



NAME: Stephens, A. P.

DATA: Photo

SOURCE: History of Red Springs First B/C, p. 35
NCCF: Robeson B/A

NAME

A. P. Stephens

b.
d.

Ancestry

Married

b.

d.

Ancestry

Record

Emergreen - 1922

Saddle Tree - (Robison) Pastor 1924

See

File No.

(Over)

NAME: Stephens, A. P.

DATA: photo

SOURCE: Centennial celebration of Great Marsh B/C
NCCF: Robeson B/A

Baptist Minister Plans To Retire . . . But Not Really

By: Penn Gray
City Editor of The Robesonian.

Rev. A. P. Stephens has just announced that he will retire on February 1, But he's a clever fellow and knows nobody believes a word of it.

So, in the next breath he makes another announcement — he'll be available for supply work in churches and for interim pastorates.

Interim pastorates - that means keep on preaching for at least some of the six churches he now serves until they can make other arrangements, which they are not liable to be in a great big hurry to do.

In the fullness of their respect for Rev. Stephens, however, they will no doubt try to honor his wishes, and let him get on with all the writing he's wanted to do but hasn't had time for. Maybe there'll even be a book, instead of some of the articles for religious magazines.

Alford Stephens is a natural born country pastor, one of those fellows that the city couldn't take the country out of although for a while there the cities took the boy out of the country. He's been back in the sticks by his own choice for 19 years now after a try at city life in Burlington, Morehead City and Red Springs.

A native of Robeson, born in 1895, he and his family moved to Evergreen while he was in his teens and he calls Evergreen Baptist his home church. He's been pastor of that church and of Lennon Crossroads church in the Columbus Association, of Galeed church in the Bladen Association, and of Cedar Grove, Zion Hill and Oakdale in the Robeson Association, besides the six churches he serves now — Rennert (twice for a total of 21 years), Rozier (19 years), Pleasant Hope (18 years), Bloomingdale (15 years) Mt. Elim (6 years), and Dublin First Baptist (8 years).

Rev. Stephens is the son of Emma Thompson and J. Edwin Stephens. His maternal grandpar-

ents were Susan Ward and J. Span Thompson. On the paternal side, his grandmother was Louisa Ivey Stephens and Rev. M. A. Stephens who was pastor of two of "young" Alford's present churches, Bloomingdale and Mt. Elim.

He began his education for the ministry at Buies Creek Academy when he was 18, working his way firing boilers and selling mail order clothing, then went to Wake Forest for his bachelor's degree, continuing in the tailoring business and preaching weekends. He graduated from Wake in 1920 and married Mary E. Stephens (no relation) of Fuquay Springs; the two then went to Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth Texas, where he graduated in 1923 with a Master of Theology degree. His first pastorate was in Red Springs.

Outside his own community he has been active in state Baptist affairs. He has served on

the general board of the State Baptist Convention, is a former president of the Burlington Ministers association, a past moderator of the Mt. Zion Baptist association (Durham-Burlington-Chapel Hill), and a former trustee of Campbell College western Baptist Seminary.

All of the Stephens children are college graduates; Dr. E. W. Stephens of Loris, S. C., Dr. John A. Stephens of Burlington, Leonidas Stephens of New York, and Mrs. M. P. Nicholson, Jr., of Raleigh.

In 1961 the Stephens built a home at McMillan and 26th streets, near Southeastern General hospital where he spends a lot of time with the ill of all denominations. He'll no doubt continue that good work, devote some time to his small farm in the Long Branch area, write, and continue to be a pastor to anyone who needs him.

Elizabethtown: Bladen Journal
Elkin: Tribune
Enfield: Progress
Farmville: Enterprise
Fairmont: Times-Messenger
Forest City: Courier
Franklin: Press
Franklinton: Post
Fuquay Springs: Independent
Gatesville: Gates Co. Index
Gibsonville: News
Graham: Alamance News
Granite Falls: Press
Greensboro: Democrat
*

1-13-66



Rev. Stephens in his Catalogued Library

Retiring Minister Still On Call

A minister who "felt the call to preach at 18 and set out for Campbell College with \$10 in my pocket" will retire February 1 after almost 50 years in the ministry.

