

Ceremonies
For the Presentation of a Portrait
of
The Honorable
Adrian Jefferson Newton
to
The Supreme Court of North Carolina
11:00 a.m., 4 March 1977
Courtroom of the Supreme Court
Justice Building
Raleigh

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

By

CHIEF JUSTICE SUSIE SHARP

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Court is convened this morning to receive the portrait of the Honorable Adrian J. Newton, who served as the Clerk of this Court for 35 years before his retirement on December 1, 1976. For the Court, Mr. Newton, and the members of his family, I express our appreciation to all of you for your presence here this morning at this very meaningful ceremony. I also want to express our regret that Justice Huskins is prevented from being here this morning by his illness.

The presentation will be made by our Marshal-Librarian, the Honorable Raymond M. Taylor, whose selection for this happy assignment was by acclamation. Mr. Taylor's friendship with Mr. Newton began in 1960 when he became law clerk to the late Justice Clifton L. Moore. It continued during the four years he engaged in the active practice of law, and was cemented during the thirteen years he and Mr. Newton worked together in their respective positions with this Court. Because of this personal and professional relationship no more felicitous choice could have been made. The Court now recognizes Mr. Taylor.

PRESENTATION ADDRESS

By

THE HONORABLE RAYMOND M. TAYLOR

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

The greater part of Adrian Jefferson Newton's career has been as a lawyer in the public service. He has done his duty, but that alone is not why we honor him. Indeed, like Robert E. Lee, he has shared in the sentiment that we should do our duty in all things; we "cannot do more," we "should never wish to do less."¹

What has distinguished his career from the careers of so many others is that Adrian Jefferson Newton has performed his duty in an exemplary manner. He has worked honestly, honorably, and unselfishly. In so doing, he has reflected high credit upon himself and his profession. He especially has endeared himself to the 124 present and former Research Assistants of this Court² on whose behalf it is my memorable pleasure today to present to this Court an oil portrait of Mr. Newton.

¹ Lee's regard for duty has been expressed as follows: "Duty, then, is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things . . . You cannot do more; you should never wish to do less." T. PAGE, ROBERT E. LEE: MAN AND SOLDIER 35 (1911, 1923).

