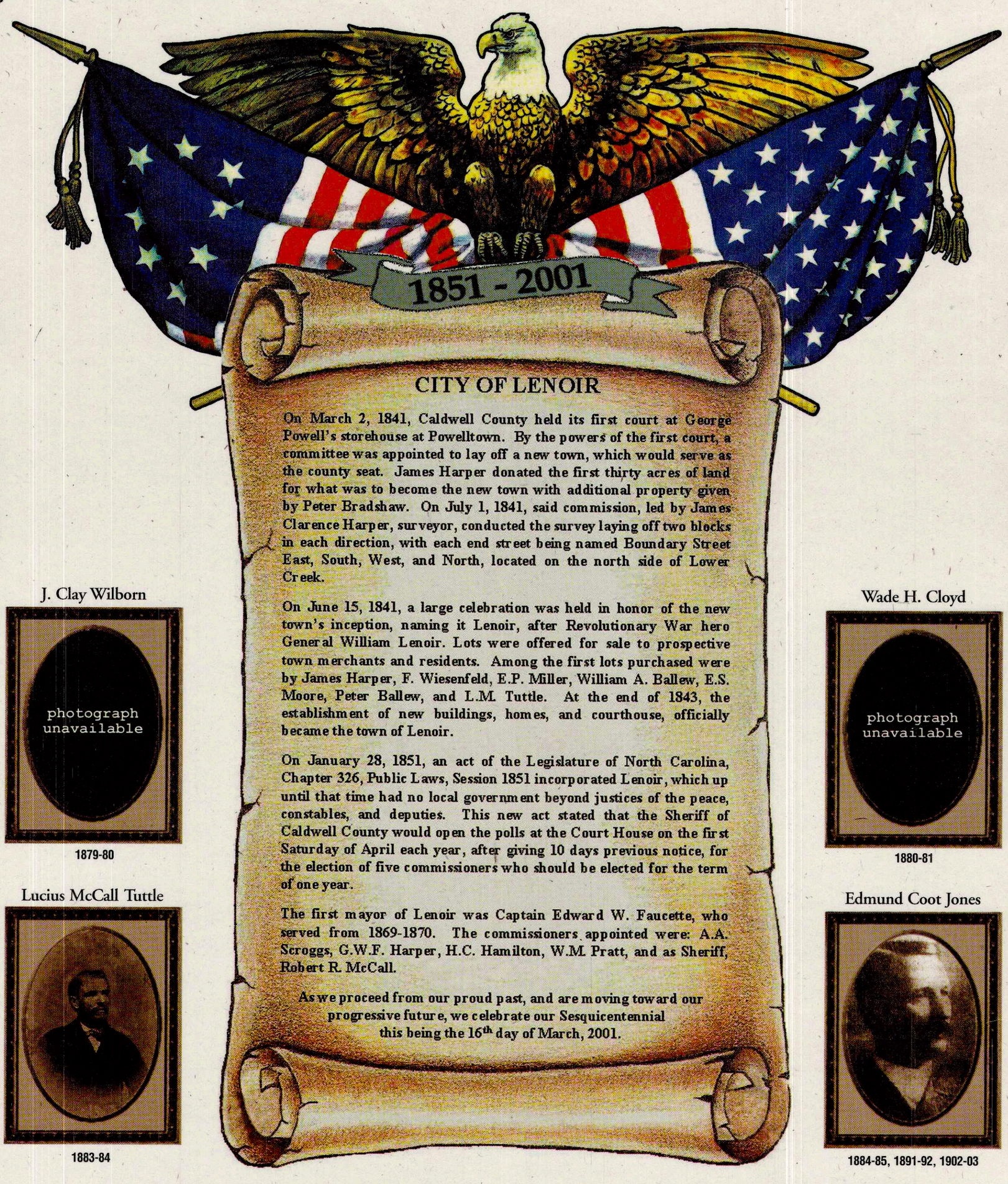
SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



CITY OF LENOIR

On March 2, 1841, Caldwell County held its first court at George Powell's storehouse at Powelltown. By the powers of the first court, a committee was appointed to lay off a new town, which would serve as the county seat. James Harper donated the first thirty acres of land for what was to become the new town with additional property given by Peter Bradshaw. On July 1, 1841, said commission, led by James Clarence Harper, surveyor, conducted the survey laying off two blocks in each direction, with each end street being named Boundary Street East, South, West, and North, located on the north side of Lower Creek.

