICTMENTS, 1892-1907. 2 vols. (1, 2).
Transcript of record of indictments returned by grand jury in Second Judicial District of Perry County, now Forrest County, showing indictment number, name of defendant, offense charged, nature of indictment, names of witnesses, signatures of foreman of grand jury and of district attorney. This record is not open to public inspection. Arr. chron. by date of session. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. 410 pp. 18 x 12 x 2½.

For subsequent and additional records of indictments, see entries 88, 90.

90. SECRET RECORD OF INDICTMENTS, 1908--. 8 vols. (1-8).
Record of indictments returned by grand jury, showing indictment number, name of defendant, offense charged, nature of indictment, names of witnesses, signatures of foreman of grand jury and of district attorney. This record is not open to public inspection. Arr. chron. by date of session. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. 410 pp.

Clerk of the Circuit Court - Juvenile Records;
Naturalization; Protests; Fees

(91-96)

18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

For prior and additional records of indictments, see entries 88, 89.

Juvenile Records

91. JUVENILE DOCKET, 1920--. 1 vol. Not kept prior to 1920.
Record of juvenile cases tried in circuit court, showing name of petitioner, date petition filed, name of defendant, case number, date summons issued, to whom directed, dates returnable and returned, and disposition of each case. Arr. numer. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 16 x 8 x 1.

92. MINUTES JUVENILE COURT, 1920--. Not kept prior to 1920.
Record of proceedings in cases of juvenile delinquency tried in circuit court, showing date of trial, name of presiding judge, name of petitioner, name of defendant, disposition of each case, and court orders. Arr. chron. by date of trial. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 16 x 8 x 1.

Naturalization

93. MILITARY PETITIONS (Naturalization Records), 1918--. 4 vols. (1-4).
Petitions for naturalization made principally by United States soldiers of foreign birth stationed at Camp Shelby in Forrest County during the World War, giving name, residence, occupation, nativity, date of entry into United States, date of declaration of intention, whether married or single, children, if any, renunciation of allegiance to native country, and length of residence in the United States. Sworn to and subscribed before the clerk of the court with affidavit of witnesses swearing to the truth of the petition. Appended is the oath of allegiance to the United States and the court order admitting petitioner to citizenship. Arr. chron. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of petitioner. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

Protests

94. PROTEST RECORD, 1895-1900. 1 vol.
Record of protests on unpaid notes, checks, and drafts, showing copy of check, note, or draft, certification of non-payment, endorsements, oath of protesting officer, copy of protest, and amount of fees. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by maker of instrument. Hdw. on ptd. form. 292 pp. 14 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Fees

95. FEE BOOK-CRIMINAL, 1908--. 10 vols.
Record of fees in criminal cases tried in circuit court, showing case number, name of defendant, itemized list of fees of each county officer concerned with case, names of witnesses and amounts due each. Arr. numer. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

96. FEE BOOK-CIVIL, 1908--. 9 vols.
Record of fees and costs in civil cases tried in circuit court, showing case number, names of litigants, itemized list of fees of each county officer concerned with case, printer's fees, names of witnesses and amount due each. Arr. numer. by case no.

Clerk of the Circuit Court - Certificates;
Bonds; Marriage Records

(97-103)

1908-26 indexed alph. by name of plaintiff; for separate index 1927--., see entry 97. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 3.

97. GENERAL INDEX TO RECORD OF CIRCUIT COURT COST BILLS, 1927--. 1 vol. Index to record of fees and costs in civil cases tried in circuit court, entry 96, showing names of plaintiffs and defendants, and volume and page in record. Arr. alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. on ptd. form. 450 pp. 16 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

98. WITNESS FEES, CRIMINAL, CIRCUIT COURT AND COUNTY COURT, 1929--. 1 vol. Record of witness fees in cases tried in circuit and county courts, showing number, and style of case, name of witness, certificate number, attendance, mileage, and amount due. Numer. arr. by case no. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 480 pp. 18 x 15 x 3.

Certificates

99. JURORS CERTIFICATES, 1908--. 25 vols. Stubs of certificates issued jurors to obtain warrants in payment of services, showing name of juror, certificate number, case number, date, attendance, mileage, and amount due. Arr. numer. by certificate no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 175 pp. 18 x 15 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Bonds

100. APPEAL BONDS, 1930--. 1 file box. Original bonds filed as security for costs in cases appealed from county court, showing number and style of case, name of appellant, amount of bond, date, names of sureties. Filed chron. by date appealed. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18.

101. APPEARANCE BONDS, 1936--. 1 file box. Original bonds filed as security for appearance in cases to be tried in circuit court, showing style and case number, names of principal and sureties, amount of bond, date, offense charged, date of appearance, and signature of sheriff. Filed chron. by date made. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18. Sh.'s off.

102. RECORD OF BONDS FORFEITED, 1936--. 1 vol. Record of bonds forfeited, showing names of principals and sureties, style and case number, name of attorney for defendant, court of trial, date of making bond, date of issuing process. Arr. chron. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 18 x 12 x 1.

Marriage Records

103. NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1930--. 1 vol. Record of notices mailed by circuit clerk to parents, guardians, or next of kin of minors making application for marriage licenses, showing names of parents, guardians, or next of kin, names, addresses, race, and ages of applicants, date and signature of clerk. Arr. chron. by date mailed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 225 pp. 10 x 10 x 1.

Clerk of the Circuit Court - Licenses

(104-111)

104. MARRIAGE RECORD, 1908--. 20 vols. (1-20).

Record of marriage licenses issued, showing application and affidavits of applicants, consent of parents, guardians, or next of kin of minor applicants, names, addresses, ages, race of contracting parties, date license issued, signatures of applicants and of circuit clerk, transcript of returned certificate. Arr. chron. by date of application. For index, see entry 105. Hdw. on ptd. form. 450 pp. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

105. GENERAL INDEX TO RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1908--. 1 vol.

Index to Marriage Record, entry 104, showing names of applicants and volume and page in record. Arr. alph. by names of male applicants and by names of female applicants. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 4.

106. CERTIFICATES OF MARRIAGE LICENSES RETURNED, 1920--. 6 file boxes.

Original certificates of marriage returned to circuit clerk for filing as permanent record by person performing marriage ceremony, showing names of contracting parties, county in which ceremony performed, date, signature of person officiating. Filed chron. by date returned. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 18 x 2 x 20.

Licenses

107. TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT LICENSES-PHARMACISTS, 1908--. 1 vol.

Recorded copies of temporary and permanent licenses issued by state board of pharmacy to applicants passing examination, showing license number, date issued, name, age, an address of licensee, references, educational qualifications, expiration date, signature of examining board. Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. Indexed alph. by name of licensee. Hdw. on ptd. form. 240 pp. 16 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

108. OPTOMETRY RECORD, 1920--. 1 vol.

Recorded copies of licenses issued by state board of optometry to applicants passing examination, showing license number, date issued, name, age, and address of licensee, references, educational qualifications, expiration date, and signature of examining board, dates filed and recorded. Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. Indexed alph. by name of licensee. Hdw. on ptd. form. 168 pp. 16 x 8 x 1.

109. TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT LICENSES-PHYSICIANS, 1908--. 1 vol.

Recorded copies of temporary and permanent licenses issued by state board of health to applicants passing examination, showing license number, date issued, name, age, an address of licensee, references, educational qualifications, expiration date, date filed and recorded, signature of examining board. Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. Indexed alph. by name of licensee. Hdw. on ptd. form. 225 pp. 12 x 18 x 1.

110. TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT LICENSES-DENTISTS, 1910--. 1 vol.

Recorded copies of temporary and permanent licenses, issued by state board of dental examiners to applicants passing examination, showing license number, date issued, name, age, and address of licensee, references, educational qualifications, expiration date, dates filed and recorded, signature of examining board. Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. Indexed alph. by name of licensee. Hdw. on ptd. form. 230 pp. 12 x 14 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

111. EMBALMERS LICENSES, 1918--. 1 vol.

Recorded copies of licenses issued by state board of embalming to applicants passing examination, showing license number, date issued, name, age, and address of licensee, references, educational qualifications, expiration date, dates filed and recorded, signature of examining board. Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. Indexed alph. by name of licensee. Hdw. on ptd. form. 168 pp. 14 x 12 x 1.

County Court

(112)

112. VETERINARY SURGEONS LICENSES, 1914--. 1 vol.
Recorded copies of license issued by state board of veterinary examiners to applicants passing examination, showing license number, date issued, name, age, and address of licensee, references, educational qualifications, expiration date, signature of examining board, dates filed and recorded. Arr. chron. by date filed for recording. Indexed alph. by name of licensee. Hdw. on ptd. form. 136 pp. 12 x 14 x 1.

V. COUNTY COURT

County court was established in Forrest County in January 1927 following the enactment of a law in 1926 which made mandatory the organization of a county court in any county having: a permanent population of more than 35,000; or not having such population, an assessed valuation of real and personal property exceeding \$17,000,000; and in either event, having a municipality of 5,000 or more inhabitants. (L. M., 1926, chapt. 131.) At that time Forrest County not having the requirements of county population or of assessed valuation, became eligible for the court through the fact that Hattiesburg, the county seat, had a population of 13,270 (Fifteenth Census of the United States, Population, vol. III, part 1, table 12, p. 1281).

Forrest County is one of the 13 counties in Mississippi having a county court. The jurisdiction given the court is concurrent with that of the justice of the peace court in both civil and criminal matters and is concurrent with jurisdiction of the chancery and circuit courts in matters of law and equity in which the principal of the amount involved in the litigation does not exceed \$1,000. The court was also given exclusive jurisdiction in the following matters in which jurisdiction had been exercised by the justice of the peace courts: eminent domain, the partition of personal property, and in actions of unlawful entry and detainer (L. M., 1926, chapt. 133 Miss. Code, 1930, sec. 693).

The judge of the county court is elected every four years at the general election by the qualified electors of the county (ibid., sec. 697). Appeals from lower courts can be taken to the county court (ibid., sec. 705), and appeals from the county court can be made to the circuit court (ibid., sec. 704).

The county court is not a new institution in Mississippi county government. In reality its establishment in 1926 was a restoration, for the court was a significant feature of Territorial and early state development, and for five years of the unsettled, insecure, and tragic Reconstruction era it was an important influence in the efforts made to maintain order and stability.

On February 28, 1799, three county courts, each with separate and distinct jurisdiction, were established in each of the two counties then existing in the Mississippi Territory, Adams and Pickering (now Jefferson). These courts were called the court of general quarter sessions of the peace, the court of common pleas, and the court of probate. This three-court system was set up by Territorial Governor Winthrop Sargent and the Territorial Judges, sitting as a judicial legislature. Governor Sargent who had been secretary of the Northwest Territory, was appointed by President John Adams and given extensive powers including the appointment of all civil officers. With the assistance of the judges he framed, promulgated, interpreted and executed the laws written between February 28, 1799 and October 30, 1800 into Sargent's Code, if it may be called that name, Mississippi's first set of laws. (See List of Abbreviations Symbols, and Explanatory Notes, p. 19, supra.)

County Court

(Next entry 113, p. 54)

When the Mississippi Territory was organized April 8, 1798 (see Governmental Organization and Records System, supra.), the Ordinance for the government of the Northwest Territory passed May 10, 1787 (Journals of the Continental Congress, Washington, 1933, vol. XXXII, p. 281-284) was made its basic law with the exception of the clause prohibiting slavery. The Ordinance required the Territorial officials to frame laws adopted from those of the states already existing, but from the first the officials favored enacting original laws contending that no state had laws suited to the needs of the western frontier posts. There has been much controversy as to the sincerity of Governor Sargent, for the laws he and the judges wrote gave to themselves and to the officials he appointed, a multiplicity of fees, mainly ferry tolls, tavern licenses, and court fees.

The laws provided for the appointment of justices of the peace and of the quorum in every county and the records show that the same men often held the offices of justice of the peace, of the general quarter sessions of the peace, of the court of common pleas, and of the court of probate. The general quarter sessions met on the first Monday in May, August, November, and February, the court of common pleas on the following Wednesday (all or any three of the justices of each court constituting a quorum), and the court of probate on the succeeding Saturday. Appeal from these courts could be made to the supreme court of the Territory composed of the Territorial judges appointed by the President. Each and every justice of the inferior courts could hold hearings out of sessions and it was incumbent upon all of them to assist in quelling riots, routs, and unlawful assemblies. (Sargent's Code, 1799, pp. 6-13.)

The county courts were established to meet the exigencies of a period characterized by persistent litigation, offenses against property, non-payment of debts, and the committing of petty misdemeanors. The heterogeneous population of the Territory was concentrated in and around Natchez, a typical Mississippi River town which had grown up under the successive dominations of France, Great Britain, and Spain. That Governor Sargent and the judges acted from necessity in assuming comprehensive powers for themselves and for the courts may have been unavoidable under the existing circumstances, but an influential faction of the people denounced his laws to Congress as voracious and disgraceful. (Carter, op. cit., pp. 78-86.)

The court of general quarter sessions of the peace as organized in 1799, was given, in addition to its judicial functions, powers of county administration and of equity.

As a court ofoyer and terminer it was assigned cognizances in petit crimes and misdemeanors in which the punishment was fine only, not to exceed \$8 and costs (Sargent's Code, 1799, p. 7), and in all crimes and misdemeanors wherein the punishment did not extend to life, limb, imprisonment for more than one year or the forfeiture of goods and chattels or land and tenements to the Territorial government (ibid., p. 8). Larceny cases in which the value of the articles stolen was more than \$3 were triable before this court (ibid., p. 19). If the amount were under \$3, any justice of the peace had jurisdiction, but the trial could be held before the quarter sessions if the offender so requested it and could furnish acceptable bond (ibid., p. 20). The court could direct writs or precepts and issue forth subpoenas and other warrants into other counties summoning or bringing witnesses into court to give evidence, and it could fine for refusal or failure to serve on a jury or an inquest. By the law written October 20, 1800, the justices of the general quarter sessions were directed to summon freeholders to serve as jurors during sessions of the supreme court (ibid., p. 169). The court was also authorized to grant original attachments against the estates of fleeing debtors.

The law of April 12, 1799 made it mandatory when a prisoner or prisoners for debt escaped from an insecurely kept jail, that the court of common pleas pay the sum or sums for which the prisoner or prisoners stood committed and assess the amount against the county as taxes. In this connection the general quarter sessions was given power to appoint an agent or attorney to appear in behalf of, and defend the county in the event the court of common pleas did not pay the loss or losses and the complainant sued to recover (ibid., pp. 99-104).

As a county administrative body the court of general quarter sessions was empowered to divide the county into townships, and appoint annually in each township one or more constables and one or more overseers of the poor (ibid., pp. 81-83). It was assigned the important function of estimating the amount necessary to meet the average annual expenses of the county, and it was given complete jurisdiction over the building and maintenance of all public roads (ibid., p. 84). Duties in this capacity included appointing a proper number of highway supervisors or overseers in each township; appointing three disinterested men to view and examine the route of a proposed road; ordering a surveyor with two other men to measure the route; and constructing and maintaining bridges (ibid., pp. 105-109). The court was required to inquire into the state of prisoners in jails and see that the jails were clean and secure (ibid., p. 102). The county coroner could certify his inquisitions to this court (ibid., p. 41), and the sheriff and the jailer made regular reports to it.

The law of April 15, 1799 authorized the general quarter sessions to appoint men to adjust boundary disputes between individuals, and men to view and decide on the height and efficiency of fences (ibid., pp. 118-120). On May 25, 1799 an emergency measure in giving the governor power to establish ferries specified that the court fix the ferry rates from time to time (ibid., p. 131). The law of September 21, 1799, recognizing the increasing importance of cotton-growing in the Territory, delegated the court to recommend suitable persons to be appointed by the governor as inspectors of cotton, cotton gins, and cotton presses (ibid., pp. 153-155).

The governor issued all licenses to taverns, alehouses, dramshops, and public houses but it was necessary for applicants to obtain a recommendation from the court of general quarter sessions and pay the clerk of the court a fee of \$25 (ibid., pp. 34-39), before the governor would grant such licenses.

As equitable functions the quarter sessions could bind out minor children of the poor, males until they were 21 years of age, and females until they were 18, and the court could hear and determine all complaints of these minors bound out (ibid., pp. 146-147).

The court of common pleas, judicial and administrative rival of the quarter sessions of the peace, was the superior court of law with general original civil jurisdiction, the cognizance of high crimes being given to the supreme court.

As a court of judicature it was directed to "hold pleas of assize, scire facias, replevins, and hear and determine all manner of pleas, actions, suits, and causes of a civil nature, real, personal, and mixed" (ibid., p. 11). Its jurisdiction in actions for debts extended to cases in which the amount involved was more than \$20. Under the provisions of an act entitled "a law for the easy and speedy recovery of small debts" (ibid., pp. 121-128) any justice of the court of common pleas (or any justice of the peace) could summarily render judgment in cases not exceeding \$20, and imprison debtors if the judgment were not paid. When the amount was \$8 and less, there was no appeal. The court as a whole, and the judges individually, had power

County Court

(Next entry 113, p. 54)

to imprison for a debt and grant writs of attachment. It could fine not in excess of \$50, any person appointed to the office of constable who refused to accept the office or fulfill its duties (ibid., p. 156). The court was authorized to try cases of violation of the law relative to the inspection of cotton, cotton gins, and cotton presses (ibid., p. 154). On September 21, 1799, single justices were assigned the duty of hearing suits arising from the introduction of cattle infected with contagious distemper (ibid., p. 143).

In administrative matter, the court of common pleas was given power to appoint biennially, with the approbation of the governor, commissioners to apportion taxes. Likewise, it could appoint three or more commissioners, also with the approbation of the governor, to assess the taxes, using the budget estimate made by the quarter sessions as the basis of the assessment (ibid., pp. 84-92).

The court of common pleas was given the power to borrow money to erect court-houses and jails, pillories, stocks and whipping posts (ibid., pp. 96-98), to issue warrants to the county treasurer (ibid., pp. 108-109, 161-164), and through its prothonotary to certify the accounts of commissioners (ibid., p. 92). It was authorized to contract for the building and keeping in repair large bridges (ibid., p. 108).

The quarter sessions was charged with the responsibility of keeping the jail secure but the court of common pleas was directed to pay the sum or sums for which a prisoner or prisoners for debt stood committed if the prisoner or prisoners escaped, and assess the amount against the county as taxes (ibid., p. 99). It could fine escaped prisoners not more than \$100 or sentence them to not more than 40 lashes (ibid., pp. 100-101).

By the law of February 28, 1799, the judge of the court of probate was required to call to his assistance in certain matters, two justices of the court of common pleas (ibid., p. 24).

A judge of probate was appointed in each county, whose duty it was to take proof of last wills and testaments, grant letters testamentary and of administration and "to do and perform every matter and thing, that doth, or by law may, appertain to the probate office, excepting the rendering of definite sentence and final decrees". This judge held four sessions each year and such special sessions as he deemed expedient, but in all cases in which it was necessary that he render a definitive sentence or a final decree and upon a contested point it was mandatory that two justices of the court of common pleas sit with him as the court of probate in making decisions in these matters. (Ibid., p. 24.)

The law stipulated that the judge record last wills and testaments and make entries of granting letters testamentary and of administration, and that he receive, put on file, and carefully preserve all bonds, inventories, accounts, and other documents. He was given jurisdiction in the matter of minors, idiots, and of persons non compos mentis, and he could appoint guardians for them and their children. (Ibid. pp. 25-28.)

On December 10, 1807, the Territorial General Assembly established a single county court in each county to supersede the inferior court system set up by Governor Sargent (Toulmin's Digest, 1807, chapt. XXVIII). By the act the governor was empowered to appoint and commission five persons in every county as justice of the peace and of the quorum to hold county court. One of the justices was made chief justice of the orphans' court and all of the justices, or any three of them held county court and orphans' court at designated terms. To this court were delegated

County Court

(Next entry 113, p. 54)

many of the judicial, and all of the administrative and equitable functions vested in the three earlier courts.

As a court of law it was given cognizance in suits in which the principal of the amount involved did not exceed \$200 (ibid., part V, chapt. 1). In criminal procedure three of the justices, sitting with two justices of the peace, tried slaves charged with treason, felony, and other crimes and misdemeanors (Turner's Digest, 1816, p. 223), and in such cases, by a unanimous verdict, the court could inflict the sentence of death. Out of sessions, single justices of the county court exercised powers comparable to those of the justices of the peace (see Justice of the Peace, p. 57, infra.)

As a court of equity the county court and/or orphans' court, was allotted full authority to take the probate of wills and conveyances of real and other estates and record them. It could issue letters testamentary and of administration and administer the affairs of orphans (Turner's Digest, 1816, p. 131, art. 2, sec. XII, pp. 432-451, arts. 1-47). Until December 19, 1815 the county court heard the petitions of slaves claiming their freedom (ibid., p. 390, art. 33, sec. I). The orphans' court passed on the credentials of ordination of ministers and authorized them to solemnize marriage ceremonies (ibid., p. 328, art. I, sec. I), and through its register or clerk issued marriage licenses (ibid., p. 329, art. 4, sec. V).

In its administrative capacities the county court had full power and authority to establish and maintain roads, bridges and ferries, fix ferry rates (ibid., pp. 291-297, art. I-II), and mark and lay out prison bounds and rules of prisons (ibid., p. 133, art. 6, sec. XXIII). As counties were established their county courts had been directed by the organization acts to erect courthouses and jails and keep them in repair (ibid., pp. 85-124). Similarly, the courts had been empowered to levy taxes, but on December 17, 1812, an act of the general assembly made the county court the tax-levying body with power to direct appropriation of the money which came into the county treasury (ibid., pp. 411-412, art. 34, sec. 1; art. 36, sec. IV; art. 38, sec. VI). The court was authorized to clear and open navigable streams by the act of March 1, 1805 (ibid., pp. 292-307, arts. 1-38) and from March 4, 1803 until December 12, 1812, it was commissioned to erect a public pound at the respective courthouses and appoint a keeper (ibid., pp. 391-392, arts. 1-6). It licensed taverns and retailers of spirituous liquors, and fixed their rates and prices (ibid., p. 397, arts. 1-2, sec. I-II); it licensed grist mills, saw mills, and cotton gins and fixed their rates (ibid., pp. 344-347, arts. 1-12), and it licensed billiard tables, the fee being \$100 (ibid., p. 241, art. 109, sec. VI). By the act of December 24, 1812 the county court was directed to appoint inspectors to superintend elections for members of the house of representatives (ibid., p. 257, art. 6, sec. VII). It was assigned the duty of making reasonable allowance to clerks, sheriffs, and constables for their public services in either county court or superior (circuit) court, not to exceed \$50 yearly for sheriffs and clerks and \$1.00 a day to constables for necessary attendance in superior court (ibid., pp. 273-274, art. 12, sec. II).

The constitution adopted in 1817, the year Mississippi became a state, made no definite provision for the perpetuation of the county court other than specifying that the legislature could direct and establish such inferior courts as it considered necessary (Const., 1817, art. V, sec. 1).

By the act of February 5, 1818 (L. M., 1818, p. 58), a county court was established consisting of a chief justice and two associate justices elected by a joint vote of both houses of the general assembly and commissioned by the governor as justices of the peace and of the quorum to serve during good behavior and to hold court four times annually.

County Court

(Next entry 113, p. 54)

This court had jurisdiction in probate matters and in the administration of orphans' business, control of county police, cognizance in the trial of slaves and all powers of county administration given by the laws of Mississippi Territory at the time of the adoption of the constitution of 1817. The court was authorized by the act to lease the lands given to Mississippi by the United States (sixteenth section lands) and provide for the erection of one or more schools. Leases were to be for no longer than three years and the lands were to be protected against improper waste of soil and timber. On February 20, 1819 (L. M., 1819, p. 72), two associate justices were added to the court. Authority was given it to recommend justices of the peace, county surveyors, rangers, and constables to the governor for appointment, and it was delegated exclusive original and final jurisdiction in capital crimes committed by slaves.

The county court was relieved of its probate powers on November 28, 1821 when the general assembly created a court of probate headed by a single justice (L. M., 1821, p. 37). To this court were given the powers of the orphans' court and the registry of deeds. By the same act a board of county commissioners was created in each county, a commissioner from each captain's district, and to this body was delegated all the power of the county court with respect to roads, highways, ferries and bridges. However, the court appointed these commissioners and the chief justice of the court served as president of the board.

The county court still retained, in addition to its civil jurisdiction, its powers in taxation, licensing, elections, and in the erection or purchase of public buildings.

On June 28, 1822 by a law entitled "An act to reduce into one, the several acts and parts of acts concerning the establishment, jurisdiction and powers of the inferior courts of law" a county court, composed of a judge of probate as presiding justice and two associate justices, was created (L. M., 1822, p. 128). Original jurisdiction in suits ranging between \$20 and \$50 was given this court together with administrative functions, including erecting public buildings, making allowances for clerks' supplies and equipment, caring for the poor, and auditing and allowing all accounts. For the first time the justices were not justices of the peace, the law specifying that no justice of the county court could hold concurrently the office of county treasurer, surveyor, ranger or justice of the peace (ibid.).

The civil cognizance of the county court was terminated by the act of January 23, 1824 by which all causes and demands of more than \$20 were transferred to the circuit court (L. M., 1824, p. 106). Jurisdiction in the trial of slaves was retained by the county court as was the power to allow the county treasurer as salary, five percent of all monies paid in except those levied for the use of the poor.

The Constitution of 1832 abolished the county court by giving its administrative duties to a county board of police and dividing its judicial functions between a newly created court of probate, a superior court of chancery, a circuit court, and justices of the peace courts (Const., 1832, art. IV, secs. 1, 14-16, 18, 20, 23).

After a lapse of 33 years the county court was restored November 24, 1865 (L. M., 1865, p. 66) in the midst of the chaotic conditions that prevailed after the close of the War. The courts were held once a month in each county, and special courts with the same name and powers were established in the towns (called police districts in the act) of Jackson, Corinth, Grenada, Meridian, and Okolona.

The probate judge was made president of this court with two associates selected from their own number by the justices of the peace for the county. Civil jurisdiction given it embraced civil suits at law and equity, including ejectments, in which the principal of the amount in controversy did not exceed \$250, providing the debts were incurred after the passage of the act. No limit was placed on actions in replevin and the court was not given power to try cases of forcible entry and unlawful detainer. Criminal cognizance, concurrent with that of the circuit and chancery courts, extended to offenses less than felonies and the court was authorized to inflict the punishment of suspending convicted culprits by the thumbs not more than two hours in 24 over a period of not more than ten days. Jurisdiction in cases where the charge was obtaining goods, money or other property by false pretense was limited to \$100. The court was empowered to appoint a county prosecuting attorney who was given a fee of \$5 for each prosecution. It could render final decisions on cases appealed from justices' or mayors' courts. Suits and prosecutions originating in the county court could be appealed, under certain conditions, to the circuit court.

By the act of October 30, 1866 (L. M., 1866, p. 1), the probate judge was made the sole judge of the county courts including those in the towns. Cases of assault, assault and battery in which no deadly weapon was alleged to have been used, of petit larceny under \$10, and the trying of several other small offenses were given to the justices of the peace; the office of county attorney was made elective; and the terms of court were set at various intervals ranging from once a month to once in six months.

The constitution of 1869 conferred the jurisdiction of the county courts on the circuit courts, on the chancery courts, and on the justice of the peace courts (Const. 1869, art. VI, secs. 14, 16, 23), and in 1870 (L. M., 1870, chapt. XIII), the legislature abolished the county courts.

After 1900 as Mississippi began to regain some measure of the prosperity it had had before the War Between the States and as population centers began to increase in size and number, it became evident that the inferior court system was not entirely adequate or satisfactory. In the more populous counties, circuit court dockets became overcrowded with the usual result that cases were postponed interminably. This condition prevailed especially in Forrest County where an extensive lumbering industry developed (see Historical Sketch, p. 5; supra.)

The need for a court which could try the large volume of civil cases involving more than \$200 and less than \$1,000 became more acute from year to year. By 1926, agitation for the establishment of such a court became so insistent that the legislature made possible its creation in counties which could meet certain population and property value requirements. The court may also be abolished. On petition of not less than 20 percent of the qualified electors of a county, the board of supervisors is required to call a special election at which the voters may vote to abolish the court or to retain it. (L. M., 1934, chapt. 236; ibid., 1936, chapt. 247; General Acts of the Regular Legislative Session 1938, Advance Sheet 3, p. 5.)

The clerk of the circuit court is ex-officio clerk of the county court and is required to keep the dockets, minutes, and records of the county court, so far as is practicable, in the same manner as are those of the circuit court (Code, 1930, sec. 699; see also Clerk of the Circuit Court, pp. 39-41, supra.)

Case Records

113. CRIMINAL CASES, 1927--. 127 file boxes. (1-127).
Original indictments, affidavits, pleas, demurrers, motions, and other documents file

County Court - Affidavits;
Dockets and General Court Records

(114-119)

in criminal cases tried and triable in county court, showing case number, name of defendant, offense charged, name of defendant's attorney, date of trial and disposition of case. Arr. numer. by case no. No index. A numer. list of these cases is kept in Issue Docket, County Court, entry 117. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18. 36 file boxes, 1927-30 in off. of co. judge. 91 file boxes, 1931--.

114. CIVIL CASES, 1927--. 137 file boxes. (1-137).

Original declarations, answers, demurrers, motions and other documents filed in civil cases tried and triable in county court, showing case number, names of litigants, style of case, names of attorneys, date of trial and disposition of case. Arr. numer. by case no. No index. A numer. list of these cases is kept in Issue Docket, County Court, entry 117. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18. 36 file boxes, 1927-29 in off. of co. judge. 101 file boxes, 1930--.

115. SUPREME COURT RECORDS, 1931--. 1 file box.

Clerk's transcript of original declarations, indictments, affidavits, pleas, answers, demurrers, exceptions, motions, bills of particulars, and all other documents concerning criminal and civil cases appealed from county court to circuit court and from circuit court to supreme court, showing court of origin, case number, style of case or offense charged, names of defendant or litigants, names of attorneys, date of trial, disposition of case in court, date of dismissal of case in circuit court, date of appeal, date of appeal to supreme court, and decision of supreme court. Filed chron. by date appealed to supreme court. No index. Typed. 18 x 12 x 24.

For additional supreme court records, see entry 73.

Affidavits

116. COUNTY COURT AFFIDAVITS, 1929--. 1 file box.

Original affidavits of information filed in county court by county prosecuting attorney, showing case number, name of accused, offense charged, date filed, and oath of county prosecuting attorney. Filed alph. by name of accused. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18.

Dockets and General Court Records

117. ISSUE DOCKET, COUNTY COURT, 1927--. 1 vol.

Record of civil and criminal cases tried and triable in county court, showing case number, names of defendant or litigants, names of attorneys, offense charged or style of case, volume and page in Minutes of County Court, entry 122. Arr. numer. by case no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 478 pp. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

118. GENERAL EQUITY DOCKET, COUNTY COURT, 1927--. 1 vol.

Record of proceedings of cases in equity tried and triable in county court, showing style and case number, names of litigants and attorneys, court orders and decrees, and volume and page in Minutes of County Court, entry 122. Arr. numer. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. on ptd. form. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3.

119. SUBPOENA DOCKET, COUNTY COURT, 1927--. 1 vol.

Record of subpoenas issued in criminal and civil cases tried and triable in county court, showing style and case number, name of witness subpoenaed, for state or defendant or for plaintiff or defendant, dates issued and served, officers return.