But when Rev. A. P. Stephens of Lumberton says he'll retire, those who know him realize he'll not sit back and watch the world go by—even Rev. Stephens admits he'll "always be on call" wherever and whenever he's needed.

So, in the next breath he makes another announcement—he'll be available for supply work in churches and for interim pastorates. That means he will keep on preaching for at least some of the six churches he now serves until they can make other arrangements, which they are not liable to be in a great big hurry to do.

In the fullness of their respect for their pastor, however, they will no doubt try to honor his wishes, and let him get on with all the writing he's wanted to but hasn't had time for.

Alford Stephens, who has roots in Columbus County and calls Evergreen Baptist his home church, is a natural born country pastor—one of those fellows that the city couldn't take the country out of, though for a while the cities took the boy out of the country. He's been back in the country by his own choice for 19 years now after a try at city life in Burlington, Morehead City and Red Springs.

A native of Robeson County, born in 1895, he and his family

moved to Evergreen while he was in his teens. He has served as pastor of Evergreen Baptist twice, the first time commuting between Evergreen and Wake Forest while he was a student and the other time from 1947 to 1960. He has also pastored Lennon's Cross Roads Baptist Church, Williamson's Cross Roads Baptist, Corinth Baptist and Cherry Grove Baptist in Columbus County.

"I make every effort to help my churches develop into full-time pastorates and when they do, I cut loose," he says. "That's what happened at Evergreen. When it got big enough to have a full time pastor, I cut loose."

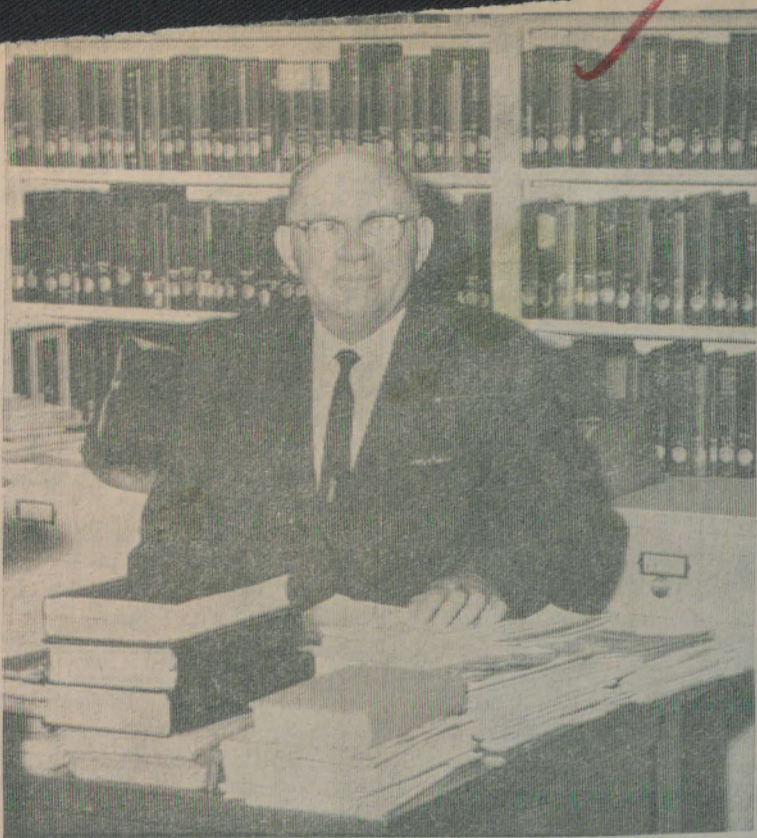
Mr. Stephens worked his way through college, firing the boiler in the girls' dorm at Campbell and toward the end of his stay there he got into the "tailoring" business, measuring boys for suits bought from a manufacturer. This proved profitable and he continued it while at Wake Forest College.