On June 15, 1841, a large celebration was held in honor of the new town's inception, naming it Lenoir, after Revolutionary War hero General William Lenoir. Lots were offered for sale to prospective town merchants and residents. Among the first lots purchased were by James Harper, F. Wiesenfeld, E.P. Miller, William A. Ballew, E.S. Moore, Peter Ballew, and L.M. Tuttle. At the end of 1843, the establishment of new buildings, homes, and courthouse, officially became the town of Lenoir.

On January 28, 1851, an act of the Legislature of North Carolina, Chapter 326, Public Laws, Session 1851 incorporated Lenoir, which up until that time had no local government beyond justices of the peace, constables, and deputies. This new act stated that the Sheriff of Caldwell County would open the polls at the Court House on the first Saturday of April each year, after giving 10 days previous notice, for the election of five commissioners who should be elected for the term of one year.

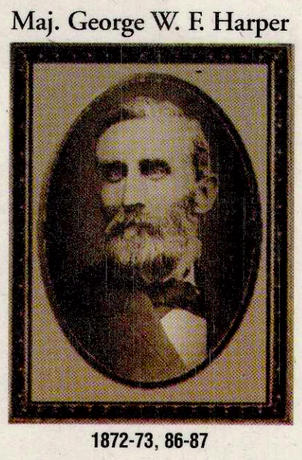
The first mayor of Lenoir was Captain Edward W. Faucette, who served from 1869-1870. The commissioners appointed were: A.A. Scroggs, G.W.F. Harper, H.C. Hamilton, W.M. Pratt, and as Sheriff, Robert R. McCall.

As we proceed from our proud past, and are moving toward our progressive future, we celebrate our Sesquicentennial this being the 16th day of March, 2001.