² The list is as follows: Hamlin Wade, Edgar Reel Bain, Andrew Holmes McDaniel, Archibald Edgar Lynch, Jr., William Clarence Brewer, Jr., James Bethel Richmond, Gerald Corbett Parker, William Earl Britt, Dan Elijah Perry, George Wilson Saintsing, Daniel Watson Fouts, Thomas Stephen Bennett, David Edward Reid, Jr., Rossie Garnet Gardner, Renard Roy Mitchell, Jr., Charles Hutchins Sedberry, Leslie Gray Frye, Theodore Reaves Reynolds, Jacob Winston Todd, Jimmy Lewis Love, James Gooden Exum, Jr., Louis B. Meyer, Robert Alden Jones, Kenneth Sawyer Etheridge, Jr., Raymond Mason Taylor, Elbert Richard Jones, Jr., William Lee Powell, Jr., Carl Wainwright Loftin, Emil Falling Kratt, Clifton Leonard Moore, Jr., Hugh Glenn Pettyjohn, Harry McCarley Giles, Jr., Eugene Simpson Tanner, Jr., Charles Royal Tedder, Reginald Stanley Hamel, Thomas LaFontaine Odom, William Isler Wooten, Jr., Andrew Albert Vanore, Jr., Delford Payne Richey, Samuel Houston Dorsett, Jr., Wade Marvin Smith, Louis Phillip Hornthal, Jr., James Monroe Long, James Harold Tharrington, Edward Lewis Murrelle, Wilson Burton Partin, Jr., Ralph Alexander White, Jr., Charles Ewing Clement, Joe Neal Cagle, William Claude Myers, Norman Bryant Kellum, Jr., Willis Padgett Whichard, Vernon Haskins Rochelle, Robert Eugene Smith, Reuben Leslie Moore, Jr., Henry Stancil Manning, Jr., Walter Wray Baker, Jr., Frederick Eugene Hafer, Joseph William Moss, Thomas Jefferson Bolch, Fred Stephen Glass, Thomas Alfred Gardner, Edward Tollett Cook, Jefferson Deems Johnson, III, John Frederick Riley, Roger William Smith, William Frank Moser, John Ward Purrington, James Robert Slate, Thomas Willis Haywood Alexander, Pender Roberts McElroy, John Breckenridge Regan, III, Robert Livingston Thompson, Broxie Jay Nelson, George Verner Hanna, III, William Preston Few, Robert Fuller Fleming, Michael Kent Curtis, John Lewis Shaw, James Gunter Billings, Ernest LeRoy Evans, Richard Bruce Conely, Kenneth Byron McCov, John Randolph Riley, Hunter Spencer Barrow, Robert Warren Sumner, Mark Ellis Galloway, Joseph Hackney, Franklin Edward Freeman, Jr., Haywood Forney Rankin, Richard Rankin Reamer, James Calvin Fuller, Jr., Claude Ernest Simons, Jr., John Morris Rich, Thomas Sims Erwin, Bruce William Vanderbloemen, Thomas Rich Crawford, Clarence Hatcher Pope, Jr., Brenton Douglas Adams, William Lunsford Long, III, Coy Estres Brewer, Jr., Edward Fitzgerald Parnell, III, William Hunter Gammon, Robert Dumais Kornegay, Jr., Marvin Allen Bethune, Sidney Lawrence Cottingham, Oliver Max Gardner, III, Gary Lambert Murphy, Robert Michael Wells, Edward Johnston Harper, II, Jackie Don Drum, Jonathan Virett Maxwell, Edward Garrett Walker, Bruce Hartmann Connors, Donald Jackson McFadyen, Michael Deams West, Jane Rankin Thompson, Edgar Thomas Watson, Peter Joseph Sarda, Edward Bardin Simmons, Craig Johnson Tillery, Michael Corbett Stovall, Jr., Christy Eve Reid, and Caroline Nicholson Bruckel.

To understand any person to the fullest degree it is essential to know whence he has come. Adrian Jefferson Newton is a product of one of the most remarkable families in the history of North Carolina. A consistent characteristic of his forebears has been service and achievement founded upon strong Christian conviction and indomitable moral courage.

His great grandfather, John Garland Mills of Virginia, married Martha Williams Haymes. He was a minister of the Gospel and a prosperous farmer. Not only did he take an orphan boy into his family to rear, but he distributed to the poor such of his crop as was not needed by his own family.³

To John Garland Mills and his wife, Martha, was born on July 9, 1831, a son. The son was named John Haymes Mills for his grandfather, and he grew into a physical and intellectual giant, being six feet two inches in height,⁴ an excellent debater, and the head of his class throughout his academic career at Wake Forest College, from which he graduated in 1854.⁵ Another member of that class was William T. Faircloth,⁶ who was later Chief Justice of this Court,⁷ and whose portrait now hangs in this chamber.

This John Haymes Mills married Elizabeth Ann Arrington Nicholson Alston Williams, an accomplished musician, so accomplished that she played the piano at the inauguration of President William Henry Harrison in 1841.⁸ Beyond that, John Haymes Mills was the owner and editor of the *Biblical Recorder*.⁹ He founded the Masonic Orphanage at Oxford in 1873,¹⁰ and he founded the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville in 1885.¹¹ The story of that institution, known as the Mills Home, is told in an inspiring book written by Dr. Bernard Washington Spil-

³ B. SPILMAN, *THE MILLS HOME: A HISTORY OF THE BAPTIST ORPHANAGE MOVEMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA* 6 (1932).

⁴ *Id.* at 7.

⁵ *Id.* at 8-9.

⁶ *Id.* at 9.

⁷ See generally Clark, *History of the Supreme Court of North Carolina*, 177 N.C. 615, 627-628 (1919).