Stephens graduated from Wake Forest in 1920 with an A. B. degree and promptly married Mary E. Stephens (no kin) of Fuquay Springs. Together they went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas where both took courses. He graduated from the seminary in 1923 with a ThM. degree. A pastorate near Fort Worth helped him pay his seminary expenses.

All of Mr. and Mrs. Stephens' children are college graduates:

Dr. E. W. Stephens of Loris, S. C., Dr. John A. Stephens of Burlington, Leonidas Stephens of New York and Mrs. M. P. Nicholson, Jr. of Raleigh.

In 1961 the Stephens built a home in Lumberton near Southeastern General Hospital where he spends a lot of time with the ill of all denominations. He no doubt will continue that good work, devote some time to his small farm in the Long Branch area, write, and continue to be a pastor to anyone who needs him.



Rev. A. P. Stephens

Dublin Baptist Church Honors Former Pastor

On Wednesday night, February 2, the church family of Dublin First Baptist Church honored the Rev. and Mrs. A. P. Stephens at a family night supper. The Rev. Mr. Stephens was pastor of the church for eight years and recently retired from the active ministry.

Mr. C. D. Brisson, Sunday School Superintendent, presided and thanked the Rev. and Mrs. Ste-

phens for their love, kindness, and service to the church. On behalf of the church, Mr. Brisson presented to them a love offering.

An arrangement of red and white carnations was used on the buffet table and everyone enjoyed the bountiful covered dish supper.

The Rev. Nash Odom will become pastor of the church later this month.

Elizabethtown: Bladen Journal
 Lenoir Tribune
 Enfield Progress
 Farmville Enterprise
 Fairmont: Times-Messenger
 Forest City Courier
 Franklin Press
 Franklinton Post
 Fuquay Springs: Independent
 Gatesville: Gates Co. Index
 Gibsonville: News
 Graham: Alamance News
 Granite Falls Press
 Greensboro: Democrat

FEB 10 1966

Local Minister, Wife Make Move To Morehead City

Rev. and Mrs. A. P. Stephens
have moved to Morehead City.

The retired minister was a patient in Baptist Hospital at Winston-Salem recently, and after a period of recuperation in Burlington he went to Morehead City, where he had purchased a house for summer or year-round use. He and Mrs. Stephens plan to make it their home.

Although Mr. Stephens is a Robeson County native and has a farm as well as a residence here, and he and his family lived in Morehead City for several years and have long regarded it as their other home town.

Lexington Dispatch

Lumberton Robesonian

~~Morganton News-Herald~~

New Bern Sun-Journal

Raleigh News & Observer

Raleigh Times

Reidsville Review

Rockingham: Richmond Co. Journal

*

MAY 14 1971

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By PENN GRAY

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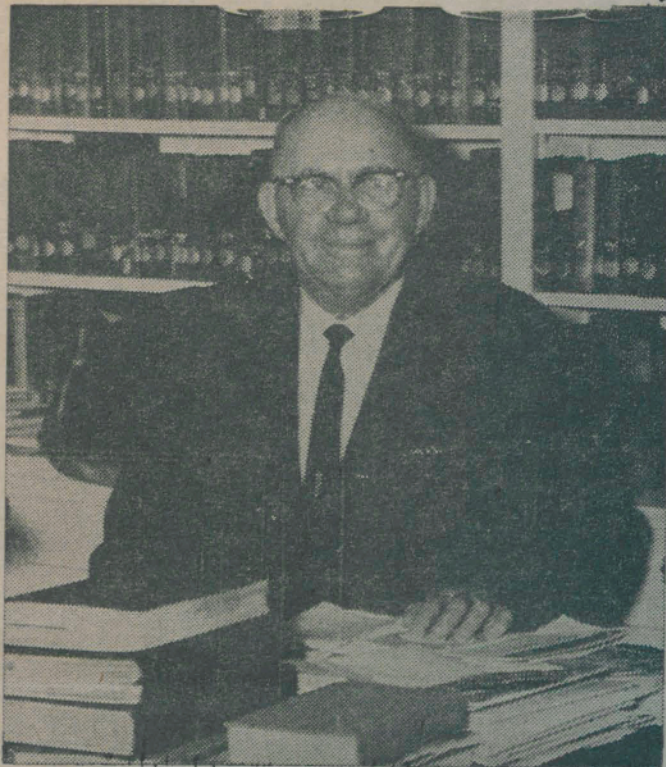
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Rev. Stephens is the son of Emma Thompson and J. Edwin Stephens. His maternal grandparents were Susan Ward and J. Span Thompson.