County Court - Proceedings;
Judgments; Fees

(120-124)

Arr. chron. by date issued. Indexed alph. by name of witness. Hdw. on ptd. form.
478 pp. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

120. (APPEALED CASES), 1927--. In Court Issue Docket, entry 79.
Record of civil and criminal cases appealed to county court from justice of the peace courts and from city police court, kept for convenience of judge and showing case number, name of defendant or names of litigants, names of attorneys, offense charged or style of case, and volume and page in Minutes of County Court, entry 122, disposition of each case, and court orders.

For additional records of appealed cases, see entry 73.

121. FINAL RECORD, 1931--. 1 vol.

Copies of proceedings of suits tried in county court involving or affecting the title to real estate and in which judgment was rendered on the merits, showing date and term of court, name of presiding judge, name of litigants, copies of declarations, answers, motions, demurrers or exceptions, bills of particulars, exhibits, court orders, final decrees, and proof of publication. The clerk is required by law to enter such proceedings within three months after the final determination of the suits, or if appeal is taken, within three months after receiving confirmance of the judgment. Proceedings of suits not involving or affecting title to real estate are entered only on order of the court. Arr. chron. by term of court. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Typed. 596 pp. 18 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

For additional final records rendered in County Court, see entries 85, 86.

Proceedings

122. MINUTES OF COUNTY COURT, 1927--. 7 vols. (1-7).

Record of proceedings of the county court in both civil and criminal matters, giving date and term of court, name of presiding judge, names of jurors drawn for duty, number and style of cases heard and determined, charges and instructions of the court, disposition of each case, signatures of judge and of clerk. Arr. chron. by term of court. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Typed. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3.

Judgments

(See also entries 85, 121)

123. (ABSTRACTS OF JUDGMENT), 1927--. In abstracts of Judgment, entry 86.

Abstracts of judgments rendered in cases appealed from justice of the peace courts to county court, showing case number, names of plaintiff and defendant, date rendered in justice of the peace court, amount of judgment, certification of justice of the peace, date appealed, date upheld by county court, date enrolled in Judgment Roll.

Fees

124. FEE BOOK, CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COUNTY COURT, 1927--. 17 vols.

Record of fees and costs in civil and criminal cases tried in county court, showing case number, names of litigants or of defendants, itemized list of fees due each county officer concerned with case, list of costs in justice of the peace courts,

Justice of the Peace

(125)

list of printers' fees, recapitulation, names of witnesses for plaintiff and for defendant. For separate index, see entry 125. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 13 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

For additional record of witness fees in criminal cases tried in county court, see entry 98.

125. GENERAL INDEX TO RECORD OF COUNTY COURT COSTS BILLS, 1927--. 1 vol. Index to Fee Book, Civil and Criminal, County Court, entry 124, and to Witness Fees, Criminal, Circuit Court and County Court, entry 98, showing names of plaintiff and defendant and volume and page in recording. Arr. alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. on ptd. form. 450 pp. 16 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

VI. JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

The office of justice of the peace was established in Forrest County in 1908 under the provisions of the Constitution of 1890 and by the county organization act of 1906 (Const., 1890, sec. 171; L. M., 1906, pp. 174-79; see also Governmental Organization and Records System, p. 7, supra.) At that time the law required that two justices of the peace be elected every four years at the general elections, from each supervisor's district by the qualified electors of each district (Code, 1906, sec. 2721). Ten justices were chosen in the election of November 1907 and they were sworn into office on January 8, 1908 ("Minutes of the Board of Supervisors", vol. 1, p. 2; "Register of Commissions of State, County, and Municipal Officers", office of the secretary of state, Jackson, Miss., Forrest County section).

Justice of the peace courts were first created February 28, 1799. The law state that a competent number of justices should be nominated and appointed by the governor as justices of the peace and of the quorum, evidently to serve during good behavior, as no mention was made of a definite term of office. (Sargent's Code, 1799, p. 6.)

These justices were given power to take all manner of recognizances with or without surety, to keep the peace, for good behavior or for appearance at a superior judiciary. They were given authority to hear and determine according to the course of common law, petit crimes and misdemeanors in which the punishment was fine only not exceeding \$8 and they were assigned cognizance in pecuniary matters in which the principal of the amount involved was not more than \$8 (ibid., pp. 6-13).

Justices of the peace were delegated to sit in the court of the general quarter sessions of the peace (see County Court, p. 49, supra.) They were given jurisdiction in the legal regulation of slaves except in capital offenses, the punishment they could inflict consisting of not more than 39 lashes and/or fines imposed on the masters of convicted slaves (ibid., pp. 53-58). They heard and determined complaints of forcible entry and detainer and of forcible and unlawful detainer (ibid., p. 87).

Under the first laws each justice was directed to "cause fair entries to be made in book, by them to be provided, for that purpose; of the names of the defendants, in all such cases as may come before them; with the debt and costs adjudged, and the time when the same judgment was given" (ibid., p. 125).

By the act of February 10, 1805 trial by jury was made mandatory in cases of forcible entry and detainer and in cases of forcible and unlawful detainer (Toulmin's Digest, 1807, p. 263).

The law of February 10, 1807, which consolidated the three county courts established by Governor Sargent (see County Court, p. 51, supra.), specified that the county court should be composed of "five persons in every county...who shall be justices of the peace and of the quorum" (Toulmin's Digest, 1807, p. 90), thus continuing the requirement that justices of the county court should be justices of the peace primarily. By the same act the civil cognizance of the justice court was extended to include debts under \$20 originating by contract (ibid., p. 88); justices were authorized to act as coroners when there was no coroner in the county (ibid., p. 223); and the granting of original writs of attachment against estates of fleeing debtors, returnable to county court was affirmed (ibid., p. 88), as was appeal to the next county court with the stipulation that the justice of the peace who tried the appealed case could not sit in the county court hearing the case (ibid., p. 89).

On December 27, 1814 a law enacted by the General Assembly gave justices of the peace jurisdiction in pecuniary demands up to \$50 based on contract (Turner's Digest, 1816, p. 216); authorized them to issue search warrants (ibid., p. 225); to take voluntary information (ibid., p. 324); to fine for contempt not to exceed \$6, and imprisonment for contempt not more than six hours (ibid., p. 324). They were empowered likewise to act as notaries public when the notary was absent or incapable of acting (ibid., p. 325). By the same act, justices of the peace were directed to "cause fair entries to be made in books to be by them provided for that purpose" of the proceedings of cases heard before them. They were required to make bond in the penal sum of \$500 (ibid., p. 321).

The first constitution of Mississippi provided for the appointment of a competent number of justices of the peace in each county, and allotted them jurisdiction in all civil causes in which the amount did not exceed \$50 (Const., 1817, art. V, sec. 8).

A movement to reorganize the judicial system of the state culminated in acts in 1822 which established not less than one nor more than two justices of the peace in each captain's (militia) district, to be appointed for three years by the governor on the recommendation of the county court (Poindexter's Code, 1823, chapt. 8, pp. 19-27). Justices were prohibited from acting as attorneys in the county for which they were appointed, but in 1827 this clause was repealed with the provision that no attorney could appear in any case which he had decided as justice of the peace (L. M., 1827, p. 116). In 1822 it was made unlawful for freeholders or householders to be sued in any civil case in any justice court out of the limits of the captain's district in which they lived or in which the debt or demand originated (L. M., 1822, p. 109). By the act of January 30, 1830 justices of the peace were required to make bond, of not less than \$500 or more than \$5000 to be approved by the judge of probate (L. M., 1830, p. 215).

The legal authority of the county court was gradually diminished (see County Court, p. 53, supra.), and in 1830 judgments obtained and executions issued in justice of the peace courts were given equal dignity with those of the circuit court except in matters involving land (L. M., 1830, p. 122) and appeals from justice courts were made triable before other justices of the peace or a single justice of the peace with a jury of five, the justice trying the case originally not to participate in the appeal hearings (ibid., p. 119).

In 1833, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of 1832, laws were enacted making the office of the justice of peace elective, shortening its term to two years, and giving it jurisdiction in civil causes up to \$50 (Const., 1832, art. V,

Justice of the Peace

(Next entry 126, p. 61)

sec. 8; L. M., 1833, p. 57). By the same laws not less than one nor more than two justices were to be elected from each county district, the districts being the same as those laid off for the election of the members of the newly-organized board of police (ibid., p. 59; see also Board of Supervisors, p. 23, supra.)

By the act of February 26, 1836 justices of the peace were made ex-officio notaries public and were required to keep a separate and distinct register of their acts in a notarial capacity (L. M., 1836, p. 99).

In 1857 the number of justices for each district was increased to two (Code, 1857, chapt. LVIII, arts. 1, 2).

After the outbreak of the War Between the States, an act was passed on August 5, 1861 suspending actions for the collection of debts in Mississippi (L. M., 1861, pp. 74-75), with the result that all courts were virtually closed. In 1862 the running of the statutes of limitation was also suspended for the duration of the war (L. M., 1862, pp. 235-36). These acts removed the motive for suing, and litigation was practically eliminated. The disorganization of the period brought about the passage of an act on January 9, 1863 making provision for the speedy recovery of personal property wrongfully taken or detained, by a summary replevin before two justices of the peace (L. M., 1863, p. 129).

After the close of the war, justices of the peace were delegated to sit in the county court that was reestablished on November 24, 1865. The court was composed of the probate judge as president and two associates which the justices of the peace for the county chose from among their own number. Appeals from the judgments of justices were to be taken to this court instead of to the circuit court, but no justice of the peace could sit on the court and hear a case he had decided originally. (L. M., 1865, p. 66.)

In 1866 an amendment to this act conferred certain concurrent jurisdiction on the justices of the peace. Cases of assault, assault and battery in which no deadly weapon was alleged to have been used, petit larceny under \$10, and the unlawful carrying of arms were among the small offenses made cognizable by the justices. Appeal could be taken to the next county court. (L. M., 1866, p. 1.)

The Constitution of 1869 did not provide for a county court but it increased the civil jurisdiction of the justices of the peace to \$150 value of principal (Const 1869, art. 6, sec. 23). The Code of 1880 reaffirmed this provision and gave the justice of peace courts criminal jurisdiction concurrent with the circuit court wherein punishment did not exceed fine or imprisonment (Code, 1880, chapt. 61, sec. 2216). This code also allotted the justices jurisdiction in the partition of personal property not to exceed \$150 in value (ibid., chapt. 71, secs. 2580-84).

The Constitution of 1890 extended the jurisdiction of the justices of the peace to causes in which the principal amount in controversy did not exceed \$200, increased the term of office to four years, and gave them criminal jurisdiction concurrent with the circuit court in crimes in which punishment did not exceed fine and imprisonment (Const., 1890, sec. 171). In 1892 special courts of eminent domain were established with the provision that a justice of peace selected by the circuit clerk preside over hearings before a jury (Code, 1892, sec. 1680). The Code also stipulated that mayors of cities having a population of less than 4,000 inhabitants should be ex-officio justices of the peace and have the same powers as the justices (ibid., sec. 300).

Justice of the Peace

(Next entry 126, p. 61)

Justices of the peace lost their jurisdiction in the partition of personal property, actions of unlawful entry and detainer, and in eminent domain hearings in Forrest County and in other counties in which county courts were established after 1926 (L. M., 1926, chapt. 131; see also County Court, p. 48, supra.) Appeals from courts of justices of the peace are made to the county court in counties where that court functions, with the right of further appeal to the circuit court, but in counties where there is no county court appeals are made to the circuit court (ibid.). Justices of the peace act as coroners in counties which have no regularly elected coroner (Code, 1936, sec. 649).

The Legislature in 1926 directed that there be only one justice of the peace for each district in a county, except in districts or beats subdivided by the board of supervisors, in which event, there could not be more than three justices (L. M., 1926, chapt. 209). This law was amended in 1932 to specify that only one justice could be elected from each district in a county, but it provided that the board at its discretion could call an election for an additional justice in any district (L. M., 1932, p. 473).

At present there are four justices of the peace in Forrest County, one each in beats one, two, three and four. There is no justice of peace in beat five. Since Hattiesburg is situated in both beats one and three there are two justices of the peace courts in the city. (Wood, comp. and ed., op. cit., p. 75.)

Any qualified elector who has lived in a district or beat at least two years is eligible to the office of justice of the peace, and any one elected to the office must make bond in the penalty of \$2,000. (Code, 1930, secs. 2069-70.)

The court of a justice of the peace has jurisdiction to try ordinary civil actions involving a principal sum of not more than \$200, and criminal cases less than felony (ibid., secs. 2071, 2097). A justice of the peace may also act as a committing magistrate (ibid., sec. 2101), perform marriage ceremonies (ibid., sec. 2365), take acknowledgments (ibid., sec. 2136), and perform certain other functions of a judicial or administrative nature. A justice is required to hold one or two terms of court in his district each month (ibid., sec. 2076).

Continual legislation since 1799 has required justices of the peace to keep both civil and criminal dockets and record in them all the proceedings of their courts (Sargent's Code, 1799, p. 125; Toulmin's Digest, 1807, p. 56; Turner's Digest, 1816, p. 326; Poindexter's Code, 1823, p. 17; Hutchinson's Code, 1848, chapt. 50, art. 2, sec. 12; Code, 1857, chapt. 58; art. 14; Code, 1871, sec. 1308; Code, 1880, sec. 2193; Code, 1892, sec. 2397; Code, 1906, sec. 2726; Code, 1917, sec. 2225; and Code, 1930, sec. 2074).

It has been the duty of justices of the peace since 1822 to receive and account for all fines and penalties imposed by them and report at regular intervals to the clerk of the county governing body all such fines and penalties (Hutchinson's Code, 1848, chapt. 50, art. 2, sec. 27; Code, 1857, chapt. 58, art. 33; Code, 1871, sec. 1342; Code, 1880, sec. 2230; Code, 1892, sec. 2430; Code, 1906, sec. 2759; Code, 1917, sec. 2258; Code, 1930, sec. 2107). At the time Forrest County was organized these reports were required to be made semi-annually, the first of October and the first of April (Code, 1906, sec. 2759). A law enacted in 1932 directed the justices to make monthly reports to the clerk of the board of supervisors, of fines and penalties which they imposed and collected (L. M., 1932, p. 497).

Justice of the Peace - Case Records;
Dockets

(126-129)

Justices of the peace are compensated by fees ranging from five cents for swearing each witness to \$2 for celebrating marriage. In counties where there is no county court justices receives \$4 per day for presiding at eminent domain hearings. Each justice may receive not more than \$60 annually from the public treasury in cases in which the state loses. (Code, 1930, sec. 1792.)

For an interesting discussion of the justice of peace courts in Forrest County, see P. S. Sikes, "Judicial Procedure in Mississippi" in Mississippi Law Journal, University, Miss., 1928-36, 7 vols., vol. VI, pp. 109-132.

Case Records

126. CRIMINAL CASES, BEAT 1, (J. D. Caperton), 1936--. 1 file box. Original indictments, affidavits, pleas, demurrers, motions, and other papers filed in criminal cases tried and triable in justice of the peace court, showing name of defendant, offense charged, names of state's witnesses, names of defendant's witnesses, name of defendant's attorney, list of costs and fees, and disposition of each case. Arr. chron. by date filed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18. Off. of J. P., 617 Main St., Hattiesburg.

127. CIVIL CASES, BEAT 1, (J. D. Caperton), 1936--. 1 file box. Original declaration, answers, demurrers, motions, and other papers filed in civil cases tried and triable in justice of the peace court, showing names of litigants, names of attorneys, list of costs and fees, and judgment rendered. Arr. chron. by date filed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18. Off. of J. P., 617 Main St., Hattiesburg.

128. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES (Dead), BEAT 1, (J. D. Caperton), 1924-36. 7 file boxes. Original indictments, affidavits, pleas, demurrers, motions, and other papers filed in criminal cases tried in justice of the peace court, showing name of defendant, offense charged, names of state's witnesses, names of defendant's witnesses, name of defendant's attorney, list of costs and fees, and disposition of each case; also original declaration, answers, motions, and other papers filed in civil cases, showing names of litigants, names of attorneys, lists of costs and fees, and judgments rendered. Arr. chron. by date filed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18. Off. of J. P., 617 Main St., Hattiesburg.

Dockets

129. JUSTICE DOCKET, BEAT 1, (J. D. Caperton), 1910--. 26 vols. Missing: 1908-9.

Record of civil and criminal cases tried and triable in justice of the peace court, showing case number, names of litigants and of defendant, style of case or offense charged, nature of process, dates issued and returnable, to whom directed, date of return, names of witnesses for state, for plaintiff, and for defendant, names of jurors drawn, list of costs and fees, judgments rendered, sentences imposed and dates rendered and imposed. Arr. numer. by case no. No index, 3 vols., 1910-22. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff and of defendant, 23 vols., 1927--. Hdw. on ptd. form. 600 pp. 18 x 4 x 3. 1 vol., 1910-14, ch. clerk's va.; 2 vols., 1915-22, cir. clerk's off.; 23 vols., 1923--., off. of J. P., 617 Main St., Hattiesburg.

County Prosecuting Attorney

(130-134)

130. JUSTICE DOCKET, BEAT 2 (J. T. Leggett), 1925--. 2 vols. Missing: 1908-25.

For description of contents, arrangement, type of recording, number of pages, and dimensions of volumes, see entry 129. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Ch. clerk's va.

131. JUSTICE DOCKET, BEAT 3 (J. A. Myer, Sr.), 1908--. 21 vols.

For description of contents, arrangement, indexing, type of recording, number of pages, and dimensions of volumes, see entry 129. Off. of J. P., Western Union Bldg., Hattiesburg.

132. JUSTICE DOCKET, BEAT 4 (P. D. Mapp), 1908--. 2 vols.

For description of contents, arrangement, indexing, type of recording, number of pages, dimensions of volumes, see entry 129. 1 vol., 1908-32, ch. clerk's off.; 1 vol., 1933--, home of J. P., Brooklyn.

133. JUSTICE DOCKET-CRIMINAL, BEAT 5 (No incumbent since 1936), 1927-36. 1 vol. Missing: 1908-26.

For description of contents, arrangement, type of recording, number of pages, and size of volume, see entry 129. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Ch. clerk's off.

Reports

134. REPORTS OF FINES AND PENALTIES, BEAT 1, (J. D. Caperton), 1932--. 1 file box.

Carbon copies of reports made by justice of the peace to clerk of the board of supervisors, showing date fine or penalty imposed, name of defendant, amount of fine, amount collected, total, remarks, and signature of justice of the peace. Filed chron. by date made. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 18 x 1½ x 24. Off. of J. P., 617 Main St., Hattiesburg.

VII. COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

The office of county prosecuting attorney as it is maintained in Forrest County was first established and made compulsory in all counties by a law enacted in 1910 (L. M., 1910, chapt. 112). Many counties, apparently not needing the office, objected to the law and opposed it, with the result that in 1916 the law was amended to make it possible for any county to establish or abolish the office of county prosecuting attorney at any time by a special election. The board of supervisors was also given power to establish the office in any county unless 20 percent of the qualified voters of the county objected. (L. M., 1916, chapt. 238.)

A county prosecuting attorney became a part of the local government of Forrest County in 1908, two years before the law was enacted making the office compulsory. At the time the county was organized (see Governmental Organization and Records System, p. 7, supra.) a county attorney was elected in November 1907 and he took office in January 1908 ("Minutes of the Board of Supervisors", vol. 1, p. 1, see entry 2). There has been no agitation in Forrest County to abolish the office and it has functioned continuously since 1908.

This official, elected for a four-year term at the general elections for state and county officers, to be eligible for the office must be a regular licensed and

County Prosecuting Attorney

(Next entry 135, p. 66)

practicing lawyer (Code, 1930, sec. 4224). He acts as prosecutor for the state in the justice of the peace courts and in the county court of Forrest County. He assist the district attorney in the prosecution of state or criminal cases appealed from the county court to the circuit court. It is also his duty to assist in all civil cases in which the services of the district attorney are required, if the state, Forrest County, or any municipality in the county is interested. He represents the state before the Forrest County grand jury and, subject to the ratification of the district attorney, passes on accounts against the county before they are allowed by the circuit court of Forrest County. (Ibid., secs. 4225-4226.)

The county attorney may be attorney for the board of supervisors (ibid., sec. 4228) but in Forrest County the board has always appointed other lawyers to the position.

Other duties of the county attorney include representing the state plant board when requested to do so (ibid., sec. 6792) and serving as ex-officio member of the Forrest County pension board of inquiry (ibid., sec. 6502; see also Pension Board of Inquiry, p. 98, infra.)

A county attorney, that is an agent or attorney to appear on behalf of a county, was first mentioned by a law written April 12, 1799 by Governor Winthrop Sargent and the Territorial judges. The law authorized the court of general quarter sessions of the peace to appoint an agent or attorney to defend the county in suits instituted to recover from the county the sum or sums lost when persons imprisoned for debt escaped "through the insufficiency of the Gaol". (Sargent's Code, 1799, pp. 99-100.)

In 1819, two years after the establishment of Mississippi as a state, a law was passed by the General Assembly giving the county court power to appoint counsel for the state in the prosecution of slaves in capital offenses (L. M., 1819, pp. 72-76). After the county court was abolished in 1832 (see County Court, p. 53, supra.) district attorneys handled all such prosecutions.

In 1865, following the close of the War Between the States, the county courts were reestablished. As the entire judicial system of the state was disrupted and was practically non-existent, to facilitate its work, the newly organized county court was given power to appoint a county prosecuting attorney who was allowed a fee of \$5 for prosecution. (L. M., 1865, p. 66.) This act was amended in 1866 and the board of police of each county was directed to elect a county prosecuting attorney to hold office for two years (L. M., 1866, p. 2).

The office was not provided for by the Code of 1871, nor was it mentioned in the Codes of 1880, 1892, or 1906 and it was not until 1910 that it was again made an office in all counties (L. M., 1910, chapt. 112).

The county prosecuting attorney of Forrest County has an office in the courthouse (see Housing, Care, and Accessibility of Records, p. 16, supra.) He receives a salary of \$300 per month ("Minutes of the Board of Supervisors", vol. 15, p. 555, see entry 2). He is not required to keep any permanent, public records. Affidavits and other legal papers emanating from his office may be found in the criminal case records of the county court and of the justice of the peace courts.

Sheriff

(Next entry 135, p. 66)

VIII. SHERIFF

The office of sheriff was established in Forrest County in 1908 under the provisions of the Constitution of 1890 and by the organization act of 1906 (Const., 1890, sec. 135; L. M., 1906, pp. 174-79; see also Governmental Organization and Records System, p. 7, supra.) The sheriff is chosen by the qualified electors of the county every four years at the general elections; he must be a qualified elector; and he cannot succeed himself in office (Code, 1906, secs. 4660-61; Code, 1930, secs. 3306-7). The sheriff of Forrest County must make bond in the penalty of \$10,000 (ibid., sec. 3308).

A large number of duties have been given to the sheriff, many of them unrelated. He is primarily the keeper of the peace in Forrest County (Code, 1930, sec. 3329), but he is also collector of real and personal taxes. (see Tax Collector, p. 74, infra.) If he cannot qualify for the office of tax collector he must vacate the office of sheriff (ibid., sec. 3341).

He is executive officer of the Forrest County chancery, circuit, and county courts (ibid., secs. 699, 493, 3315) and as such must attend all court sessions in person or by deputy and execute all court processes and orders. He is also executive officer of the board of supervisors and he is required to attend personally or by deputy all its meetings, and execute all processes and orders of the board (ibid., sec. 208). He can adjourn a meeting of the board if it is not attended by a quorum of its members (ibid., sec. 205). Likewise, the sheriff is executive officer for the board of election commissioners (ibid., secs. 6199, 6203; see Registrar, p. 82, infra.) It is his duty to provide voting compartments and furniture at general elections (ibid., sec. 6223). He is also executive officer for the state comptroller of banks (ibid., sec. 3771), and for the state plant board (ibid., sec. 6972).

By law the sheriff is given charge of the Forrest County courthouse and jail (ibid., sec. 3331); he is jailer and must see to the feeding of the prisoners in the jail (ibid., sec. 3334); and he can provide medical care for prisoners (ibid., sec. 3337).

Among the many miscellaneous duties and functions which have been conferred on the sheriff are: assisting in the cattle tick eradication program and in the enforcement of the regulations of the state livestock board (ibid., sec. 5437); giving aid to the state forester, the state fire warden, and agents of the United States Government in the prevention of forest fires (ibid., sec. 6172); investigating fires of incendiary origin outside of incorporated cities and towns (ibid., sec. 5189); and enforcing game and fish laws and ordinances (ibid., sec. 4745).

In matters of public health and welfare he is required to enforce the provisions of the dangerous acids, alkalis, and poison law known as the Caustic Poison Act of 1930 and he is authorized and empowered to approve and register labels intended for use (L. M., 1930, chapt. 26; Code, 1930, sec. 4896). The sheriff must enforce in general the Child Labor Law, make monthly inspections of mills, canneries, workshops, factories, and manufacturing establishments employing child labor, and enforce particularly such recommendations as are made by the health officer (ibid., secs. 4648-49). He must convey feeble minded person to a state institution (ibid., sec. 4577) and he must remove incurable but harmless, and restored patients from the state hospital (ibid., sec. 4586).

Sheriff

(Next entry 135, p. 66)

On the order of the board of supervisors he must determine if lands claimed to be unproductive may be devoted to agricultural and forestry purposes (ibid., sec. 6156).

The office of sheriff is one of the oldest in Mississippi county government. One of the first acts of Territorial Governor Winthrop Sargent was to appoint and commission, and give extensive powers to a sheriff in each of the two newly-organized counties in the Mississippi Territory, a necessary step, as these counties lay in the center of the great south-west migration movement and much of the population was disorderly, turbulent, and lawless. The sheriff was directed to "quell and suppress all affrays, routs, riots, and insurrections....pursue, apprehend, and commit to gaol, all felons, and traitors....execute all warrants, writs, and other process, which by law shall appertain to the duties of his office, and which shall be directed to him by legal authority....attend upon all courts of record, at their respective terms or sessions in his county". (Sargent's Code, 1799, p. 40.)

A law written April 3, 1799 made the sheriff the collector of taxes and under a distress warrant, gave him power of imprisonment and distraint (ibid., p. 87). He discharged this function until 1807 when the separate office of tax collector was established (Toulmin's Digest, 1807, chapt. V, sec. 1; see Tax Collector, p. 74, infra).

In 1807 the sheriff was given the additional duty of advertising elections and acting as their returning officer (ibid., chapt. XIX, sec. 1).

The office was appointive until 1817, the year Mississippi became a state. The constitution drafted at that time provided that a sheriff should be elected in each county for a term of two years (Const., 1817, art. IV, sec. 24).

The Constitution of 1832 made no changes in the duties, or term of office but in 1843 the sheriff was again created the tax collector (L. M., 1843, chapt. 1, sec. 7), a function he has retained to the present time.

The Constitution of 1869 did not alter the status of the office. In 1871 a board of registrars was given the sheriff's duties of advertising elections and acting as their returning officer (Code, 1871, secs. 363, 378). The Constitution of 1890 lengthened the term of office to four years and prohibited the sheriff from immediately succeeding himself (Const., 1890, sec. 135).

The sheriff of Forrest County is compensated by fees, commissions, and allowances (ibid., secs. 1789, 1804, 6507). The law required that he file an annual report with the secretary of state of all receipts and disbursements of his office (ibid., sec. 3342). According to figures released by the office of the secretary of state, of the 22 sheriffs reporting, the net incomes in 1937 ranged from \$397 to \$12,936.

With respect to the public records to be kept by the sheriff, the law of 1831 directed him to "note down each execution received...in a book to be kept....for that purpose, the amount of judgment, interest, and cost, specifying the same in separate items; also all levies and other proceedings" (Hutchinson's Code, 1848, p. 449). By the provisions of the Code of 1930 the sheriff of Forrest County must keep an execution docket containing the same information as was specified in 1831 (Code, 1930, sec. 3327). In 1892 he was given the duty of providing a mesne process docket in which was to be noted each writ other than executions received by the sheriff for service, specifying the names of the parties, the court from which issued, the date of its reception, how executed, and when and how returned (Code, 1892, sec.

Sheriff - Dockets; Writs
and Executions

(135-139)

4127; Code, 1930, sec. 3326). Beginning in 1892 also, the sheriff has been obligated to keep a jail docket in which he gives a complete case history of each person placed in the jail (ibid., sec. 4129; ibid., sec. 3328). Each month he must submit the jail docket to the board of supervisors (ibid., sec. 4071), and he must submit to the county auditor a monthly account of jail expenses (ibid., sec. 3335). At the expiration of his term of office he is required to deliver to his successor a list of the names of all persons confined in the jail and file a copy of the list with the circuit clerk (ibid., sec. 3323).

He is custodian of the books other than record books, belonging to Forrest County and as such is librarian of the judicial, administrative, and general material in the county library (ibid., secs. 3331, 6942, 6946). On the order of the board of supervisors he must deliver to a public library any publications donated by the board (ibid., sec. 290j).

Unless otherwise designated, the records of the sheriff of Forrest County are kept in his office.

Dockets

135. MESNE PROCESS DOCKET, 1908--. 11 vols. (1-11).

Record of writs other than executions received by sheriff from circuit and chancery courts for service, showing court of issue, names of litigants, style of writ, date received, dates returnable and returned, how executed, remarks, and amount of fees. Arr. chron. by date received. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 320 pp. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

136. MESNE PROCESS DOCKET (County Court), 1927--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of writs other than executions received by sheriff from county court for service, showing court of issue, names of litigants, style of writ, date received, dates returnable and returned, how executed, remarks, and amount of fees. Arr. chron. by date received. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 320 pp. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

137. SHERIFFS EXECUTION DOCKET, 1908--. 2 vols. (1, 2).

Record of executions of judgments received by sheriff, showing case number, names of litigants, names of attorneys, court of issue, nature of process, date received, date judgment rendered, amount of judgment, amount of interest and fees, total amount of execution, dates returnable and returned, how executed and remarks. Arr. chron. by date received. Indexed alph. by name of judgment debtor. Hdw. on ptd. form. 220 pp. 18 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Writs and Executions

138. COURT PAPERS, 1935--. 1 file box.

Original writs, orders, precepts, and mittimus issued from circuit, chancery, county, and justice of the peace courts to the sheriff for service, showing date, nature of process, court and county of issue, date issued, to whom directed, names of persons affected by process, dates received, returnable, and returned. Filed chron. by date received. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18.

139. SUMMONS AND SUBPOENAS, 1936--. 1 file box.

Original summonses and subpoenas issued by circuit, chancery, county, and justice of the peace court and directed to sheriff for service, showing dates issued and received.

Constable

(140-144)

names of persons to be summoned or subpoenaed, county and court of issue, dates returnable and returned. Filed chron. by date received. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 18.

For additional records of subpoenas, see entries 81, 82.

Prisoners

(See also entries 138, 143)

140. JAIL DOCKET, 1929--. 1 vol.

Record of persons committed to jail, showing name of prisoner, offense, date received date of arrest, nature of writ or warrant, date and reason of release or of commitment to penitentiary. Arr. chron. by date of commitment. Indexed alph. by name of prisoner. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 20 x 13 x 2.