⁸ Interview with Adrian Jefferson Newton, in Raleigh, North Carolina (March 4, 1977). Her uncle, Archibald Hunter Arrington, was a Representative from North Carolina in the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Congresses (March 4, 1841-March 3, 1845), and possibly was acquainted with President Harrison. See STAFF OF THE JOINT COMM. ON PRINTING, *BIOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS*, S. Doc. No. 92-8, 92d Cong., 1st Sess. 526 (1971). Her brother, Archibald Hunter Arrington Williams later served in Congress. *Id.* at 1925. A biographical sketch of Mrs. Mills appears in C. Howell, "With the Alumni," *Charity and Children*, Dec. 4, 1947, at 3, col. 5.

⁹ B. SPILMAN, *supra* note 3, at 9-10.

¹⁰ See generally B. SPILMAN, *supra* note 3, at 19-20.

¹¹ *Id.* at 49-54.

man,¹² who there described John Haymes Mills as both "a man of deep and abiding piety"¹³ and "a genius, original, vigorous, highly cultured."¹⁴

A daughter of John Haymes Mills and Elizabeth Williams was named Martha. She was a person of talent and accomplishment. Many of her hymns were published, and her poems, "Little Lottie's Speech" and "Life of a Dew-Drop" were widely circulated in the 1887 *North Carolina Speaker*.¹⁵

A contemporary of Martha Mills was a Baptist minister named Jefferson Davis Newton. He was a native of Sampson County and was the tenth child in a family of thirteen, of which three were ministers. He was educated at Wake Forest College where John Haymes Mills had led his class a generation before. He farmed as well as preached. He worked as a newspaper correspondent. He served a stint as editor of *Charity and Children*, and he was the first pastor of the Mills Home Church.¹⁶

Perhaps it was inevitable that the talented Martha Mills and the dedicated Jefferson Davis Newton should become acquainted. That acquaintance led to their marriage, and their fifth and last child was born on a farm in Davidson County near Thomasville, and near the Mills Home, on September 30, 1901. He was named Adrian Jefferson Newton, and we honor him here today.

Growing up as a son of Jefferson Davis Newton and Martha Mills Newton must have been a unique experience for a child of that day, because both parents were well educated and no families in the state were more respected.

Young Adrian Jefferson Newton obtained most of his early formal education in the schools of Davidson County. He graduated from Thomasville High School in 1919 when completion of ten grades was required for a diploma, and then again in 1920, when an additional grade had been added and he decided he wanted to go to school for an eleventh year.

Immediately after high school he went into the public service, serving from June 1, 1920, through August of that year

¹² B. SPILMAN, *supra* note 3.

¹³ *Id.* at 154.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 156.

¹⁵ THE NORTH CAROLINA SPEAKER was compiled by Eugene G. Harrell and John B. Neathery, and its title page states that it was "For Every Grade of Pupils in North Carolina Schools." It was published in 1887 by Alfred Williams & Co., Raleigh, North Carolina. "Little Lottie's Speech" is on pages 87-88 and "Life of a Dew-Drop" is on pages 148-150.

¹⁶ See generally *Biblical Recorder*, Feb. 11, 1948, at 9, col. 2.

as City Clerk of Thomasville and Clerk of Thomasville's Recorder's Court.

In the fall of 1920 he entered Wake Forest College, where his father and grandfather had been educated. After two years in college it was necessary for Adrian Newton to earn some money before continuing his education. Again, he went back into the public service, this time working from December 11, 1922, through August 30, 1924, as Assistant Clerk of the Superior Court of Davidson County.

When fall came, however, he returned to Wake Forest where he received his Bachelor of Laws degree on June 5, 1925. He passed the State Bar examination in August of that year,¹⁷ returned to Wake Forest for additional courses, and then back to Davidson County in January, 1926, to begin the practice of law in Lexington.

