

# T. Scott Offutt Retires Today As Chief Judge Of 3d Circuit

## Distinguished Jurist Gained Renown As Trial Lawyer And Orator And For Law Opinions

Chief Judge Thiemann **Scott Offutt**, of the Third Judicial Circuit and a member of the Court of Appeals, an outstanding figure in the history of Maryland jurisprudence, retires today from the bench after a long and active career.

Today is Judge Offutt's seventieth birthday, the constitutional retirement age.

Actually, however, Judge Offutt has not occupied the bench for almost two years, when he suffered a stroke from which he never fully recovered. It left him partly invalided and prevented him from doing further legal work.

### Interested In Sports

In spite of his illness, however, Judge Offutt retained an interest in sports, the chief diversion of his active life. He was a vigorous tennis player, an ardent baseball fan, and today he follows these sports and others by radio and through the newspapers, instead of in the stands.

Judge Offutt, in his younger days, was one of Maryland's foremost trial lawyers, feared as a cross-examiner and admired as an orator. He was noted as a clear and incisive thinker, a sharp logician, a convincing speaker.

He was born in Montgomery county, the son of William Scott Offutt, a large landowner and farmer. He studied at the Uni-

versity of Virginia in 1891 and 1892 and later went to St. John's College.

His legal training was not obtained in law school, however, but in the Towson law office of a cousin, Milton W. Offutt. As he studied, he acted for a time as correspondent of the *Baltimore Morning Herald*.

### Made Historical Studies

Judge Offutt has always been interested in the history of Maryland and in the characteristics of Marylanders. He has made studies of the various counties of the State, and of the origin of their peoples.

Also, he was interested in politics, but not always as a partisan. He is a Democrat, and from the start took part in the political life of Baltimore county. He was not an office seeker but rather a lawyer and a realist with a gift for oratory who could speak his mind upon occasion and carry others to his point of view.

His appearances on political rostrums are said to have made politicians run for cover.

He was appointed to the bench during the late Governor Ritchie's

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# JUDGE OFFUTT RETIRES TODAY

## Leader In Maryland Juris- prudence Reaches 70th Birthday

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term to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Judge N. Charles Burke, in 1920.

This was after he had been engaged in practice for twenty-two years. He was admitted to the bar in Baltimore county in 1898, and began to practice with Mr. Offutt. Later he became associated with John I. Yellott and Osborne I. Yellott.

An orator of the old school—clear and resonant of diction, with well-rounded polished phrases—he was much sought after as a public speaker, and in 1934 delivered the oration at the Maryland Tercentenary celebration at St. Mary's City.

### Wrote Law Book

He was an ardent horseman and for a time was a member of the old Troop A at Pikesville.

He also found time to compile Offutt's Code of Local Laws, a codification of the local laws of Baltimore county. This volume, copyrighted in 1929, has been of great value in the lower courts of the county. It clarified for the first time many confusing statutes and regulations of fast-growing communities close to Baltimore city.

A number of his addresses on Maryland historical subjects have been published. With Walter L. Clark he was the author of "Civil Rights and Soldiers and Sailors."

### Wrote "Sparkling" Opinions

A prodigious worker, he thought nothing of working far into the night over an opinion which, when finally delivered, was concise, yet coherent and sparkling. His colleagues aver that he was one of the most informed members of the Appellate Court of his generation.

He at one time was president of the Maryland State Bar Association, vice-president of the American Bar Association, president of the Maryland Society of the Sons of the Revolution and president of the Baltimore County Bar Association. He is a Mason and an Elk.