141. RECORD OF PRISONERS, 1908--. 2 vols. (1, 2).

Record of prisoners received into jail, showing name of prisoner, offense charged, date received, name of officer making arrest, date released, reason for release. Arr. chr by date prisoner jailed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 225 pp. 18 x 15 x 1½. 1 vol 1908-23, ch. clerk's va.; 1 vol., 1924--., jail.

142. DETENTION WARRANTS, 1933--. 12 vols.

Carbon copies of detention warrants issued by sheriff to persons given custody of prisoners, showing name of prisoner, name of sheriff, date committed, date given over to custody, offense charged, court of conviction, sentence imposed, list of fines, fees and costs, date received. Arr. chron. by date received. No index. Hdw. on ptd form. 100 pp. 8 x 12 x ½.

Fees

(See also entries 135-137, 142)

143. FINES, COSTS, AND IMPRISONMENTS, 1914-19. 1 vol.

Daily record of fees and costs collected by sheriff, showing name of defendant, or prisoner, case number, style of case, date and term of court, amounts of fines and costs, sheriff's fees, circuit clerk's fees, justice of the peace fees, stenographers fees, jury and state witness fees, total, how and by whom paid, and remarks. Arr. numer. by case no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 12 x 12 x 2.

For additional records, see entry 140.

144. SHERIFFS LEDGER, 1920-21. 1 vol.

Record of fines and costs and of fees due sheriff for court attendance and for executing process, showing case number, names of litigants or of defendant, style of case, date process received, dates returnable and returned, itemization of fines, fees and costs, amount due sheriff, balance, and remarks. Arr. chron. by date process received. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 850 pp. 12 x 16 x 4. Ch. clerk's va.

IX. CONSTABLE

The office of constable was established in Forrest County under the provision of the Constitution of 1890 and by the act which organized the county in 1906 (Const. 1890, sec. 171; L. M., 1906, pp. 174-79). Although the act specified that two constables were to be chosen for each supervisor's beat, only three were elected in the

Constable

(Next entry 145, p. 69)

general elections for state and county officers held in November 1907, one each for beats one, two, and three ("Minutes of the Board of Supervisors", vol. 1, p. 1, see entry 2; "Register of State, County, and Municipal Officers", office of the secretary of state, Jackson, Miss., Forrest County section). Constables were elected for beats four and five at a special election held on November 3, 1908 (ibid.) A law enacted in 1900 stipulated that only one constable should be elected from each beat, but it gave the board of supervisors power to cause an additional constable or constables to be elected in each district not to exceed the number of justices of the peace in each district (L. M., 1900, chapt. 71). It was by authority of this law that the organization act was disregarded insofar as the designation of constables was concerned.

A constable must enter into a bond of \$1,000 (Code, 1930, sec. 631) and he is directed to attend the justice of the peace courts of his district (ibid., sec. 636). The duties of the constable are: "to keep and preserve the peace within his county, faithfully to aid and assist in executing the criminal laws of the state; and give information without delay, to some justice of the peace, or other proper officer, of all riots, routs, and unlawful assemblies, and of every violation of the penal laws which may come to his knowledge in any manner whatsoever; to execute and return all processes, civil and criminal, lawfully directed to him, according to the command thereof; and to pay over all moneys collected by him to the person lawfully authorized to receive the same (ibid., sec. 632). A constable is liable for failure to pay money on execution and for making false return (ibid., sec. 634) and he is liable for contempt for failure to discharge any of the duties required of him (ibid., sec. 637).

The office of constable was first established by the law of April 18, 1799 which authorized the court of general quarter sessions of the peace to appoint one or more constables in each township (Sargent's Code, 1799, pp. 81-82). These officers were attached primarily to the justice of the peace courts and their duties included executing and returning all processes directed to them, paying over all monies collected levying executions, selling property seized by execution, caring for of livestock taken in executions, and acting as general peace officers (ibid.) By the act of December 11, 1811 constables were required to make bond in the amount of \$500 (Turner's Digest, 1816, p. 319).

In 1822 the county court was empowered to appoint "not less than one nor more than two, fit and proper persons in each captain's district as constables to serve for a term of two years" (L. M., 1822, p. 260). The revised constitution of 1832 stipulated that a competent number of constables should be elected biennially in each district of every county by the qualified voters of the district (Const., 1832, art. IV, sec. 23). The Constitution of 1869 made no change in this provision. The Constitution of 1890 increased the term of office to four years but made no other changes (Const., 1890, sec. 171).

The number of constables holding office in Forrest County has varied. In September 1930 as the result of the general elections of November 1927, special election and appointments, 16 constables were functioning in all five beats. At the present time there are four constables, one each for beats one, two, three, and five. (Register of Commissions of State, Municipal, and County Officers", office of the secretary of state, Jackson, Miss., Forrest County section.)

Constables are not required to keep any permanent, public records. Their returns are made to the issuing justice of the peace and are kept as a part of the records of that official. (See Justice of the Peace, pp. 61-62, supra.)

X. CORONER

The office of coroner was established in Forrest County in 1908 as one of the original county offices (L. M., 1906, pp. 174-79; see also Governmental Organization and Records System, p. 8, supra.) It is a constitutional office (Const., 1890, sec. 135) and the coroner is elected every four years by the qualified electors of the county at the general election for county and state offices (Code, 1906, sec. 4140; Code, 1930, sec. 6210).

The duties of the coroner are: to investigate violent, sudden, and casual death, to hold inquests with jury; to hold inquests at the request of the prosecuting attorney or the district attorney (ibid., sec. 639), to act as sheriff if the sheriff is imprisoned, incompetent, or absent (ibid., secs. 651, 654). On the written request of a majority of the jurors the coroner may summon a physician or surgeon to appear as a witness at an inquest (ibid., sec. 647).

A coroner was included among the various county officials appointed by Territorial Governor Winthrop Sargent in 1799 (Sargent's Code, 1799, pp. 41-41). The duties as then defined were: "...by a jury of the county, to enquire concerning the Death of a person slain, who dies suddenly, or in prison; and his inquisition so taken shall certify to the next supreme court holden for the county. And it shall be the duty of the coroner, to execute process of every kind wherein the sheriff is a party or interested in the suit, or for other just cause is by law rendered incapable to execute the same. And in case the sheriff shall for any cause be committed to gaol, the coroner shall be himself or such person as he shall appoint, be keeper of the gaol, during the time the sheriff shall remain a prisoner" (ibid.)

The act of February 10, 1807 reaffirmed the original law, gave full and specific directions as to his procedure, and required him to keep a record of all inquisitions to be certified at the next circuit or superior court. It also delegated justices of the peace authority to act as coroners under certain conditions. (Toulmin's Digest, 1807, p. 219.)

The Constitution of 1817 made the office elective with a two-year term (Const., 1817, art. IV, sec. 24). The Constitution of 1832 made no change but the Constitution of 1869 lengthened the term of office to four years (Const., 1869, art. V, sec. 21). In 1871 the coroner was made ex-officio ranger when the office of ranger was abolished as a separate office (L. M., 1871, chapt. CCCXCIII). In this capacity he has general jurisdiction over estrays. (See Ranger, p. 101, infra.)

Since 1857 the coroner has been required to make a return in all cases to the circuit clerk, of the finding of the jury, together with the precept and all proceedings before him. The circuit clerk is required to preserve such records carefully in his office. (Code, 1857, chapt. VI, art. 148; Code, 1930, sec. 648.)

The fee allowed the coroner in 1799 for viewing a body was \$5 (Sargent's Code, 1799, p. 77) and the same amount is allowed at the present time (Code, 1930, sec. 1791).

Dockets

145. CORONER AND RANGERS DOCKET, 1912-19. 1 vol.
Record of proceedings of coroners inquests, showing case number, name of deceased, if known, description of deceased, cause of death, process directed to sheriff to

Tax Assessor

(Next entry 146, p. 72)

impanel jury, place and date of death, date, time, and place of inquest, names of jurors and witnesses, findings of the coroner or of the jury, signature of coroner; also contains record of estrays picked up by coroner as ex-officio ranger, showing date, description of animal, amount of fees, date advertised, and signature of ranger. Arr. chron. by date of inquest and by date stray picked up. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 240 pp. 16 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Ch. clerk's off.

XI. TAX ASSESSOR

The constitutional office of tax assessor was established in Forrest County in 1908 (Const., 1890, sec. 135; L. M., 1906, pp. 174-79; see also Governmental Organization and Records System, p. 7, supra.) The tax assessor is elected every four years by the qualified electors of the county at the general elections for state and county officers (Code, 1930, sec. 6210). The assessor must make bond in the amount of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000 (ibid., sec. 100).

The assessor is required to assess annually the polls and all personal property subject to taxation (ibid., sec. 3128) and to assess all the lands in the county (ibid., sec. 3145).

To carry out this work the assessor delivers to taxpayers a printed form prescribed by the state tax commission (ibid., sec. 3129) on which they list and value their property, under oath, returning the list to the assessor not later than April 1 of each year the assessments are made (ibid., secs. 3131-32). The assessor is required to deliver the lists, arranged alphabetically, to the board of supervisors which fixes the taxable value (ibid., secs. 3131, 3181). When a taxpayer fails to submit a list, and in the case of property owned by non-residents or by some one unknown to him, the assessor assesses such property at the highest value at which similar property is assessed and valued (ibid., sec. 3142).

The assessor has the right and power to inquire into the purchase price paid for any real and personal property in Forrest County, and he may inspect property and demand that information be given him concerning it that he may make an estimate of its value (ibid., secs. 107-109). The assessor is required to furnish the district attorney the names of all persons who wilfully neglect or refuse to give in taxable property, as required by law (ibid., sec. 3142).

The assessment rolls, real and personal, are made up by the assessor from the tax lists submitted to him by the taxpayers, the land roll every two years (ibid., sec. 3144), and the personal roll annually (ibid., sec. 3132). He is required to complete the rolls and file them with the clerk of the board of supervisors before the first Monday of July each year (ibid., sec. 3161). The board equalizes the assessment rolls at its July meetings (ibid., sec. 3162) with the assessor being present at all sessions in which the assessments are under consideration (ibid., sec. 3163). After the board has completed its work the clerk of the board makes two copies of the rolls, retains one as a public record and delivers the other to the tax collector (ibid., sec. 3181; see also Board of Supervisors, p. 23, supra.)

By the act of 1934 which exempted homesteads from state ad valorem taxes to the extent of \$1,000 the assessor is directed to keep available a supply of application blanks furnished by the state tax commission and deliver one to any person who requests it at the same time and in the same manner as the real estate tax lists are

Tax Assessor

(Next entry 146, p. 72)

delivered. He is further required to prepare the assessment roll in such a manner as to show in appropriate columns on the land roll the lands designated as homesteads. (L. M., 1934, p. 441.)

Other duties of the assessor are to enumerate annually all widows of deceased Confederate soldiers and all Confederate soldiers living in Forrest County (see Pension Board of Inquiry, p. 98, infra.), and report to the sheriff who is the escheator and to the state land commissioner, all property which may have escheated to the state within the preceding 12 months (ibid., sec. 1512).

The Territorial tax system set up by Governor Winthrop Sargent and the Territorial judges was inaugurated by a law written April 3, 1799 authorizing the court of general quarter sessions in each county to make an estimate of the average annual expenses of the county and submit it to the governor or one or more of the judges for approval. By the same act, commissioners appointed by the court of common pleas were directed to apportion the taxes among the towns of the county and assess the property in the towns (Sargent's Code, 1799, pp. 84-92). These commissioners were the first assessors in Mississippi county government. They were directed to ascertain what persons and estates were taxable and to determine the yearly profit accruing from the estates, and "have special regard to such profit, taxing all lands in just proportion to their value" except property exempted. Assessments were returned to the prothonotary of the court of common pleas who made up the assessment rolls (ibid.). The striking feature of this first tax system in Mississippi is that real estate was assessed on the basis of the profit or income it might produce rather than on its intrinsic worth or actual selling value, thus establishing what amounted to a graduated income tax.

In 1815 the taxation system was changed (Turner's Digest, 1816, pp. 414-424), and power was given the governor to appoint in each county an assessor whose duty it was "to apply to every person resident within his county, who hath therein any taxable property, for a list thereof", the list to contain also "the amount of sales of merchandize sold within the year ending on the last day of December immediately preceding" (ibid., p. 416). A revenue act in 1817, the year Mississippi was admitted to the Union, consolidated the offices of tax collector and tax assessor, and made it appointive annually by the governor (L. M., 1817, p. 56). The assessors were directed to take the census of their respective counties by an act of 1820 (L. M., 1820 chapt. 1, p. 3) and were allowed a fee of two cents a person listed. In 1822 they were required to make an enumeration of births, deaths, and persons over 70 years of age at the time of making the next assessments, and for three succeeding years (L. M., 1822, chapt. XXI). For this work the assessors were paid a fee of five cents per person enumerated. The law was reenacted in 1825 with the same provisions (L. M., 1825, p. 14).

The Constitution of 1832 made county offices elective biennially (Const., 1832, art. V, sec. 19). In 1833 the legislature passed an act uniting the offices of assessor and collector except in the counties of Warren, Jefferson, Wilkinson, Adams, and Claiborne where the offices were made separate and distinct (L. M., 1833, p. 447). The same act directed the assessor to take the census of 1833.

In 1843 the sheriff was made the collector (L. M., 1843, pp. 41-48; see also Sheriff, p. 64, supra.; see Tax Collector, p. 75, infra.) and until 1846 the same person held the three offices of assessor, collector, and sheriff in each county. At that time the offices of assessor and collector were made separate except in 17 counties; Clarke, Covington, Coahoma, Greene, Harrison, Hancock, Jackson, Jones, Washington, Neshoba, Issaquena, Marion, Scott, Perry, Simpson, Smith, and Wayne where

the sheriffs remained ex-officio assessor and collector (L. M., 1846, p. 69). This act also stipulated that lands were to be assessed every two years. An act in 1856 directed the assessors to furnish to the president of the board of trustees a list of blind persons in their respective counties (L. M., 1856, p. 79).

The Constitution of 1869 provided for an assessor in each county and set his term at two years (Const., 1869, art. v, sec. 21). Among the duties delegated to the assessor by the Code of 1871 were included: making out a list of persons qualified to serve as jurors and delivering it to the circuit clerk (Code, 1871, sec. 736); returning a list of escheats to the state auditor of public accounts and to the district attorney, (ibid., sec. 1845); enumerating school children triennially (ibid., sec. 2007); and enrolling quadrennially the names of all able-bodied males subject to military duty (ibid., sec. 1673). The assessor was also directed to assess personal property annually and lands quadrennially (ibid., sec. 1675).

After the board of supervisors has finished with the tax lists delivered to it by the assessor, he must preserve the lists for at least three years (ibid., sec. 3131). The Code of 1906 directed the assessor to provide himself with all necessary maps of the county and every city, town, or village in it (Code, 1906, sec. 4282). In 1930 the board of supervisors was charged with furnishing the tax assessor with maps showing clearly the location of all tracts of lands in the county and the boundaries of every supervisor's district, road district, school district and other taxing district, and of every municipality, and of every survey, subdivision, or addition, and of all separate, adjacent, annexed territory added to any separate school district (Code, 1930, sec. 3147). The assessor is required to file and preserve all applications for exemption from state ad valorem tax (L. M., 1934, p. 441).

Assessments

146. SHEETS OF ASSESSMENTS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, 1908--. 179 file boxes and 66 bundles.

Original lists of taxable personal property returned to tax assessor by property owners, showing name of property owner, address, age, race, sex, location of property, property owner's valuation, tax assessor's valuation, poll tax, oath and signature of property owner. Contains also original lists of taxable real property in city of Hattiesburg and in county, returned to tax assessor by property owners, showing name of property owner, address, legal description of land and improvements, location, original cost, property owner's valuation, tax assessor's valuation, oath and signature of property owner. Arr. alph. by name of political subdivision and then filed alph. by name of property owner. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. File boxes, 19 x 3 x 12, 12 x 12 x 24, and 18 x 6 x 24; bundles, 9 x 4 x 12 and 12 x 8 x 15. 169 file boxes and 54 bundles, 1908-33, ch. clerk's va.; 1 file box, 1931-- and 9 file boxes 1934--, tax assr.'s off.

147. REAL ASSESSMENT ROLL, CITY OF HATTIESBURG, 1932--. 1 vol.

Record of assessments on real property within the city limits of Hattiesburg, taken from assessment lists, entry 146, showing name of property owner, description of land, street number, description of improvements, assessed value, whether or not property owner's homestead. Arr. alph. by name of property owner. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 757 pp. 10 x 13 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Tax Assessor - Tax Rolls;
Homestead Exemptions

(148-154)

148. ASSESSMENT ROLL AND PLAT BOOK, 1935--. 13 vols.

Record of assessments on real property, showing name of owner, legal description of property, assessed valuation, homestead exemption, and plat of land. Arr. alph. by name of political subdivision. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 75 pp. 10 x 10 x 1.

149. REAL ASSESSMENT ROLL, COUNTY, 1931--. 1 vol.

Record of assessments on real property in county outside city limits of Hattiesburg, showing name of property owner, description of land and improvements, number of acres, assessed valuation, whether or not property owner's homestead. Arr. alph. by name of political division. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 15 x 16 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Tax Rolls

150. LAND ROLLS, CITY OF HATTIESBURG, 1908--. 32 vols.

Record of taxes levied on real property within the city limits of Hattiesburg, showing assessment number, number of tax receipt, name of property owner, lot and block number of addition, subdivision, or survey, section, township, and range, total valuation, homestead exemption, assessed valuation of land and improvements, land and buildings exempt, amount of tax due state and county. Arr. alph. by name of addition, subdivision, or survey, with each addition, subdivision or survey arr. numer. by lot and block no. For index, see entry 152. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 400 pp. 18 x 21 x 4. Ch. clerk's va.

151. LAND ROLLS, OUTSIDE CITY OF HATTIESBURG, 1908--. 36 vols.

Record of taxes levied on real property in county outside city limits of Hattiesburg, showing assessment number, tax receipt number, name of property owner, legal description of land, section, township, range, total valuation, homestead exemption, school and road district, amount of cultivatable land, value of improvements, number of acres of timber land, value of timber, amount of uncultivable land, number of acres of government land, number of acres of state land, amounts of taxes due state and county. Arr. numer. by sec. and range. For index, see entry 152. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 21 x 4. Ch. clerk's va.

152. INDEX TO RECORD OF LAND ROLLS, (County and City of Hattiesburg), 1908--.
23 vols.

Index to Land Rolls, City of Hattiesburg, entry 149, and Land Rolls, Outside City of Hattiesburg, entry 150, showing name of property owner, volume and page in land roll, tax receipt number, number of years covered in roll. Arr. alph. by name of property owner. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 18 x 16 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Ch. clerk's off.

153. PERSONAL ROLL, 1908--. 80 vols.

Record of taxes levied on personal property and of poll and commutation taxes, showing tax receipt number, names of property owners, race, address, list of personal property taxes, including automobiles, trucks, watches, jewelry, poll tax, commutation tax, total. Arr. alph. by name of property owner. Alph. indexed by name of property owner. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 21 x 2. Ch. clerk's off.

Homestead Exemptions

154. APPLICATIONS FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS, CITY PROPERTY, 1934--. 1 file box.
Original applications for exemption of homesteads from state ad valorem tax within city limits of Hattiesburg, showing name of applicant, address, school district, road

Tax Collector

(155-157)

district, plat or drawing of land involved, ownership of land, when and how acquired, kind of title held, legal description of land, affidavit of applicant, approval of board of supervisors. Filed alph. by name of applicant. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 16 x 12 x 18.

155. APPLICATIONS FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS, COUNTY PROPERTY, 1934--. 1 file box.

Original applications for exemption of homesteads from state ad valorem tax of homesteads outside city limits, showing name of applicant, address, school district, road district, plat or drawing of land involved, ownership of land, when and how acquired, kind of title held, legal description of land, affidavit of applicant, approval of board of supervisors. Filed alph. by name of applicant. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 16 x 12 x 18.

Maps

(See also entries 46, 148, 154, 155)

156. ASSESSORS BLOCK BOOK, 1925. 9 vols.

Political and land tenure maps, showing range lines and boundaries of sections, beats, townships, tracts, additions, subdivisions, surveys, lots, names of owners, classification of land, and total acreage. Drawn by Geo. G. Ehrenborg, Gulfport, Miss. Black and white. 300 pp. 18 x 16. Ch. clerk's off.

157. INDEX TO LOT AND BLOCK MAPS, 1925. 1 vol.

Index to one block only in Assessors Block Book, entry 156, showing name of property owner and volume and page in block book. Typed. 75 pp. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 10 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Ch. clerk's off.

XII. TAX COLLECTOR

The sheriff is by statute the ex-officio collector of real and personal taxes in Forrest County (Code, 1906, sec. 4694; Code, 1930, sec. 3341). In addition to the bond he must make as sheriff he is required to furnish bond not to exceed \$100,000 as tax collector. If he cannot qualify as tax collector he must vacate the office of sheriff. (Ibid.; see also Sheriff, p. 64, supra.)

As early as 1799 the sheriff was made the collector of taxes in the Mississippi Territory under a warrant of distress issued by the court of quarter sessions (Sargent's Code, 1799, p. 87). In 1807 the Territorial assembly provided for the appointment of a collector who was also assessor and inquirer, thus transferring the functions of tax collector from the sheriff to this new officer (Toulmin's Digest, 1807, chapt. V, sec. 1).

The act of December 27, 1815 affirmed the law of 1807 by empowering the governor to appoint annually a tax collector in each county who was required to make bond in the penalty of \$12,000 in Adams County and \$6,000 in other counties (Turner's Digest, 1816, p. 418). This act established a new system of taxation which replaced the scheme set up by Governor Winthrop Sargent in 1799. (See Tax Assessor, p. 7, supra.) In 1817 the offices of tax collector and tax assessor were united and the tax collector was directed to make distress and sale of goods, chattels and tenements of all persons who did not pay their taxes for the year ending the first of July (L. M., 1817, p. 56). Separate offices of collector and assessor were maintained in several counties through special legislation (Hutchinson's Code, 1848, p. 174).

Tax Collector

(Next entry 158, p. 76)

In 1833 a law was enacted making the joint office of collector and assessor elective biennially (L. M., 1833, p. 477) inasmuch as the Constitution of 1832 directed that county sheriffs, coroners, treasurers, rangers, and other officials should be elected (Const., 1832, art. V, sec. 19).

The sheriff was made tax collector again in 1843 and since, in some counties, the same person acted as both assessor and collector, the sheriff in those counties held the three offices (L. M., 1843, chapt. 1, sec. 7). However, the collector was relieved of the duties of assessor three years later in all but 17 counties: Clarke, Covington, Coahoma, Greene, Harrison, Hancock, Jackson, Jones, Washington, Neshoba, Issaquena, Marion, Perry, Scott, Simpson, Smith, and Wayne, in which counties the sheriff continued to act as both collector and assessor, ex-officio (L. M., 1846, p. 69).

The Constitution of 1869 directed that an assessor be elected in each county for a term of two years, thus making the offices of assessor and collector separate except in the counties designated by the law of 1846 (Const., 1869, art. V, sec. 21). The sheriff has continued to be the tax collector by authority of the same law.

The tax collector computes the taxes due from each taxpayer, using as the basis of his computations, the tax rolls delivered to him by the chancery clerk as clerk of the board (Code, 1930, secs. 3222, 3227; see also Board of Supervisors, p. 23, supra. see also Tax Assessor, p. 70, supra.) Taxes are payable on or before December 15 of each year (ibid., sec. 3229). When a taxpayer pays his taxes he is given a receipt from a bound book of receipts kept in triplicate. The tax collector must present this book of duplicate receipts to the board of supervisors whenever required by the board to do so and it is finally preserved in the office of the chancery clerk as a public record (ibid., sec. 3233). The tax collector must keep a well-bound cash book which must also be presented to the board whenever required (ibid., sec. 3236). He is directed to make a monthly report of taxes paid to him to the state auditor of public accounts and to the clerk of the board and he is required to make a final report to both on or within 15 days after September 1 of each year (ibid., sec. 3289).

Taxes are preferential liens on all property. The tax collector has the duty of selling real estate on which taxes are delinquent, to the highest bidder to satisfy a tax lien (ibid., secs. 3245-49, 3255). He must transmit to the clerk of the board of supervisors before the first Monday in June a list of all lands sold to individuals and a list of all lands sold to the state (ibid., sec. 3256).

The tax collector issues motor vehicle licenses and tags. The form of the license is prescribed by law and when it is issued it is in reality a receipt for the payment of the privilege of "driving upon the public roads of Forrest County" for one year. On payment to him at the time the license is issued, of a registration fee of \$1 the tax collector delivers to the owner of a vehicle one license tag. The collector is directed to keep a register in a well-bound book which shows definite and inclusive information on each motor vehicle licensed. (Ibid., secs. 5608-09, 5615.)

Licenses to hunt, fish, or seine are obtained from the sheriff as tax collector (Code, 1930, sec. 4761). The act of 1932 which created the state game and fish commission requires each officer authorized to issue licenses, which officer is tax collector in Forrest County, to keep in a book supplied to him by the commission, a correct and complete list in numerical order of all licenses issued by him to pay monthly the sums collected for licenses, and to make a final report at the end of the license year and return all license stubs and all unused or mutilated license blanks

Tax Collector - Cash Receipts;
Reports; Tax Receipts

(158-162)

(L. M., 1932, pp. 371-372). Prior to 1932 licensing was more of a county matter as money derived from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses was used to pay county-appointed game wardens and to promote the conservation of game within Forrest County (Code, 1930, sec. 4762).

Practically every occupation carried on in Forrest County is required to obtain a privilege license from the tax collector (Code, 1871, secs. 1747-50; L. M., 1935, pp. 52-133).

The tax collector of Forrest County is compensated by fees and commissions. For example he receives five percent on all poll taxes and commutation taxes; five percent on the first \$30,000 of the road and bridge privilege taxes collected on motor vehicles and two percent of the excess over \$30,000; five percent on the first \$30,000 of the state privilege taxes and two percent on the excess over \$30,000; and five percent on the first \$10,000 of the state ad valorem taxes collected and two percent on the excess over \$10,000 but not on an amount exceeding \$40,000. (Code, 1930, sec. 1789.)

Cash Receipts

158. TAX COLLECTORS CASH BOOK, 1909--. 36 vols.

Daily record of tax collections; showing receipt number, name of taxpayer, total assessment, state, county, school, road, and poll taxes, damages, list of fees charged against property sold for taxes, and remarks. Arr. chron. by daily entries. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 18 x 15 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. 35 vols., 1909-34, ch. clerk's va.; 1 vol., 1935--, sh. off.

159. CASH BOOK, HUNTING LICENSES, 1925-26. 1 vol.

Record of cash receipts from sale of hunting licenses, showing name of purchaser, receipt number, and amount. Arr. chron. by date of entry and numer. by receipt no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 800 pp. 18 x 5 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Ch. clerk's va.

For additional records of hunting licenses, see entries 167, 168.

160. POLL TAX CASH BOOK, 1936--. 1 vol.

Separate record of cash receipts from collection of poll taxes started in 1936, showing date, receipt number, name and residence of taxpayer. Arr. numer. by receipt no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 204 pp. 15 x 8 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Reports

161. TAX COLLECTORS REPORTS, 1917--. 4 vols. Missing: 1908-16.

Duplicate copies of tax collectors monthly reports to the clerk of the board of supervisors, showing total taxes collected, kind and amount of tax, amount due treasurer, amount due tax collector as commissions, date, and signature of tax collector. Arr. chron. by date report made. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 20 x 10 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 505 pp. 18 x 10 x 5.

Tax Receipts

162. TAX RECEIPTS, 1908--. 807 vols.

Carbon copies of receipts issued taxpayers in settlement of real and personal taxes, showing name of taxpayer, receipt number, total personal assessment, total real

Tax Collector - Licenses

(163-168)

property assessment, rate, state tax, general county tax, poll tax, road tax, dog tax, sinking fund, interest on bonds, description of real and personal property, Arr. numer. by receipt no. No index, 1908-33. For index, 1934--, see entry 164. Hdw. on ptd. form. 165 pp. 21 x 9 x $1\frac{1}{2}$.

For carbon copies of road tax receipts, 1915-18, and of poll tax receipts, 1935--, see entries 165, 166.

163. PARTIAL PAYMENT TAX RECEIPTS, 1932--. 10 vols.

Carbon copies of receipts issued for partial payment of taxes, begun in 1932, showing receipt number, name of taxpayer, residence, total amount of taxes, amounts of real, personal, school, poll, and road taxes, number of payment, and signature of tax collector. Arr. numer. by receipt no. For index, 1934--, see entry 164. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 18 x 13 x 1.

164. INDEX TO RECORD OF TAX RECEIPTS, 1934--. 4 vols. No index kept prior to 1934.

Index to real and personal property tax receipts, entry 162, 1934--, and entry 163, showing name of taxpayer, date, and volume and page in record. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 18 x 18 x $1\frac{1}{2}$.

165. SPECIAL COMMUTATION ROAD TAX RECEIPTS, 1915-18. 8 vols. Discontinued as separate record. Now kept in Tax Receipts, entry 162.

Carbon copies of receipts issued in settlement of road taxes, showing receipt number, date of payment, name of taxpayer, residence, amount, and signature of tax collector. Arr. numer. by receipt no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 18 x 13 x 1.

For prior records, see entry 162.

166. POLL TAX RECEIPTS, 1935--. 12 vols.

Carbon copies of receipts issued in settlement of poll taxes, showing receipt number, name of taxpayer, beat and voting precinct, volume, page, and line in Personal Roll, entry 153, amount, and signature of the tax collector. Arr. numer. by receipt no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 18 x 9 x 1. Cir. clerk's off.

Licenses

(See also entries 107-112)

167. HUNTING LICENSE RECEIPTS, 1926-31. 10 vols.

Record of hunting and fishing licenses issued, showing receipt number, date, name and residence of licensee, amount of licenses, whether resident or non-resident, and signature of tax collector. Arr. numer. by receipt no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 18 x 5 x $1\frac{1}{2}$.

For additional records of hunting and fishing licenses, see entry 159.

168. RECORD AND MONTHLY REPORT OF HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES, 1935--. 3 vols. Missing: 1932-34.

Carbon copies of reports made by tax collector to state game and fish commission of hunting and fishing licenses issued, showing date issued, name of licensee, license number, expiration date, total collected, amount due game and fish commission, amount due tax collector as fee. Arr. chron. by month report made. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 50 pp. 10 x 24 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

For additional records of hunting and fishing licenses, see entry 159.

169. PRIVILEGE TAX RECORD (Title Varies), 1912-19, 1930--. 2 vols. Missing: 1920-29.

Record of licenses issued privileging individuals and corporations to practice a profession or engage in business in the county, showing date issued, license number, name and address of licensee, type of profession or business, expiration date, amount paid, damages assessed in instances of non-payment or late payment. Arr. numer. by license no. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 15 x 2 and 18 x 12 x 2. 1 vol., 1912-19, ch. clerk's va.; 1 vol., 1930--, sh. off.

