

Judge William Charles Warren

From **Who is Who in America**

William Charles Warren, Judge; born Sulphur Springs, Alabama, August 7, 1887; son of Notley M. Warren and Mary E. Hamic Warren; graduated 7th District Agriculture School 1916; student University of Alabama, 1916-18, 21-25, LLB, 1925; married Anabell Rice, October 27, 1912; children: Mary Ruth (Mrs. Herman Boyd), Audrey Devota (Mrs. Joel Howell), Jeanne Elizabeth (wife of Dr. A. V. Beatty), Gladys Caroline (Mrs. Howard R. Cook), Admitted to Alabama bar, 1925; practiced law in Tuscaloosa, Alabama 1925-40; judge 6th Judicial Circuit of Alabama, 1941--, Trustee Alabama Girls industrial School, 1946-52, Carraway Methodist Hospital, 1948--, Member of Alabama Senate, 11th dist., 1926-34. District Wildlife Federation, 1952-63, Member Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Delta Phi, Methodist (local trustee 1934-63; Tuscaloosa dist. trustee 1946-63, Tuscaloosa dist. steward 1963-). Mason. Club: Civitan(Gov. Ala. Dist. 1945-46, Judge Advocate General International, 1946-47, Home: 515 18th Street. Office: County Court House, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

From May 31, 1940 paid political Advertisement by W. C. Warren Tuscaloosa, Alabama

I have refrained from saying one unkind word against my opponent, and this will continue to be my attitude in this campaign. When this campaign is over, I want to feel that I have observed the Golden Rule, and that I can truthfully say that I have not spoken other than praise of my opponent.

On May 7th the people gave me a vote of 3752 to 2902 for my opponent, making my plurality 850. I carried 25 of the 30 beats in the County, including Tuscaloosa, Northport and Holt, and tied in one other Beat. My opponent only carried 3 Beats. This fine overwhelming expression of confidence in me from voters from every walk of life and throughout the County was highly appreciated, and I consider it a testimonial of confidence in my character and life, and my ability to serve as Judge of the Circuit Court. From the bottom of my heart I am grateful for this endorsement.

I have faith in the fair-minded people of this County that they will not be misled in the last hours of this campaign by propaganda, and I urge my supporters to be ever on the alert.

Since I was 13 years old of age, I have made my own way in the world and procured an education under many handicaps. I was reared in moderate circumstances, but I have always been interested in and identified with the Church and moral forces of my community. In order to get my education, I worked awhile and went to school, and then taught school and then went back to school again.

After I got my high school education, as a married man with two children, I came to Tuscaloosa and worked my way through the University and the Law School. All the time I was in the University I worked at odd jobs and at the Tuscaloosa Post Office. I had

to support my family while I was getting my education. While in the University Law School I received highest honors by being given the coveted Phi Beta Kappa Key for outstanding scholarship.

When I came to Tuscaloosa, I immediately connected myself with the Church life of this community. I have been ever active in every moral movement and in every worthwhile Church objective. For more than 20 years I have been a member of the Governing Board of my Church, and have been active in other Church work. I have taught the Men's Bible Class and other classes in my Church for many years. I know I have made a poor Sunday School teacher and that I have done very little for the Church, -not half as much as the Church has done for me, -but I merely mention these things for the information of those who do not know me and who might be interested in my attitude toward the moral and religious forces of this county.

I appreciate the many courtesies which have been extended to me by the people of this County during this campaign, and I ask all the good people of this County to join with my loyal supporters on June 4th in an overwhelming vote for good government, clean politics and fair-dealing in the Courts.

From The Tuscaloosa News Monday, October 5, 1970

Judge Kept His Cool With Wasps Poised

Wasps are bad, because they are so plentiful, this time of the year. Nests started by only two in the spring now are big.

Judge Charlie Warren and I once got into a tight place with wasps while fishing. I had gone in under a cypress limb to get a lure that had hung on a root. After getting it, I looked back toward the Judge's end of the boat. Between us was a nest, and the occupants were fidgety.

"Judge," I said, "there is a wasp nest as big as the crown of your hat right between you and me."

Calm, unhurried and judiciously he replied: "Let's try not to stir them up."

I did succeed in swinging my end of the boat around as I had come in, was careful not to get the Judge any closer, and managed to get out without being stung. But I did not go back to destroy the nest.

I saw a fellow doing that on the lake later, and I thought he was after the grubs for brem bate. Not correct.

"There's an element of revenge in what I am doing to these," he said. "My daddy was here yesterday, got into this nest, got stung several times and lost his glasses in the lake. I'm paying them back."