But what about those years in college? Assuredly, they were years of activity and achievement. In athletics, he was Captain of the Wake Forest College tennis team, and he became President of the North Carolina Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

In academic affairs, he was a Commencement Marshal, President of the Euzelian Literary Society, and Business manager of *Old Gold and Black*. He became a member of the Order of the Golden Bough and Pi Gamma Sigma fraternity.¹⁸

That Adrian Newton was General Director of the Baptist Young People's Union as a student at Wake Forest was natural. When he was a lad of thirteen while his father briefly held a pastorate near the Mitchell River in Surry County he was baptised by total immersion. Apart from its religious significance, that occasion was memorable to Adrian Newton because the ceremony was performed, to use his words, "by two old Baptist preachers on a *cold* November day."

When some nearby church, a few years ago, advertised for a church pianist, the newspaper advertisement stated that the successful applicant must be a "Saved Baptist." Seeing that advertisement, Mr. Newton said he would qualify but for the fact that he did not play the piano. Surely, he is among the ranks of those to whom it means much to possess the basic Christian faith as taught in the Baptist Church.

¹⁷ 190 N.C. vii (1925).

¹⁸ Pi Gamma Sigma subsequently became the Delta Omega chapter of Kappa Sigma national fraternity, and he consequently became a member of Kappa Sigma.

Not long after beginning the practice of law in 1926 he also acquired an interest in a young school teacher who had just graduated from college and was teaching the first grade in Lexington. She was a native of Mount Airy, and her name was Lois Long Spaugh. Apparently because she had manifested some of the characteristics of a sometimes talkative kind of bird, her family had nicknamed her "Polly," a name that ever since has stuck.

As things turned out, Adrian and "Polly" were married on August 10, 1927. She is a lady of strong conviction, warm charm, and keen intellect. To be around her always is a joy, and surely we honor her also by this occasion today.

Politics held a fascination for Adrian Newton, and in 1928, a landslide victory year for the Republicans, Adrian Jefferson Newton, a Democrat, was elected Judge of the Davidson County Court. He took office on the first Monday of December, 1928, at the age of 27, was reelected twice, and served until the first Monday of December, 1934.

In the civic and community affairs of Davidson County he was Councilor and District Deputy of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, President of the Kiwanis Club in 1932, Chapter Chairman of the American National Red Cross, and a member of the Masonic Lodge and, of course, the Baptist Church.

His political interests led to his participation in the 1936 political campaign as county manager of Clyde R. Hoey's successful campaign for Governor. That, in turn, led to Adrian Newton's appointment effective January 18, 1937, to the position of the first General Counsel of the newly-created North Carolina Unemployment Compensation Commission. That, of course, brought about his move from Lexington to Raleigh, where he since has resided.

The challenge of his work at the Unemployment Compensation Commission is indicated by the fact that the new commission had been created by legislation and there was little judicial precedent to help explain what that new law meant or to whom it applied.

Lawsuit after lawsuit arose, and Adrian Newton followed them through, one by one. The law was new, the questions

were new, and the precedents were new, each of them forged in part by the keen legal skill of Adrian Newton.¹⁹

His repeated activity as an advocate in the Supreme Court no doubt impressed the Justices with his manner and ability, for October 15, 1941, he became Clerk of the Supreme Court by virtue of the Court's election.²⁰ That is the position he held until December 1, 1976,²¹ after a total of more than 35 years as Clerk of the Supreme Court and 49 years of outstanding public service.

In his history of the Supreme Court of North Carolina in 1889, Dr. Kemp Plummer Battle, then President of the University at Chapel Hill, said:

The Clerks of the Supreme Court hold a most responsible office. Questions of great complexity are frequently referred to them. The duties require an excellent memory and business head, good knowledge of the law, great accuracy, perfect integrity, untiring patience, and unfailing courtesy.²²

In Adrian Jefferson Newton the Supreme Court of North Carolina found such a man in 1941. The record bears it out.

During his 35 years as Clerk of the Supreme Court, Adrian Jefferson Newton became possibly the best known court official in the state.

Most lawyers are at home in their own county courthouses, but it always has been with some anxiety and not a little uncertainty that even the most seasoned practitioners have approached the highest court of their state. It has been in such times that the Bar has found in Adrian Newton a knowledgeable, hospitable, courteous, efficient, and understanding friend, confidant, and appellate procedure expert.