170. AUTOMOBILE REGISTER (Title Varies), 1914-27, 1935--, 9 vols. Missing: 1928-34.

Record of automobile licenses issued, showing date issued, tag number, name and address of owner, make, manufacturer, model, year, horse power, motive power, carrying capacity, factory number, date delivered to owner, amount of fee collected, signature of tax collector, and remarks. Arr. numer. by license no., 6 vols., 1914-27. Arr. alph. by name of owner, 1 vol., 1936--. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 300 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½ and 160 pp. 14 x 12 x 1½. 6 vols., 1914-27, ch. clerk's va.; 1 vol., 1935--, sh. off.

Correspondence

171. CORRESPONDENCE, 1933--. 5 file boxes.

Original letters written by taxpayers to sheriff pertaining to tax matters. Filed alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Hdw. and typed. 10 x 3 x 12.

XIII. TREASURER AND AUDITOR

The clerk of the board of supervisors is the ex-officio auditor of Forrest County (Code, 1906, sec. 347; Code, 1930, sec. 295). The chancery clerk, who is the clerk of the board (see Board of Supervisors, p. 23, supra.), is the ex-officio treasurer (L. M., 1932, p. 514).

The functions discharged by the clerk which can be classified as treasurer's duties are: issuing warrants on the county depository for payment of claims allowed by the board of supervisors (Code, 1930, sec. 255); keeping a docket of claims in which he enters all demands and accounts against the county (ibid., sec. 254); receiving and having custody of the securities deposited by a depository bank (ibid., sec. 4346); and, with the president of the board, issuing commissions to designated depositories (ibid., sec. 4347).

The clerk of the board as auditor of Forrest County must keep an account with each county office (ibid., sec. 296) and he must enter the accounts of all officers receiving or collecting money for the county (ibid., sec. 298). He is required to issue receipt warrants (ibid., sec. 299) and to settle with the tax collector and other officers receiving county funds (ibid., sec. 300). He or the board must file suit against any officer who fails to make payment to the county treasurer (ibid.). It is his duty to examine the accounts, dockets, and records of clerk, sheriffs, and other officers of Forrest County to ascertain whether any money payable to the county is properly chargeable to them, and to make a written report under oath to each regular session of the grand jury (ibid., sec. 304). He must also report to the grand jury and to the district attorney any officer or depository failing to make a report or to pay public moneys into the county treasury as required by law (ibid., sec. 305). The auditor is directed to keep a book styled "The Depository's Docket"

Treasurer and Auditor

(Next entry 172, p. 81)

in which he shall record all reports of the county depository after the reports have been examined and compared with the vouchers and approved by the board (ibid., sec. 297).

The office of county treasurer was established and made appointive in 1799 by the laws drawn by Territorial Governor Sargent and the Territorial judges. The treasurer was required to furnish bond of \$3,000 and "keep fair and proper books of entries and accounts of all monies received and of rates and assessments made or to be made, and also of disbursements and payments". He was directed to submit his books and accounts to the Territorial Assembly for audit and settlement. (Sargent's Code, 1799, pp 45-46.)

In 1806 the county court (quarter sessions of the peace) was given power to audit and allow all accounts and demands legally chargeable against the county (Toulmin's Digest, 1807, p. 32). An act in 1807 commanded the county treasurer to report to the county court and render a just and true account of the funds in his possession (ibid., p. 28).

The first constitution of Mississippi made no mention of a county treasurer but the office was continued by an act which gave the county court power to appoint in each county a treasurer to hold office for two years (L. M., 1817, p. 56).

In 1822 the office was made appointive by the governor on the recommendation of the county court, the term was set at two years, and the treasurer was required to examine the accounts of sheriffs and clerks to ascertain if any money belonging to the county was in their hands. The act directed the county court to continue to audit and allow claims against the county and it authorized the clerk of the court to issue warrants on the county treasurer for claims allowed by the court. (Poindexter's Code, 1824, chapt. 52.)

The revised constitution of 1832 established the office of county treasurer and made it elective biennially by the qualified electors of the county. It also established a board of police in each county to take over the administrative duties of the county court and it made the clerk of the court of probate the clerk of the board of police (Const., 1832, art. V, secs. 19, 20). By the act of March 2, 1833 the county treasurer was required to make a report to the board of police of the condition of the county treasury (L. M., 1833, p. 47). The board, by authority of the same act, assumed all auditing functions of the county court and examined and allowed claims against the county (ibid.).

No changes were made in the functions, qualifications, and term of the treasurer by the Constitution of 1869 but the name of the board of police was changed to board of supervisors (Const., 1869, art. VI, sec. 20). This board carried on the same duties in relation to the treasurer as had the county court from 1806 to 1832 and as had the board of police from 1832 to 1869.

The Constitution of 1890 at the time of its adoption stipulated that "there shall be a sheriff, coroner, treasurer, assessor, and surveyor for each county to be selected as elsewhere provided herein, who shall hold their offices for four years. The sheriff and treasurer shall be ineligible to succeed themselves or each other" (Const., 1890, sec. 135).

The Code of 1906 which went into effect not long before Forrest County was organized in 1908 (See Governmental Organization and Records System, p. 7, supra.),

Treasurer and Auditor

(Next entry 172, p. 81)

was the set of laws under which the county began its governmental organization. By this code the treasurer was given the general duties of receiving, keeping, and disbursing the money of the county according to law; and of keeping regular accounts of the receipts and expenditures of the funds and of all debts due to or from the county (Code, 1906, sec. 978). He was directed to make detailed reports quarterly of all receipts and disbursements and of accounts payable and receivable and exhibit with his reports the vouchers for the disbursements shown in the reports (ibid., secs. 979-80). He was empowered and required to examine the accounts, dockets, and records of the clerks and the sheriff for the purpose of ascertaining if any money rightfully belonging to the county was in their possession (ibid., sec. 982). He could pay money out of the county treasury only on warrant issued by the clerk of the board on the order of the board (ibid., sec. 983). He could receive money only on the receipt-warrant of the clerk of the board and he was directed to give the person making any payment duplicate receipts specifying the warrant on which payment was made, one of the receipts to be filed with the clerk (ibid., sec. 987).

The clerk of the board was made ex-officio county auditor (ibid., sec. 347). As auditor he was required to keep ledger accounts with each county office, with the courthouse, jail, and poorhouse, showing allowances for each; he was directed to keep separate accounts of allowances made for mileage and pay of members of the board of jurors, and of witnesses for the state, as well as expenditures on account of each part of every public road under a separate overseer (ibid., sec. 349). It was made mandatory that he keep "The Treasurer's Docket" and record in it all reports of the treasurer after they had been examined and approved by the board (ibid., sec. 351). He was ordered to keep accounts with all officers who received or collected money for the county and he was given the duty of issuing receipt-warrants for payment of money into the county treasury, credit for payment and debit to the county treasurer being contingent upon the auditor's receiving a duplicate receipt signed by the treasurer (ibid., sec. 352). The auditor was empowered to examine, audit and settle the accounts of all officers receiving funds payable into the county treasury, and he could require and exact payment of sums due (ibid., sec. 353).

Without making mention of his being auditor, the code gave the clerk of the board the responsibility of keeping "The Docket of Claims" and entering in it all demands and accounts against the county in the order of their presentation (ibid., sec. 342).

In 1912 a system was inaugurated by which the board of supervisors designates and commissions a county depository (L. M., 1912, chapt. 194). This plan, designed to safeguard the county money by requiring the selected depository to deposit with the county treasurer selected securities in an amount ten percent greater than the maximum sum to be placed on deposit, took from the treasurer his receiving and disbursing powers, since all deposits were made subject to payment when demanded on warrant issued by the clerk of the board (ibid.).

In November 1922 section 135 of the Constitution of 1890 was amended by a vote of the people to read "the duties heretofore imposed on the county treasurer shall be discharged by some person or persons selected as required by law". The amendment was inserted in the constitution by the legislature of 1924. (L. M., 1924, chapt. 142.)

With reference to this amendment Justice Ethridge of the Mississippi Supreme Court writes: "The amendment was designed to eliminate the county treasurer, but

the original section made the sheriff and the treasurer ineligible to succeed themselves or each other. The new section authorized the legislature to impose the duty of county treasurer upon some person or persons selected as required by law, leaving the legislature to prescribe what person or persons should perform the duties of county treasurer. One of the duties of the county treasurer under the law as existed when the amendment was passed was to keep an independent set of books as to all county receipts and disbursements against the sheriff and county auditor. He was also to receive and pay out the county funds when there was no county depository selected. Under the provision of law creating county depositories and placing of practically all the funds of all counties in banks, the duties of the treasurer other than as a bookkeeper, are largely eliminated. He was charged however, with the duties of coercing settlements with officers receiving funds and various other duties. By the new section the sheriff is made ineligible to immediately succeed himself in office, but the constitution does not prohibit him from discharging the duties of treasurer. The legislature perhaps, overlooked the importance of having the sheriff and treasurer keep mutual checks upon each other to prevent the manipulation of county books so as to conceal shortages. Nothing in the present section prevents the person who acts or performs the duties that were ordinarily imposed upon the treasurer from continuing in office so long as he may desire, provided he can secure the appointment or selection in accordance with law". (George H. Ethridge, Mississippi Constitutions, Jackson, Miss., 1928, p. 235.)

Thus, by 1924 the office of treasurer was completely abolished and in 1932 its few remaining duties were given to the chancery clerk. (L. M., 1932, p. 514) who as clerk of the board is one and the same person.

The chancery clerk of Forrest County who as clerk of the board of supervisors is the auditor, receives an annual salary of \$1,400. As treasurer he is allowed \$25 a year. (Code, 1930, sec. 6505; L. M., 1932, p. 514; "Minutes of the Board of Supervisors", vol. 15, p. 581, see entry 2.)

The records of the treasurer and auditor are kept in the office of the chancery clerk.

Dockets and Ledgers

172. AUDITORS ACCOUNTS, 1892-1908. 1 vol.

Transcription of auditor's accounts with the various county officers and departments of the Second Judicial District of Perry County which became Forrest County in 1908, showing date, statement of the account of each officer or department, and balance. Arr. chron. by date report made. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 290 pp. 16 x 11 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

173. AUDITORS ACCOUNT WITH TAX COLLECTOR, 1921--. 1 vol.

Auditors record of funds received from tax collector, showing name of tax collector, name of fund, tax date, items, valuation, tax rate, total debits, depository receipt number, valuation, amount paid into county depository, commissions due tax collector for making collection, total debits and credits. Arr. chron. by date report made. Indexed alph. by name of fund. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp. 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

174. GENERAL LEDGER, 1928--. 2 vols.

General ledger of receipts and disbursements, showing principal sources of receipts, character and purpose of disbursements, and totals and balances. Receipts are classified as revenue, including general property tax, privilege tax, interest, rents,

Registrar

(175-177)

licenses and permits, fines and forfeits, departmental earnings, sales of property, miscellaneous; state aid, including gasoline tax and state appropriations; non-revenue, including temporary loans, bonds, premiums and accrued interest, advances and deposits, transfers and refunds, trust and investment transactions. Disbursements are classified as governmental costs, including administrative, judicial, protection of persons and property, conservation of health, highway maintenance, charities and corrections, educational, miscellaneous, interest on temporary loans, interest on bonds; and non-governmental costs, including temporary loans, bonds, permanent improvements, transfers and refunds, trust and investment transactions. Arr. alph. by name of fund. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 10 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

175. CASH RECEIPTS REGISTER, 1926--. 1 vol.

Monthly record of funds deposited in county depositories, showing date, from whom received, warrant number, amount, fund debited, general taxes, collector's commissions, gasoline tax, privilege taxes, depository interest, interest on loans, fines, state appropriations, sales, bonds, loans, and miscellaneous. Arr. chron. by month. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 312 pp. 18 x 15 x 3.

176. BANK REPORTS, 1917--. 7 vols.

Statements of county depositories, showing name of depository, name of fund, date of receipt, from whom received, number, date, amount, and payee of warrants paid. Arr. chron. by date statement rendered. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 600 pp. 16 x 14 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

177. JUSTICE PEACE FINES AND COSTS, 1908--. 2 vols.

Record of fines and costs of cases tried in justice of the peace courts, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, court and date of trial, number and style of case, fines, jury tax, stenographer's fees, witness fees, total, debit date, credit date, by whom paid. Arr. alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 265 pp. 16 x 12 x 2.

XIV. REGISTRAR

The circuit clerk of Forrest County is the ex-officio registrar of voters (Code, 1906, sec. 4107; Code, 1930, sec. 6175). He registers the electors of Forrest County in his office in the courthouse at Hattiesburg at any time but in the year of general election, in which year not less than four months before the election he spends one day at each voting precinct in the county for the purpose of registering voters (ibid., secs. 6181-85).

He is required to keep as a permanent record a list of poll tax delinquents which he obtains from the tax collector, and a register of convicts, as both delinquents and convicts are ineligible to vote (ibid., secs. 3244, 4079, 6187).

Until the absent voters' law was repealed in 1932 (L. M., 1932, p. 629), the circuit clerk as registrar administered the law (Code, 1930, sec. 6288-6301). He must attend all meetings of the county election commissioners (See Governmental Organization and Records System, p. 11, supra.) and render them all needed assistance in revising the list of qualified voters (ibid., sec. 6212). After each election the ballot boxes are deposited in the safekeeping of the registrar (ibid., sec. 5884) and full and exact duplicates of the certified vote are filed with him to be preserved (ibid., sec. 5895).

By the corrupt practices act of November 25, 1935 the circuit clerk as registrar was given several additional duties to perform. Candidates for nomination to county and county district offices are required by law to file with the clerk an affidavit that they have read the corrupt practices act and they will not violate any of its obligations and prohibitions, and they must file also an itemized statement of their campaign expenses to be kept as a public record for four years. The distributor of the ballots is directed to deliver to the clerk copy of the poll manager's receipt for the ballots. The books of duplicate poll receipts are delivered to the clerk who receives, receipts, and preserves them as a public record. He issues duplicate poll tax receipts for lost receipts and certifies that they are true and correct and he issues certificates of exemption to persons exempt from paying poll tax, keeps a record of such issuances, and receives \$100 per year for discharging these duties. The act stipulates that the ballot boxes shall be delivered to the circuit clerk and sealed by him in the presence of the poll manager making the delivery. (L. M., Extraordinary Session, 1935, chapt. 19, pp. 33-52.)

In cases of contested elections the clerk must notify the chief justice of the state supreme court or any other justice in the event the chief justice cannot be reached. The chief justice appoints a chancery or circuit judge from a district other than that in which the contest has arisen to hear and determine the case. The circuit clerk issues subpoenas to principals and to witnesses. When either or both of the principals demand an examination of the ballots, the circuit clerk must be present in person or by deputy to see that the ballots are not tampered with. In cases of prosecution for violation of the act the sheriff makes arrest on warrants issued by the trial court, and delivers all papers to the circuit clerk who files them and personally delivers them to the foreman of the next grand jury. (Ibid.)

The compensation of the circuit clerk as registrar is fixed by the board of supervisors as directed by law (Code, 1903, sec. 6195). The board of Forrest County, in addition to the \$100 allowed him annually for the added work entailed by the passage of the corrupt practices act, pays the registrar \$1,000 annually ("Minutes of the Board of Supervisors", vol. 15, p. 447, see entry 2.)

Registration and Poll Records

178. REGISTRATION BOOK, 1908--. 34 vols.

Record of registration of prospective voters, showing number and date of registration, name of registrant, age, color, sex, occupation, name of employer, length of residence, notation on registrant's ability to read or understand the constitution, signature of registrant, and remarks. Arr. numer. by registration no. under name of political subdivision. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 75 pp. 18 x 16 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

179. POLL BOOKS, 1908--. 76 vols.

List of qualified voters obtained from Registration Book, entry 178, showing name of voter, registration number, age, color, number of times voted, whether or not delinquent, and signature of registrar. Arr. alph. by names of voters in political subdivisions. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 100 pp. 16 x 12 x 1.

180. POLL TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES, 1936--. 3 vols.

Record of affidavits of and certificates issued to voters exempt from payment of poll tax because of age or disability, showing certificate number, name of voter, age, residence, signature and acknowledgement of voter, certificate to vote signed by registrar. Arr. chron. by date filed. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 250 pp. 18 x 12 x 1.

181. RECORD OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF CRIMES, 1908--. 1 vol.

List of names of persons convicted of either or any of the following crimes: bribery, burglarly, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretenses, perjury, forgery, embezzlement, or bigamy; kept by registrar to enable him to erase the names of such persons from the registration book or to prevent such persons from registering; showing name of person convicted, court of conviction, crime, date of conviction, date of trial, sentence, volume and page in court minutes, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of convict. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 150 pp. 16 x 12 x 1½.

XV. SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

The constitutional office of county superintendent of education; at first appointive by the state board of education by and with the consent of the senate (Const. 1869, art. VIII, sec. 4; Const., 1890, sec. 204), was made elective in each county by the Code of 1906 (Code, 1906, secs. 4809-10).

The office of superintendent of education was established in Forrest County by the county organization act of 1906, a superintendent was elected at the general election of November 1907, and he was sworn into office in January 1908. (See Governmental Organization and Records System, p. 7, supra.)

A candidate for the office was required to be 21 years of age, a qualified elector, and a resident of the state for four years and of the county for two years preceding his election. He was also required to pass an examination on the branches required for first grade license, and in addition on the art of teaching. His bond was set at from \$500 to not more than \$2,000. (Code, 1906, secs. 4809, 4811-12.)

The duties of this officer as outlined by the Code of 1906 were:

(a) To employ for each school under his supervision, such teacher or teachers as may be recommended by the local trustees; but the teacher shall hold his certificate of proper date and grade and execute the required contract;

(b) To examine the monthly reports of teachers, when in his judgment necessary, and require the signatures of a majority of the trustees certifying to the accuracy of the report, and upon the report thus certified to issue a pay certificate showing the amount of salary due, and the scholastic month for which it is issued. The pay-certificate must be in the form prescribed by the board of education, and a stub duplicate made out and preserved in his office;

(c) To fix the salaries of teachers and to make contracts with them;

(d) To enforce the course of study adopted by the board of education, and the uniform text-books adopted for the county;

(e) To enforce the law and the rules and regulations in reference to the examination of teachers;

(f) To visit the schools and require teachers to perform all their duties;

(g) To select and employ teachers for public schools whose trustees fail to report a selection within ten days of the time fixed by the county school board for the beginning of the term;

(h) To administer oaths in all cases of teachers, trustees, and others relating to the schools, and to take testimony in appeal cases under the school-law;

(i) To keep on file and preserve in his office the biennial report of the superintendent of public education and all circular-letters sent out by him, and a copy of the school-law;

(j) To distribute promptly all reports, laws, forms, circulars, and instructions which he may receive for the use of school-officers and teachers, from the state superintendent of public education;

Superintendent of Education

(Next entry 182, p. 90)

(k) To carefully preserve all reports of school-officers and teachers, and, at the close of the term of office, deliver to his successor all records, books, documents, and papers belonging to the office, taking a receipt for the same, which shall be filed in the office of the chancery clerk;

(l) To make annually, on or before the first day of October, a written report to the board of supervisors and mayor and board of aldermen of the municipality, constituting a separate school district, showing the name, sex, and color of the teachers employed during the preceding scholastic year, the number of months taught by each, and the aggregate amounts of pay-certificates issued to each and to all; and the report shall be filed in the office of the chancery clerk or of the municipal clerk, as the case may be, and be compared by said officer with the pay-certificates of the county superintendent for the period embraced in the report;

(m) To file with the chancery and municipal clerks, before issuing any pay-certificate for the current term, lists of the teachers employed, and the monthly salary of each as shown by the contract, and to add to the list any teachers subsequently employed;

(n) To keep in his office, and carefully preserve the public school record provided; to enter therein the proceedings of the county school-board, the decisions of appeal cases, and other official acts; a list of the teachers examined, licensed, and employed; and, within ten days after they are rendered, to record the date required from the monthly and term reports of teachers; and the annual reports of county and separate school-district treasurers; and from the summaries of records thus kept, to render, on or before the twentieth of October, an annual report to the state superintendent in the form and containing the particulars required;

(o) To observe such instruction and regulations as the board of education may from time to time prescribe, and make special reports to those officials whenever required; and

(p) To perform such other duties as may be required of him by law or the rules and regulations of the board of education. (Ibid., sec. 4497.)

The powers and duties of the superintendent of education at present are: to employ such teachers as may be recommended by the local trustees, (if recommendations are not made by June 15, the superintendent may appoint the teachers); to allow assistant teachers as prescribed by law; to fix salaries of teachers and make contracts with them except as otherwise prescribed by law; to enforce the course of study adopted by the board of education and the uniform text books; to enforce the law and rules and regulations in reference to examinations of teachers; to administer oaths in all cases of teachers and others relating to the schools; and to take testimony in appeal cases under the school law. (Code, 1930, sec. 6570, arts. 1-6.)

The superintendent is also required to issue pay certificates after a majority of the trustees have certified as to the accuracy of a monthly report; to preserve all reports of school officers and teachers; to deliver to the chancery clerk before pay certificates are issued, a list of teachers under contract, the list to show their monthly salaries; to keep a record of all official actions of the county school board, of his own official actions, and of teachers, examined, licensed and employed; to make a report annually to the state superintendent of public education; to prepare an outline map showing the number of sections included in each school district and to paste the map in the school register before it is delivered to the teacher of the district. (Ibid., arts. 7-12.)

He is obligated to report each month to the board of supervisors and the mayor and board of aldermen of the municipalities included in each public school district,

Superintendent of Education

(Next entry 182, p. 90)

the report to show the amount of pay certificates issued that month, the date of visits to each school and the time spent with each school; to visit the schools and require the teachers to perform all their duties; to distribute promptly all reports, laws, forms, circulars and instructions received from the state superintendent of public education; to keep on file and preserve the biennial report of the state superintendent of public education; to call meetings of the county school board; to call annually on the first of May a meeting of the trustees of the county for the election of the county school board. (Ibid., art. 13-18.)

The superintendent is directed to observe such instructions and regulations as the state board of education may prescribe and make special reports to these officials whenever required; to be at the county seat on each Saturday of each scholastic month of the term to receive monthly reports, issue pay certificates and attend to other official duties; to make every two years an enumeration of all educable children in his county; to settle disputes in schools, his decisions being subject to appeal to the state board of education upon a written statement of the facts certified by the county superintendent or by the secretary of the board of trustees. (Ibid., arts. 19-24, sec. 6572.)

He may suspend or remove teachers from office for incompetency, neglect of duty, immoral conduct or other just cause; and he may fill vacancies in the positions of trustee or teacher; and have the same power as justice of the peace of issuing subpoenas for witnesses and compelling their attendance for the giving of evidence; and he can revoke teachers' licenses for intemperance or immoral conduct, brutal treatment of a pupil or for other just cause. (Ibid., secs. 6573-74.)

The qualifications of the county superintendent of education are enumerated as follows: he shall be a qualified elector and a resident citizen of the state for four years and of the county for two years immediately preceding his election; he must hold a certificate certifying, that he is a graduate of a high school requiring at least 15 units for graduation or the equivalent thereof; that he has had at least two years successful experience as a teacher in the public schools of the state or that he is a graduate of a standard college; and, if he does not possess a professional life license, that he has passed an examination held by the state board of examiners (ibid., secs. 6563-64).

The cause of common school education was first given aid in the Mississippi Territory by the act of Congress approved March 3, 1803, entitled "An Act Providing for the Disposal of Land South of the State of Tennessee" (2 Stat. L., pp. 229-234). By this act the government, in offering for sale the public lands, reserved in each township the section of land numbered 16 (or some other section if the 16th section had been legally disposed of), for the support of schools within the township (ibid., sec. 12). At first the lands were managed by the county court (L. M., 1818, p. 59; see also County Court, p. 53, supra.) but the act of January 9, 1824 authorized the election by the resident heads of families of five trustees in each township who were empowered to rent, collect, and disburse the rents, erect school houses and employ teachers (L. M., 1824, pp. 9-11).

In 1833, the Legislature authorized the sale on a credit of one to four years, of 99-year leases of the sixteenth section lands, the purchase money to be secured by a lien on the lands (L. M., 1833, p. 93). But the Legislature, evidently carried away by the hysteria of speculation that prevailed in the early 1800's, directed that the proceeds when collected, be invested in the stock of the Planters' Bank at Natchez (ibid., p. 95). When this bank failed in 1837 along with hundreds of

others in the United States, the educational program of Mississippi was set back many years. "More than a million dollars of sixteenth sections funds were lost through poor management." (James Wilford Garner, Reconstruction In Mississippi, New York, 1901, p. 365.)

An effort was made in 1846 to establish a uniform system of free schools supported by county-levied fees and taxation (L. M., 1846, pp. 104), but its weak point, which made it partially inoperative as a system was the proviso that the counties themselves should be the judge as to levying taxes for the establishment and support of the schools (Rowland, op. cit., vol. II, p. 476).

The first legislation creating the office of county superintendent of education was the act of March 4, 1848 providing for and establishing common schools in the counties of Hinds, Holmes, Tunica, Jefferson, Wilkinson, Lawrence, and Amite (L. M., 1848, p. 56). The boards of police in each of these counties were directed to appoint a superintendent whose duty it was to visit the public schools in his county at least once every three months; examine the record or journal kept by the teacher in each school and all other matters touching the situation, discipline, mode of teaching, and improvements; keep a journal of all such examinations and of his remarks; make an annual report on his journal to the secretary of state; fill all vacancies; call elections annually for the election of school trustees in each township, and appoint five trustees in the event the elections were not held. The township trustees were required to account to the superintendent for all moneys raised and expended for school purposes and the superintendent examined and certified these accounts. He was given authority to examine candidates for teaching and give them 12-month certificates. He was also empowered to annul a teacher's certificate if a trial proved the teacher to be untrustworthy. (Ibid.)

The next definite program of common school education was instituted by the Reconstruction government in 1869-70. The Constitution of 1869 established the office of county superintendent of education to be appointed by the state board of education by and with the advice and consent of the senate. However, the legislature was given power to make the office elective. (Const., 1869, art. VIII, sec. 4.) On July 4, 1870 the Legislature passed an elaborate act "to regulate the support, organization, and maintenance of a uniform system of public education for the state" (L. M., 1870, pp. 1-20). "Serious objections were at once urged against the law by Democrats and Republicans as well. In the first place, it provided for a system of education entirely too expensive, in view of the impoverished condition of the people. The desolation of a long war, a succession of crop failures, a Federal tax on cotton equivalent to one-fourth of its value, the loss of the slaves, and the increased taxes necessary for rebuilding and repairing public institutions bore heavily upon a people who had never been accustomed to heavy taxes, even in the days of their prosperity.....The chief source of objection was the needlessly expensive machinery provided for the administration of the system....Another objection to the law was the requirement that county superintendents, who were to be paid from the local treasuries, should be appointed by the state board of education, thus depriving the people of the several counties of the privilege of choosing competent residents to manage their educational affairs, and compelling them in some instances to accept non-resident--'carpet baggers' selected by the central authorities at Jackson". (Garner, op. cit., pp. 356-57.)

The law of 1870 gave the county superintendent of education the duties of supervising the schools, examining applicants for teachers' licenses, performing the duties required by the state board of education, and forwarding annually to the

Superintendent of Education

(Next entry 182, p. 90)

auditor of public accounts a list of educable children in the county (L. M., 1870, p. 7). The law provided that there be a board of six directors in each school district of each county. They were charged with establishing schools, hiring teachers, selecting text books, and estimating the cost of constructing or renting buildings. Their compensation was set at \$3 per day and mileage. Each board was to have a secretary at \$3 per day. It was the duty of the directors to establish a school wherever the parents or guardians of 25 children of school age should make written application for it. (Ibid., pp. 8-10.)

The program was the subject of much bitter controversy but "when the reconstructionists surrendered the government to the democracy in 1876, the public school system which they had fathered had become firmly established, its efficiency increased, and its administration made somewhat less expensive than at first. There does not seem to have been any disposition upon the part of the Democrats to abolish it or impair its efficiency." (Garner, op. cit., pp. 370-71.)

The Constitution of 1890 provided for a county superintendent of education but kept the office appointive by the state board of education with the condition that the Legislature could make the office elective (Const., 1890, sec. 204). In 1892 the office was made elective in all counties except Adams, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tate, Bolivar, Coahoma, DeSoto, Grenada, Hinds, Issaquena, Panola, Warren, Washington, and Yazoo (Code, 1892, sec. 4258). In 1896 the office was made elective in Bolivar, DeSoto, Issaquena, Panola, Sharkey, Yazoo, and Tate Counties (L. M., 1896, chapt. 108); in 1900 in Coahoma County (L. M., 1900, chapt. III); and in 1904 in Hinds County (L. M., 1904, chapt. 127); and in 1906 in all remaining counties (Code, 1906, secs. 4809-10).

In 1932 the Brookings Institution in making its report on the organization and administration of state and county government in Mississippi had this to say in reference to the school system and to the superintendent of education: "Local school government in Mississippi involves many different agencies. On the county level there is the county superintendent of education, the county school board, and the county board of supervisors. There are five different types of school districts with different forms of boards for each. In addition to the regular schools provided through these agencies there is the county agricultural high school with its board of trustees, some of which have been developed into junior colleges. The city school districts have a type of government much like that of city school government in other states, but in the rural types of districts local government in Mississippi represents a number of unique features.

"Local school government is a county-local system in which the county superintendent is the most prominent as well as dominating element.....The duties of the county superintendent of education as stated in the law are administrative rather than supervisory. Furthermore, a large portion of these administrative duties are financial. The origin of this unusual situation probably lies in the fact that in the earlier days the schools were small and isolated, that they were kept open for only a few months of the year and that the small amount of funds required to run them came largely from the state and the county.

"There are five different types of school districts as follows:

1. Common School District: This term is used to designate the ordinary rural school district, usually containing nine whole square miles laid out according to the congressional survey plan.

2. Consolidated District: This district is formed by consolidating two or more common school districts; and it must contain a minimum area of ten square miles. It was the first type of district to have the authority to transport pupils. It contains but one school which in a great majority of cases has both elementary and high school grades, the number of pupils in the latter being as low as 30 and the total enrollment as low as 150.

3. Special Consolidated Districts: This is the newest type of district--it is popularly known as the "super-consolidated district." It is intended that the consolidated districts unite to form the larger district. The minimum number of square miles is 20, and of pupils, 250.

4. Municipal Separate District: This is similar to the usual independent school district consisting of the territory within the corporate limits of a municipality and territory that may be added thereto.

5. Rural Separate Districts: According to the law this is to consist of "any unencumbered district with an assessed valuation of not less than \$200,000 or any unincorporated district of not less than sixteen square miles organized by the county school board in which a free public school is maintained for at least seven months with an average of not less than 25 children." Before the days of the consolidated district there were 60 or 80 of these in the more progressive communities. Many of them have recently been made consolidated districts." (Institute for Government Research of the Brookings Institution, op. cit., pp. 828-29.)

Because of favorable conditions the superintendents of education in Forrest County have been able to develop a well-organized system of education. The industrial-agricultural economy of the county (see Historical Sketch, p. 5, supra.) has enabled the people to pay their taxes and thus provide an adequate income for the school system. For 1935-37 the public school funds amounted to \$286,364.46, giving Forrest County tenth place among the 82 counties of the state in school income (J. S. Vandiver, comp. and ed., Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Education to the Legislature of Mississippi, 1935-1937, Jackson, Miss., 1937, pp. 66-70).