Now don't go and get yourself stung.-BUFORD BOON

The following letter was received with the above Wasp article from the Judge's daughter Ruth.

Dear Cousin,

Sorry I've been so long answering you, but I have been away. This was a clipping which appeared in the paper about one of Dad's fishing trips. Thought you might like it.

He was born in Fyfe, Alabama- worked from the time he was 9 years old- in lumber camps and farming. He graduated from the High School in Albertville and came to the U. of A. in Tuscaloosa where he graduated in 1925 from the Law School with a Phi Beta Kappa. He and Mother married in Albertville and he farmed and taught school for a couple of years between his High School and College years. He said when corn was high priced, he planted cotton from which the bottom dropped out. He decided to go to U of A Law School. He worked on paving the University Boulevard at 50 cents a day and worked at night in the Post Office to earn the money to support his wife and two daughters and go to College. After graduation he opened a law office with another graduate. After a few months needing publicity, he decided to run for the Senate in Tuscaloosa County. He visited every voter in Tuscaloosa County and besides getting plenty of publicity, he won, and served for two terms in Montgomery. After those eight years he went into the law firm of Judge Rubin Wright in Tuscaloosa and worked there a few years (3 or 4) after which he decided to run for Circuit Judge. He won overwhelmingly and served Tuscaloosa County as presiding Judge for 26 years. Later three other Judges served with him, but he still was in charge. Mother died 3 years before he died, and he just gave up. He had retired at 80 and was 85 when he died. He was in a rest home for 2 years and in a coma for 4 months.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing and took his recreation in this way. He belonged to several hunting and fishing Clubs and I think every man in Tuscaloosa thought he was Dad's best hunting buddy.

Since I was his oldest child and he had no sons, he made a tomboy of me. I went hunting and fishing with him, camping, etc. Jeanne, his 3rd daughter also fished with him. The others were "Mother's daughters" and didn't care for ant of it.

I lived with him for the last few years before Mother died until I married again. Herman had lived next door when I was a child and we became re-aquatinted when I returned to Tuscaloosa. His wife had died with cancer a few years before. He was the general manager of Tucker Motor Co. (Ford) for 30 years. We were only married for 11 months.

I was married to Euel for 24 years. He worked for what is now Magic Chelf and their headquarters is in Cleveland, Tenn. where we made our home and raised 3 son. He was the Sales manager and then after the war decided he could make more money as a salesman. He was their top salesman for several years until his death in 1956.

I went to Tampa for a couple of years then back to Tuscaloosa then 4 years ago moved here.

Thanks so much for taking the time and trouble to send all of the information. I really do appreciate it. I will certainly try to attend the reunion next year. If you come to

Florence be sure to get in touch. I plan to be in Montgomery for the next 2 months, then in Tampa for 2 or 3- I will be back in Florence by April 1.

Thanks again
Ruth

My address in Montgomery 32 Oldfield Drive 36117.

In Tampa: 1341, Gibsonton Fla. 33534.

PS I will try to get a picture of my grandfather, Notley Mulraney Warren, if it can be reproduced from a decapaged purse.

The following is a letter selected from the dating letters between Charles and Anabel Rice. They are engaged and are planning their wedding (the expectations as it is referred to). He has just left Portersville, DeKalb County, AL where he has finished teaching school for the fall term and has arrived at Rising Fawn, GA at uncle John W. Hamic the local mail carrier, whose son Willie R. Hamic is a minister. He is boarding and working on a farm nearby with Mr. Bible, a farmer and Superintendent of Education of Dade County, GA. If you follow the letter then Notley Mulraney Warren and George Washington Warren's brother Robert J. Warren (papa's baby brother) is in Arkansas living alone (she is a grass widow) in 1912 and has been sense 1906?. Robert's wife and Notley's first wife were sisters. There was also a sister in Texas and a brother (William Hammock) in Tenn. They also, about two years ago (1910), moved to Bessemer, Ala., where her nephew Martin Erskine Hamic was living. In a later letter we find Rufus Warren is visiting. The girl is a double cousin and named Edna and is thirteen the young boy (Rufus) is ten.

November of 1996, in the Marion County Tennessee Census of 1910, we find them in a mining community living close to her brother William Hammock age 58, wife Mary age 60 and son James age 21 in one household; brother William's son Kelly Hammock age 30 and wife Mattie age 32, their son Clarence age 8 in another household and son William Hammock age 28 his wife Fannie age 25 in another household. All the men worked in a coal mine and their occupation listed as miner except brother William who is listed as a salesman. Nancy Jane Hammock is listed as a widow, 43 years, three children, her son Ruther as head age 18, single, and working in coal mine as a miner, Edna, sister age 10, Rufus, brother 7 years. Also in the Dade County, Georgia 1910 census The uncle at Rising Fawn referred to by William Charles Warren, is John W. Hamic age 57 born in Alabama, occupation is mail carrier, rural route, wife Evelyn age 66 born in Georgia, children Willie R. age 30 born in Georgia, a minister of the Methodist Church, his wife Mary M. age 29, their sons Miller age 7 and William R. Jr. age 5.