REV. A. P. STEPHENS plans to spend much time in his library following his retirement February 1. His extensive collection of books is carefully catalogued and occupies a considerable area in his 26th street home.

On the paternal side, his grandmother was Louisa Ivey Stephens and Rev. M. A. Stephens who was pastor of two of "young" Alford's present churches, Bloomingdale and Mt. Elim.

He began his education for the ministry at Buies Creek Academy when he was 18, working his way firing boilers and selling mail order clothing, then went to Wake Forest for his bachelor's degree, continuing in the tailoring business and preaching weekends. He graduated from Wake in 1920 and married Mary E. Stephens (no relation) of Fuquay Springs; the two then went to Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, where he graduated in 1923 with a Master of Theology degree. His first pastorate was in Red Springs.

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JAN • 61



Rev. Stephens

Succumbs

At Age 82



The Rev. Alford P. Stephens, 82, of the Long Branch community, died suddenly at his home Sunday morning, February 12. The funeral will be held at the Long Branch Baptist Church on Tuesday, February 14, at 3 p.m. The service will be conducted by the pastor, the Rev. J. Randolph Browning, assisted by the Rev. Edwin Bullock of Raleigh and the Rev. Michael Vipperman of North Myrtle Beach, S.C. Interment will be, with Masonic Rites, at the Meadowbrook Cemetery in Lumberton.

Mr. Stephens was a graduate of Buies Creek Academy (later Campbell College), Wake Forest University, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. While at Wake Forest he was pastor of Collins Grove Baptist Church, Godwin Baptist Church, Kennebec Baptist Church in Wake County, and Evergreen Baptist Church in Columbus County. While at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary he was pastor of Rehobeth Baptist Church, County Line Baptist Church and Reno Baptist Church in Texas.

He was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Red Springs, First Baptist Church, Morehead City, and Hocutt

Lumberton: Robesonian
Morganton News-Herald
New Bern: Sun-Journal
Norfolk: Virginia Pilot
Raleigh: News & Observer
Raleigh Times
Reidsville Review

FEB 13 1978

Memorial Baptist Church in Burlington. He returned to Robeson County in 1947 and since has been pastor of the following churches:

Rozier Baptist Church, Rennert Baptist Church, Saddletree Baptist Church, Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Zion Hill Baptist Church, Mount Elim Baptist Church, Bloomingdale Baptist Church, Pleasant Hope Baptist Church, Oakton Baptist Church, Smyrna Baptist Church, Oakdale Baptist Church, and Bethel Baptist Church in the Robeson Association; Dublin Baptist Church and Galeed Baptist Church in the Bladen Association; Lennon's Cross Roads Baptist Church, Smyrna Baptist Church and Evergreen Baptist Church in the Columbus Association.

Mr. Stephens was a former member of the General Board of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention and the Board of Advisors of Wake Forest University. For several years he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Campbell College, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Crossnore School. He was a Thirty-Second Degree Mason and Shriner.

For many years, he contributed a religious column — From The Pastor's Study — to The Robesonian.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Mary E. Stephens; one daughter, Mrs. M. P. (Louise) Nicholson, Raleigh; two sons, John A. Stephens, Burlington, and L. Harold Stephens, Hackensack, N.J.; three sisters, Mrs. Ben McKeithan and Mrs. Emily Edmund, both of Chadbourn, and Mrs. J. C. Frink, Warrenton, Va.; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

The family will be at Stephens Funeral Home tonight (Monday) from 7 to 9 o'clock.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial gifts may be made to the Campbell College Library, Buies Creek.