Since 1908, when the county was organized, much progress has been made in consolidating and standardizing the schools and in educating the negro children. In 1908 there were 36 school districts and with 51 schools for white children, and there were 13 one-room rural schools for negro children. At the present time there are for white children, one common school district with one elementary school; three consolidated school districts, two with one elementary school each, and one with a four year high school; two special consolidated school districts, one with an accredited four-year high school and two elementary schools, and the other with an accredited agricultural high school and four elementary schools; and one separate school district with an accredited high school and five elementary schools. For negro children there are now five eight-month consolidated schools in the rural districts; the Forrest County Consolidated Training School in Hattiesburg, and the Eureka high school in Hattiesburg. (Bulletin No. 89, State Department of Education, Jackson, Miss., 1937, p. 21.)

Forrest County does not maintain a junior college. State Teachers' College (see Historical Sketch, p. 6, supra.) and the Woman's College, a Baptist denominational school (Rowland, op. cit., vol. II, p. 501), both four-year, accredited colleges situated in Hattiesburg, make it unnecessary for the county to supply facilities for higher education.

During the first month of the school term the principal teacher, except in separate school districts, must make an enumeration of the educable school children in the district and deliver a copy of the report to the superintendent. Teachers

Superintendent of Education -
Administrative; Financial

(182-186)

must make monthly reports and a final term report. (Code, 1930, secs. 6635-36.) Trustees of separate school districts are required to report to the superintendent all expenses to conform with the financial report the superintendent must make to the state board of education (ibid., sec. 6665, art. 14). The board of trustees of the agricultural high school at Brooklyn is directed to make annually a detailed statement of receipts and disbursements to the board of supervisors and to the superintendent (ibid., sec. 6682).

Unless otherwise designated the records of the superintendent of education are kept in his office.

Administrative

182. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECORD, 1908--. 47 file boxes.

Original records of school administrative and financial affairs, including official actions of county school board, 1908-31, 1934, and boards of trustees, names of teachers examined, licensed, and employed, transportation rules, regulations, and salaries, monthly progress reports, lists of schools visited by superintendent, miscellaneous correspondence, copies of monthly and term reports made by teachers, annual reports of superintendent to state superintendent, 1908-29, and general information concerning county schools. Filed chron. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 11 x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14.

For superintendent's reports 1930--, see entry 184.

183. COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD RECORDS, 1932-33; 1935--. 2 file boxes.

Original proceedings of meetings of county school board, including orders and resolutions, petitions filed and granted, official pay rolls, contracts, correspondence, and miscellaneous matters. Arr. chron. No index. Typed. 12 x 4 x 12 and 8 x 1 x 12.

For county school board records 1908-32 and for 1934, see entry 182.

184. OFFICE FILE, GENERAL, 1930--. 1 file box.

Carbon copies of superintendent's annual report to state superintendent of education, financial reports, cancelled notes, orders to hold salaries of teachers, and other employees, petitions, teachers' applications, bids for school transportation contracts, correspondence and miscellaneous insurance policies. Filed chron. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 4 x 12.

For additional general records, see entries 182, 183.

Financial

(See also entries 6, 8, 9-13, 172, 182, 206)

185. COUNTY ACCOUNTS, TEACHERS, 1935--. 1 vol.

Ledger accounts with each teacher, begun in 1935, showing name of teacher, name of school, district, certificate number, date, purpose, amount, and remarks. Arr. chron. Indexed alph. by name of teacher. Hdw. on ptd. form. 272 pp. 12 x 6 x 1.

186. PAY ROLLS, ADULT EDUCATION, 1935--. 1 file box.

Original time reports of persons engaged in WPA adult educational work, showing name of employee, sex, address, identification number, number of hours worked per day, rate of pay per hour, total amount. Filed chron. by date report made. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 8 x 1 x 12.

Superintendent of Education -
Teachers ; Reports

(187-193)

187. PAY CERTIFICATE STUBS, 1908--. 48 vols.

Stubs of pay certificates issued by superintendent to teachers and other departmental employee, showing number, term of school, date issued, name of school, district, payee, amount, to whom delivered. Employees present the certificate to the chancery clerk who issues warrants in payment of services rendered. Arr. numer. by certificate no. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 18 x 12 x 1.

Teachers

(See also entries 182, 184-187, 192-196, 198, 201)

188. TEACHERS APPLICATIONS, 1935--. 2 file boxes.

Original applications made by teachers for positions, showing name, address, grade of license held, experience, general average of examinations taken, grade applying for, salary expected, and reference. Filed chron. by date application made. No index. Hdw. 8 x 1 x 12.

189. EXAMINING BOARD, 1931-34. 1 file box.

Original examination questions received from state superintendent of education and teachers' special examination papers.

Subsequent records of examining board kept at State Teachers' College, Hattiesburg.

190. RECORD OF TEACHERS LICENSES, 1908--. 1 vol.

Records of licenses issued to and contracts made with school teachers, showing date recorded, certificate number, grade, license number, name of teacher, address, age, race, date of transfer, subject grades, average grade, expiration date of license. Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by name of teacher. Hdw. on ptd. form. 210 pp. 18 x 18 x 1.

191. APPLICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS, ADULT EDUCATION, 1935--. 1 file box.

Original applications and appointments of teachers engaged in WPA adult educational program, showing date, name of teacher, age, sex, address, race, educational qualifications, name and location of college attended, and teaching experience. Filed chron. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 1 x 12.

For additional adult education records, see entry 186.

Reports

(See also entries 182, 184, 186)

192. REPORTS OF DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL, STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE, 1931--. 1 file box.

Original reports of teachers attending State Teachers' College Demonstration School, showing name of teacher, grades taught, scholastic year, date of opening and closing term, enrollments, days taught, and average attendance. Filed chron. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 12.

193. REPORTS AND GENERAL FILE, 1931--. 23 file boxes.

Miscellaneous papers including original reports made to superintendent by teachers and by school bus drivers, reports of elections of trustees, bus drivers' contracts, petitions, and miscellaneous orders. Filed chron. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 4 x 12.

Superintendent of Education - Insurance;
Agricultural High School; School Children

(194-200)

194. REPORTS HATTIESBURG CITY SCHOOLS, (Title Varies), 1931--. 2 file boxes. Reports to superintendent made by city schools pertaining to transfer of county pupils to city schools and to teachers' schedules and salaries, showing name of pupil, age, sex, race, grade, name of school from which transferred, name of school to which transferred, name of teacher, school, salary, remarks. Filed chron. No index. Typed. 18 x 4 x 12 and 8 x 1 x 12.

195. INSTITUTE REPORTS (GENERAL), 1925-35. 1 file box. Copies of original report cards of teachers and students attending summer schools, showing name of teacher or student, name of school attended, address, race, sex, training, experience, date of entrance, courses taken, date completed, and grade of license held. Filed chron. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 12 x 4 x 12.

196. REPORTS TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1935--. 1 file box. Carbon copies of superintendents monthly reports to board of supervisors, showing names of teachers receiving pay certificates, amount of certificates, statement of number of schools visited, date of visit, and time spent in each school; also names of school bus drivers receiving certificates and amount paid each. Arr. chron. No index. Typed. 8 x 1 x 10.

Insurance
(See also entries 15, 182, 199)

197. INSURANCE ACCOUNTS, 1935--. 1 file box. Statements of insurance on school property, showing whether insurance is paid or unpaid and approval of board of trustees. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 1 x 10.

Agricultural High School
(See also entry 11)

198. MINUTE BOOK, FORREST COUNTY TRUSTEES AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL, 1912-20. 1 vol. Record of proceedings of the monthly meetings of the board of trustees of the Forrest County agricultural high school including names of teachers employed and financial statistics and statements. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 196 pp. 18 x 18 x 1. Subsequent records of proceedings now kept in office of agricultural high school at Brooklyn.

199. MATTERS, FORREST COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL, 1930--. 1 file box. Miscellaneous matters of the Forrest County agricultural high school, including insurance policies, notes paid, accounts payable and receivable, pupils' reports, vocational reports, bids, appointment of trustees, and copies of reports made to superintendent. Filed chron. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 4 x 12.

School Children

200. EDUCABLE CHILDREN IN FORREST COUNTY, 1908--. 10 vols. Lists of educable children, showing township, section, range, town or city, name

Health Department

(201-206)

of parents, name of child, race, age, sex, address, school attending. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 150 pp. 12 x 8 x 1. Ch. clerk's va.

201. STATE DEPARTMENT (GENERAL ACCREDITING COMMISSION), 1933--. 2 file boxes. Carbon copies of reports made by superintendent to state superintendent of education, showing attendance and achievements of pupils and schools, name of pupil, age, sex, race, grade, grade progress tables, and score cards for schools and teachers. Filed chron. by date report made. No index. Typed. 12 x 4 x 12.

For additional records of reports, see entries 182, 184.

Adult Education
(See also entries 186, 191)

202. CORRESPONDENCE, ADULT EDUCATION, 1935--. 2 file boxes. Letters from state WPA officials to superintendent, teachers, and county leaders pertaining to the adult education work in Forrest County. Filed chron. No index. Typed. 8 x 1 x 12.

203. INSTRUCTIONS (ADULT EDUCATION), 1935--. 1 file box. Bulletins, instructions, and letters from state board of education and county leaders relative to WPA adult education program in Forrest County. Filed chron. No index. Typed. 8 x 1 x 12.

Correspondence
(See also entries 202, 203)

204. STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, 1935--. 5 file boxes. Letters from state department of education pertaining to rehabilitation, legislation, taxation, and school divisions. Filed chron. No index. 8 x 1 x 10.

205. MATTERS OF MISSISSIPPI EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION, 1934--. 1 file box. Letters from Mississippi Educational Association to superintendent relative to general affairs of the organization. Filed chron. No index. 8 x 1 x 10.

206. CORRESPONDENCE WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1935--. 1 file box. Letters from superintendent to the board and from the board to the superintendent pertaining to financial affairs. Filed chron. No index. Typed. 8 x 1 x 12.

XVI. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

A part-time health officer for Forrest County was appointed in 1909 by the state board of health (Biennial Report of the State Board of Health, 1908-09, Jackson, Miss., 1909, p. 37), under the provisions of the laws of 1906 (Code, 1906, sec. 2491).

The duties of the health officer were to enforce the rules and regulations of the state board of health in the prevention and spread of all contagious, infectious or epidemic diseases, to investigate and examine into the causes of the diseases, and to recommend rules and regulations to remedy the diseases.

The chief accomplishment in health work in the county from 1909 until 1915 was the eradication and control of hookworm (Biennial Report of the State Board of Health,

Health Department

(Next entry 207, p. 95)

1913-15, Jackson, Miss., 1915, pp. 12, 24). Largely as a result of the apparent benefits of the application of sound sanitation and other public health measures at Camp Shelby located in the southern part of the county during the World War (see Historical Sketch, p. 6, supra.), a full-time county health department was established in Forrest County October 1, 1921 (Public Health and Licensure in Mississippi, 1798-1937, Jackson, Miss., 1937, p. 63; "Minutes of the Board of Supervisors", vol. 8, p. 246, see entry 2). At that time the board of supervisors appropriated \$2,500 and the city of Hattiesburg appropriated \$2,500 to match \$5,000 given by the state board of health (ibid.).

The general program of the department has been to disseminate information concerning the cause and prevention of communicable diseases through newspapers, lectures, talks, motion pictures, radio, literature and personal contacts. Periodic health examinations of adults have been especially stressed by the local health department in an effort to check the death rate from diseases non-communicable but productive of a high death rate, such as cancer, nephritis, heart disease and diabetes. (Biennial Report of the State Board of Health, 1935-37, Jackson, Miss., 1937, p. 128.)

In 1931 a tuberculosis case-finding program was made one of the major activities of the Forrest County Health Department. More than 1,500 school children and youthful industrial employees have been given this test. (Ibid., p. 130.) Other phases of the program are pre-natal, infant and maternal care, child health, rural and urban sanitation, and malaria control. The local appropriation for a full-time technician was withdrawn October 1, 1932 but the WPA has supplied one continuously since that time. More than 4,000 specimens have been examined in the local laboratory and in addition 4,066 specimens have been sent to the state hygienic laboratory. (Ibid., pp. 130-32.)

The director of the health department of Forrest County is, as the law requires, a graduate physician, well-trained in health work. He is selected by the board of supervisors on the recommendation of the state board of health. (Code, 1930, sec. 4926.)

The director's duties in general are: to enforce all health laws of Forrest County under the supervision and direction of the state board of health, or its executive committee, and to make such investigations of health problems and recommend and institute such measures as may be necessary, under the direction and supervision of the state board, and to make reports to the board of all matters concerning the sanitary conditions of the county in the manner prescribed by the board (ibid., sec. 4927). He is also required to keep an accurate record of all the activities of the health department for the use of the public and for information to the state board (ibid., sec. 4930).

The state board of health which directs the health work of Forrest County through its executive officer, is composed of ten members, nine of whom are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. Eight of these are physicians while the ninth is a dentist recommended by the state dental association. The executive officer, the tenth member, is elected by the board and acts as state health officer and secretary of the board. The term of office is six years with the terms of three of the members expiring every two years (ibid., sec. 4868).

To obtain well-balanced, efficient health service in the county the state board is divided into nine bureaus; administrative and health education; vital

Health Department - Reports;
Vital Statistics

(207-208)

statistics; state hygienic laboratory; sanitary engineering; county health work; communicable diseases; child hygiene and public health nursing; factory inspection and industrial hygiene; and tuberculosis and tuberculosis sanitorium. In the main, the work of the health department of Forrest County falls into these same nine divisions and the director of the department is responsible to the state board for the performance of the work.

The personnel of the Forrest County health department consists of the director, two nurses, a sanitation inspector, and a secretary-clerk. The appropriation for the unit for 1935 was \$8,333.33 and for 1936 \$8,500.00. (Biennial Report of the State Board of Health, 1935-37, Jackson, Miss., 1937, p. 128; "Minutes of the Board of Supervisors", vol. 15, p. 556, see entry 2.)

Only during the last few years has the health department kept any permanent records. The directors' reports were sent to the state board of health at Jackson, and as a rule, they kept no copies. The state board has gradually developed a standard reporting system and a uniform system of records. In 1934 a Record Manual was adopted for use in all health units. On January 1, 1938 a revised Record Manual was distributed. It contains 510 pages and includes approximately 125 standard forms to be used in administrative and clerical procedure and in reporting vital statistics, communicable disease records, sanitation records, and laboratory data.

The records of the department are kept in the office of the department.

Reports

207. MONTHLY REPORTS, 1928--. 9 file boxes.

Carbon copies of standard monthly numerical morbidity report made by director of health department to the bureau of communicable diseases of the state board of health, showing name of county, month, number of diseases reported by physicians, name of disease, white, black, total, number of active physicians in the county, number failing to report, name and address of any illegal practitioner, name and address of any physician who has moved into county, name and address of any physician who has moved out of county during the month, name, address, age, color, whether active or inactive, and cause of death of any physician who has died during the month, names and addresses of physicians failing so report, signature of county health officer, and date. Filed chron. by month of report. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 16 x 12 x 24.

Vital Statistics

(See also entries 103-106)

208. CERTIFICATES OF BIRTH, 1912--. 24 file boxes.

Duplicate birth certificates showing county, district, and registration number, precinct, village, or city, hospital, full name of child, sex, if plural births, twin or triplet, number in order of birth, premature, legitimate, month and day of birth, father's full name, address, race, age, birthplace, occupation, mother's full maiden name, address, race, age, birthplace, occupation, if stillborn, signature and certificate of physician or midwife, time filed with registrar and signature of registrar. Filed alph. by name of child. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 16 x 12 x 24.

Health Department - Examinations;
Communicable Diseases

(209-214)

209. DEATH CERTIFICATES, 1912--. 24 file boxes.

Duplicate death certificates showing number of certificate, place and date of death, full name of deceased, personal and statistical particulars, occupation, name and birthplace of father and mother, name of informant, place and date of burial, cremation or removal, medical certificate of death, additional statements of physician, signature of physician, date of filing with registrar. Filed alph. by name of deceased. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 16 x 12 x 24.

Examinations

210. PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN, 1935--. 12 file boxes.

Card record of physical examinations of school children, showing name of child, race, sex, age, address, date of birth, names of parents, name of school attending, grade, nutrition, deformities, posture, skin, ears; eyes, nose, teeth, throat, glands, heart, lungs, hearing, vision, parents' attendance, name of examiner, tests given, disease experience, examiner's notes, and physician's orders. Filed alph. by name of child. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 3 x 12.

211. INFANTS AND PRE-SCHOOL RECORDS, 1934--. 4 file boxes.

Card record of examinations of infants and pre-school children, showing name of child, race, sex, age, address, date of birth, names of parents, name of examining physician, immunization and clinical tests, disease experience, findings and physician's notes, general health habits, feedings, service rendered, comments on progress, and summary of physician's orders. Filed alph. by name of child. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 6 x 24.

212. REPORTS OF CHEST EXAMINATIONS, 1936--. 1 file box.

Original reports of chest examinations, showing name of patient, address, age, race, sex, physical findings, X-Ray findings, diagnosis, recommendations. Filed alph. by name of patient. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 8 x 6 x 14.

Communicable Diseases

213. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RECORDS, 1934--. 1 file box.

Card record of epidemiological cases, showing name of patient, age, sex, color, type of disease, address, name of physician referring patient to health department, occupation, date of onset, first visit, immunized, family case history of disease, other members of household, age, sex, employed where and occupation or school attended, laboratory data, information about present case, probable source of infection, possible mode of infection, sanitary surroundings, possible source contacts other than family, laboratory data, private physician's orders, consultations, special treatment, record of visits and additional epidemiological data, spread contacts of present case, laboratory data. Filed alph. by name of patient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 6 x 10.

214. TUBERCULIN TESTS, 1932--. 1 file box.

Card record of tuberculin tests made, showing name of patient, age, sex, race, address, status, date and source of infection, contacts, date of tests, amount, and result. Filed alph. by name of patient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 6 x 4 x 30.

Pension Board of Inquiry

(215-220)

215. VENEREAL DISEASE RECORD, 1935--. 2 file boxes.

Card record of Wassermann tests given, showing name of patient, age, sex, race, address, marital status, date and source of infection, contacts, laboratory data, physical examination, remarks, treatment and progress, and summary of previous treatments. Filed alph. by name of patient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 6 x 12.

Immunizations

216. CASE RECORDS, CLOSED AND ACTIVE, 1934--. 3 file boxes.

Card record of immunization cases, closed and active, showing name of patient, age, sex, race, address, immunization and clinical tests, disease experience, family contact record, findings of physical examination, service rendered, comment on progress made, summary of physician's orders, date, and name of worker. Filed alph. by name of patient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 6 x 16.

217. IMMUNIZATION REPORTS, 1930--. 4 file boxes.

Reports of smallpox vaccinations and diphtheria and typhoid fever inoculations, showing name of patient, age, sex, race, address, date of vaccination or inoculation, and results. Filed alph. by name of patient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 6 x 4 x 24.

Laboratory Reports

218. REPORTS OF LABORATORY AND MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATIONS, 1932--. 4 file boxes.

Reports of examinations for malaria, typhoid fever, and tuberculosis, showing name of patient, age, sex, race, address, date of examination, and result. Filed alph. by name of patient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 6 x 28.

219. RECORD OF MICROSCOPIC TESTS, 1936--. 1 folder.

Card record of microscopic examinations, showing date of examination, name of patient, age, race, sex, address, name of physician, result of examination, disease, and date treated. Filed chron. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 10 x 1.

Miscellaneous

220. APPLICATIONS FOR TONSILECTOMY, 1936--. 1 file box.

Applications for tonsilectomies by persons unable to pay, showing name of patient, address, age, race, sex, name of parents, name of family physician, own home or rent, value of home, if mortgaged, income in family, and signature of applicant. Filed chron. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 1 x 12.

XVII. PENSION BOARD OF INQUIRY

The Legislature appropriated funds to pay pensions to Confederate soldiers and sailors, widows of Confederate soldiers and sailors, and servants of Confederate soldiers and sailors (Code, 1892, sec. 3226). These funds are allocated and are distributed locally by the pension board of inquiry created in 1898 (L. M., 1898, chapt. 36) and organized in Forrest County in 1908.

This board, appointed by the board of supervisors, is composed of five persons originally selected and recommended to the board by the county camp of Confederate

veterans; the county attorney; and a world war veteran. As there is no camp of Confederate veterans in Forrest County - only two veterans are still living in the county - the board of supervisors appoints the members of the board of inquiry and fills all vacancies. (Code, 1930, sec. 5812.)

The board was organized in Forrest County to receive, inquire into, and pass upon applications for pensions filed by all Confederate soldiers and sailors, by widows of soldiers and sailors, and by disabled servants of Confederate soldiers and sailors. Pensioners are placed in four classes and have been paid steadily increasing sums. In 1930 pensioners were paid sums quarterly ranging from \$40 a year to \$1 a day. (Ibid., sec. 5807.) The rate of pay was reduced in 1932 as an economy measure but was increased in 1936 (L. M., 1932, pp. 572-73; L. M., 1936, pp. 594-95.) A law approved February 15, 1938 made further increases. Confederate soldiers and sailors, widows of soldiers and sailors married prior to January 1, 1866 receive \$480 per year payable \$40 on the first of each month; widows of soldiers and sailors married between January 1, 1866 and January 1, 1875 are paid \$300 per year payable \$25 on the first of each month; widows of soldiers and sailors married between January 1, 1875 and January 1, 1900 receive \$180 per year payable \$15 on the first of each month; and servants of soldiers and sailors who did not desert during service receive \$120 per year payable \$10 on the first of each month. All widows who are blind, regardless of any mode of classification, except those married prior to January 1, 1866, receive \$30 per month. (L. M., 1938, pp. 245-46.)

In Forrest County there are 19 pensioners: two veterans, class one, who receive \$40 each per month; six widows, class two, who receive \$25 each per month; ten widows, class three, who receive \$15 each per month; and one servant who receives \$10 per month ("Clerk's Statement of 1938 Pension Roll" in "Warrant Receipts", see entry 11).

The board meets at least twice annually in Forrest County. It is given power to summon witnesses, administer oaths, and take proof. The chancery clerk is the ex-officio clerk of the board and as such he receives and keeps one copy of applications for pensions and forwards the duplicates of approved pensions to the state auditor. (Code, 1930, secs. 5812, 5822.)

The state auditor places the Forrest County pension funds in the county depository and the chancery clerk as clerk of the board of supervisors issues warrants to the pensioners (ibid., sec. 5818). He is required to make an annual report to the state auditor showing receipts and disbursements of the pension fund (ibid.) and he must post and publish during the first week in December of each year a list of all names approved as pensioners by the board of inquiry (ibid., sec. 5812). The record the clerk keeps of pensions granted is called the Pension Roll.

221. PENSION APPLICATIONS, 1908-- , 2 vols. (1, 2). Last entry, 1922. Original applications for pensions filed by Confederate soldiers and sailors, widows of Confederate soldiers and sailors, and servants of Confederate soldiers, and sailors. Veterans applications show statement of citizenship in the United States and in Mississippi, county of residence, date and place of enlistment, names of officers of company, regiment, or vessel or number of regiment and letter of the company, age, length of service, whether or not wounded, whether or not in prison, date discharged, present occupation, property owned, names of relatives;

Surveyor

(222)

widows applications show statement of citizenship in Mississippi, county of residence, date of marriage to deceased soldier or sailor, age, and date concerning service record of deceased husband; servant's applications show statement of citizenship in Mississippi, county of residence, dates of beginning and end of service and nature of service, nature of disability and destitution, name of soldier or sailor whom he served, statement that he was honorably paroled or discharged and that he did not desert. All applications are verified by oath or affirmation over signature of applicant and over signatures of one or more credible witnesses. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 16 x 10 x 5. Ch. clerk's off.

222. PENSION ROLL, 1908-22. 1 vol. Discontinued as separate record. Roll now kept in Warrant Receipts, entry 11.

Record of pensions granted to Confederate soldiers and sailors, widows of Confederate soldiers and sailors and servants of Confederate soldiers and sailors, showing name of pensioner, residence, amount of quarterly payment. Arr. chron. by date pension granted. Indexed alph. by name of pensioner. Hdw. on ptd. form. 16 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Ch. clerk's off.

XVIII. SURVEYOR

The constitutional office of surveyor (Const., 1890, sec. 135) was established in Forrest County in 1908. (See Governmental Organization and Records System, p. 7, supra.) He was required to make bond in the penalty of \$1,000 and his duties were specified as follows: to execute all orders of survey directed to him by any court; to make all surveys of land within the county, at the request of the owners or proprietors; and to do whatsoever in the surveying, measuring, and dividing of land that was required of him by any person. (Code, 1906, secs. 4954-58.) The qualifications and duties at present are the same (Code, 1930, secs. 7139-56).

After the board of supervisors had employed some competent person to establish the true meridian, the surveyor was required to adjust annually any instrument used by him in making surveys (Code, 1906, secs. 4970-71; Code, 1930, secs. 7155-56).

The office has functioned continuously except from 1920 to 1924 when there was no candidate for office. (See List of County Officials, p. 111, infra.) Compensation is derived from fees paid by parties engaging the services of the surveyor or by allowances in the bill of costs if the services are rendered in obedience to a court order (Code, 1906, sec. 2189-90; Code, 1930, sec. 1800). The surveyor receives \$10 for each day's attendance in making a survey, \$5 for a plat of the survey and a statement of the contents and certificate of survey, \$3 for each additional plat, \$2 for each chain-carrier for each day, and \$1.50 for recording each survey (ibid., sec. 1799).

A surveyor was provided for each county by the laws drafted in 1799 by Governor Winthrop Sargent and the Territorial judges, to be appointed by the governor and to serve during good behavior. His duties included executing all orders of survey directed by any court, making surveys for the county, and replacing worn and defaced boundary markers. Compensation for his work was determined as follows: "for going to, and returning from a view, per day, thirty miles per day, one hundred and seventy-five cents. For going to, attending the court on trial, and returning, per day, one hundred and seventy-five cents". (Sargent's Code, 1799, p. 68.)

In 1817 the county courts were authorized to recommend surveyors for each county to the governor who appointed and commissioned them. Surveyors' bonds were set at \$2,000 but the duties remained the same as originally prescribed. (L. M., 1817, p. 65.)

The Constitution of 1832 established the office and made it elective biennially (Const., 1832, art. V, sec. 19), the Constitution of 1869 included the office but made no change in it (Const., 1869, art. V, sec. 21), but the Constitution of 1890 increased the term of office to four years (Const., 1890, sec. 135).

As early as 1811 owners or proprietors of land surveyed or re-marked were required to record the surveyor's reports and certificates (Turner's Digest, 1816, p. 16) but it was not until 1892 that the surveyor himself was directed to record his surveys (Code, 1892, sec. 4398).

Specifically he was obligated to record in a suitable book provided for him by the board of supervisors and kept in the office of the chancery clerk, all surveys made by him and all surveys made by other surveyors by the order of a court. It was prescribed that the record book should be so made as to have the left-hand pages for diagrams, to be numbered progressively, and the right-hand pages for notes and remarks; and that diagrams should not be drawn to a scale less than one inch to 20 chains. The record was to show the course and distance of all lines run, and the number of acres contained in each piece of land surveyed; the time when, the name of the person by whom, and the person for whom the survey was made; a description of all witness trees or monuments marked on the survey, with their respective bearings and distances; and the variations of the magnetic from the true meridian. The record was to be kept accurately indexed and references made in it in a suitable manner to each survey recorded. (Code, 1906, sec. 4963.) The same procedure is prescribed for the present incumbent (Code, 1930, sec. 7148).

The surveyor of Forrest County is also the county engineer. (See County Engineer below.)

223. RECORD OF SURVEYS, 1902--. 2 vols.

Transcribed record of surveys made from 1902-7 in the Second Judicial District of Perry County which became Forrest County in 1908, and record of surveys made in Forrest County, 1908--., showing diagrams, field notes, and remarks, bearings, witness trees, monuments, distances, number of survey, for whom made, dates made and recorded, and signature of surveyor. Hdw. on ptd. form and hand sketched. Arr. chron. by date survey made. Indexed alph. by name of owner or proprietor. 200 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Ch. clerk's off.

XIX. COUNTY ENGINEER

The board of supervisors of Forrest County voted to employ an engineer on August 15, 1936. The county surveyor was appointed to the office at a salary of \$150. per month. ("Minutes of the Board of Supervisors", vol. 15, p. 488, see entry 2.)

In 1924 the Legislature authorized all counties to retain as county engineer a civil engineer or person qualified to perform the duties of county engineer. The law made it mandatory that a qualified engineer be employed for the construction or reconstruction of a bridge costing more than \$5,000 or for the construction or reconstruction of roads costing more than \$5,000 per mile, whether the work be done

Ranger

(Next entry 224, p. 104)

by the county or a separate district or whether the work be done by contract or otherwise. The law provided that in obligatory cases the employment of an engineer might be for the particular work, rather than for a term. (Code, 1930, sec. 6405.)

The duties of the engineer are: to prepare all plans and estimates for the construction of bridges and to superintend their construction; to make all estimates and plans of work to be done in the construction and maintenance of roads and superintend the work; to report to the board of supervisors as to what work should be done to keep up and maintain properly all roads and bridges in the county; and to check over and report to the board of supervisors on all estimates before payment by the board for work done on public roads (ibid., sec. 6406).

That Forrest County may cooperate with the state highway commission in the construction of roads under its supervision, and to reduce the expense of such work, the county engineer may be required to furnish plans and estimates and superintend such work (ibid.).

The engineer is not required to keep any permanent records. His reports, plans, specifications, estimates, recommendations, and approvals are shown in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, entry 2; in the Matters of the Board of Supervisors, entry 3; and in Road Petitions, entry 4.

XX. RANGER

The coroner is the ex-officio ranger of Forrest County (L. M., 1871, chapt. CCCXCIII). The office has functioned since the organization of the county in 1908. (See Governmental Organization and Records System, p. 7, supra.; see also Coroner, p. 69, supra.)

The ranger has general jurisdiction over estrays and he is authorized to administer all oaths and take affidavits necessary in the discharge of his duties. (Code, 1930, secs. 5449-65.)

The office of ranger was officially established in Mississippi by the act of December 24, 1812 which gave the governor power to "appoint some suitable person in each and every county....to hold the office of 'ranger', enter into bond of \$500 payable to the chief justice...keep a book in which he shall register all certificates of strays delivered to him by the taker-up of strays....and file the same in regular order....to cause a copy of the certificates of every appraisement to be published in the nearest newspaper three times...make out a fair and correct list of all strays and affix the same at the door of the court-house....on the first day of each term....and within three months after each such appointment, shall reside or keep an open office within one mile of the county court-house or the place where court is usually held". (Turner's Digest, 1818, p. 394.)

Prior to this legislation, by the act of March 4, 1803, revised and amended February 10, 1897, justices of the county courts were required to erect a pound at their respective courthouses and appoint some person to take care of the pound. The clerks of the courts kept records of all strays delivered to the pound. (Ibid., pp. 391, 395.)

County Agent

(Next entry 224, p. 104)

By the law of 1812 the ranger was required to sell all strays after 12 months if no owner appeared, and deliver the net proceeds of the sales to the county treasurer after deducting five percent commission for his services (ibid.).