From the DeKalb County, Alabama Census of 1870 we have:

D H

66	66 Hammock	Joe	45	M W	420	Tennessee
		Polly	47	F W		Alabama
		William	18	MW		Ala
		John	17	MW		Ala
		Mary	14	FW		Ala
		Sarah A.	12	FW		Ala
		Nathaniel	10	MW		Ala
		Sally	8	FW		Ala
		Nancy J.	3	FW		Ala
		Sarah	77	FW		Tenn

From this we can assume Joe and Polly Hammock are Notley and Robert Warren's father and mother-in-law. Their wives are Mary 14 and Nancy J. 3 respectively. William 18 is the brother in Marion County, Tenn. 1910 census who Nancy Jane and children are living close to after leaving Robert Warren her husband in Arkansas (1906). The sister in Texas was either Sarah A. or Sally and the other married "Uncle" Mr. Bible Superintendent of Education of Dade County, GA. Uncle John as referred to in the Judge's letter was probably John Hammock age 17 in 1870 census of DeKalb County, Alabama. Sarah age 77 is probably Joe's mother and is a Hammock or the last name would have been listed.

Rising Fawn, GA
Sept. 16, 1912

Dear Sweetheart,

I have so much to tell you this A.M. I hardly know where to begin. I believe I will begin by telling you where I've been and what I've been doing since I wrote you last. I was at Mrs. Hauston's when I wrote you last. I left there that A.M. and went to Mr. Wade's and finished my pressing and etc. I went to the school election that P.M. and worked for Ethel, But I got defeated. They received an application from Weanir Ross, and he was just such teacher as they wanted, so he got the position. Ethel received a good vote.

I spent the night, that night, at Mr. Wade's. Sat. A.M. Mr. Tom Wade carried me to Collinsville, and I spent the day there. I came to Rising Fawn Sat. P.M.

When I arrived here I found one of my Aunts (mama's sister) here whom I had not seen in six years. (I saw her once after she came to this country) I was very glad to see her. I think a great deal of her, tho she is a grass widow- I think she is a good woman and she has always been so good to me that somehow, she seems nearer than most any other aunt or uncle I have. I stayed with her and Uncle while I was in Arkansas. They parted while I was out there. He is papa's brother, a good man and well thought of in the Co. where he lives, but he was the baby of the family, and you know they are generally petted too much- that was his fate, and he expected it too much after he was married. She was the baby, also, and expected petting too, but really I think he was the cause of most of the differences. They lived together more than twenty years and I always thought that as they had stayed together that long, it looked like they might have spent the rest of heir lives together.

They never quarreled while I was out there, and I was there more than a year before they parted. But he never seemed to appreciate her as he should, and, of course, she wasn't happy. Her health finally became bad, and she wanted to leave Ark. But he was making good money there and did not want to leave. She would beg him to move out of the bottom country where she could have better health, and- tho he did not speak harshly- he would never give her any satisfaction about it, and did not seem to have her interest at heart as he should. She then wanted him to send her to see her sister in Texas, and let her stay a few months for her health, but he wanted her to wait till the next year. She became impatient, and told him she was going anyway, He said then he had no objections. She said if she had to make preparations for herself she would not come back to him. He said that she could do as she pleased. But all the while they were talking in as pleasant a manner as possible.

There are several things more about it I'd like to tell you, but I'm taking up too much space- so to make it short- she kissed him "good by" a few months later and went to Texas. She tried to get him to come out there to her and he would not do it, but wanted her to come back. The consequences are, she after a year's time came to this country and located in Tenn. near one of her brothers and she and her grown son and two smaller children kept house.

About two years ago they moved to Bessemer, Ala., but they did not have their health there and are now moving back to Tenn. The young man is up there now making preparations and she and the other small boy and girl have stopped here to visit at Uncle's a day or two. The little boy and girl, I think, are very cute- the girl is thirteen and the boy ten.

Now I'll tell you why I've taken so much time to tell you nothing. If they stay here till the last of the week- and Uncle says he's not going to let them leave before then- I'm aiming to bring the girl to the Mt. with me if I can get her to come. We can get a horse and buggy here; and I think she would enjoy the trip. I would like for you to meet her, for I don't know when you will have a chance to see any of my people. She is a double cousin, and of course seems almost like a sister. Her name is Edna. We may come before Thursday. If we do, I will call you over the phone.