Capt. Edward W. Faucette

1869-70

Maj. George W. F. Harper



1872-73, 86-87

Col. Clinton A. Cilley

1875-76, 76-77, 77-78, 78-79

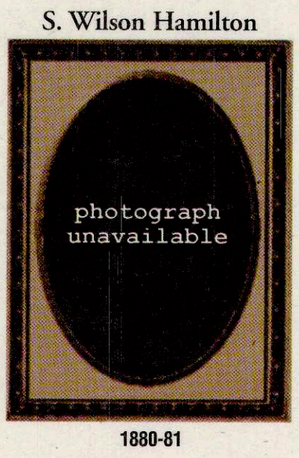
J. Clay Wilborn

1879-80

Wade H. Cloyd

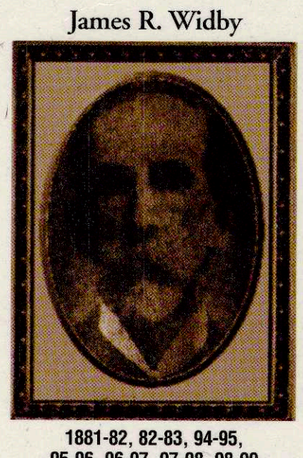
1880-81

S. Wilson Hamilton



1880-81

James R. Widby



1881-82, 82-83, 94-95, 95-96, 96-97, 97-98, 98-99

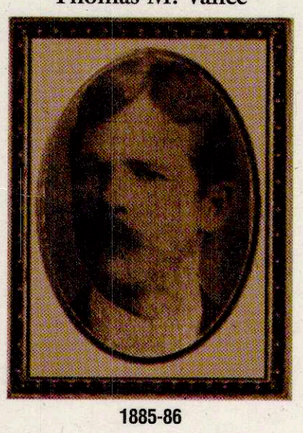
Lucius McCall Tuttle

1883-84

Edmund Coot Jones

1884-85, 1891-92, 1902-03

Thomas M. Vance

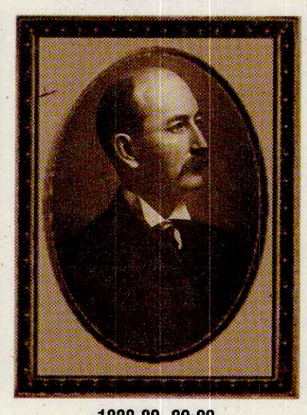


1885-86

William C. Newland

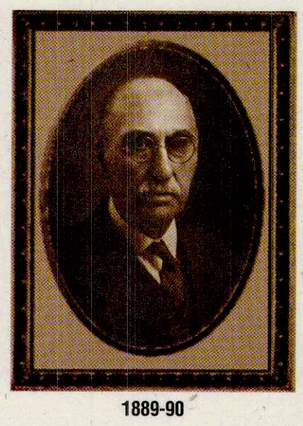
1887-88, 1901-02, 02-03

William C. Ervin



1888-89, 89-90

James Lee Nelson

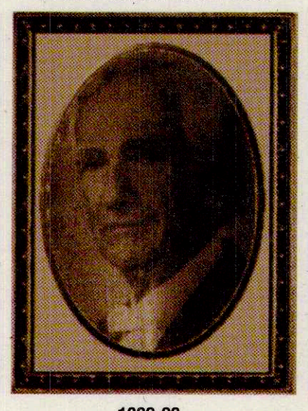


1889-90

Phillip J. Johnson

1890-91, 93-94

W. Lawrence Wakefield

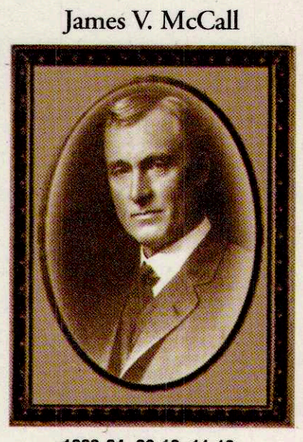


1892-93

Edgar A. Poe

1899-1900, 1900-01, 04-05, 05-06

James V. McCall



1903-04, 09-10, 11-12

Marcial E. Shell

1903-04, 06-07, 07-08

Thomas M. Newland

1908-09, 09-10

Edmund F. Wakefield

1910-11

Robert M. Tuttle

1911-12, 12-13

Mark Squires

1912-13, 13-14

Buford F. Williams

1914-15, 15-16, 16-17, 29-31

Walter J. Lenoir

1917-18, 18-19, 19-20, 33-35, 35-37

James T. Pritchett

1920-21, 21-22

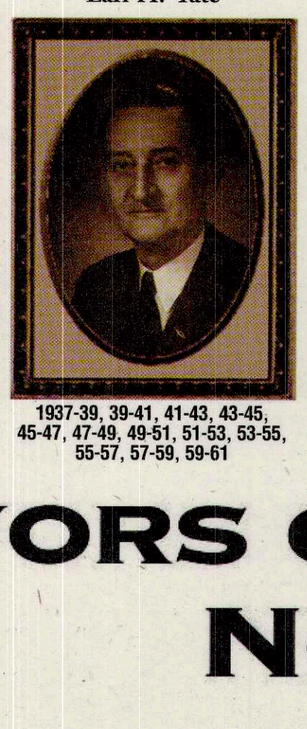
Virgil D. Guire

1922-23, 23-24, 24-25, 25-26, 26-27, 27-28

L. Herbert Wall

1927-28, 28-29, 31-33

Earl H. Tate



1937-39, 39-41, 41-43, 43-45, 45-47, 47-49, 49-51, 51-53, 53-55, 55-57, 57-59, 59-61

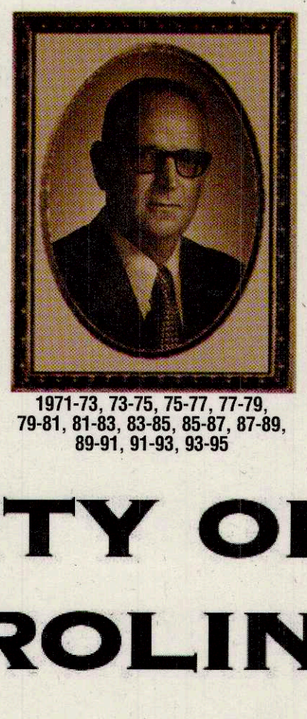
J. Harper Beall, Jr.