On February 11, 1828 an act was passed making it mandatory for the ranger to report to the county courts quarterly the amount of money received from the sale of strays, and make no allowances to takers-up of strays until approved by the county court (Hutchinson's Code, 1848, chapt. XII, art. 3, secs. 1-3).

In 1832 the office of ranger was made elective with a term of two years (Const., 1832, art. V, sec. 19). Legislation enacted the next year in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of 1832 made no change in the duties of the ranger (L. M., 1833, p. 477). In 1863 the sheriff was empowered to act as ranger in counties where the office was unfilled (L. M., 1863, p. 127) and in 1864 the ranger was no longer required to advertise in the newspapers (L. M., 1864, p. 5).

As the countryside became more thickly settled and fencing conditions improved, the office of ranger became less important and the fees derived from holding it became correspondingly less. It had been necessary to make the sheriff ex-officio ranger in 1864 because the office was unsought in many counties. In 1871 the office of ranger was abolished as a separate office and the coroner was made ex-officio ranger (L. M., 1871, chapt. CCCXCIII).

Little change has been made in the scope of the duties of the ranger since 1871. The office is now of no great importance. The general stock law (L. M., 1926, chapt. 263) requiring owners to keep their livestock in safe enclosures has done much to restrain stock from running at large. Justices of the peace were given authority to discharge the duties of ranger in counties in which the office did not exist (Code, 1892, sec. 1730).

Forrest County has been essentially a lumbering and industrial county with the result that the running of stock at large has never been a great problem.

The ranger is directed to keep a book in which he shall register and file in regular order estrays delivered or returned by him. He must note the time and amount of any sale in this register, and pay over to the county depository the net proceeds of any such sale. It is his duty to make a full report in writing, under oath, to the board of supervisors, at each regular meeting in January and July, of the amount of money received by him on account of the sale of estrays, together with a detailed statement of the disposition of such estrays. (Code, 1906, secs. 1895, 1904; Code, 1930, secs. 5451, 5460.)

For records kept by the ranger, see Coroner and Rangers Docket, entry 145.

XXI. COUNTY AGENT

The county agent, or agricultural demonstration agent, is potentially and actually one of the most important county officers in Mississippi, a state in which agriculture dominates the economic life of the people. He has been called on to assist prominently in the development of the crop reduction and soil conservation programs instituted by the Federal government.

County Agent

(Next entry 224, p. 104)

In 1908 the Legislature authorized the boards of supervisors to establish in a county alone or cooperation with other counties, a department of agriculture and appoint a commissioner of agriculture. The duties of the county commissioner were outlined as follows: to keep in close touch with the United States Department of Agriculture, the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College, now called Mississippi State College, the state experiment stations, and the state department of agriculture; to assist in organizing agricultural societies, look after agricultural statistics, and advance in every way possible the farming interests of the county. The act provided that the board of supervisors in each county fix and pay the salary of the commissioner. (L. M., 1908, chapt. 103.)

Forrest County established a county department of agriculture in March 1913 and appointed a commissioner at a salary of \$33 per month ("Minutes of the Board of Supervisors", vol. 4, p. 68, see entry 2.)

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 (38 Stat. L., part 1, pp. 372-74) granted Federal aid to the extension departments of land grant colleges and in 1916 Mississippi voted to accept this aid (L. M., 1916, chapt. 127; Code, 1930, sec. 7192).

The plan worked out since 1916 and clarified in 1932 is that the board of supervisors is authorized to establish a county extension department of agriculture and home economics (See Home Demonstration Agent, p. 104, infra.) The department has charge of such employees known as county agents, as the board of supervisors deems adequate to the needs of the county and these county agents are appointed by the board upon the recommendation of the extension department of Mississippi State College and with the approval of the United States Department of Agriculture. The board fixes the sums of money to be paid as salaries, clerical help, and other necessary expenses of the county agents out of the general funds of the county and these sums are supplemented by the extension department of Mississippi State College and by the United States Department of Agriculture. (L. M., 1932, p. 517.)

The purpose of the department is to disseminate useful information among the farmers, farm women, boys and girls, and to develop the agricultural resources and improve the homes of the county. It is the duty of the county extension department to carry on farm and home demonstration work, Boys' and Girls' Club work, cooperative marketing, and all other phases of extension work under the joint supervision of the board of supervisors, the extension department of Mississippi State College, and the United States Department of Agriculture. (Ibid.)

The personnel of the Forrest County extension department of agriculture and home economics is composed of the county agent as director, an assistant county agent, the home demonstration agent, a secretary and an assistant secretary. The salary of the county agent is \$240 per month of which Forrest County pays \$115. ("Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, vol. 15, p. 556, see entry 2.)

Much of the record work of the department consists in making reports to the extension department of Mississippi State College. However, the county agent has not kept copies of all these reports. The work entailed in the advancement of the government's agricultural adjustment and soil conservation programs has created several sets of records in the office of the department.

All records of the department are kept in the county agent's office.

Cotton Control

224. APPLICATIONS FOR COTTON PRICE ADJUSTMENT, 1933-36. 2 file boxes. Original applications for cotton price adjustments and benefits from Agricultural Adjustment Administration, showing name of producer, residence, contract number, amount of cotton sold, name and address of purchaser, date sold, number of certificate of sale, record of payment, amount of payment, date, receipt, and approval of county committee and county agent. Filed alph. by name of producer. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 12 x 12 x 24.

225. SOIL CONSERVATION, 1936--. 3 file boxes. Reports of soil conservation program, showing name of land owner, address, location, yield, history of farm yield, number of acres owned and operated. Filed alph. by name of land owner. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 12 x 12 x 24.

Reports

226. MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS (4-H Club Records), 1930--. 4 file boxes. Correspondence and miscellaneous reports of county agent and home demonstration agent, including bulletins on agricultural engineering, fertilizer tests, legumes and tests, improvement of pastures, animal husbandry, sweet potato growing, Irish potato growing, food preservation, home canning, marketing, poultry raising, horticulture, and instructions on conducting contests for 4-H club girls. Filed alph. by subject. No index. Typed and mimeographed. 14 x 12 x 24.

XXII. HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

In 1914 the board of supervisors of a county or counties was authorized by the Legislature to establish a department of home economics to disseminate useful information among farm women and to organize and supervise canning and poultry clubs and other organizations for the improvement of the home. The department was placed under the direction of the county agent. (L. M., 1914, chapt. 190.)

It was specified that the department should be supervised by a woman well-versed in scientific and practical home economics with the qualifications of a first grade teacher. She was to be appointed by the board of supervisors with the title of county agent of home economics and her duties were to keep in close touch with the United States Department of Agriculture, the Mississippi State Colleges, the state department of agriculture, the county superintendent of education, and the state board of education. (Ibid.)

The office was not established in Forrest County until 1919 ("Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, vol. 5, p. 387, see entry 2), five years after the passage of the Smith-Lever Act which granted Federal aid to county extension departments. (See County Agent, p. 103, supra.)

In 1928 the Capper-Ketchum Act provided additional funds for the development of agricultural extension work (45 Stat. L., part 1, p. 711) and gave impetus to the program in Mississippi, particularly to home demonstration work.

Like the county agent, the home demonstration agent functions as part of the extension program of Mississippi State College and she is appointed by the board

Home Demonstration Agent

of supervisors of Forrest County on the recommendation of the extension department of the college and with the approval of the United States Department of Agriculture. Like the county agent also, she is paid by county funds supplemented by the extension department of Mississippi State College and the United States Department of Agriculture. (L. M., 1932, p. 517.)

The duties of the home demonstration agent consist mainly of carrying on farm and home demonstration work and Boys' and Girls' club work through various organizations formed locally (ibid.) The records show that 11 active 4-H clubs have been formed in Forrest County in the schools at Rawls Springs, Eatonville, Petal, Macedoni Dixie, McLaurin, Maxie, Carnes, Rock Hill, South Forrest, and Union.

For records of the Home Demonstration Agent, see Miscellaneous Records, entry 226.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Arthur, Stanley Clisby, The Story of the West Florida Rebellion, St. Francisville, La., The St. Francisville Democrat, 1933.
- Baldwin, Joseph Y., Flush Times in Alabama and Mississippi, New York, 1853, Reprinted, Augusta, Ga., Americus Book Co.
- Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi . . ., Goodspeed Publishing Co., Chicago, 1892, 2 vols.
- Carter, Clarence Edwin, The Territorial Papers of the United States, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1937, vol. V, The Territory of Mississippi, 1798-1817.
- Claiborne, J. F. H., "A Trip Through the Piney Woods", in Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, Franklin L. Riley; (ed.), Oxford, Miss., 1898-1910, 10 vols., vol. IX.
- Mississippi As a Province, Territory, and State, Jackson, Miss., 1880.
- Dunbar, Seymour, A History of Travel in America, New York, Tudor Publishing Co., 1937.
- Ethridge, George H., Mississippi Constitutions, Jackson, Miss., The Tucker Printing Co., 1928.
- Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Agriculture, Population.
- Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Population.
- Garner, James Wilford, Reconstruction in Mississippi, New York, The Macmillan Co., 1901.
- Hutchinson, A., (comp.), Code of Mississippi; Being an Analytical Compilation of the Public and General Statutes of the Territory and State, With Tabular References to the Local and Private Acts, Jackson, Miss., Price and Fall, State Printers, 1848.
- Institute for Government Research of the Brookings Institution, Report on a Survey of the Organization and Administration of State and County Government in Mississippi, Jackson, Miss., The Research Commissioner of the State of Mississippi, (1932).
- "Minutes of the Board of Supervisors", Forrest County Archives, Hattiesburg, Miss.
- Mississippi State Planning Commission, Progress Report on State Planning In Mississippi, Jackson, Miss., The Tucker Printing Co., 1938.
- Monette, John W., History of the Discovery and Settlement of the Valley of the Mississippi, New York, Harper & Bros., 1848, 2 vols.
- Owen, Thomas McAdory, History of Alabama, Chicago, S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1921, 4 vols.

Bibliography

Parkman, Francis, LaSalle and the Discovery of the Great West, Boston, Little, Brown & Co., 1902, Frontenac Edition (16 vols.), vol. V.

Phillips, Ulrich Bonnell, Life and Labor in the Old South, Boston, Little, Brown & Co., 1929.

Riley, Franklin L., (ed.), Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, Oxford, Miss., 1898-1910, 10 vols.

Rowland, Dunbar, (ed.), Mississippi Official and Statistical Register, Nashville, Tenn., Press of the Brandon Printing Co., 1908.

Mississippi Territorial Archives, 1798-1817, Nashville, Tenn., Press of the Brandon Printing Co., 1905.

Mississippi Territorial Archives, 1798-1817 (Executive Papers of Governor Winthrop Sargent and Governor William C. C. Claiborne), Nashville, Tenn., Press of the Brandon Printing Co., 1905.

Official Letter Books of W. C. C. Claiborne, Jackson, Miss., Printed for the State Department of Archives and History, 1917, 6 vols.

Rowland, Dunbar and Sanders, Albert Godfrey, (eds.), Mississippi Provincial Archives, 1701-1729, Jackson, Miss., Press of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1929, 4 vols.

Rowland, Dunbar, Mississippi, The Heart of the South, Chicago, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1925, 4 vols.

Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Population.

United States Statutes at Large, Boston, Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1848, vols. 1, 7, 8.

Value of Mississippi Farm Production in 1936, Bulletin, State Department of Agriculture, Jackson, Miss., 1937.

Vance, Rupert B., Human Geography in the South, Chapel Hill, N. C., The University of North Carolina Press, 1935.

Wailles, B. L. C., Report on the Agriculture and Geology of Mississippi, Jackson, Miss., The State Printer, 1854.

Wood, Walker (comp. and ed.), Mississippi Blue Book, Biennial Report of the Secretary of State to the Legislature of Mississippi, 1935-1937, Jackson, Miss., 1938.

LISTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

Members of the Board of Supervisors

W. A. Conn, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1912	G. W. Simmons, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928
John L. Davis, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1912	M. W. Thompson, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928
J. C. McDonald, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1912	J. Frank Williams, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928
J. P. Pace, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1912	J. P. Bounds, Jan. 1928-Jan. 1932
S. E. Perkins, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1912	John L. Davis, Jan. 1928-Jan. 1932
W. A. Conn, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1916	B. E. Green, Jan. 1928-Jan. 1932
John L. Davis, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1916	M. W. Thompson, Jan. 1928-Jan. 1932
J. P. Pace, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1916	R. S. Vanderford, Jan. 1928-Jan. 1932
S. E. Perkins, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1916	A. M. Brown, Jan. 1932-Jan. 1936
J. D. Pool, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1916	M. L. Bruce, Jan. 1932-Jan. 1936
George W. Boone, Jan. 1916-Jan. 1920	John L. Davis, Jan. 1932-Jan. 1936
R. M. Hendrix, Jan. 1916-Jan. 1920	B. E. Green, Jan. 1932-Jan. 1936
R. C. Lee, Jan. 1916-Jan. 1920	J. C. Simmons, Jan. 1932-Jan. 1936
C. C. Russel, Jan. 1916-Jan. 1920	J. P. Bounds, Jan. 1936--
J. A. Ryan, Jan. 1920-Jan. 1924	A. M. Brown, Jan. 1936--
J. W. Brown, Jan. 1920-Jan. 1924	C. E. Fairley, Jan. 1936--
R. C. Lee, Jan. 1920-Jan. 1924	Luther G. Lee, Jan. 1936--
J. B. Limbaugh, Jan. 1920-Jan. 1924	J. Frank Williams (Deceased), Jan. 1936-May 1936
G. W. Simmons, Jan. 1920-Jan. 1924	J. Frank Williams, Jr. (Elected), May 1936--
J. Frank Williams, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928	
T. A. Cahal, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928	
J. B. Limbaugh, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928	

Chancery Clerks

T. E. Batson, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1912	J. N. McCoy (Elected), July 1931-Jan. 1932
Herbert Gillis, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1916	Ethel Bayliss, Jan. 1932- Jan. 1936
Herbert Gillis, Jan. 1916-Jan. 1920	Estus E. Hudson, Jan. 1936--
Herbert Gillis, Jan. 1920-Jan. 1924	
Herbert Gillis, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928	
M. T. Draughon (Deceased), Jan. 1928-July 1931	

The Chancery Clerk is the Clerk of the Chancery Court, the ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, and as such is the Auditor. He is the Recorder, the ex-officio Clerk of the Pension Board of Inquiry, and since 1924 has discharged the duties of Treasurer.

List of County Officials

Clerks of the Circuit Court

T. J. Mixon, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1912	J. S. Garraway, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928
T. J. Mixon, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1916	J. S. Garraway, Jan. 1928-Jan. 1932
T. J. Mixon, Jan. 1916-Jan. 1920	J. S. Garraway, Jan. 1932-Jan. 1936
J. S. Garraway, Jan. 1920-Jan. 1924	Luther M. Cox, Jan. 1936--

The Clerk of the Circuit Court is the ex-officio Registrar and the ex-officio Clerk of the County Court.

Judges of the County Court

N. C. Hill, Nov. 2, 1926- Jan. 1928	R. J. Bishop (Elected), Jan. 23, 1931-Jan. 1932
N. C. Hill (Deceased), Jan. 1928-Jan. 23, 1921	R. J. Bishop, Jan. 1932-Jan. 1936
	R. J. Bishop, Jan. 1936--

County Prosecuting Attorneys

George Hartfield, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1910	Forrest M. Morris, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928
Claude E. Hill, Jan. 1910-Jan. 1912	D. W. Holmes, Jan. 1928-Jan. 1932
Claude E. Hill, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1916	William Haralson, Jan. 1932-Jan. 1936
Alexander Currie, Jan. 1916-Jan. 1920	D. W. Holmes, Jan. 1936--
Forrest M. Morris, Jan. 1920-Jan. 1924	

Sheriffs

J. C. Magruder, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1912	A. E. Harbison, Jan. 1916-Jan. 1920
J. D. Bennett (Deceased), Jan. 1912-June 1914	W. M. Edmonson, Jan. 1920-Jan. 1924
J. C. Magruder (Appointed), June 25, 1914-July 25, 1914	H. C. Norsworthy, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928
A. E. Harbison (Elected), July 25, 1914-Jan. 1916	Joe B. Gray, Jan. 1928-Jan. 1932
	Estus E. Hudson, Jan. 1932-Jan. 1936
	George W. Boone, Jan. 1936--

The Sheriff is the ex-officio Tax Collector.

List of County Officials

Coroners

David Fairley, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1912	W. T. Chatman, Jan. 1928-Jan. 1932
F. H. McKenzie, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1916	H. M. Norsworthy, (Resigned), Jan. 1932-Feb. 1933
F. H. McKenzie (Resigned), Aug. 1918-Jan. 1919	J. Randolph Clark (Appointed), Feb. 15, 1933-Jan. 1936
W. H. Ramsey, Jan. 1919-Jan. 1920	J. E. Hulett, Jan. 1936--
J. E. Hulett, Jan. 1920-Jan. 1924	
W. T. Chatman, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928	

The Coroner is the ex-officio Ranger

Tax Assessors

W. S. McKinnon, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1912	E. V. Ford, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928
H. E. Clark, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1916	E. V. Ford, Jan. 1928-Jan. 1932
H. E. Clark, Jan. 1916-Jan. 1920	E. V. Ford, Jan. 1932-Jan. 1936
H. E. Clark, Jan. 1920-Jan. 1924	E. V. Ford, Jan. 1936--

Treasurers

Herbert Gillis, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1912	J. P. Pace (Deceased), Jan. 1920-Feb. 15, 1923
John Williams, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1916	Mrs. E. J. Watkins (Appointed), Feb. 15, 1923-Jan. 1924
F. N. Hartzog (Deceased), Jan. 1916-Oct. 1917	Mrs. E. J. Watkins (Office Dis- continued), Jan. 1924-Feb. 5, 1924
D. L. Easterling (Appointed), Oct. 11, 1917-Nov. 20, 1917	
J. P. Pace (Elected), Nov. 20, 1917-Jan. 1920	

Superintendents of Education

E. J. Currie, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1912	J. C. Gay (Deceased), Jan. 1928-March 1929
E. J. Currie, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1916	S. E. L. Weatherford (Elected), March 1929-Jan. 1932
E. J. Currie (Deceased), Jan. 1916-Aug. 1918	S. E. L. Weatherford, Jan. 1932-Jan. 1936
J. C. Gay (Elected), Aug. 1918-Jan. 1920	Olin R. Lovitt, Jan. 1936--
J. C. Gay, Jan. 1920-Jan. 1924	
J. C. Gay, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928	

List of County Officials

Directors of Health Department

Dr. J. D. Donald, Oct. 1921-Dec. 1924
Dr. W. D. Beacham, Dec. 1924-Nov. 1931

Dr. B. D. Blackwilder, Nov. 1931--

Surveyors

H. E. Clark, Jan. 1908-Jan. 1912
W. D. McKenzie, Jan. 1912-Jan. 1916
F. N. Howorth (Resigned),
Jan. 1916-Aug. 1918
J. F. Boling (Appointed),
Aug. 16, 1918-Jan. 1920
No Candidate for 1920

M. V. B. Tims (Appointed),
Nov. 1, 1923-Jan. 1924
M. V. B. Tims, Jan. 1924-Jan. 1928
M. V. B. Tims, Jan. 1928-Jan. 1932
M. V. B. Tims, Jan. 1932-Jan. 1936
S. J. Maxwell, Jan. 1936--

County Engineer

S. J. Maxwell, Aug. 15, 1936--

County Agents

H. A. Carpenter, March 1913-Feb. 1917
B. C. McWhorter, Feb. 1, 1917-
Jan. 1, 1923

W. M. Sellers, Jan. 1923-Jan. 1931
G. H. Alford, Jan. 1931-Jan. 1935
E. E. Dean, Jan. 1935--

Home Demonstration Agents

Nellie Hall, Feb. 1919-April 1919
Katherine Staley, April 1919-Jan. 1921
Dixie May, Jan. 1921-Aug. 15, 1921
Grace Brown, Aug. 15, 1921-Sept. 15, 1924
Mae Cooper, Sept. 15, 1924-April 1, 1925

Mae C. Carpenter, April 1925-Sept. 1925
Anna P. Chapin, Sept. 1925-Jan. 1933
Sallie M. Beard, Jan. 1933-Jan. 1934
Elsie Butler, Jan. 1934--

CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX

Entries are arranged by initial dates of the records. Figures in parenthesis refer to entry number.

1803-1895

- 1803--. Sixteenth Section Index (36)
1862-1907. General Index to Transcribed Record Perry County to Forrest County (20)
1862-1907. Land Deed Records (Transcript from Perry County) (19)
1892-1907. Attorneys Receipt Book (Transcribed from Second Judicial District, Perry County) (59)
1892-1907. Chancery Cases, Perry County, Second District (49)
1892-1907. Index to Chancery Cases (Perry County, Second Judicial District) (50)
1892-1907. Record of Wills (Transcribed from Perry County, Second Judicial District) (63)
1892-1907. Secret Record of Indictments (Transcribed from Perry County) (89)
1892-1907. Transcribed Minutes of the Board of Supervisors of Perry County (1)
1892-1908. Auditors Accounts (Transcribed from Perry County) (172)
1892--. Record of Marks and Brands (48)
1895-1900. Protest Record (Circuit Court) (94)

1900-1909.

- 1902--. Record of Surveys (223)
1904-26. Register of Allowances (6)
1908-09. Hattiesburg American (62)
1908-21. Chancery Clerk's Fee Book (61)
1908-22. Pension Roll (Confederate) (222)
1908-26. Register of Warrants (9)
1908-33. Warrants Receipts (11)
1908-34. Cancelled Warrants (13)
1908--. Administrators, Executors, and Guardians Annual and Final Accounts (68)
1908--. Chancery Court Case Files (51)
1908--. Chattel Deed Record (30)
1908--. Chattel Deeds of Trust (32)
1908--. Claim Docket Board of Supervisors (8)
1908--. Corporation Record (43)
1908--. Court Issue Docket (Circuit Court) (78)
1908--. Educable Children in Forrest County (200)
1908--. Execution Docket (Circuit Court) (80)
1908--. Fee Book - Civil (Circuit Court) (96)
1908--. Fee Book - Criminal (Circuit Court) (95)
1908--. Final Records (Chancery Court) (58)
1908--. General Docket Chancery Court (53)
1908--. General Docket, Civil Cases (Circuit Court) (77)
1908--. General Docket, State Cases (Circuit Court) (75)
1908--. General Index to Record of Chattel Deeds (31)
1908--. General Index to Record of Chattel Deeds of Trust (33)
1908--. General Index to Record of Land Deeds (22)
1908--. General Index to Record of Marriages (105)
1908--. General Index to Record of Mortgages and Deeds of Trust on Land (24)
1908--. Grand Jury Docket (87)
1908--. Index to Chancery Cases and Attorneys Receipt Book (52)
1908--. Index to Record of Land Rolls (County and City of Hattiesburg) (152)
1908--. Issue Docket Chancery Court (54)

Chronological Index

- 1908--. Judgment Roll (85)
1908--. Jurors Certificates (Circuit Court) (99)
1908--. Justice Docket, Beat 3 (131)
1908--. Justice Docket, Beat 4 (132)
1908--. Justice Peace Fines and Costs (Treasurer) (177)
1908--. Land Deed Record (21)
1908--. Land Rolls, City of Hattiesburg (150)
1908--. Land Rolls, Outside City of Hattiesburg) (151)
1908--. Lis Pendens Record (57)
1908--. Marriage Record (104)
1908--. Mesne Process Docket (Sheriff) (135)
1908--. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors (2)
1908--. Minutes of Chancery Court (60)
1908--. Minutes Circuit Court (84)
1908--. Motion Docket Chancery Court (55)
1908--. Pay Certificate Stubs (Superintendent of Education) (187)
1908--. Pension Applications (Confederate) (221)
1908--. Personal Roll (153)
1908--. Plat Book Record - Miscellaneous Plats (46)
1908--. Poll Books (179)
1908--. Record of Mortgages and Deeds of Trust on Land (23)
1908--. Record of Official Bonds (14)
1908--. Record of Persons Convicted of Crime (181)
1908--. Record of Prisoners (Sheriff) (141)
1908--. Record of Tax Lands Sold to Individuals (39)
1908--. Record of Teachers' Licenses (190)
1908--. Record of Wills (64)
1908--. Register of Claims Against Estates (65)
1908--. Registration Book (178)
1908--. Secret Record of Indictments (90)
1908--. Sectional Index (City Property) (25)
1908--. Sectional Index (County Property) (26)
1908--. Sheets of Assessments of Personal Property (146)
1908--. Sheriff's Execution Docket (137)
1908--. State Bar Docket (Circuit Court) (76)
1908--. State Docket Circuit Court (General Docket) (74)
1908--. Subpoena Docket Civil Cases (Circuit Court) (82)
1908--. Subpoena Docket State Cases (Circuit Court) (81)
1908--. Supreme Court Record (Circuit Court) (73)
1908--. Superintendents Record (182)
1908--. Tax Receipts (162)
1908--. Temporary and Permanent Licenses - Pharmacists (107)
1908--. Temporary and Permanent Licenses - Physicians (109)
1909--. Tax Collectors Cash Book (158)
- 1910-1919
- 1910--. Justice Docket, Beat 1 (129)
1910--. Temporary and Permanent Licenses - Dentists (110)
1912-19. Coroner and Rangers Docket (145)
1912-19. Privilege Tax Record (169)
1912-20. Minutes Book, Forrest County Trustees Agricultural High School (198)
1912--. Certificates of Birth (208)

Chronological Index

- 1912--. Death Certificates (209)
1912--. Subpoena Docket Chancery Court (56)
1913-34. Case Records Civil and Criminal (Circuit Court) (70)
1914-19. Fines, Costs and Imprisonments (Sheriff) (143)
1914-27. Automobile Register (170)
1914--. Veterinary Surgeons Licenses (112)
1915-18. Special Commutation Road Tax Receipts (165)
1917-26. Amortization Record (27)
1917--. Bank Reports (Treasurer) (176)
1917--. Tax Collectors Reports (161)
1918--. Embalmers Licenses (111)
1918--. Matters of the Board of Supervisors (3)
1918--. Military Petitions (Naturalization Records) (93)
1918--. Probate Docket (66)
1919-28. Road and Bridge (Bids, Plans, Contracts) (17)
1919--. Soldiers Discharge Record (45)
- 1920-1929
- 1920-21. Sheriffs Ledger (144)
1920-24. Reports, Forrest County Highway Improvement (16)
1920--. Certificates of Marriage Licenses Returned (106)
1920--. Civil Cases (Circuit Court) (72)
1920--. Criminal Cases (Circuit Court) (71)
1920--. Juvenile Docket (Circuit Court) (91)
1920--. Minutes Juvenile Court (Circuit Court) (92)
1920--. Optometry Record (108)
1920--. Sixteenth Section Record (34)
1921-33. Road Petitions (4)
1921--. Auditors Account with Tax Collector (173)
1922-28. Bids, Bonds, Contracts, and School Petitions (5)
1922--. Mortgage Loan Record (35)
1923-28. Invoices (7)
1923-29. Probate Bar Docket (67)
1923--. Court Issue Docket (Circuit Court) (79)
1924-36. Civil and Criminal Cases, Beat 1 (Justice Court) (128)
1924--. Abstracts of Judgment (Circuit Court) (86)
1925. Assessors Block Book (156)
1925. Index to Lot and Block Maps (157)
1925-26. Cash Book, Hunting Licenses (159)
1925-35. Institute Reports (General) (195)
1925--. Indictments (88)
1925--. Justice Docket, Beat 2 (130)
1926-31. Hunting License Receipts (167)
1926--. Cash Receipts Register (Treasurer) (175)
1927-36. Justice Docket - Criminal, Beat 5 (133)
1927--. (Abstracts of Judgment) County Court (123)
1927--. (Appealed Cases) from Justice of the Peace Court to County Court (120)
1927--. Civil Cases (County Court) (114)
1927--. Criminal Cases (County Court) (113)
1927--. Fee Book, Civil and Criminal County Court (124)
1927--. General Equity Docket, County Court (118)
1927--. General Index to Record of Circuit Court Cost Bills (97)
1927--. General Index to Record of County Court Cost Bills (125)

Chronological Index

- 1927--. Hattiesburg American (62)
1927--. Issue Docket, County Court (117)
1927--. Mesne Process Docket (County Court) (136)
1927--. Minutes of County Court (122)
1927--. Notice to Owners of Lands Sold for Taxes (38)
1927--. Subpoena Docket (County Court) (119)
1927--. Warrant Register and Disbursement Register (10)
1928--. General Ledger (Treasurer) (174)
1928--. Monthly Reports (Director of Health Department) (207)
1929--. County Court Affidavits (116)
1929--. Jail Docket (Sheriff) (140)
1929--. Witness Fees, Criminal, Circuit Court and County Court (98)
- 1930--.
- 1930--. Appeal Bonds (From County Court to Circuit Court) (100)
1930--. Attorneys Receipt Book (Circuit Court) (83)
1930--. Exemption Record (44)
1930--. Immunization Reports (217)
1930--. Matters, Forrest County Agricultural High School (199)
1930--. Memorandum of Automobile Sales (47)
1930--. Miscellaneous Records 4-H Clubs (County Agent) (226)
1930--. Notices of Applications for Marriage Licenses (103)
1930--. Office File, General (Superintendent of Education) (184)
1930--. Privilege Tax Record (169)
1931-34. Examining Board (Superintendent of Education) (189)
1931--. Federal Crop Mortgage Record (29)
1931--. Final Record (County Court) (121)
1931--. Index to Record of Tax Sales (40)
1931--. Real Assessment Roll, County (149)
1931--. Reports and General File (Superintendent of Education) (193)
1931--. Reports Hattiesburg City Schools (194)
1931--. Reports of Demonstration School, State Teachers College (192)
1931--. Supreme Court Records (Appeals from County Court) (115)
1932-33. County School Board Records (183)
1932-33. Tax Lien Record (28)
1932-34. Correspondence with Attorney-General (Chancery Court) (69)
1932--. Homestead Record (37)
1932--. Insurance Register (15)
1932--. Partial Payment Tax Receipts (163)
1932--. Real Assessment Roll, City of Hattiesburg (147)
1932--. Release From Delinquent Tax Sale (41)
1932--. Reports of Fines and Penalties, Beat 1 (Justice of the Peace) (134)
1932--. Reports of Laboratory and Microscopic Examinations (218)
1932--. Tuberculin Tests (214)
1933-34. Notices of State Lands Redeemed (42)
1933-36. Applications for Cotton Price Adjustment (224)
1933--. Detention Warrants (Sheriff) (142)
1933--. State Department, General Accrediting Commission (Superintendent of Education) (201)
1933--. Correspondence (Tax Collector) (171)
1934--. Applications for Homestead Exemptions, City Property (154)
1934--. Applications for Homestead Exemptions, County Property (155)

Chronological Index

- 1934--. Case Records, Closed and Active (Health Department) (216)
- 1934--. Epidemiological Records (213)
- 1934--. Index to Record of Tax Receipts (164)
- 1934--. Infants and Pre-School Records (Health Department) (211)
- 1934--. Loose Leaf County Warrant Register (12)
- 1934--. Matters of Mississippi Educational Association (205)
- 1935--. Applications and Appointments, Adult Education (191)
- 1935--. Assessment Roll and Plat Book (148)
- 1935--. Assessment Roll, Public Service (18)
- 1935--. Automobile Register (170)
- 1935--. Correspondence, Adult Education (202)
- 1935--. Correspondence with Board of Supervisors (Superintendent of Education (206)

- 1935--. County Accounts, Teachers (185)
- 1935--. County School Board Records (183)
- 1935--. Court Papers (Sheriff) (138)
- 1935--. Instructions (Adult Education) (203)
- 1935--. Insurance Accounts (Superintendent of Education) (197)
- 1935--. Pay Rolls, Adult Education (186)
- 1935--. Physical Examinations of School Children (210)
- 1935--. Poll Tax Receipts (166)
- 1935--. Record and Monthly Report of Hunting and Fishing Licenses (168)
- 1935--. Reports to Board of Supervisors (Superintendent of Education) (196)
- 1935--. State Department of Education (Correspondence with Superintendent) (204)
- 1935--. Teachers Applications (188)
- 1935--. Venereal Disease Record (215)
- 1936--. Appearance Bonds (Circuit Court) (101)
- 1936--. Applications for Tonsilectomy (220)
- 1936--. Civil Cases, Beat 1 (Justice Court) (127)
- 1936--. Criminal Cases, Beat 1 (Justice Court) (126)
- 1936--. Poll Tax Cash Book (160)
- 1936--. Poll Tax Exemption Certificates (180)
- 1936--. Record of Bonds Forfeited (Circuit Court) (102)
- 1936--. Record of Microscopic Tests (219)
- 1936--. Reports of Chest Examinations (212)
- 1936--. Soil Conservation (225)
- 1936--. Summons and Subpoenas (Sheriff) (139)

INDEX TO INVENTORY ENTRIES

Figures refer to entry numbers.