Many are the lawyers who because of him have proceeded with confidence when without his help they would have been laboring under a cloud of anxious uncertainty. Indeed, many are the times that his telephone has rung with inquiries from lawyers throughout the state, and never has he turned one away without help.

¹⁹ For general biographical information and a review of his work at the Unemployment Compensation Commission see *The News and Observer*, Oct. 16, 1941, at 1, col. 4, and 2, col. 3.

²⁰ [Fall 1941] N. C. SUP. CT. MINUTE DOCKET 174.

²¹ [Fall 1976] N. C. SUP. CT. MINUTE DOCKET 232-235. These pages also contain the remarks of the Chief Justice in connection with Mr. Newton's retirement.

²² Battle, *An Address on the History of the Supreme Court* (Feb. 4, 1889), as published in 1 N. C. 835, 860 (Ann. ed. 1937).

His record of outstanding service made it logical that those seeking the most competent person to serve as Clerk of the World Court in Tokyo²³ in 1945 would tender that post to North Carolina's Supreme Court Clerk. They did, but he declined, choosing rather to continue notable service in his native state.

Being one who enjoys pleasant companionship and feels a deep sense of civic and religious responsibility, Adrian Newton has not cloistered himself among the personages of the law. Rather, he has participated notably in the athletic, academic, religious, civic, and community service spheres wherever he has been.

In Raleigh he has been president of the Raleigh High School Boosters Club, President of the Torch Club, President of the Raleigh Baptist Council, a member of the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association of both Raleigh and North Carolina State University, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Wake County Chapter of the American National Red Cross.

He is a former Chairman of the Student Loan Committee of the Raleigh Kiwanis Club and a former President of the Raleigh Kiwanis Scholarship Foundation. He also is a member of the Mayflower Society.²⁴

He has been a Deacon of Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh since November 13, 1938. He was Chairman of the Board of Deacons twice, in 1942 and in 1956, and on November 15, 1970, he was elected a Life Deacon.

Professionally, he is a member of the North Carolina State Bar, the North Carolina Bar Association, the Wake County Bar Association, and the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. He is a former Vice President of the Twelfth Judicial District Bar Association, having been then a member of the Davidson County Bar.

Adrian Newton also is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa honorary fraternity and Phi Delta Phi international legal fraternity.

²³ Formally known as the International Military Tribunal for the Far East.

²⁴ He is a descendant of Richard Warren, who was a passenger on the "Mayflower" on the voyage that terminated at Plymouth, New England, in December, 1620. See Application for Membership, North Carolina Society of Mayflower Descendants, General No. 15,704, State No. 341, copy of which is on file in the North Carolina Supreme Court Library.

Among the singular honors and distinctions that have come to Adrian Newton are his listing in the "North Carolina Biography" volume of *North Carolina: The Old North State and the New*²⁵ and *North Carolina Lives: The Tar Heel Who's Who*,²⁶ his designation as "Tar Heel of the Week" by *The News and Observer* on June 6, 1954,²⁷ and his inclusion in *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*²⁸ and *Who's Who in Government*.²⁹

Wake Forest University replaced his Bachelor of Laws degree with a Juris Doctor degree on April 17, 1970.

Beyond all the things that we have spoken of is his family and the importance that his family has had for him, the important place that it has had in his life. Perhaps you will recall the words of Justice Walter Parker Stacy, later Chief Justice, when he wrote:

It matters not on what plane of life one labors, nor how large or small the number of his acquaintances, the man who toils and yet knows that in the circle of his influence there is at least one life in which there is sunshine where but for him there would have been shadow; that there is at least one home in which there is cheer where but for him there would have been gloom; that there is at least one heart in which there is hope where but for him there would have been despair, that man carries with him as he goes one of the richest treasures on this earth.³⁰

By virtue of the contribution of "Miss Polly" and the other members of his family, I cannot imagine that his household ever could have been one that was gloomy, or without hope, or without genuine joy. And yet, as we look at the plane upon which Adrian Jefferson Newton has walked, we know that truly he has carried, in the form of his family, "one of the richest treasures on this earth."³¹

He and Mrs. Newton have five children: Lois Spaugh Newton, now Mrs. William Hooper Wilson of Raleigh; Sarah Martha Newton, now Mrs. Richard Llewellyn Sommers of Lexington; Adrian Jefferson Newton, Jr. of Raleigh; Thomas Long

²⁵ 3 A. HENDERSON, NORTH CAROLINA: THE OLD NORTH STATE AND THE NEW 100 (1941).