Mr. Stephens will lie in state at the church for one hour prior to the funeral.



REV. A. P. STEPHENS

1922-1923 CHARLES WAYLAND BLANCHARD

Rev. Blanchard was born in Wake County, North Carolina. He was ordained in 1887. He graduated from Wake Forest in 1888. Rev. Blanchard was a teacher and a principal after completing his studies at Wake Forest. At one time he was editor of the Biblical Recorder. He died in 1938 and was written up in the Atlantic Baptist Associational minutes in 1940.

1923-1924 A. E. C. PITTMAN

Three deacons were elected while A. E. C. Pittman was pastor. He also served as a delegate to the Association.

1925-1926 WILLIAM EFFIE HOLCOMB

Rev. Holcomb was a native of North Carolina, born in 1886. Trustees were elected during the time he was at the church. He died in 1947.

1927 E. GLOVER WILLIS

Rev. Willis was a native of Davis. After leaving the church he went to the Roanoke Rapids area and stayed there many years. He returned to Davis, North Carolina and died in 1969.

1928-1930 J. S. STEGALL

Rev. Stegall stayed at the church for only a few months.

✓ 1930-1935 ALFORD POPE STEPHENS.

Rev. Stephens was well known among North Carolina Baptists. He served many churches including Smyrna Baptist Church. Rev. Stephens was a member of the General Board of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention and the Board of Advisors of Wake Forest University. He started his ministry at the age of 18 and continued for 50 years. He retired in 1966 and died at age 82 in 1978.

1935-1939 WESLEY SPRINKLE

Rev. Sprinkle served Smyrna Church for five years. He was pastor of many churches from the hills of

bell College, in the
 the Southern Baptist
 churches in Bladen,
 Baptist Church in St.
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JAN • 61

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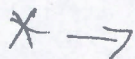
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 George, a dentist

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ALFORD P. STEPHENS - 1947 - 1951

A. P. Stephens was called as pastor in 1947 and served until 1951. He was born in Robeson County on July 17, 1895. He graduated from Wake Forest College in 1920 and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1923. He married Mary E. Stephens of Fuquay Springs in February, 1921. They have four children: Mrs. Louise Nicholson, Dr. E. W. Stephens, Dr. John A. Stephens and Harold Stephens.

Reverend Stephens is well known throughout the state and has served on the General Board of the Baptist State Convention, is a former trustee of Campbell College, Crossnore School and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a country preacher at heart and has served more churches in Robeson, Bladen and Columbus Counties than almost any other minister living today. He resides on his farm in the Long Branch Baptist Church community of Robeson County.

JOEL SNOWDEN JOHNSON - 1952

Joel Johnson was born at Cedar Creek in Cumberland County in 1892, the son of Reverend W. R. Johnson, a preacher of the gospel for sixty years. He married Teliah Jackson, also of Cedar Creek and they had six children, two sons and four daughters. Nothing brought more joy to his life than the fact that his son, Weldon, answered the call to the ministry. Reverend Johnson was as sure of his call to the ministry as he was of his first and second births.

Reverend Johnson attended Downing School and Buie's Creek Academy, now Campbell College. He liked and enjoyed sports of all kinds because they represented vigorous life. He played golf, hunted and fished. A man of many talents, he had in his earlier life farmed, operated a lumber mill and a ginning operation.

In the New South River Association he was pastor of the following churches: Second Baptist, Fayetteville; Mt. Pisgah, Evergreen, Beaver Dam, Hope Mills, Carrol.....

STATE U.C.

OPERATION BAPTIST BIOGRAPHY DATA FORM

Please read carefully the *Instruction Sheet* and then list the appropriate information as it directs.

1. NAME Stephens Alford Pope
(Last) (First) (Second)

Give full names. For a married woman please put maiden name in parentheses.