- AAA cotton producers contracts, 224
Abatements, tax, see Tax, equalization
Abstracts
 of judgment, 86, 123
 of titles to land, 25, 26, 34, 36
Accounts
 administrators, executors, guardians,
 annual and final, 68
 agricultural high school, 199
 auditors
 with county officers and departments,
 172
 with tax collector, 173
 county, 7, 8, 187
Activities, Four-H clubs, 226
Additions, maps of, 46, 156
Adjustment
 administration, agricultural, see Agri-
 cultural adjustment administration
 cotton price, 224
 tax, see Tax, equalization
Administration
 of estates, see Estates
 letters of, 66, 67
Administrators of estates, see Estates
Adoptions, 49, 51, 53
Adult education, WPA, 186, 191, 202, 203
Ad valorem tax, exemptions from, see Tax,
 exemptions
Affidavits
 of applicants
 for homestead exemptions, 154, 155
 for marriage licenses, 104
 of county officials, 14
 of information
 circuit court, 70, 71, 73
 county court, 113, 115, 116
 filed by county attorney, 116
 justice of the peace court, 126, 128
 of motor vehicle owners, 47
 of voters claiming exemptions from poll
 tax, 180
 of witnesses in naturalization pro-
 ceedings, 93
Agent
 county
 correspondence, 226
 reports, 226
 home demonstration
 correspondence, 226
 reports, 226
Agreements, articles of, 43
Agricultural
 adjustment administration
 application for benefits from,
 224
 bulletins, 226
 high school, see School
Aid, 1-3
Aliens
 declarations of intention, 93
 grants of citizenship to, 93
 oaths of allegiance, 93
 petitions, 93
Alimony, 49, 51
Allegiance, oaths of, 93
Allowances for all county expenses,
 6, 10
Amortization of deeds of trust in
 favor of Federal Land Bank, 27
Animals impounded, 145
Annual reports, see Reports
Answers in judicial proceedings
 chancery court, 49, 51
 circuit court, 70, 72, 73
 county court, 114, 115
 justice of the peace court, 127, 128
Appeal bonds, 100
Appealed cases, see Appeals
Appeals
 to circuit court
 from county court, 73, 115
 from justice of the peace courts
 and city police court, 79
 to county court
 from justice of the peace court
 and city police court, 120
 to supreme court from circuit
 court, 115
Appearance bonds, 101
Applications
 See also Petitions
 cotton prices adjustment, 224
 for exemption
 from county ad valorem tax, 44
 from poll tax, 180
 from state ad valorem tax, 154, 155
 for loans from sixteenth section
 school funds, 3
 marriage license, 103, 104
 paupers, 3
 pensions, Confederate, 221
 teachers, 184, 188, 191
 for tonsilectomies, 220

Index to Inventory Entries

(App-Cas)

- Appointments of administrators, executors, and guardians, 49, 51, 53-55, 60
- Appraisements
 - of estates, 66, 67
 - of property offered as security for loans from sixteenth section school funds, 1-3, 35
- Appropriations, 1-3, 6, 10
- Army discharges, 45
- Arrests, 140, 141
- Assessments, see Tax, assessments
- Assets of estates, 66-68
- Assignments of tax liens, 23, 28
- Asylum, commitments to, 49, 51, 53
- Attendance, school, 182, 184, 194, 199, 201
- Attorney-general
 - chancery clerks correspondence with, 69
 - opinions of, 43, 44, 69
- Attorneys
 - admittance to bar, 60
 - receipts for documents
 - chancery court, 52, 59
 - circuit court, 83
- Auditor, see Accounts; Ledgers
- Automobiles, see Motor vehicles

- Back taxes, see Tax, sales
- Bank, see Depository
- Bar dockets, see Dockets, bar
- Bearings, land, 223
- Beat boundaries, maps showing, 156
- Bench dockets, see Dockets, court issue
- Bids
 - to construct
 - dipping vat, 5
 - bridges, 3, 17
 - roads, 3, 17
 - to furnish
 - office supplies and furniture, 4, 5
 - road machinery, 4, 5
 - transportation of school children, 184
- Bills, see Allowances; Accounts; Claims
- Birth certificates, 208
- Board
 - county school, see School
 - of supervisors
 - matters of, 3
 - minutes, 1, 2
 - motions, 1, 2
 - orders, 1, 2, 8
 - original papers, 3-5, 13, 17, 18
- Board
 - of supervisors (continued)
 - regulations, 1, 2
 - resolutions, 1, 2
- Bonds
 - administrators of estates, 66, 67
 - appeal, circuit court, 100
 - appearance, circuit court, 101
 - contractors performance, 3, 5, 17
 - cost, circuit court, 100, 102
 - executors of estates, 66, 67
 - forfeited, circuit court, 102
 - guardians, 66, 67
 - officials, 14
 - petitions to vote on, 3, 5
 - surety, 3, 5, 13, 17
- Boundaries
 - additions, 46, 156
 - beat, 156
 - city, 46
 - lot, 46, 156
 - range, 46, 156
 - subdivision, 46, 156
 - supervisors district, 156
 - survey, 46, 156, 223
 - town, 46
 - township, 46, 156
 - tract, 156
- Brands and marks of animals, 48
- Bridges
 - bids to construct, 3, 17
 - contracts to construct, 3, 17
 - plans and specifications of, 3, 4, 17
 - repairs, petitions asking for, 3, 4
- Budgets, 1-3
- Buildings
 - bids to erect, 3
 - maintenance of, 1-3, 6, 10
 - plans of, 3
 - specifications for, 3
- Bulletins, agricultural, 226
- Bus contracts, school, 193

- Calendars, see Dockets
- Cancellation
 - of assignments of tax liens, 23, 28
 - of deeds of trust
 - chattel, 19, 29, 32
 - land, 19, 23, 25-27, 35, 36
- Cancelled warrants, see Warrants
- Case records
 - chancery court, 49-52

Index to Inventory Entries

(Cas-Con)

Case records (continued)

- circuit court
 - civil, 70, 72, 73
 - criminal, 70, 71, 73
 - supreme court, 73
- county court
 - civil, 114, 115
 - criminal, 113, 115
 - supreme court, 115
- justice of the peace court
 - civil, 127, 128
 - criminal, 126, 128

Case papers, see Case records

Cash

See also Allowances; Warrants
books

- sheriffs, 143
 - tax collectors, 158-60
 - receipts, 102, 134, 143, 158-61, 172-77
- Cattle impounded, 145

Certificates

- of assignments of tax liens, 23, 28
- birth, 208
- death, 209
- jurors, circuit court, 99
- marriage, returned, 106
- of sale of cotton, 224
- teachers pay, 187
- voters exempt from poll tax, 180
- witnesses, circuit court, 98

Chancery court

- cases, 49-52
- dockets, see Dockets, chancery

Charity, 1-3

Charters, corporation, 43

Chattel, see Deeds; Deeds of trust; Motor vehicles

Chest examinations, 212

Children, see Guardians; Juvenile court; Minors; School

Circuit clerk, see Clerk, circuit court

Citizenship, grants of, to aliens, 93

Civil cases

- circuit court, 70, 72, 73
- county court, 114, 115
- dockets, see Dockets, civil
- justice of the peace court, 127, 128

Claim docket, 8

Claims

- against county, 1-3, 7, 8, 15
- against estates, 65

Clerk

- chancery court
 - fee book, 61

Clerk

chancery court (continued)

- reports to board of supervisors,
 - 1-3

circuit court

- fees, 95, 96, 124, 143
- reports to board of supervisors,
 - 1-3

Clinical tests, 213-19

Clubs, Four-H, activities of, 226

Collection, tax, see Tax, collection

Collector, tax, see Tax, collector

Commitments

- to jail, 140, 141
- to Mississippi Industrial School, 91, 92

Communicable diseases, immunizations, 207, 211, 213-15

Communications maps, 46

Commutation tax, see Tax, road

Complaints

See also Declarations

- chancery court, 49, 51
- circuit court, 70-73
- county court, 113, 115
- justice of the peace court, 126-28

Confederate veterans

- applications for pensions, 221
- pensions granted; 11, 222

Conservation, soil, 225

Construction, see Bridges; Buildings; Roads

Contagious disease, immunization, 207, 211, 213-15

Contractors

- bids, see Bids
- bonds, see Bonds

Contracts

- bus drivers, school, 193
- to construct
 - bridges, 3, 17
 - dipping vat, 5
 - roads, 3, 17
- to furnish
 - office furniture and supplies, 3, 5
 - road machinery, 3, 5
- marriage, 103-6
- producers cotton, 224
- teachers, 190
- transportation, school, 193

Conveyances

- chattel, see Deeds; chattel; Deeds of trust, chattel, Transfers of ownership of motor vehicles

Index to Inventory Entries

- Convict camp reports, 3
- Convictions, list of, 181
- Coroner
 - docket, 145
 - inquests held by, 145
 - juries impaneled by, 145
- Corporation
 - charters, 43
 - public utility, assessments, 18
- Correspondence
 - See also Letters
 - chancery clerks with attorney-general, 69
 - county agents, 226
 - home demonstration agents, 226
 - of superintendent of education
 - county, 184, 202, 204-6
 - state, 204
- Costs
 - See also Fees; Fines
 - bonds, 100, 102
 - chancery court, 53, 61, 143, 144
 - circuit court, 95, 96, 143, 144
 - index, 97
 - county court, 124, 143, 144
 - index, 125
 - justice of the peace court, 124, 134, 143, 177
 - tax redemption, 38-42
- Cotton price adjustment, application for, 224
- County
 - attorney, affidavits filed by, 116
 - court cases, 113-15
 - engineers reports, 3
- Courthouse
 - maintenance of, 1-3, 6, 10
 - office supplies and furniture, bid to furnish, 3, 5
- Court issue dockets, see Dockets, court issue
- Criminal
 - cases
 - circuit court, 70, 71, 73
 - county court, 113, 115
 - justice of the peace court, 126, 128
 - dockets, see Dockets, criminal
 - prosecutions, see Criminal, cases
- Criminal prosecutions, see Criminal, cases
- Crop loans, 29
- Damages, see Claims
- Death certificates, 209
- Declarations
 - See also Complaints
 - chancery court, 49, 51
 - circuit court, 70, 72, 73
 - county court, 114, 115
 - homestead, 37
 - of intention, 93
 - justice of the peace court, 127, 128
- Decisions of supreme court, 73, 115
- Decrees
 - chancery court, 49, 51, 53, 54, 57, 58, 60, 66-68, 85
 - circuit court, 70-80, 84, 85
 - county court, 113-15, 117-23
- Deductions, tax, see Tax, equalization
- Deeds
 - chattel, 19, 30
 - index, 20, 31
 - land, 19, 21
 - index
 - general, 20, 22
 - sectional, 25, 26, 36
 - sixteenth section, 36
 - tax, 19, 21
- Deeds of trust
 - chattel, 19, 29, 32
 - cancellations, 19, 20, 29, 31-33
 - index, 20, 33
 - releases, 19, 20, 29, 31-33
 - satisfactions, 19, 20, 29, 31-33
 - land, 19, 23, 27, 34, 35
 - cancellations, 19, 20, 23-27, 34-36
 - to Federal Land Bank, 27
 - index
 - general, 20, 24
 - sectional, 25, 26, 36
 - sixteenth section, 36
 - releases, 19, 20, 23-27, 34-36
 - satisfactions, 19, 20, 23-27, 34-36
- Delinquency, juvenile, see Juvenile court
- Delinquent
 - juveniles, see Juvenile court
 - taxes, see Tax, sales
- Demurrers
 - chancery court, 49, 51
 - circuit court, 70-73
 - county court, 113-15
- Dentists licenses, 110, 169
- Depository
 - reports, 2, 3, 176
 - statements, 176

Index to Inventory Entries

(Des-Emb)

Descriptions of property, legal
 personal, 19, 29, 30, 32, 47, 48, 145
 146, 153
 real, 19, 21, 23, 25-28, 35-42, 57, 58,
 146-151, 154, 155
Detention warrants, 142
Dipping vat, bids and contracts to con-
 struct, 5
Diphtheria immunizations and inoculations,
 216, 217
Disbursements, 6, 10
Discharges, soldiers, sailors, and marines,
 45
Diseases, communicable, immunizations, 207,
 211, 213-15
Divorce cases, 49, 51, 53, 55, 60
Domestic relations, see Divorce cases
Dockets
 bar
 chancery court, 67
 circuit court, 76
 probate court, 67
 bench, see Dockets, court issue
 chancery, 53-56
 court issue
 circuit court, 78, 79
 county court, 120
 civil
 circuit court, 74, 77
 county court, 117
 justice of the peace court
 district 1, 129
 district 2, 130
 district 3, 131
 district 4, 132
 district 5, 133
 claim, board of supervisors, 8
 coroner and rangers, 145
 criminal
 circuit court, 74, 75
 county court, 117
 justice of the peace court
 district 1, 129
 district 2, 130
 district 3, 131
 district 4, 132
 district 5, 133
 equity, county court, 118
 execution
 circuit court, 80
 sheriffs, 137
 grand jury, 87
 issue
 chancery court, 54

Dockets
 issue (continued)
 circuit court, 78, 79
 county court, 117, 120
 jail, 140
 judges, see Dockets, court issue
 juvenile, 91
 mesne process, 135, 136
 probate, 53, 66, 67
Doctors licenses, 109, 169
Documents
 attorneys receipts for, 52, 59, 83
 original, see Original papers
Dog tax, see Tax, dog
Duplicate copies of warrants, see
 Warrants

Earmarks of animals, 48
Educable children, list of, 200
Education
 See also School
 adult, WPA
 teachers engaged in
 applications of, 191
 appointments of, 191
 pay rolls of, 186
 reports of, 186
 superintendent of
 county
 administrative affairs, record
 of, 182, 184
 annual reports of, to state su-
 perintendent of education,
 182, 184, 201
 correspondence of, 184, 202,
 204-6
 financial affairs, record of,
 182, 184, 206
 pay certificates issued by, 187
 reports of, 1-3, 182, 184, 200,
 201
 reports to, 182, 186, 192-5, 199,
 state
 annual reports of county super-
 intendent of education to,
 182, 184, 201
 examinations questions received
 from, 189
 letters from, 204
Election
 expenses, allowances for, 6, 10
 petitions to call, 3, 5
Emancipation of minors, 49, 51, 60
Embalmers licenses, 111, 169

Index to Inventory Entries

(Enc-Gua)

- Encumbrances, see Deeds of trust; Loans;
Liens; Tax, sales
- Engineer
estimates, 3, 4
plans, 3, 4
reports, 3, 4
specifications, 3, 4
- Enlistments
Confederate veterans, 221
world war veterans, 45
- Epidemics, reports of, 213
- Epidemiological reports, 213
- Equalization of taxes, see Tax, equali-
zation
- Equity docket, see Dockets, equity
- Estimates of engineer, 3, 4
- Estates
administration of, 65-68
administrators
accounts, annual and final, 58
bonds, 66, 67
letters, 66, 67
sureties, 66, 67
appraisements, 66, 67
assets, 66-68
claims against, 65
executors
accounts, annual and final, 68
bonds, 66, 67
letters, 66, 67
sureties, 66, 67
guardians, see Guardians
insolvent, 54
liabilities, 66-68
management, regulation of, 54, 66-68
settlement, 66-68
- Estrays impounded, 145
- Examinations
physical, 210-12, 215
teachers, 182, 188, 189
- Execution
docket, see Dockets, execution
writs of, see Writs
- Exemptions
from county ad valorem tax, 44
homestead, 37, 154, 155
of new industries, 44
from state ad valorem tax, 154, 155
voters, 180
- Expenditures, 6, 10
- Federal
crop mortgages, 29
- Federal (continued)
Land Bank, deeds of trust in favor
of, 27
- Feed loans, 29
- Fees
clerks
chancery court, 53, 61
circuit court, 95, 96, 143
index, 97
county court, 124, 143
index, 125
jurors, circuit court; 99, 143
justices of the peace, 134, 143, 177
sheriffs, 143, 144
stenographers, 143, 177
witnesses
circuit court, 95, 96, 98, 143
index, 97
county court, 124, 143
index, 125
- Feeble-minded cases, 49, 51
- Fertilizer loans, 29
- Field notes, surveyors, 223
- Final records
abstracts of judgment, 86, 123
chancery court, 58
county court, 121
judgments enrolled, 85
- Fines
See also Costs; Fees
circuit court, 3, 143
county court, 143
justice of the peace court, 134, 177
- Fishing licenses, 167, 168
- Forfeitures, see Fines; Bonds, for-
feited
- Four-H clubs, activities, 226
- Freeholders petitions, 3, 4
- Fund, sixteenth section school, see
Sixteenth section
- Game licenses, 167, 168
- Gasoline tax, see Tax, gasoline
- Grand jury
docket, 87
indictments returned by, 88
secret record of, 89, 90
- Grants of citizenship to aliens, 93
- Guardians
See also Estates
accounts, annual and final, 68
appointments, 66, 67
bonds, 66, 67

Index to Inventory Entries

(Gua-Jur)

Guardians (continued)

- petitions in juvenile delinquency cases, 91, 92
- settlements of estates, 66-68

Habeas corpus proceedings, costs of, 6, 10

Hattiesburg

American

- assessments on real property in, 147
- city school reports, 194
- exemptions on homesteads in, 154
- tax returns of real and personal property in, 146
- taxes levied on
 - personal property in, 153
 - real property in, 150
 - index, 152

Health department

- applications to, for tonsilectomy, 220
- immunization data, 207, 211, 213, 216, 217
- inoculation data, 207, 211, 213, 216, 217
- laboratory data
 - communicable disease, 213, 215-19
 - microscopic examination, 215-19
 - reports
 - chest examinations, 212
 - immunization, 217
 - microscopic examinations, 218, 219
 - monthly numerical morbidity, 207

tests

- clinical, 210-12, 216
- microscopic, 214, 218, 219
- tuberculin, 214
- Wasserman, 215

statistics

- births, 208
- deaths, 209
- epidemiological, 213
- morbidity, 207

Highways, see Road

Home demonstration agent, see Agent

Home economics, see Agent, home demonstration

Homestead

- declarations, 37
 - exemptions, 37, 154, 155
- Hunting licenses, 167, 168

Idiocy cases, 49, 51

Immunizations

- diphtheria, 216, 217

Immunizations (continued)

- typhoid fever, 216, 217
- Impounding of animals, 145
- Incorporation, articles of, 43
- Industries, new, exemptions granted, 44

Index

- chancery cases, 50, 52
- chattel
 - deed, 31
 - deed of trust, 33
- circuit court cost bill, 97
- county court cost bill, 125
- deed, 20, 22
- deed of trust, 20, 24
- land roll, 152
- lot and block map, 157
- marriage, 105
- mortgage
 - chattel, 33
 - land, 20, 24
- sectional, 25, 26, 36
- sixteenth section, 36
- tax receipt, 164
- tax sale, 40

Indictments

See also Grand jury

- circuit court, 70, 71, 73
- county court, 113, 115, 116

Indigents, 1-3

Injunctions, 49, 51

Inoculations

- diphtheria, 216, 217
- typhoid fever, 216, 217

Insanity cases, 49, 51

Insolvencies, 49, 51, 53, 54, 60

Insurance on county property, 15, 197

Inventories of estates, 66, 67

Invoices of materials and supplies purchased, 3, 7

Jail

- commitments to, 140, 141
- discharges from, 140, 141
- docket, 140
- maintenance of, 1-3
- releases from, 140, 141

Judgments

- abstracts of, 86, 123
- enrolled, 85

Judges docket, see Dockets, court issue

Jurors

- impaneled, 84
- fees, 99, 143
- summonses, 138, 139

Index to Inventory Entries

(Jur-Mai)

Jury

- See also Grand jury
- certificates, circuit court, 99
- coroners, 145
- fees, 99, 143
- summons, 138, 139
- Justice of the peace court
 - cases, 126-28
 - dockets, see Dockets, justice of the peace court
- Juvenile court
 - docket, 91
 - minutes, 92

Laboratory data, see Health department

Land

- abstracts of title to, 25, 26, 34, 36
- bearings, 223
- boundaries, see Boundaries
- conveyances, see Deeds, land; Deeds of trust, land; Liens; Tax, deeds
- deeds, see Deeds, land
- encumbrances, see Deeds of trust, land; Loans; Liens; Tax, sales
- legal description of, see Description of property, legal
- monuments, 223
- plats, 46, 156
- sixteenth section, transfers of title to, 36
- sold for taxes, see Tax land sold for surveys, 46, 156, 223
- tenure maps, 154-56
- Legal description of property, see Description of property, legal

Letters

- See also Correspondence
- from attorney-general to chancery clerk, 69
- from county superintendent of education to board of supervisors, 206
- from Mississippi Educational Association to county superintendent of education, 205,
- from state superintendent of education to county superintendent of education, 203, 204
- testamentary and of administration, 66, 67

Levies, tax, see Tax, levies

Licenses

- applications for marriage, 103
- automobile, see Licenses; Motor vehicle
- certificates of marriage, 106

Licenses (continued)

- dentists
 - county privilege, 169
 - state, register of, 110
- fishing, 167, 168
- game, 167, 168
- hunting, 167, 168
- marriages, 104
 - index, 105
- motor vehicle, 170
- occupational privilege, see Licenses, privilege
- optometrists
 - county privilege, 169
 - state, register of, 108
- personal privilege, see Licenses, privilege
- pharmacists
 - county privilege, 169
 - state, register of, 109
- privilege, 169
- professional privilege, see Licenses, privilege
- veterinary surgeons
 - county privilege, 169
 - state, register of, 112

Liens

- general, 57, 85
- mechanics, 57, 85
- tax, 23, 28

Lists

- of cases lost by state in justice of the peace courts, 3
- of educable children, 200
- of persons convicted of crimes, 181
- of prospective voters, 178
- of qualified voters, 179
- of schools visited by superintendent of education, 182

Livestock

- bulletins, 226
- impounded, 145

Loans

- crop, feed, fertilizer, and seed, 29
- from sixteenth section school fund, 23, 34

Lunacy cases, 49, 51

Machinery, road, bids to furnish, 3, 5

Maintenance

- courthouse, 1-3, 6, 7, 10
- bridges, 1-4, 6, 10
- jail, 1-3, 6, 10
- roads, 1-4, 6, 10

Index to Inventory Entries

(Man-Ori)

Mandates of supreme court, 73, 115

Maps

communications, 46
engineers, 3
homestead, 154, 155
land tenure, 154-56
political, 46
road, 3

Marine discharges, 45

Marks and brands of animals, 48

Marriage licenses

applications for, 103
certificates of, returned, 106
register of, 104
index, 105

Matters of the board of supervisors, 3

Mesne process docket, see Docket, mesne process

Mechanics liens, 57

Microscopic tests, 218, 219

Minors

See also Guardians; Juvenile court;
School, children
applications for marriage license, 103
emancipation of, 49, 51, 60

Minutes

agricultural high school, 198
board of supervisors, 1, 2
chancery court, 60
circuit court, 84
county court, 122
juvenile court, 91

Mortgages

chattel, see Deeds of trust, chattel
land, see Deeds of trust; land

Motion docket, see Dockets, motion

Motions

board of supervisors, 1, 2
chancery court, 49, 51
circuit court, 70-73
county court, 113-15

Motor vehicles

licenses, 170
transfers of ownership, 47

Naturalization

of alien soldiers stationed at Camp
Shelby, 93
declarations of aliens for, 93
petitions of aliens for, 93

Navy discharges, 45

New industries exempted from county ad
valorem tax, 44

Newspapers, 62

Notices

of applications for marriage licenses,
103
lis pendens, 57
to owners of land sold for taxes, 38
of state lands redeemed, 42

Oaths

administrators, 66, 67
of allegiance, 93
executors, 66, 67
guardians, 66, 67
of office, county officials, 14

Objections to assessments, see Tax,
assessments

Occupational privilege licenses, 169

Office furniture and supplies, bids to
furnish, 3, 5

Offices, county, maintenance of, 1, 2,
6, 10

Officials bonds, 14

Opinions of attorney-general; 43, 44,
69

Optometrists licenses, 108, 169

Orders

board of supervisors, 1, 2, 8
chancery court, 49, 51, 53-55, 60, 62,
66-68

circuit court, 70-79, 91, 92

county court, 113-15, 122

justice of the peace court, 126-33

Orphans business, 49, 51, 60

Owners

of chattels, see Deeds, chattel;
Deeds of trust, chattel; Motor
vehicles

of land, see Deeds, land; Deeds of
trust, land; Tax, sales

Original papers

attorneys receipts for, 52, 59, 83
board of supervisors, 3-5, 13, 17, 18
chancery court, 49, 51

circuit clerk, 106

circuit court, 70-72, 100-2

county agent, 224-26

county court, 113-16, 123

grand jury, 88-90

health department, 210-20

justice of the peace court, 126-28

pension board of inquiry, 221

sheriff, 138, 139

superintendent of education, 182-84
186, 188, 189, 191-95, 197, 199,
201-6

Index to Inventory Entries

(Ori-Red)

Original papers (continued)

tax assessor, 146, 154, 155

Panels, jury, 84

Paupers applications, 3

Pay

certificates, 187

roll, WPA adult education, 186

Penalties, see Fines; Tax, sales

Pensions

applications for, 221

granted, 222

Permits, see Licenses

Personal

property, see Deeds, chattel; Deeds of trust, chattel; Owners; Tax, assessments; Tax, rolls

privilege licenses, 169

Petitions

See also applications

aliens, for naturalization, 93

ex-parte, 49, 51

freeholders, 3-5

guardians, in juvenile delinquency cases, 91, 92

for commitment to Mississippi industrial school, 91, 92

for naturalization, 93

road, 3, 4

school, 3, 5, 184, 193

Pharmacists licenses, 107, 169

Physical examinations

of infants and pre-school children, 211

of school children, 210

Plats

See also Maps

addition, 46

city, 46

subdivision, 46

survey, 46

town, 46

Poll

books, 179

tax, see Tax, poll

Poor relief, 1-3

Pre-school children and infants, physical examinations of, 211

Prisoners

See also Convict camp reports; Convictions, list of

committed to jail, 140, 141

detention warrants for, 142

discharged from jail, 140, 141

Prisoners (continued)

received into jail, 140, 141

released from jail, 140, 141

Privilege licenses, 169, 170

Probate

docket, see Dockets, probate

of wills, 63, 64, 66, 67

Proceedings, record of, see Minutes

Producers contracts, cotton, 224

Professional licenses

county privilege, 169

state, registers of, 107-12

Professional privilege, 169

Promotions of pupils, 182, 184, 199, 201

Property, real and personal, legal description of, see Description of property, legal

Prosecutions criminal, see Criminal cases

Protests

on unpaid checks, drafts, and notes, 94

Pupils

See also School, children

progress reports, 182, 184, 199, 201

transfers of, 194

Public buildings, see Buildings; Court-house

Publications ordered by chancellor, 62

Public utility corporation assessments, 18

Qualified voters, list of, 179

Quitclaims, 19, 21

Railroads, maps showing, 46

Range lines, maps showing, 46, 156

Rangers docket, 145

Rates, tax, see Tax, levies

Real estate, see Deeds, land; Deeds of trust, land; Estates; Liens; Tax, assessments; Tax, rolls; Tax, sales; Surveys

Real property, see Deeds, land; Deeds of trust, land; Estates; Liens; Tax, assessments; Tax, rolls; Tax, sales; Surveys

Receipts

cash, see Cash, receipts

for documents, attorneys, 52, 59, 83

tax, see Tax, receipts

Receiverships, 49, 51, 60

Redemptions, tax, see Tax, sales

Index to Inventory Entries

(Red-Rol)

Reductions, tax, see Tax, equalization
Registration
 of marriage licenses, 104
 index, 105
 of prospective voters, 178
 of state licenses issued
 dentists, 110
 doctors, 109
 embalmers, 111
 optometrists, 108
 pharmacists, 107
 physicians, 109
 veterinary surgeons, 112
Regulation of management of estates, 66-68
Regulations
 board of supervisors, 1, 2
 rules and, school transportation, 182, 184
Releases
 of assignments of tax liens, 23, 28
 of deeds of trust
 chattel, 19, 29, 32
 land, 19, 23, 25-27, 35, 36
 from jail, 140, 141
Relief, poor, 1-3
Removal of the disabilities of minority, 49, 51, 60
Reports
 annual
 administrators, 68
 executors, 68
 guardians, 68
 to board of supervisors
 circuit clerks, 3
 convict camp, 3
 engineers, 2, 3
 of highway construction and maintenance, 3, 16
 justices of the peace, 3, 134
 by superintendent of education, 1-3, 196
 chest examination, 212
 convict camp, 3
 county department, 1-3
 county depository, 2, 3, 176
 county officers, 1-3
 engineers, 2, 3
 epidemiological, 213
 final, administrators, executors, and guardians, 68
 of fines collected
 by circuit clerk, 3
 by justices of the peace, 3, 134, 177

Reports (continued)
 of gasoline tax collected, 3
 Hattiesburg public schools, 194
 health department, 207, 212-19
 highway construction and maintenance, 3, 16
 hunting and fishing license, 168
 laboratory, 213-15, 218, 219
 numerical morbidity, 207
 pupils progress, 182, 184, 199, 201
 road construction and maintenance, 3, 16, 17
 school bus drivers, 193
 special committee, 1-3
 of superintendent of education
 to board of supervisors, 1-3, 196
 to state superintendent of education, 182, 184, 201
 of teachers
 attending State Teachers College Demonstration school, 192
 attending summer school, 195
 to superintendent of education, 182, 184, 193, 194, 199
Resolutions of board of supervisors, 1, 2
Returns
 of certificates of marriage, 106
 tax, 146
 of writs, 137, 138
Revenue, see Cash receipts; Tax
Revision, tax, see Tax, equalization
Rivers, maps showing, 46
Road
 and bridge privilege tax, 170
 bids to construct, 3, 4, 17
 commutation tax, see Tax, road construction, 16
 contracts to construct, 3, 17
 machinery, bids to furnish, 3, 5
 maintenance, 1-3, 6, 10, 16, 17
 maps, showing, 46
 petitions of freeholders
 to change location of, 3, 4
 to construct, 3, 4
 to repair, 3, 4
 plans, 3, 4, 17
 reports, 3, 16
 specifications, 3, 4, 17
Roll
 assessment, 147-49
 Confederate pension, 11, 222
 judgment, 85
 tax, see Tax, rolls