1961-63, 63-65, 65-67

Joe J. Steele

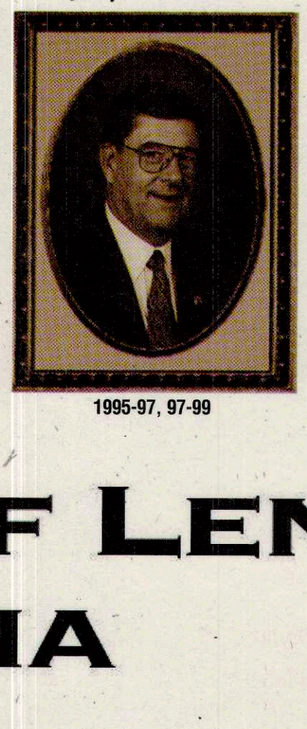
1967-69, 69-71

Robert A. Gibbons



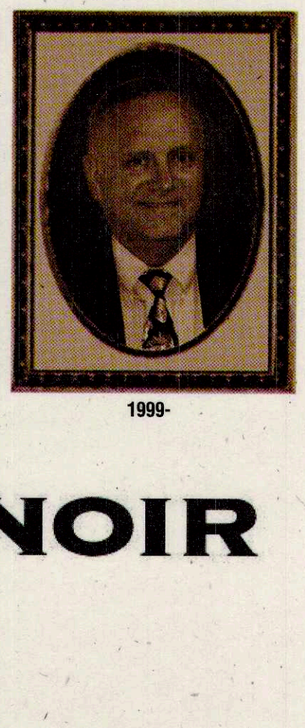
1971-73, 73-75, 75-77, 77-79, 79-81, 81-83, 83-85, 85-87, 87-89, 89-91, 91-93, 93-95

Jerry N. Brooks



1995-97, 97-99

David W. Barlow



1999-

MAYORS OF THE CITY OF LENOIR NORTH CAROLINA

Proud Past, Vibrant Present, Progressive Future

MAYORS BIOGRAPHIES ON THE BACK

CITY OF LENOIR
BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR MAYORS

CAPTAIN EDWARD W. FAUCETTE - 1st
Born: 08-03-1826
Birthplace: Orange County, North Carolina
Parents:
Religion: Presbyterian
Married: 1st wife: Sophia Carolina (Dunlap) Faucette
2nd wife: Mary (Norwood) Faucette
Children: 3; Laura Lenoir Faucette, James Dunlap Faucette, Mary Faucette
Occupation: Captain, teacher
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1869-1870
Died: 11-01-1901

J. CLAY WILBORN - 7th
Born: 1857
Birthplace: Randolph County
Parents:
Religion: Methodist
Married:
Children:
Occupation: Attorney, principal
Political Party:
Terms of Office: 1879-80
Died:

JAMES RISDON WIDBY - 10th,11th, 24th thru 28th
Born: 08-18-1850
Birthplace:
Parents:
Religion: Methodist
Married: Elizabeth Abigail (Jay) Widby
Children: 3; Jay Lawson Widby, Tyre William Widby, David R. Widby
Occupation: Postmaster, merchant, Insurance Agent, Banker
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1881-82-83 & 1894-95-96-97-98-99
Died: 07-05-1911

THOMAS MUNCIE VANCE - 14th
Born: 06-15-1867
Birthplace: Mitchell County, North Carolina
Parents: Samuel Carson Vance and Mary Elizabeth (Phillips) Vance
Religion:
Married: Minnie Jane (Wiseman) Vance
Children: 12; Velmer E. Vance, Avery Grady Vance, Thomas Gordon, Mrs. Arden Mohr, Mrs. Paul Bonar; Elizabeth J. Vance, Mrs. Dunlop, Mrs. Anna M. (Vance) Fuller, Geneva (Vance) Paige; Marie (Vance) Roberts; Nettie A. Vance, Harry W. Vance, Callis M. Vance.
Occupation: House of Representatives
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1885-1886
Died: 04-13-1952