I'm so crazy to see you. I don't think I can wait till the last of the week. Surely, I never wanted to see you more than now. Yesterday I was in a crowd most of the day, but I was so lonesome without you, I could not enjoy it muck. Uncle had a singing here last night, and there were a large crowd of the boys and girls here. He did it in order to let me meet the young people of this place and to show me a nice time. But he was doing the very thing I had rather he'd not, for I was anxious to write to you. After the crowd left, I could not get any chance to write for it was late, and they wanted to turn the lights out (the house is lighted with gas). Now you will not get this till Tues. But when you get it you may know that I am thinking of you continuously, and loving you more every day.

I told Uncle last night about our arrangements. I expected him to object, but he said that was the thing for me to do. He seemed to think it was better for me. His boys got their education after they were married, and one is a graduate of Mercer University, and the other lacks one year.

Uncle gave me a great long lecture on how to live a happy married life. I told him I was not the least uneasy but that we would be perfectly happy. And I know we will if I can only make you happy, and there is nothing in my power that I would not do to make you happy. You are the dearest in the world to me, and your happiness means my happiness, and your sorrow my sorrow.

Sweetheart I'll see you just as early as possible. There will be no use for you to write me after you receive this, for I will see you before I would get the letter.

Now I must quit, or you will have to pay two cts. on nothing. The first place in my heart is always yours.

Charles

P.S. If Edna comes with me, I'm going to tell her everything about the expectations. She would think hard of me when she found it out if I did not. I'm not sure she will come. Her mama may object to her taking such a long trip.

October 15, 1912 letter, Rising Fawn, GA- "got a letter from Cordelia, get Ethel to stay with us until Christmas; Cousin Rufus came up here this P.M. and is spending the night with me. He is Edna's brother. He, Mr. Bible, Miss Effie, Mamie and I took a trip after supper- possum hunting."

Footnote: Ruth died March 3, 1985 from a brain tumor. I only knew her for a short time but she was one of the most helpful people in my research on her side of the family. Ruth gave me photos of every one in her family including one of Notley. She had kept her mother's papers and photos and her son Tom Burch supplied a copy of Anabel's school letters (1909) along with Charles and Anabel's dating letters (1911-1912) that are a great source of information on the Howard, Rice, and Warren families. As with many of the relatives found while doing this research, it such a shame we did not know them earlier in life. We all missed a part of a very diverse and interesting family and we all could have improved ourselves with a greater sense of being, just by having known each other.

My father, James Elton Warren, as he traveled through Tuscaloosa driving for Greyhound Bus Lines, met Judge Charlie Warren and tried to make a family connection. They wrote their father's and grandfather's names down on a small note-book paper, which Elton kept in his wallet for years and finally gave to me. Only after the Judge had passed away and I made contact with his daughter, Ruth, did we put things together and found that Notley Warren (the Judge's father) and George Washington Warren (Elton's grandfather) were brothers. This made Avery (Elton's father) a first cousin and Elton and the Judge second cousins. "Billy Warren"- Robert Joe Warren to us was George and Notley's father.

Birmingham, AL
July 3, 1996

Dear Jeanne,

The enclosed pages are some of the latest I have written on Judge William Charles Warren. After our conversation last week and remembering the letter about "Aunt the grass widow" I thought if you read it something may come to you about this "baby brother" or the people at Rising Fawn, GA. The mother of Charles was Mary Hamic, so that would make the Aunt a Hamic. They would have a brother Willie as we see on the family photo of Notley Warren holding Lucy and Charles at his knee. Joe Warren and Willie Hamic are standing in the rear with Mary Hamic Warren next to grandma and grandpa Hamic. There are several references to a minister in the letters he calls Cousin Willie and I wonder if it could be Uncle Willie Hamic? He speaks of Uncle John at Rising Fawn that wants him to visit while he is working on the farm and boarding with Mr. G. A. R. Bible, County School Superintendent of Dade County, GA, and is there before he and Anabel are married. He plans to go to Cousin Jackie Painter in a few days also.

Jackie's daughter, Sarah Moon Painter, died November 5, 1995. She was the last living child of the Jackie Painter family and left the larger portion of her estate to the Valley Head, DeKalb County School System. Your Dad and Mom would have been very pleased, don't you think? That was both their first love in vocations.

Send me a note or call if you or any of your sisters, when you talk to them, might remember anything about this mystery.

Best to you and Jim.

Ronnie Warren