²⁶ W. POWELL, NORTH CAROLINA LIVES: THE TAR HEEL WHO'S WHO 910 (1962).

²⁷ O'Keef, "Tar Heel of the Week," *The News and Observer*, June 6, 1954, § 4, at 3, col. 1.

²⁸ WHO'S WHO IN THE SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST 527 (14th ed. 1975).

²⁹ WHO'S WHO IN GOVERNMENT 450 (2d ed. 1975).

³⁰ *State v. Wingler*, 184 N.C. 747, 751, 115 S.E. 59, 61 (1922).

³¹ *Id.*

Newton of Monroe, Georgia; and Henry Williams Newton, a fine young man, a fine lawyer, whose passing we still mourn.³²

Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Jefferson Newton have sixteen grandchildren,³³ and, if it please the Court, their names will not be recited at this time.

They have a host of friends, many of whom share this occasion with us.

Thus, we are gathered to honor a good man, a dedicated man, an unselfish man, a competent man, an honest man, a congenial man, a courteous man, a man who has been a friend to all who have turned to him for help. We are gathered to honor one whose public service has been exemplary.

Many of us who served as Research Assistants to this Court from 1956 through 1976 determined that it would be appropriate for an oil painting of Mr. Newton to be presented to the Court. We sought the counsel of an eminent artist, Everett Raymond Kinstler,³⁴ who did the magnificent portraits of Chief Justices Winborne³⁵ and Parker.³⁶ He agreed to serve as the consultant for this project and he recommended as the artist a very talented and outstanding young painter, Thomas W. Orlando,³⁷ a member of the faculty of the Pratt-Phoenix School of Art and Design in New York, with studios in both New York and his home, Sheffield, Massachusetts.

³² He was admitted to the North Carolina State Bar in 1966, practiced law in Raleigh, and died December 13, 1972. See "Licensed Attorneys," 268 N.C. x, xii (1966).

³³ They are as follows: (1) Children of Mr. and Mrs. William Hooper Wilson: William Hooper Wilson, Jr., and Adrian Newton Wilson; (2) Children of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Llewellyn Sommers: Sarah LuClare Sommers, Richard Newton Sommers, and Jefferson Maurice Sommers; (3) Children of Adrian Jefferson Newton, Jr. (now married to Barbara Virginia Hardee Newton) and Barbara Hunter Sneed Newton: Jean Hunter Newton, Adrian Jefferson Newton, III, Elizabeth Arrington Newton, Timothy Starke Newton, and John Haymes Newton; (4) Children of Thomas Long Newton and Mary Frances Connell Newton: Thomas Long Newton, Jr., Graham Connell Newton, Taylor Spough Newton, Mary Amanda Newton, and Evan Christian Newton; and (5) Daughter of Henry Williams Newton and Lillian Arrington Johnston Newton (now Mrs. William Brantley Cox): Jane Guignard Cox.

³⁴ See generally WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA 1727 (39th ed. 1976); Andersen, "Arts," *People* (weekly magazine), June 14, 1976, at 31; and E. KINSTLER, *PAINTING PORTRAITS* (1971).

³⁵ See Denny, *Presentation of the Portrait of the Late Chief Justice John Wallace Winborne*, 277 N.C. 745 (1970).

³⁶ See Branch, *Presentation of the Portrait of the Late Chief Justice Robert Hunt Parker*, 282 N.C. 739, N.C. Reporter, 193-194 S.E. 2d (front insert at 5) (1972).

³⁷ Thomas W. Orlando received his B.A. in Art from the City College of New York, received various scholarships and fellowships, and did further study at the National Academy of Art and Design, the Art Students League, the Brooklyn Museum, and Henry Hensche's Cape School of Art. He teaches drawing, painting, and portraiture, and he has received numerous awards for both portraiture and traditional landscape and easel painting.