JAMES LEE NELSON - 19th
Born: 06-28-1852
Birthplace: Caldwell County, North Carolina
Parents: John Nelson and Elizabeth (Penley) Nelson
Religion: Methodist
Married: Emily A. (Scroggs) Nelson
Children: 4; Andrew S. Nelson, John B. Nelson, Mrs. D. R. LaFar, James Lee Nelson, Jr.
Occupation: Teacher, merchant
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1889-1890 (Oct. 1, 1889 - filled vacancy of Mayor Ervin) (Mar. 10, 1890 - Mayor Nelson resigned due to illness)
Died: 12-03-1936

EDGAR ALLEN POE - 29th, 30th, 36th, 37th
Born: 04-15-1868
Birthplace: Dallas, North Carolina in Gaston County
Parents: Edmund Allen Poe and Elizabeth Amanda (Corpening) Poe
Religion: Baptist
Married: Maude (Miller) Poe
Children: 3; Eugene Allen Poe, Carolyn, Barbara
Occupation: Lawyer, architect and contractor
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office:1899-1900 -1901 & 1904-1905-1906
Died: 09-05-1949

THOMAS MARONY NEWLAND - 40th, 41st
Born: 10-14-1876
Birthplace: McDowell County, North Carolina
Parents: Benjamin Allen Newland and Mary Tom (Haliburton)
Religion: Episcopalian
Married:
Children:
Occupation: Lawyer
Political Party:
Terms of Office: 1908-1909, 1909-1910 (resigned Dec. 17, 1909, J.V. McCall elected to fill vacancy)
Died: 08-12-1916

MARK SQUIRES - 47th, 48th
Born: 07-06-1878
Birthplace: Union County, North Carolina
Parents: John Brown Squires and Mary A. (Stevens) Squires
Religion: Episcopalian
Married: Mary (Dunlap) Squires
Children: 2; Houston Squires, James Squires
Occupation: Attorney, editor
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1912-1913-1914 (Sept. 27, 1912 - elected to fill out term of R.M. Tuttle)
Died: 09-11-1938

JAMES TURNER PRITCHETT - 55th, 56th
Born: 08-13-1889
Birthplace: Guilford County, North Carolina
Parents: Henry C. Pritchett and Margaret (Mebane) Pritchett
Religion: Presbyterian
Married: Margaret (Martin) Pritchett
Children: 2; James T. Pritchett, Jr., Mebane Pritchett
Occupation: Captain, Attorney
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1920-1921-1922
Died: 09-10-1952

EARL HENRY TATE - 69th thru 81st
Born: 09-19-1903
Birthplace: Spencer County, North Carolina
Parents: William Wallace Tate and Emma (Lasiter) Tate
Religion: Methodist
Married: 1st -Katherine (Haynes) Tate
2nd- Martha (Mason) Tate
Children: 3; William Wallace Tate II, Virginia (Tate) Compton, Patricia Stephanie (Tate) Weaver
Occupation: Pharmacist, House of Representatives
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1937-39, 1939-41, 1941-43, 1943-45, 1945-47, 1947-49, 1949-51, 1951-53, 1953-55, 1955-57, 1957-59, 1959-61
Died: 10-02-1990

ROBERT ALEXANDER GIBBONS - 87th thru 98th
Born: 11-25-1920
Birthplace: Charlotte, North Carolina , Mecklenburg County
Parents: John J. Gibbons and Madge Essling (Bethune) Gibbons
Religion: Baptist
Married: Emily Louise (Deal) Gibbons
Children: 3; Robert Alexander Gibbons, Jr., Michael Frederick, Joseph Lindsay Gibbons
Occupation: Bookkeeper/estimator, owner of Gibbons Electric Company (Electrical Contractor)
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1971-73, 1973-75, 1975-77, 1977-79, 1979-81, 1981-83 1983-85, 1985-87, 1987-89, 1989-91, 1991-93, 1993-95

