

2-7-79

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



Vol. I

No.5

OTHER DEMOCRATS

"Green the first Democrat ever elected to a county office in Orleans....." How often we have read this misleading statement and gross misrepresentation of our local history since the last general election. Gerald B. Fluhler, the gentleman pictured above and a Democrat, was first appointed County Judge by Governor Smith in 1919 to fill out the unexpired term of Judge Fred Downs. Fluhler also ran for this county office successfully and held it until his death in 1925. Prior to Fluhler, W. Crawford Ramsdale also a Democrat, was elected to the County Judgeship from 1896 to 1901 over William P. L. Stafford. Not changing his politics, he was also elected our District Attorney in 1907, holding that position until 1909. From 1846-1850 the Hon. Sanford E. Church a staunch Democrat, was our District Attorney. He was not only elected successfully to this county office, but later became our Lieutenant Governor. In 1908 county electors selected Democrat Harry Bartlett County Clerk in which office he served until 1912. When Welfare Commissioner (Supt. of the Poor) was an elected position, it was George Wright a Democrat, who won this county office in 1939 which he held until 1942. Orleans was at one time its own Assembly District and sent Democrat Assemblymen by county-wide vote to Albany to represent us. Those Democrats who were successful were: Sanford E. Church 1842, Sands Cole 1844, E.K. Hart 1872, Coley P. Wright 1910, Marc Cole 1913 and Coley P. Wright again in 1914.

As a matter of fact, Sheriff Green is not even our first Democrat Sheriff to be elected in Orleans County as George Callahan a Democrat, was elected to this county office in 1907.