Thomas Orlando came to Raleigh and Adrian Newton sat for him for two days³⁸ as he sketched, photographed, and studied. The portrait subsequently was painted, and we are particularly pleased that the artist, Thomas W. Orlando, and his charming wife, Judy, have come today for its presentation and are seated with Mr. and Mrs. Newton and their family.

On behalf of the 124 Research Assistants³⁹ who commissioned this painting,⁴⁰ it is a high honor, a distinct privilege, and a genuine pleasure for me at this time to present it to the Supreme Court of North Carolina and to request that it be unveiled by the Research Assistants to the two newest members of the Court, those Research Assistants being Christy Eve Reid⁴¹ and Caroline Nicholson Bruckel.⁴²

³⁸ October 30-31, 1976.

³⁹ Each member of the Supreme Court of North Carolina has had a Research Assistant, also known as a "law clerk," since 1956. During the succeeding twenty years 140 lawyers have filled those positions. The portrait of Adrian Jefferson Newton was commissioned by 124 of the 139 still living. Those who commissioned the portrait are listed in note 2 *supra*.

⁴⁰ The portrait is on a canvas approximately 28 inches in width and 36 inches in height. It shows Mr. Newton standing in typical posture holding the first volume of Supreme Court records and briefs to be bound after he took office in 1941. Writing of the painting, Everett Raymond Kinstler said, "It pleased me greatly to see it . . . [I]t is a splendid work, one that will enhance the walls [of the Court]." Letter from Everett Raymond Kinstler to Raymond M. Taylor (March 1, 1977), on file in the North Carolina Supreme Court Library. The portrait is framed in a wood frame, gilded in genuine gold leaf. Outside dimensions of the frame are approximately 33¼ inches by 41¼ inches. The inscription on the engraved plate at the bottom of the frame is, "ADRIAN JEFFERSON NEWTON, CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT, 1941-1976."

⁴¹ Research Assistant to Associate Justice J. William Copeland.

⁴² Research Assistant to Associate Justice James G. Exum, Jr., who served 1960-1961 as Research Assistant to Associate Justice Emery B. Denny, later Chief Justice.

REMARKS OF CHIEF JUSTICE SUSIE SHARP IN
ACCEPTING THE PORTRAIT OF THE HONORABLE
ADRIAN JEFFERSON NEWTON

We thank Mr. Taylor for the discerning and fitting tribute which he has paid to Mr. Newton, whose years as Clerk of this Court not only endeared him to the Justices with whom he worked, but to laymen and lawyers alike who had business with his office. All have relied upon his unique knowledge of the Court's customs, traditions, and procedure. Both the young lawyer, unskilled in appellate procedure, and the experienced practitioner confounded by a special situation, have sought his counsel, and always they found him sympathetic, courteous, and ready to help. He set a high standard of efficiency and gracious public service.

We are most grateful to our former law clerks whose thoughtfulness and generosity have given us this life-like portrait of our friend and associate of many years. And we are especially pleased that this inspiration came to our law clerks at a time when the painting could be done from life and the subject himself could see the real evidence—proof beyond a reasonable doubt—of the high esteem and affection which so many have for him.

The Marshal will see that the portrait is hung in an appropriate place in the Clerk's office, and a record of these proceedings will be included in the minutes of the Court and printed in the *North Carolina Reports*.

We are delighted to have with us the artist and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Orlando.

In order that the members of the Court and the others present may have the opportunity to greet Mr. Newton, his family, and Mr. and Mrs. Orlando, they will form a receiving line as directed by the Marshal. When the receiving line has been formed, the Court will rise and the Justices will leave the bench for the purpose of greeting the members of the receiving line. When the members of the Court have retired from the courtroom, others are invited to proceed down the receiving line as directed by the Marshal. Please remain seated until the Marshal gives you other instructions.

[The receiving line then was formed and those in it received the Justices and others for approximately one hour.]