MAJOR GEORGE W. FINLEY HARPER - 2nd, 15th
Born: 07-07-1834
Birthplace: Lenoir, North Carolina, Caldwell County
Parents: James Harper, Esq. and Carolina E. (Dinely) Harper
Religion: Presbyterian
Married: Ella A. (Rankin) Harper
Children: 2; G.F. Harper and Ellen Harper Bernhardt
Occupation: Banker, businessman, writer
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1872-1873 & 1886-1887
Died: 03-16-1921

WADE H. CLOYD - 8th
Born: 02-28-1849
Birthplace: Caldwell County, North Carolina
Parents: Uriah Cloyd and Rosanna (Moore) Cloyd
Religion: Methodist
Married: Annette D. (Rankin) Cloyd
Children: 3; Stella Cloyd , infant (09-04-1884 date only - no name), Mary Lee Cloyd
Occupation: Merchant
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1880-81 (July 29, 1880 - resigned as mayor)
Died: 6-10-1922

LUCIUS MCCALL TUTTLE - 12th
Born: 05-08-1812
Birthplace: Caldwell County, North Carolina
Parents: Andrew Hull Tuttle and Elizabeth (McCall) Tuttle
Religion: Presbyterian
Married: Sarah Eveline (Saunders) Tuttle
Children: 11; Victoria Salina, Romulus Morrison, Columbus Anson, Laura, Samama, Lucius Augustus, Robert Fillmore, Preston Pierce, William M.G., Mary Ella, son unnamed - died same day born.
Occupation: Patroller, Hotel-keeper, tax lister/register
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1883-1884
Died: 09-27-1893

WILLIAM CALHOUN NEWLAND - 16th, 31st, 32nd
Born: 10-08-1857
Birthplace: Marion, North Carolina, McDowell County
Parents: Dr. Joseph Columbus Newland and Laura Melissa (Conley) Newland
Religion: Methodist
Married: Jessie (Hendry) Newland
Children: 4; B.A. Newland, Jessie, Josephine, Mary
Occupation: Lawyer, Lieutenant Governor of N.C.
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1887-1888 & 1901-1902, 1902-1903 (resigned Sept. 1, 1902, Edmund Jones elected Mayor to complete his term)
Died: 11-17-1938

PHILLIP JEFFERSON JOHNSON - 20th, 23rd
Born: 08-24-1840
Birthplace: Burke County, North Carolina
Parents: Daniel Philip Johnson and Agnes Salina (-) Johnson
Religion: Methodist
Married: Jane Elizabeth (Corpening) Johnson
Children: 5; Florence Johnson, ...
Occupation: Captain
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1890-1891 & 1893-1894 (Mar. 10, 1890, Mayor Johnson elected to fill vacancy of J.L. Nelson)
Died: 03-21-1907

JAMES VANCE MCCALL - 34th, 42nd, 44th
Born: 1860
Birthplace: North Carolina
Parents: Robert R. McCall and Myra (Berry) McCall
Religion:
Married: Ella Dale (Corpening)
Children: 7; Mabel Claire, Albert Royal, Martha , James Roy, Myra Louise, Ruth Corpening, Mary Curtiss
Occupation: Merchant, Sheriff
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1903-1904 1909-1910 -1911-
(resigned- Nov. 21, 1903 due to being elected Sheriff of Caldwell County)
(Dec. 17, 1909 - J.V. Vance filled vacancy of T.M. Newland) (Oct. 5, 1911, J.V. McCall resigned, R.M. Tuttle filled vacancy of J. V. McCall)
Died: 1945

EDMUND F. WAKEFIELD - 43rd
Born: 06-22-1859
Birthplace: Lenoir, North Carolina, Caldwell County
Parents: Robert R. Wakefield and Louisa R. (Ballew) Wakefield
Religion: Methodist
Married: 1st wife -Sallie C. (Kent) Wakefield
2nd wife - Annie E. (Proffit) Wakefield
Children: 3; Mary, Sara, Lillian
Occupation: Legislator, teacher, manufacturing businessman, magistrate, senator
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1910-1911
Died: 05-20-1946

