

He was admitted to the profession of law on December 3, 1893. It was not long after the beginning of the practice of law in his grandfather's office in Westminster when his health was threatened. He was then compelled to abandon the profession and go under the care of doctors, who found it necessary to have him go to Florida to take up his residence in a milder climate.

After regaining his health in part, he again resumed the practice of law and in 1898 entered into a partnership with Judge James A. C. Bond. This partnership existed until 1924, when Judge Parke was selected by Governor Ritchie to become the judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

While yet in the practice of law he was often called upon by the Governor in aid of the state government and administration. He was President of the Maryland Bar Association in 1924 and 1925. He belonged to the commission charged with the preparation of the state budget system which was adopted and is now in use. He served under appointment of the Court of Appeals of Maryland on the State Board of Law Examiners and also served on the Governor's Commission relating to courts of the state and their procedure and many other commissions.

Judge Parke was unmarried. He is survived by one brother, George J. Parke, Norfolk, Virginia, and a number of nieces and nephews.

Honorable Walter Jenifer Mitchell

On March 10, 1955, Judge Walter Jenifer Mitchell, a few days short of his eighty-fourth birthday, passed on to his richly-deserved Heavenly reward, after a lifetime of devoted service to his God and fellow man, as exemplary husband and father, venerable practitioner of the law, statesmanly political leader, talented editor and honored jurist, long revered as the "first citizen" of the County of Charles.

Judge Mitchell was born March 16, 1871, at Thainston, a home built at the head of Port Tobacco Valley for his mother by her father, General Walter Mitchell, during the Civil War. He never left the place of his birth for even temporary residence elsewhere, thus always exhibiting a constancy which was a lifelong characteristic of the Judge. He was the only son of William H. and Emily E. Mitchell.

It was to Thainston that he brought his lovely and vivacious bride, Florence Campbell Jenifer, of Good Hope, Baltimore County, to reside, following their marriage on January 18, 1899. It was

there that their five children, all of whom survive, were born and raised, being Mary Emily Mitchell, H. Maxwell Mitchell, Walter Jenifer Mitchell, Jr., James C. Mitchell and Mrs. Rudy Schmick.

Judge Mitchell was a great grandson of General John Mitchell of the Revolutionary War, and through that line there was handed down to him membership in the Society of the Cincinnati. He never boasted of that heritage, or any other quality, but was extremely and justly proud of it.

Naturally, a man of such stubborn good will and firm faith and great industry, in addition being beautifully eloquent and affable, became the acknowledged and deserving leader of his County.

The Judge's first venture into public office came by way of appointment from Governor Warfield in 1908 when he was named to head the old Maryland Shell Fish Commission, forerunner of the present Tidewater Fisheries Commission. He was then a young practicing attorney and editor, having attended Charlotte Hall School in St. Mary's County, and graduated from the University of Maryland Law School in 1894.

His newspaper career began soon after his admission to the Bar when in 1897 he purchased and combined the old Port Tobacco Times and the La Plata Crescent into the Times-Crescent and continued until 1934 when he turned the mantle of editorship over to his above mentioned son, the Honorable James C. Mitchell, eminent lawyer and editor of La Plata, and prominent member of the Maryland State Bar Association.

The files of the papers published during much of that era recall many stormy battles between the Times-Crescent and the local Republican organ, the Maryland Independent, under the editorship of the late Adrian Posey. The Judge as the then-young Editor of the Times-Crescent espoused the democratic cause with fiery zeal and caustic criticism for those and descendants of those who had "sold their politics for a mess of pottage", deserted their heritage and gone over to the Republican side to capitalize on the emancipation of the colored vote. Hopelessly out-numbered, defeat was the order of the day for the Democrats, but Judge Mitchell and his stalwarts never gave up, and thru hard work, successful law practice, and the added field of Banking, by his outstanding membership on first Board of Directors of the old Eastern Shore Trust Company, opening its new branch in La Plata, later President, and Director to his death, Judge Mitchell emerged from the political fray as the dominant figure of his party when he won election to the Maryland State Senate in 1917 with the odds of over a thousand

registered Republican majority to overcome, a tribute to him from all the people, regardless of political affiliation, undoubtedly based on the respect and confidence which the people had in his sterling qualities, which was repeated by his re-election for three times.

His long legislative tenure was marked by loyal and untiring service to the people who had honored him, but he would not accede to their demands if he felt that the best interests of the whole State were more advantageously served otherwise. He was a strong advocate of the Equalization Fund through which educational facilities in the poorer Counties were raised to higher standards and it was largely through his interest and guidance that school and road facilities in Charles County were greatly augmented in the period from 1917 to 1934.

His ability and leadership won recognition from his Senate colleagues, who honored him with the position of Floor-leader and finally the Presidency in 1931 and 1933.

During all of his service in the Senate, the late Governor Albert C. Ritchie occupied the Executive Mansion and they became staunch and intimate friends and shared great mutual admiration.

In his appointment to the Bench, it was case of the job seeking the man and he wrestled at length with the problem of what to do before finally acceding to the Governor's wish and general demand from members of the legal profession.

He was appointed in October, 1934, following the death of his relative and life-long friend and associate, Judge W. Mitchell Digges. In November of that year he ran in the Election unopposed and served as Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit and Associate Member of the Maryland Court of Appeals until reaching legal retirement age on March 16, 1941.

Returning to his law office in La Plata he continued active in the practice of his chosen profession until stricken by illness on January 14, 1955.

Steeped in the wisdom and knowledge gleaned from his long and varied public service, he was a veritable walking encyclopedia of things pertaining to State and County affairs.

He loved people and was happiest when engaged in the task of working out their problems. No hour was too late for him to hear a request; no case too small and no client too humble to gain his full attention if he felt that the cause was just; he was ever mindful of the needs of the poor and unfortunate and the real beauty

of his almsgiving was that there was never any sounding of the trumpet. The beauty of his life was in the watching, not the listening.

His religious faith was a simple trust in the infinite goodness of a Divine Providence, which he exhibited all his days.

Judge Mitchell was an outstanding member of this Association; it is impossible to overestimate his loss, because the need for such truly great and unselfish men far exceeds the supply, in this troubled old World of ours, and may his like increase.

Robert Clyde McKee

Robert Clyde McKee was born in Pittsburgh on May 31, 1882. He came to Baltimore at an early age, and after taking courses at Johns Hopkins University, received the degree of Bachelor of Laws from the Baltimore Law School in 1910. He was President of his class.

Mr. McKee practiced in Baltimore City, and County, and was active in affairs of the Republican party in the County. He was attorney to the Baltimore County School Commissioners from 1938 to 1950. But his main public interest was in church work, and in giving help to those in need. He was a Deacon of Brown Memorial Church in Baltimore from 1913 to 1923. When he moved to the County to live and found no Presbyterian Church nearby, he became superintendent of the Sunday School of the Glyndon Methodist Church. It was in this church that his funeral services took place, though he lived in Reisterstown at the time of his death, February 12, 1955.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Marjorie Brooks McKee, and three daughters, Mrs. Donald H. Wilson, of Glyndon; Mrs. Robert W. Blair, of Baltimore, and Mrs. James E. Forbes, of Reisterstown. He belonged to numerous business, professional and philanthropic organizations.

Honorable Charles Markell

Charles Markell, former Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, was born on December 16, 1882, in Baltimore, the son of John Markell and Elizabeth Charlton Harris. He lived in Baltimore during his entire life except for a few years while he was a boy which he spent in Hagerstown, where his mother had lived prior to her marriage. He was educated at public schools in Baltimore and Hagerstown prior to entering Johns Hopkins University, from