

A Biographical Sketch of

Lucian Adolphus Whipple (1878-1979)

Lucian Adolphus Whipple, son of Stephen Bennett Whipple and Sarah Ann Holliman Whipple, was born Sept. 4, 1878, on his father's Turkey Creek plantation in Laurens County, Georgia, near the village of Dudley. He died in Cochran, Georgia, on August 24, 1979, only a few days before his 101st birthday.

Near the end of his life, he received many honors including a bronze plaque placed on the courthouse square inscribed to "Lucian A. Whipple, attorney, statesman and educator of Cochran, Bleckley County, for more than 70 years. This plaque is erected to commemorate the 100th birthday of Col. Whipple and his contributions to the community."

Lucian Whipple began his formal education at the New Ebenezer College, a preparatory school, in Cochran after moving there with his parents in 1886 when his father retired from farming.



He entered the sophomore class at Gordon Institute, Barnesville, Georgia, in 1892 and was elected permanent president of his senior class in 1895.

After graduation, he entered the sophomore class at the University of Georgia in Athens. During his senior year, he was elected president of his class and served on the editorial staff of *The Georgian*, the University's monthly literary publication. He received the Bachelor of Arts degree with first honor in the class of 1898.

In September of that year he entered Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., and received the Bachelor of Laws degree from that institution in June, 1901.

He began the general practice of law in his hometown in 1904 and tried his last case before the Bleckley County Court in 1975 at 97 years of age. Shortly before his retirement he was recognized by the *Harvard Law Review* as the school's oldest graduate still actively practicing law.

Lucian A. Whipple served as Solicitor of the General Court from 1908 until 1910. He became known to all as "Colonel," an honorary title given to Southern lawyers and was called by that name throughout his life. He was also referred to as "Judge Whipple."

During the early years of his practice, he formed a partnership with a local printer and founded *The Cochran Journal*, a weekly newspaper still in publication today.

He later moved his practice to the nearby county seat of Hawkinsville, where he lived from 1909 until 1918.

During World War I, he attended the First Officer's Training Corp at Fort McPherson, Ga. in 1918, and then served as an instructor at Mercer University, Macon, Ga., in the Student Army Training Corp, teaching Military Law and War Aims.

Upon returning to Hawkinsville after the war, he met and became engaged to Lella Jackson Dillard, a school teacher. They were married at the Chapel at Emory University on December 31, 1919.

After his marriage, Colonel Whipple returned to his hometown, which by then had been designated as the seat of the new county of Bleckley. In addition to his practice of law, he was elected superintendent of the Bleckley County School system and served terms from 1921-1925 and 1929-1933.

In 1931, he was named by then Governor Richard B. Russell as a member of the State Board of Education and served a six-year term through 1937.

In 1937, Colonel Whipple was elected as the county's representative to the Georgia General Assembly and served several terms through 1945.

He was a life-long member of the First Baptist Church of Cochran, serving as deacon, church clerk, church treasurer, and superintendent of the Sunday school. He also taught a men's Sunday school class for many years.

Upon his retirement, *The Cochran Journal*, the paper he had founded, dedicated its March 19, 1975 edition to its "most outstanding citizen." The lead article gave some of his philosophy on life: "I've tried to let my conscience guide my conduct," he said, "and in public office or private practice, I have tried to do what appeared to be just and fair."

The newspaper also published an article written for the *Georgia State Bar Journal* by a fellow attorney. The judge of his judicial circuit, he wrote, characterized Mr. Whipple "as the most colorful attorney in his circuit with wit and enthusiasm rarely found in the young."

"By pragmatic questions, under persistent examination, witnesses, otherwise hostile, more often than not, would agree with the logic of his approach and position about a point in controversy" the attorney wrote.

"Mr. Whipple is very entertaining in trying a case, and everyone, the judge, the jurors and parties, appreciate his wit, intelligence, and overall competence in the court room. He is still young in ideas and approach," he wrote.

He was the father of Lucian A. Whipple, Jr., Fielding D. Whipple, S. Bennett Whipple and Anne Whipple Alderman Murphey.

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*This biographical sketch was compiled by S. Bennett Whipple
from the Genealogical Notes of the Whipple Lineage of
Stephen Bennett Whipple (1833-1915)
and newspaper articles.*