[EXAMPLE: Cole, Mary Ann (Smith).]

2. BIRTH Lumberton Robeson U.C. July 17, 1895
(Place) (County) (State) (Date)

DEATH Living

3. PARENTS J. Edwin Stephens Emma Collie (Thompson) Stephens
[EXAMPLE: Alec Joe Doaks and Lucy Mae (Brown) Doaks]

Father's occupation Farmer Mother's occupation Housewife

4. BROTHERS (3) List full names and year of birth
(Living or deceased) Number

J. E. Stephens, Jr. Sept. 9, 1914; Bud Stephens Oct. 21, 1897 - Sept. 20, 1953
Rebecca; Robert Manley, Feb. 28, 1920 (Living)

5. SISTERS (5) List full names and year of birth
(Living or deceased) Number

Mrs. Anabel McKeithan (Living) Mrs. Alice Trunk, Nov. 15, 1904 - Nov. 10, 1964 (Deceased)
Mrs. Emily Edmund, July 20, 1909 (Living); Mrs. Lovie Trunk Nov. 16, 1917 (Living)

6. CHILDHOOD RESIDENCE: (Please list each residence of 3 years duration or more, up to the time of the 18th birthday)

Type of Community Post Office County State Dates

Rural (R); town under 2500 pop. (T); city 2500 or more pop. (C). Check one.

Childhood
R ☒ T ☐ C ☐ Lumberton, U.C. R2 Robeson U.C. 1895-1908
R ☒ T ☐ C ☐ Emergreen, U.C. Columbus U.C. 1908-1915
Adult - R ☐ T ☐ C ☒ Fort Worth Tarrant Texas 1920-1923
R ☐ T ☒ C ☐ Red Springs Robeson U.C. 1923-1928
Morehead City Carteret U.C. 1928-1938
7. EDUCATION: Burlington Alamance U.C. 1938-1948
Robeson U.C. 1949-

Grammar school: Graduate? Yes () No () Year graduated

High school: Graduate? Yes (✓) No () Year graduated 1917

School attended: Brier Creek Academy (Campbell College, U.C.)
(Name) (Place) (State)

(Whether graduate or not; if more than one was attended, show the last one.)

College: Years attended: None () One () 2-3 () Graduate (1920)

Whether graduated or not, list college(s) attended:

(EXAMPLE: 1935-'38)

Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, U.C. 1917-1920 A.B. - 1920
(Name) (Place) (State) (Years attended) (Degree)
(at old site - Wake Forest, U.C.)
(Name) (Place) (State) (Years attended) (Degree)

Graduate-level: List college(s), seminary(ies), etc. attended; earned degrees

(Name) (Place) (State) (Years attended) (Degree)

Southwestern Baptist Seminary Ft. Worth Texas 1920-1923 Th.M.

8. SPECIAL AWARDS OR RECOGNITION RECEIVED: (Honorary degrees, such as: D.D., Howard College, 1948; citations, such as: *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*, 1939; honorary positions, such as: "Man of the Year"—Pryor, Okla., 1943; etc.) "Tar Heel of the Week" Raleigh News & Observer

May 26, 1963

9. MARITAL INFORMATION:

	Spouse	Birthdate of Spouse	Place of Marriage (Town and State)	Date of Marriage
(1)	<u>Mary (Stephens) Stephens</u>	<u>Jan. 16, 1904</u>	<u>Brier Creek, N.C.</u>	<u>Feb. 26, 1921</u>
(2)	<u>N.C.</u>			

Number of children 4. List their full names and birthdates: (an example of a married daughter would be: Mrs. John Alan (Mary Lou) Ross, 3-7-1918)

Born Jan. 2, 1922
Mrs. M. P. Nicholson (Elsie Louise); Dr. Edwin Worth Stephens, Loris, S.C.
Born Nov. 23, 1923
Dr. John Alford Stephens, Oct. 4, 1926; Leontias Harold Stephens, Aug. 19, 1929

10. VOCATIONAL HISTORY (List all vocations, occupations, trades, or professions engaged in for two or more years) Pastor all my life.

