

Walter Woodward Lewis

Walter Woodward Lewis was a member of the fifth generation of ~~Lewis~~ Lewises in Fairfield County. The son of Thomas Walter Lewis and Mary Ellen Street Lewis of Burlison, Tenn., he was one of six children. His brothers were Edward Burr, Lunceford Blaydes and Ernest Van; the sisters were Julia Ann and Mary Kathleen.

On June 19, 1935, Walter married Florrie Jane Bethea, daughter of Archie McKay Bethea and Mary Lutie Bethea of Dillon. Three children were born of this union; Jane Bethea, Thomas Woodward and Ellen Street. Jane married John McNair Turner and they have two children, Jane Bethea and John McNair, Jr. Ellen is married to Richard Phillip Fletcher of McColl, and they have two children, Walter Richard and Thomas Shields. Thomas Woodward Lewis ^(deceased) never married.

Walter W. Lewis was born May 10, 1909, on a farm between ~~Winnsboro~~ Winnsboro and Rockton. He grew up on farms in the Greenbrier Community of ~~Fairfield County~~ Fairfield County; attended and graduated from Greenbrier High School and the University of South Carolina (1931), where he ~~was~~ was a member of the Beta Gamma Chapter of the International Fraternity of Delta Sigma ~~Pi~~ Pi. ~~After~~ After graduation, he offered for the office of clerk of court of Fairfield and on November 4, 1932, was elected to that office as the youngest clerk of court in the state. He assumed the duties of that office on January 3, 1933, and served continuously for 31 years and 11 months until he was ~~re-elected~~ appointed by Gov. Donald Russell to the State Tax Commission. Mr. Lewis had been elected without opposition for eight terms to the clerk's office and held it longer than any other person.

Mr. Lewis served on the Tax Commission until June of 1967, when he was appointed by Gov. Robert McNair as a commissioner of the newly created S.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission. He served on that commission six years, part of that time as chairman, until June 1973.

~~He then joined the McTeer Realt~~

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He then joined McTeer Real Estate in Columbia; on December of 1975, he retired to his farm home at Adgers in Fairfield.

(Walter Lewis was one of the organizers of the Fairfield County Historical Society, serving as ~~the~~ ^{its} second president. In 1969, he organized ~~the~~ Mid-County Rural Water System, to which he donated land for a tank and well site. He was the president for seven years. He was a member and officer of the Mount Zion Society and served as president of the S.C. Association of Clerks of Court, and Registers of Mesne Conveyances. he was chairman of the Fairfield Democratic ~~Club~~ Executive Committee from 1956 to 1967, and was a delegate to the national convention ^{ion} in Philadelphia in 1936. He held membership in the (C-)olumbia Rotary Club and ~~the~~ Winnsboro Rotary Club. A life-long member of Greenbrier Methodist Church, he worshipped for the last fifty years of his life at First Methodist Church in Winnsboro, near his home, and taught ^m Men's Bible class. He was a lifetime member of the American Bible Society and was a Mason and Past Master of Winnsboro Masonic Lodge No. 11 of Ancient Free Masons. He was listed in Who's Who in American Politics in its first edition for 1967-68; and in Marquis' Who's Who in the South and Southwest for the years 1967-1974,

(Mr. Lewis died suddenly on May 29, 1982.