Index to Inventory Entries

(Sai-Spe)

Sailors discharges, 45

Salaries

county officers, 6, 10

school

bus drivers, 182, 187

teachers, 182, 186, 187, 194

Satisfactions, see Cancellation

School

See also Education

accounts with auditor, 172-74

agricultural high

accounts

payable, 199

receivable, 199

minutes, 198

reports, 199

trustees

appointment of, 199

election of, 193

meetings of, 198

warrants, 11, 12

board, county

petitions to, 183

proceedings, 182, 183

bus drivers, see School, transportation

children

achievements of, 182, 184, 199, 201

list of educable, 200

physical examinations of, 210

progress reports, 182, 184, 199, 201

transportation of, see School, transportation

Demonstration, State Teachers College,

reports of teachers attending, 192

employees pay certificates, 187

fund, sixteenth section, see Sixteenth section

land, transfers of title to, 36

pay roll

bus drivers, 182, 187

teachers, 182, 184, 186, 187, 194

petitions, 3, 5, 184, 193

superintendent, see Education, superintendent

teachers

applications, 188, 191

accounts with superintendent, 185

adult education, 186, 191

appointed, 182, 191

contracts, 190

employed, 182, 190, 191, 198

examinations, 182, 188, 189

licensed, 182, 190

School

teachers (continued)

pay certificates, 187

reports, 182, 192-5, 199

salaries, 185-87, 194, 196

orders to hold, 184

transportation

bids to furnish, 184

contracts, 193

reports, 193

rules and regulations, 182

salaries, 182, 187, 196

trustees

appointments of, 199

elections of, 193

proceedings, 182, 198

warrants, 10-13

work, WPA adult educational

bulletins, 203

correspondence concerning, 202

instructions, 203

pay roll, 186

teachers engaged in, 191

Sectional indexes, 25, 26, 36

Section lines, maps showing, 46, 156

Secret record of indictments, see Grand jury

Seed loans, 29

Sentences

circuit court, 84, 181

county court 122, 181

justice of the peace court, 129-34

juvenile court, 91, 92

Servants of Confederate veterans

applications for pensions, 11, 222

pensions granted, 222

Sheriffs

execution docket, 137

record of fines, fees, and costs, 143, 144

mesne process dockets, 135, 136

Smallpox vaccinations, 217

Sixteenth section

fund

applications for loans from, 1-3

loans made from, 34

security for, 35

land transfers, 36

Soil conservation, 225

Soldiers discharges, 45

Special elections, freeholders petitions to call, 3, 5

Specifications, bridge and road, 3, 4, 17

Index to Inventory Entries

(Sta-Tax)

State cases, see Criminal cases
Statements, depository, 176
Statistical reports, see Reports
Statistics, vital, see Vital statistics
Stenographers fees, 143, 177
Stray animals impounded, 145
Streams, maps showing, 46
Streets, maps showing, 46
Superintendent of education, see Education, superintendent of
Supervisors
 board of, see Board of Supervisors
 districts, maps showing, 156
Supreme court decisions, 73, 115
Surety bonds, see Bonds
Surgeons licenses, veterinary, 112, 169
Surveyors field notes, 223
Surveys, 223

Tax

ad valorem, exemptions from, see Tax exemptions
abatment, see Tax, equalization
adjustment, see Tax, equalization
applications for exemption from
 county ad valorem, 44
 state ad valorem, 154, 155
assessments
 back, 3
 personal property, 18, 146, 153
 real property, 18, 146-49
 objections to, see Tax, equalization
automobile, see Tax, privilege
back, see Tax, sales
bridge privilege, road and, see Tax, privilege
collection
 cash books, 158-60
 delinquent, 38-42
 privilege, 169, 170
 reports, 161
collector
 account with auditor, 173
 cash books, 158-60
 correspondence of, 171
 licenses issued by, 167-70
 receipts, 162-167
 reports, 1-3, 161, 168
commutation, see Tax, road
deeds, 19, 21
equalization, 1-3
errors, see Tax, equalization
exemptions
 county ad valorem, 44

Tax

exemptions (continued)
 homestead, 154, 155
 poll, 180
 state ad valorem, 154, 155
lands sold for, see Tax, sales
levies, see Tax, rolls
maps, 154-56
 index, 157
matters, correspondence concerning, 171
motor vehicles, see Tax, privilege
non-payment, see Tax, sales
personal property, see Tax, rolls
poll
 assessments, 146, 153
 cash book, 158
 collection, 158
 receipts, 162, 166
privilege
 automobile, 170
 motor vehicle, 170
 occupational, 169
 personal, 169
 professional, 169
 road and bridge, 170
public service corporation, see Tax, rolls
real property, see Tax, rolls
receipts
 partial payments, 163
 personal property, 162
 index, 164
 poll, 162, 166
 real property, 162
 index, 164
 road and bridge privilege, 170
 special commutation tax, 162, 166
redemptions, see Tax, sales
releases, see Tax, sales
returns, 146
revision, see Tax, equalization
road and bridge privilege, see Tax, privilege
rolls
 personal property, 18, 153
 real property, 18, 147-51
 index, 152
 public service corporation, 18
sales
 list of lands sold to individuals
 at, 39
 index, 40

Index to Inventory Entries

(Tax-Wit)

Tax

sales (continued)

- notices to owners of lands sold at, 38
- redemptions from, 41, 42
- releases from, 41, 42
- state ad valorem, exemptions from, 154, 155

Teachers, see School, teachers

Testaments, 63, 64

Testamentary letters, 66, 67

Tests

- clinical, 210-12, 216
- laboratory, 213-15, 218, 219
- tuberculin, 214
- venereal disease, 215
- Wassermann, 215

Tonsilectomies, applications for, 220

Towns, maps showing, 46

Townships, maps showing, 46, 156

Titles

- to chattels, see Deeds, chattel; Deeds of trust, chattel; Transfers of ownership of automobiles
- to land, see Deeds, land; Deeds of trust, land; Tax, deeds; Tax, sales

Tracts, maps showing, 156

Transcribed records, see Transcriptions

Transcriptions

- of attorneys receipt book, 59
- of auditors accounts, 172
- of cases appealed
 - from circuit court to supreme court, 73, 115
 - from county court to circuit court, 115
- of chancery cases, 49
- of index to land deed records, 20
- of land deed records, 19
- of minutes of board of supervisors of Perry County, 1
- of record of wills, 63
- of register of allowances, 6
- of secret record of indictments, 89
- of sixteenth section index, 36

Transfers of title

- to chattels, see Deeds, chattel; Deeds of trust, chattel
- to land, see Deeds, land; Deeds of trust, land; Tax, deeds; Tax, liens; Tax, sales
- to motor vehicles, 47

Transportation, see Communications maps; School, transportation

Treatments

- of communicable diseases, 213-17, 219
- of venereal diseases, 215

Trust deeds, see Deeds of trust

Trust, deeds of, see Deeds of trust

Trustees

See also School, trustees
deeds

chattel, 19, 30

land, 19, 21, 24-26

Tuberculin tests, 214

Typhoid fever immunizations, 217

Vaccinations, 217

Valuations

of estates, 66, 67

of security for loans from sixteenth section school fund, 35

tax, see Tax, assessments

Vat, dipping, bids and contract to construct, 5

Veterans

Confederate

- applications for pensions, 221
- enlistment records of, 221
- pensions granted, 11, 222
- world war

- enlistment records of, 45
- discharges of, 45

Veterinary surgeons licenses, 112, 169

Vital statistics, 104, 105, 208, 209

Voters

- disenfranchised, 181
- exempt from poll tax, 180
- list of
 - prospective, 178
 - qualified, 179
- registration of, 178

Vouchers, see Warrants

Warrants

- cancelled, 3, 13
- duplicate copies of, 12
- register of, 9, 10
- stubs of, 11

Warranty deeds, 19, 21

Wassermann tests, 215

Welfare, 1-3

Widows of Confederate veterans

- applications for pensions by, 221
- pensions granted to, 11, 222

Wills filed for probate, 63, 64

Witnesses

- affidavits of, in naturalization proceedings, 93

Index to Inventory Entries

(Wit-Xra)

Witnesses (continued)

fees

- in chancery court proceedings, 61, 143
- in circuit court proceedings, 95, 96, 98, 143
- index, 97
- in county court proceedings, 98, 143

subpoenaed

- in chancery court proceedings, 56
- in circuit court proceedings, 81, 82
- in county court proceedings, 119

WPA adult education program

- bulletins, 203
- correspondence pertaining to procedure in, 202, 203
- instructions for carrying on, 203
- pay roll, 186
- teachers engaged in, 191
- time reports, 186

Writs, 49, 51, 70-73, 91, 92, 113-15
135-40

X-Ray diagnoses, 212

INDEX TO COUNTY HISTORY AND OFFICE ESSAYS

Figures refer to page numbers.

- Abbreviations, list of, 16-17
- Abolishment
of county court, 23
of office of treasurer, 80, 81
- Aborigines, 3
- Absent voters law repealed, 83
- Administration
of county government
by board
of police, 23
of road commissioners, county, 22
of supervisors, 20-21
by county court, 22
by court of common pleas, 21
by court of general quarter sessions
of the peace, 21
of education, 11, 20, 84-90
of estates, chancery clerks duties in,
35
of justice, 10, 34-35, 39-41, 48-51,
57-61
- Administrative matters, jurisdiction in,
10
- Affidavits filed by county prosecuting
attorney, 63
- Agent
county agricultural
appropriations for, 103
duties of, 103
establishment of office of
in Forrest County, 103
in Mississippi, 103
history of, 103
housing of records of, 13, 15
importance of, 102
provisions for, 103
records kept by, 103
salary of, 103
home demonstration
appropriations for, 104-105
directed by county agent, 103
duties of, 103-105
establishment of office of
in Forrest County, 103, 104
in Mississippi, 103, 104
history of, 103, 104
housing of records of, 13, 15
provisions for, 103, 104
purposes of, 103, 104
records kept by, 105
- Agricultural
agent, see Agent, county agricul-
tural agent; Agent, home demon-
stration
crops, value of in 1936, 6
extension department
appropriations for, 103
county agent is director of, 103
duties of, 103
establishment of
in Forrest County, 103
in Mississippi, 103
history of, 103
provisions for, 103
records kept by, 103, 105
high school, 20, 89
statistics, 6
- Aim of Historical Records Survey, ii
- Aliens, naturalization of, 41
- Alimony jurisdiction, 10
- Annual reports, see Reports
- Appellate jurisdiction
of circuit court, 10
of county court, 10
of supreme court, 10
- Applications
for Confederate pensions, 98
for homestead exemptions, 70
- Appointments
of county agricultural agent, 103
of county engineer, 100
of director of health department,
93, 94
election commissioners, 11
of home demonstration agent, 103,
104
of members of pension board of
inquiry, 97
- Appropriations
for agricultural extension depart-
ment, 103-105
for county agents, 103-105
for general county expenses, 20
for health department, 94
for objects authorized by law, by
board of supervisors, 20
- Area
of Forrest County, 8
of Washington County, 3
- Assessed value of property in For-
rest County in 1936, 5-6

Index to County History and Office Essays

(Ass-Cir)

- Assessor, tax, see Tax assessor
Attorney, county prosecuting, see
County prosecuting attorney
A Trip Through the Piney Woods by J. F.
H. Claiborne, 4
Auditor
clerk of the board of supervisors is
ex-officio, 78, 80
compensation of, 81
duties of, 78
records kept by, 78, 80
reports of, 78
Automobile licenses, 75
Bank, see Depository, county
Beats, supervisors, county is divided
into five, 20
Board
of inquiry, pension, see Pension
board of inquiry
police
duties of, 23
established in 1832, 23
name changed to board of super-
visors in 1869, 23
number of members of, 23
supervisors
bonds of members of, 20
clerk of, see Clerk of the board of
supervisors
compensation of members of, 20
composition of, 20
duties of, 20-21
history of, 20-21
powers of, 20-21
qualifications of members of, 20
term of office of, 20
Bond
of auditor, see Clerk of the chancery
court, bond of
of clerk
of the chancery court, 35
of the circuit court, 39
of constable, 68
of justice of the peace, 60
of members of the board of supervisors,
20
of registrar, see Clerk of the cir-
cuit court, bond of
of sheriff
as peace officer, 64
as ex-officio tax collector, 74
of tax
assessor, 70
Bond
of tax (continued)
collector, 74
of treasurer, see Clerk of the chan-
cery court, bond of
Boundaries
of election districts, 11
of Forrest County, 3-4
of Washington County, 3
Boys and girls club work, 10, 103, 105
Bridges, jurisdiction over, 20
Buildings, county
construction of, 20
maintenance of, 20
insurance on, 20
protection of, from fire, 20
Camp Shelby established in Forrest
County in 1917, 6
Capper-Ketchum act, 104
Cattle raising, 6
Certificates
of exemption from payment of poll
tax, 83
of marriage, 41
Chancery clerk
discharges duties
of auditor, 10
of clerk
of the board of supervisors, 10
of the chancery court, 10
of the pension board of inquiry,
10
treasurer, 10
importance of office of, 10
Chancery court
clerk of, see Clerk of the chancery
court
establishment of office of
in Forrest County, 35
in Mississippi Territory, 34
history of, 34-35
jurisdiction of, 10, 35
Charters, corporation, recording of,
27
Children, educable, enumeration of,
72, 86, 89-90
Choctaw Indians, treaty with, 3
Claiborne, J. F. H., A Trip Through
the Piney Woods, 4
Circuit court
clerk of, see Clerk of the circuit
court

Circuit court (continued)

establishment of
in Forrest County, 39
in Mississippi Territory, 39
history of, 39-40
jurisdiction of, 10

Civil cases, cognizance in
of circuit court, 10
of county court, 10, 48, 54
of justices of the peace, 10, 60

Clerk

of the board of supervisors
duties of, 23
history of, 23
housing, care, and accessibility of
records, of, 15

of the chancery court
acts as recorder, 10, 27
bond of, 35

duties of, 35
establishment of office of
in Forrest County, 7, 35
in Mississippi, 34

history of, 34-35
housing, care, and accessibility of
records of, 15

is ex-officio

clerk

of the board of supervisors, 10,
23
of the pension board of inquiry,
10, 98

treasurer, 10, 78, 81

term of office of, 35

of the circuit court

bond of, 39
duties of, 40-41
establishment of office of
in Forrest County, 7, 39
in Mississippi Territory, 39

fees of, 41

history of, 39-40

housing, care, and accessibility of
records of, 14

is ex-officio

clerk of the county court, 10, 54
registrar, 10, 82

reports of

to auditor, 40, 41
to clerk of the board of super-
visors, 40
to state registrar of vital statis-
tics, 41

Clerk

of the circuit court (continued)
term of office, 39
of the county court, see Clerk of
the circuit court

Clubs, Four-H, activities of, 105

Collection of taxes, 10, 74-76

Collector, tax, see Tax collector

College

Mississippi Normal, opened in 1910,
6

Mississippi State, extension depart-
ment work of, 103-105

State Teachers, 6

Commissioners

county road, 22
election, 11, 82

Compensation

See also Fees

of auditor, 81
of county agent, 103
of county engineer, 100
of county prosecuting attorney, 63
of registrar, 83

Confederate veterans

applications for pensions, 98
number of in Forrest County, 98
pensions paid to, 98
servants of, 98
widows of, 98

Constable

bond of, 68
duties of, 68
establishment of office of
in Forrest County, 7, 67
in Mississippi Territory, 68
not required to keep permanent
records, 68
number of in Forrest County, 68
term of office of, 68

Contents, table of, 1-2

Conveyances, recording of, 27

Convicts, register of names of, 82

Corn, value of in 1936, 6

Coroner

duties of, 69
establishment of office of
in Forrest County, 7, 69
in Mississippi Territory, 69
fees of, 69
may act as sheriff, 69
term of office of, 69

Corporation charters, recording of, 27

- Corrupt practices act, 83
Cotton, value of in 1936, 6
County
 agent, see Agent, agricultural; Agent, home demonstration
 attorney, see County prosecuting attorney
 court 1807-1832
 abolished, 1832, 23
 administrative duties of, 22, 52
 clerk of, 23
 composition of, 22
 established in Mississippi Territory in 1807, 21-22
 justices of, appointed by governor, 22
 jurisdiction of, 22, 53
 powers of, 22
 court 1865-1870
 abolished 1870, 54
 composition of, 54
 established 1865, 53
 jurisdiction of, 54
 probate judge, made president of, 54
 court 1927--
 clerk of, 54
 established by legislature, 54
 judge, of, see County, judge
 jurisdiction of, 10, 54
 may be abolished, 54
 need for, 54
 organized in Forrest County, 48, 54
 depository
 plan of designating inaugurated in 1912, 80
 required to deposit selected securities with county treasurer, 80
 reports of, 78
 engineer
 duties of, 101
 establishment of office of in Forrest County, 100
 reports of, 101
 salary of, 100
 surveyor appointed as, 100
 judge, term of office of, 48
 prosecuting attorney
 duties, 63
 establishment of office of in Forrest County, 62
 in Mississippi, 62, 63
 history of, 62-63
 not required to keep permanent records, 63
County
 prosecuting attorney (continued)
 salary of, 63
 seat, Hattiesburg designated as, 3
 superintendent of education, see Superintendent of education
Court
 of common pleas
 composition of, 49
 county governing duties of, 51
 established in Mississippi Territory, 48
 jurisdiction of, 50
 justices of, appointed by governor, 49
 of general quarter sessions of the peace
 composition of, 49
 county governing duties of, 50
 establishment of in Mississippi Territory, 48
 jurisdiction of, 49
 justices of appointed by governor, 49
 of probate
 establishment of in Mississippi Territory, 48
 judge of, appointed by governor, 51
 jurisdiction of, 51
Courthouse
 original, 6
 present
 dimensions of, 13-16
 location of offices in, 13-16
Crimes, register of persons convicted of, 82
Criminal cases, cognizance in
 of circuit court, 10
 of county court, 10, 48
 of justices of the peace, 10, 60
Crops, value of in 1936, 6
Deeds, recording of, 27
Deeds of trust, recording of, 27
Dentists licenses, 41
Department of Archives and History, Mississippi, see Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Depository, county, see County depository
Discharges, soldiers, sailors, marines, 28
Divorce cases, cognizance of chancery court in, 10
Doctors licenses, 41

Educable children, enumeration of, 72, 86, 89-90

Education
See also School; Superintendent of education
first aid given, 86
negro, 89
progress of, in Forrest County, 89
reconstruction program of, 87-88
superintendent of, see Superintendent of education

Election
of board of supervisors, 20
of clerk
of the chancery court, 35
of circuit court, 39
commissioners, 11, 82
constable, 68
of county judge, 48
of county prosecuting attorney, 62
of coroner, 69
superintendent of education, 84
of tax assessor, 70

Elections
commissioners of, 11, 82
registrars duties in, 82
special, when called, 11, 20

Embalmers licenses, 41

Eminent domain, jurisdiction in
of county court, 10, 48
of justices of the peace, 10, 59

Enforcement of laws, 10

Engineer, county, see County engineer

Equalization of taxes, 70

Equity cases, jurisdiction in
of chancery court, 10
of county court, 10, 48

Establishment
of agricultural extension department, 103
of board of supervisors, 7, 20
of Camp Shelby, 6
of chancery
clerks office, 7, 34
court, 7, 34
of circuit
clerks office, 7, 39
court, 7, 39
of constables office, 7, 67
of coroners office, 7, 69
of county
agents office, 103
court, 21, 53, 54

Establishment
of county (continued)
depository, 80
engineers office, 100
judges office, 48
prosecuting attorneys office, 62
seat, 3
of court
of common pleas, 48
of general quarter sessions of the peace, 48
of Forrest County, 3, 7
of Greene County, 3
of health department, 94
of home demonstration agents office, 103, 104
of Mississippi
Normal college, 6
State Teachers College, 6
of office
of justice of the peace, 57
of superintendent of education, 84
of pension board of inquiry, 97
of Perry County, 3
of Second Judicial District of Perry County, 3
of sheriffs office, 7, 64
of Stone County, 4
of surveyors office, 99
of tax
assessors office, 70
collectors office, 7, 64
of Washington County, 3

Estate matters, jurisdiction of chancery court in, 10

Estrays, jurisdiction of ranger over, 101

Exemption, homestead, 70

Explanatory notes, list of, 18-19

Farm income in 1936, 6

Fees
See also Compensation
of clerk of the circuit court, 41
coroners, 69
of justices of the peace, 61
sheriffs, 65
surveyors, 99
tax collectors, 76

Fishing licenses, 75

Four-H clubs activities, 105

Functions of the county, 10-11

Index to County History and Office Essays

(Fun-Law)

Fund

Confederate pension, 98
sixteenth section school, 86, 87

Garner, James Wilford, Reconstruction in Mississippi, 87, 88

Government county, administration of,
see Administration of county government

Governmental organization and Records system, 7-13

Greene County established, 3

Growth of Forrest County, 5

Gulf and Ship Island railroad
chartered in 1882, 5
completed in 1900, 5
furnished outlet for lumber of
Forrest County, 5
purchased by Capt. J. T. Jones, 5

Hattiesburg

as business and railroad center, 5
designated as county seat, 3
fourth largest city in Mississippi, 10
population of, in 1890, 1900, 1910,
1920, 1930, 5
selected as site for Mississippi Normal
College, 5

Health

department
child-health program of, 95
director of
duties of, 94
qualifications of, 94
salary of, 94
established in 1921, 94
general program of, 94
infant care program of, 94
laboratory work of, 94
maternal care program of, 95
personnel of, 95
pre-natal program of, 95
records kept by, 95
rural sanitation program of, 94
tuberculosis case-finding program
of, 95
urban sanitation program of, 94
state board of
bureaus of, 94
composition of, 94
standardization of records of, 95
Home demonstration agent, see Agent,
home demonstration
economics program, 103-5

Homestead declarations, recording of, 28
Historical Records Survey

aim of, ii
assistance given by
to Forrest County, 13
to Mississippi Department of Archives
and History, iv
to secretary of state, iv

Historical sketch, 3-6

Housing of records, 13-16

Hunting licenses, 75

Income, average farm, in 1936, 6

Incorporation charters, recording of, 27

Indians, Choctaw, treaty with, 3

Industrial growth of Forrest County, 5

Institute for Government Research of the
Brookings Institution, Report on a
Survey of the Organization and Admin-
istration of State and County Govern-
ment, in Mississippi, 9, 12, 88, 89

Inquests, coroner, 69

Jail, maintenance of, 20

Jones, Capt. J. T., purchases Gulf and
Ship Island railroad, 5

Judge, county, term of office of, 48

Justice of the peace

bond of, 58, 60

duties of, 60

establishment of office of

in Forrest County, 57

in Mississippi Territory, 57

fees of, 61

history of, 57-60

jurisdiction of, 57, 58, 59

legislation concerning records of,
57, 60

number of in Forrest County, 60

powers of, 57

term of office of, 57, 58, 59

Laboratory of health department, 94

Land

abstracts of title to, 23

conveyances

recording of, 27

sectional index to, 24

Indian title to, first move to ex-
tinguish, 3

Sixteenth section, 86, 87

titles to, recording of, 27

Law books, custodian of, 68

Leases, recording of, 27

Licenses

automobile, 75
doctors, 41
fishing, 75
hunting, 75
marriage, 41,
motor vehicle, 75
occupational privilege, 76
osteopaths, 41
pharmacists, 41
physicians, 41
privilege, 41

List

of educable school children, 72, 86,
89-90
of explanatory notes, 18-19
of persons convicted of crimes, 82
of poll tax delinquents, 82
Livestock and livestock products in 1936,
6
Long Leaf Pine Belt, 3, 4
Louisiana Purchase, 3
Lumbering, growth and decline of, 5

Maintenance

of courthouse and jail, 20
of peace, 10, 64-66

Minors business, jurisdiction of chan-
cery court in, 10

Minutes

of the board of supervisors, 23
of the chancery court, 35
of the circuit court, 40
of the county court, 41, 54

Mississippi

admitted as state, 8
Department of Archives and History
annual reports of, 12
cooperation given by, to Historical
Records Survey, v
newspapers of, bound through help
of Historical Records Survey, iv

Normal College, 6

State College

extension work of, 103-105

Territory organized, 49

Mortgages, recording of, 27

Motor vehicle licenses, 75

Naturalization, jurisdiction of circuit
court in, 41

New Orleans and Northeastern railroad
projected through Mississippi, 2-3

Newspapers

kept by clerk of the chancery court,
35
of Mississippi Department of Archives
and History bound through help
of Historical Records Survey, v

Occupational privilege licenses, 76

Osteopaths licenses, 41

Partition of personal property, juris-
diction in

county court, 10, 48

of justice of the peace, 60

Pension board of inquiry

appointed by board of supervisors, 97
chancery clerk is ex-officio clerk of,
98

composition of, 98

duties, 98

establishment of

in Forrest County, 98

in Mississippi, 97

meetings of, 98

Pensions, Confederate

applications for, 98

duties of

clerk of the pension board of
inquiry concerning, 98

of state auditor concerning, 98

persons eligible for, 98

Pensioners, Confederate

classes of, 98

number of, in Forrest County, 98

Perry County

formed in 1820, 3

Forrest County organized from Second
Judicial District of, 3, 7

records of Second Judicial Distret
of, transcribed for Forrest County,
7

Population

of Forrest County

and Perry County 1910

in 1930, 5

of Hattiesburg, 1890, 1900, 1920, 1930,
5

native white, of Forrest County, 5
negro

of Forrest County, 5

of Mississippi, 8

rural

of Forrest County, 5

of Mississippi, 9

- Preface, ii-iv
- Probate judge
appointed 1799, 51
duties, 51
made president of county court in 1865,
54
- Probate matters, chancery courts juris-
diction in, 10
- Prosecuting attorney, see County prosecu-
ting attorney
- Public buildings, maintenance of, 20
- Qualified voters, list of revised by
election commissioners, 82
- Ranger
coroner is ex-officio, 101, 102
duties of, 101-2
establishment of office of
in Forrest County, 101
in Mississippi Territory, 101
history of, 101-2
reports of, 102
- Reconstruction in Mississippi, by James
Wilford Garner, 87, 88
- Recorder
clerk of the chancery court
discharges duties of, 10, 27
duties of, 27-28
establishment of office of
in Forrest County, 27
in Mississippi Territory, 28
records kept by, 27-28
reports of, 27, 28
- Records
destroyed, reestablishment of, 12
efforts of state agencies to stand-
ardize, 12
furnished by board of supervisors, 11
legislation concerning, 11
lost, reestablishment of, 12
neglect of, 11
prescribed by Code of 1930, 11-12
stolen, reestablishment of, 12
revision of in Forrest County by WPA
project, 13
- Registrar
clerk of the circuit court is ex-
officio, 40
compensation of, 83
duties of, 82-83
establishment of office of
in Forrest County, 40
in Mississippi, 39
- Registrar (continued)
history of, 82-83
records kept by, 82-83
- Registration
of licenses, 41
of voters, 82
- Regulation of health, 10, 93, 97
- Report on a Survey of the Organization
and Administration of State and County
Government in Mississippi, by Institute
for Government Research of the Brook-
ings Institution, 9, 12, 88, 89
- Reports
annual, of the Mississippi Department
of Archives and History, 12
of auditor to grand jury, 78
of clerk
of the board of supervisors to
state auditor, 78
of the chancery court to state
board of health, 27
of the circuit court to
clerk of the board of supervisors,
40
state registrar of vital statis-
tics, 41
of county agent to Mississippi State
College extension department, 103
of county engineer to board of super-
visors, 101
of director of health department to
state board of health, 94, 95
of justices of the peace to clerk of
the board of supervisors, 60
of sheriff to county auditor, 66
of state superintendent of education
to county superintendent of educa-
tion, 84, 86
of superintendent of education to
state superintendent of education,
85
of tax collector
to clerk of the board of supervisors,
75
to state auditor, 75
to state game and fish commission,
75
of teachers to superintendent of ed-
ucation, 84, 85, 90
- Sargent, Winthrop
code of laws compiled by, 19, 48
established Washington County, 3
first governor of Mississippi Terri-
tory, 48

School

- districts, 88-89
- land, sixteenth section
 - managed by county court, 86
 - income from dissipated, 86, 87
 - reserved by Congress in 1803, 86
- standardization in Forrest County, 89

Sheriff

- bond of, 64
- duties of, 64
- establishment of office of
 - in Forrest County, 64
 - in Mississippi Territory, 65
- is ex-officio tax collector, 11, 64, 74
- records kept by, 65, 66
- term of office, 64

Smith-Lever act, 104

Soldiers discharges, recording of, 28

State board of health, see Health,
state board of

Superintendent of education

- bond of, 84
- duties of, 84-86
- establishment of office of
 - in Forrest County, 84
 - in Mississippi, 84, 87
- history of, 84-88
- qualifications of, 86
- records kept by, 84-86
- term of office, 84

Supervisors, board of, see Board of
supervisors

Supreme court, 10

Surgeons licenses, 41

Surveyor

- bond of, 99
- duties of, 99-100
- establishment of office of
 - in Forrest County, 99
 - in Mississippi Territory, 99
- of Forrest County appointed county
engineer, 100
- qualifications of, 99
- records kept by, 100

Tax

- assessor
 - bond of, 70
 - duties of, 70-72
 - establishment of office of
 - in Forrest County, 64
 - in Mississippi Territory, 71

Tax

- assessor (continued)
 - history of, 70-73
 - records kept by, 70-72
- collector
 - bond of, 74
 - duties of, 75-76
 - establishment of office of
 - in Forrest County, 64
 - in Mississippi Territory, 74
 - fees of, 76
 - history of, 74-76
 - records kept by, 75
 - sheriff is ex-officio, 64, 74
- Term of office of
 - clerk
 - of the chancery court, 35
 - of the circuit court, 39
 - constable, 68
 - coroner, 69
 - justice of the peace, 57, 58, 59
 - members of the board of supervisors,
20
 - sheriff, 64
 - superintendent of education, 84
 - surveyor, 100
 - tax assessor, 70
- Testamentary matters, chancery courts
jurisdiction in, 10
- Treasurer
 - abolishment of office of, 80, 81
 - compensation of, 81
 - duties, 78
 - establishment of office of
 - in Forrest County, 7
 - in Mississippi Territory, 79
 - functions of assigned to chancery
clerk, 81
 - history of, 79-81
- Treaty of Mount Dexter, 3
- Trust, deeds of, recording of, 27
- Value
 - assessed, of property in Forrest
County, 1936, 5-6
 - of corn, cotton, and other crops in
1936, 6
 - livestock and livestock products, 6
- Voters, registration of, 83
- Wills, jurisdiction of chancery court
in probate of, 10