

Thursday, February 8, 1951

William Davis Douglas

(An Editorial from the Charleston News and Courier)

Of William Davis Douglas more is to be said than that of lawyers he was one ranking with the ablest and most accomplished in South Carolina or anywhere. He had no superior among judges in South Carolina and The News and Courier's doubt is that among them was his equal. He should have been placed on the supreme court bench a third of a century ago, and it was South Carolina's loss that his service was not demanded for that post. He was not skilled in the arts of self-seeking.

He was modest and to ask favor of the populace, to stoop in the slightest for earthly rewards, was outside of his nature.

Of him it has been said by responsible men that his counsel was to be sought when the client's case was reasonable and respectable but one having a just cause of action from which an evil odor

quired, he learned, in his many years none of the lower ways of "professional" conduct. Born a gentleman he lived the part, lived it uprightly. Raised a Presbyterian he was faithful to that church, a devout worshipper in it, a diligent supporter and officer of it.

A graduate of the South Carolina college (now the university) in the class with such men as David F. Houston, Charles H. Barnwell, P. A. Wilcox and Andrew C. Moore, he was ever the man of culture and sound learning of which he had been given the taste in Winnsboro by R. Means Davis of the Mt. Zion Institute who was to be one of his college teachers later.

If any critic be who will say that in what has here been said is praise too great to be written of a man The News and Courier answers that of the South Carolinians he is rare of whom it would venture to say as much.