BUFORD F. WILLIAMS - 49th, 50th, 51st, 65th
Born: 11-07-1884
Birthplace: Grover County, South Carolina
Parents: James Franklin Williams and Candace Josephine (Stroup) Williams
Religion: Baptist
Married: Sallie (Ivey) Williams
Children:
Occupation: Captain, Attorney, Senator
Political Party:
Terms of Office: 1914-1915-1916-1917 & 1929-1931
Died: 03-15-1962

VIRGIL D. GUIRE - 57th thru 62nd
Born: 11-29-1874
Birthplace: Guilford County, North Carolina
Parents: John Wesley Guire and Anzalette (Trogden) Guire
Religion: Presbyterian
Married: Lena (Triplett) Guire
Children: 1; Evelyn Guire (Mrs. Austin N. Allen)
Occupation: Banker, Postmaster, Clerk of Court, Merchant
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927 (resigned July 25, 1927 - L.H. Wall elected to fill vacancy of V.D. Guire)
Died: 12-05-1953

JAMES HARPER BEALL, JR. - 82nd, 83rd, 84th
Born: 05-03-1918
Birthplace: Caldwell County, North Carolina
Parents: James Harper Beall and Elizabeth Fulton (Lindsay) Beall
Religion: Presbyterian
Married: Lorraine (Wilcox) Beall
Children: 4; James Harper Beall III, John Barclay Beall, Elizabeth (Beall) Gordon, Melaine (Beall) Williams
Occupation: Founder of Beall Oil Company, Banker
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1961-63, 1963-65, 1965-67
Died: 04-11-1999

JERRY NEWTON BROOKS - 99th thru 100th
Born: 10-24-1941
Birthplace: Charlotte, North Carolina
Parents: Thomas N. Brooks and Elise (Selvey) Brooks
Religion: Baptist
Married: Millicent K. (Pearce) Brooks
Children: 2; Lauren Katherine (Brooks) Clark, Patrick Newton Brooks
Occupation: President of Tom Brooks Chevrolet (Car Dealer)
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1995-97, 1997-1999

COL. CLINTON ALBERT CILLEY - 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th
Born: 02-10-1837
Birthplace: Newmarket, New Hampshire
Parents: Daniel Plummer Cilley and Adelaide Ayers (Haines) Cilley
Religion: Episcopalian
Married: Emma Sophia Harper (daughter of Col. James C. Harper)
Children: 5; Albert Harper, John Harper Plummer, Gordon Harper, James Lenoir, Katherine Adelaide
Occupation: Colonel, lawyer, teacher, judge, Superintendent of the Freedman's Bureau
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1875-76-77-78-79
Died: 05-09-1900

S. WILSON HAMILTON - 9th
Born: 08-07-1850
Birthplace: Mecklenburg County
Parents:
Religion: Presbyterian
Married: Henrietta M. (Rankin) Hamilton
Children:
Occupation: Merchant
Political Party:
Terms of Office: 1880-81 (July 29, 1880 - elected to fill vacancy of Mayor Cloyd)
Died: 01-26-1899

EDMUND COOT JONES - 13th, 21st, 33rd
Born: 04-15-1848
Birthplace: Caldwell County, North Carolina
Parents: Edmund Walter Jones, Sr. and Sophia Caroline (Davenport) Jones
Religion: Episcopalian
Married: 1st wife - Eugenia (Lewis) Jones
2nd wife - Patty (Scott) Jones - (daughter of W.W. Scott)
Children: 4; Augustus, Edmund, Eugene Patterson and Sarah Davenport
Occupation: Captain, lawyer
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1884-1885 & 1891-1892 & 1902-1903
(Sept. 1, 1902 - elected to fill vacancy for Mayor W.C. Newland)
Died: 02-25-1920

WILLIAM C. ERVIN - 17th, 18th
Born: 07-10-1872
Birthplace: Caldwell County, North Carolina
Parents: Lawson Ervin and Evelyn (Moody) Ervin
Religion: Tabernacle Advent Christian Church
Married: Julia (__) Ervin
Children: 6; Mrs. Monroe (Annie) Walker, John Ervin, George Ervin, Joe Ervin, Jessie Ervin and Henry Ervin
Occupation: Lawyer, editor-printer, banker
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1888-1889, 1889-1890 (resigned Sept. 28, 1889, J.L. Nelson elected to fill vacancy of Mayor Ervin)
Died: 03-03-1957

W. LAWRENCE WAKEFIELD - 22nd
Born: 11-07-1854
Birthplace: Caldwell County, North Carolina
Parents: R. R. Wakefield and Louisa (Ballew) Wakefield
Religion:
Married:
Children:
Occupation: Attorney
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1892-1893
Died: 12-06-1940

MARCIAL EDGAR SHELL - 35th, 38th, 39th
Born: 01-12-1849
Birthplace: Lenoir, North Carolina, Caldwell County
Parents: Azor Shell and Amanda (Reid) Shell
Religion: Methodist
Married: Helen Ermina (Scroggs) Shell
Children: 11; Mrs. W.S. Brawley, W.A. Shell, J.E. Shell, Mrs. E.D. Jordon, Helen Shell, Mrs. Harrison Winkler, Mrs. John W. Chadwick...
Occupation: Builder, Postmaster, merchant
Political Party: Republican
Terms of Office: 1903-1904 & 1906-1907-1908 (Nov. 23, 1903, elected to fill term of J.V. McCall)
Died: 02-21-1909

ROBERT MURCHISON TUTTLE - 45th, 46th
Born: 03-08-1849
Birthplace: Lenoir, North Carolina, Caldwell County
Parents: Robert Gaius Tuttle and Lucinda (Puett) Tuttle
Religion: Methodist
Married: Louise Ann (Corpening) Tuttle
Children: 9; Louise (died in childhood); Messrs. S.L. Tuttle, Jack B. Tuttle, Ed Tuttle, Frank Tuttle, Bertha Tuttle, Mrs. E. L. Steele, Mrs. L.A. Dysart, Mrs. Edward Hamby
Occupation: Merchant
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1911-1912, 1912-1913 (Oct. 9, 1911 elected to fill out term of J.V. McCall) (resigned Sept. 2, 1912, Mark Squires elected to fill vacancy)
Died: 10-31-1922

WALTER J. LENOIR - 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 67th, 68th
Born: 08-02-1862
Birthplace: Caldwell County, North Carolina
Parents: Rufus Theodore Lenoir and Sarah (Gwyn) Lenoir
Religion: Episcopalian
Married: Harriet Augusta (Horton) Lenoir
Children: 6; Joyce (Mrs. James C. Hogan), Richard Theodore Lenoir, Walter Lunch Lenoir, Virginia Lenoir (Mrs. Eugene A. Poe, Jr.), Harriet Lenoir (Mrs. George S. Forester), Thomas Fowler Lenoir
Occupation: Merchant, banker
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1917-1918-1919-1920 & 1933-1935, 1935-1937
Died: 08-12-1952

LORENZO HEBERT WALL - 63rd, 64th, 66th
Born: 07-13-1891
Birthplace: Surry County, North Carolina
Parents: Walter David Wall and Joyce (Sparger) Wall
Religion: Methodist
Married: Charlotte (Harbin) Wall
Children: 1; William Franklin Wall
Occupation: Attorney, Superior Court Judge
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1927-1928-1929 & 1931-1933
(Aug. 1, 1927, elected to fill vacancy of V.D. Guire)
Died: 04-19-1983

JOE JONES STEELE - 85th, 86th
Born: 12-07-1918
Birthplace: Caldwell County, North Carolina
Parents: Hamilton Brown Steele, Jr. and Hattie Ella (Jones) Steele
Religion: Methodist
Married: Nancy (Earnhardt) Steele
Children: 3; John H. Steele, Eddie Steele, Rebecca Ann Steele
Occupation: Banker
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1967-69, 1969-1971

DAVID W. BARLOW - 101st
Born: 05-31-1945
Birthplace: Caldwell County, North Carolina
Parents: Boyd Calvino Barlow and Thelma (Smith) Barlow
Religion: Baptist
Married: Theresa (Roberts) Barlow
Children: 2; Elizabeth Ann (Barlow) Gray, Buddy James Barlow
Occupation: Teacher, Real Estate Broker (owner of Barlow-Triplett Realty)
Political Party: Democrat
Terms of Office: 1999-2003

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