Retired Feb. 1, 1966 — Active in supply and as interim pastor.

11. RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE:

Conversion 1907 (Date) 12 (Age) Baptism 1907 (Date) Long Branch, Lumberton, N.C. (Church) R#2 (Location of Church)

List any church, other than Baptist, with which formerly affiliated none

Ordained as: Minister (☒) Deacon () Other ()

Oct. 1910 (Date ordained) Evergreen Baptist (Church) Evergreen (Place) N.C. (State)

12. LOCAL CHURCH ACTIVITY, *UNSALARIED* (Place the number of years service, in the space provided, for each office ever held.)

Gen. Supt., Director, President	Dept. Supt., Director, Circle Chm.	Teacher, Counselor, Sponsor, Leader	List below other offices or service, such as: Sec., Assoc. Supt., etc.	Other Offices (give number of years service)
S.S.				Deacon — Ch. Treas. — Trustee — Ch. Library — Usher — Ch. Recreation — Ch. Clerk — Choir Mem. — Other — Choir Direc. — Ch. Committee Chm. —
T.U.				
V.B.S.				List completed Study Course diplomas (Indicate related organizations, such as: S.S., T.U., etc.)
Broth.				
W.M.U.				

13. DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE, *UNSALARIED*. (Please list positions held in Baptist associations, conventions (state or Southern), national and world-wide organizations, such as: moderator, president, clerk, trustee, board, commission or committee members; etc.)

Example: S.S. Superintendent Bethel Association Kentucky 1942-1944
(Position) (Organization, board, agency, etc.) (State) (Date)

14. TO BE FILLED OUT ONLY BY THOSE WHO ARE, OR HAVE BEEN, IN SALARIED CHURCH-RELATED VOCATIONS. (Including pastors, denominational workers, missionaries, ministers of education and music, church secretaries, faculty members or employees of Baptist institutions, agencies, etc.)

TYPE AND LENGTH OF SERVICE: List all positions of such service with one or more years of duration; check F (full-time) or P (part-time). Examples:

(Position)	(Church, agency, area, institution, place of service)	(Date of service)
F ☐ P ☒ 1. pastor	County Line Baptist Church, Turkey Creek, La.	1925-1929
F ☒ P ☐ 2. missionary	Ogbomosho, Nigeria, W. Africa	1930-1952
F ☒ P ☐ Pastor	Rob Springs Baptist Church, Rob Springs, La.	1923-1928
F ☒ P ☐ Pastor	First Baptist, Morehead City, N.C.	1928-1938
F ☒ P ☐ Pastor	Hoover Memorial Ch., Burlington, N.C.	1937-1947
F ☐ P ☒ Pastor - Emergent, Stephens & Root, Columbus Association		
F ☐ P ☒ Gospel & Dublin Unit, Bladen Assn., Rogers, Beaufort, Revere		
F ☐ P ☒ Pleasant Hope, Mt. Elin, Oakdale, Cedar Grove, Roberson Assn.		1947-1966

15. OTHER TYPES OF RELIGIOUS SERVICE: (In associations, assemblies, colleges, conventions (state or Southern), national or world-wide meetings, such as: speaker, music director, committee chairman, etc.)

(Position)	(Place of Service)	(Date of Service)
Trustee	Campbell College - Trustee Cromwell School	
Trustee	Southwestern Bap. Theo. Seminary - Advisory Board to Wake Forest	
Moderator	Mt. Zion Bap. Assn. (N.C.)	
Member	General Board N.C. Bap. Convention	
Various	Committees of Convention (N.C.)	

16. AUTHORSHIP (Include books, booklets, lesson courses or curriculum material, and tracts) (Book, item, etc.) (Publisher) (Date published)

Several articles written for Biblical Recorder

17. CLUB OR GROUP MEMBERSHIP: (Service organizations, fraternal, P.T.A., Civic, etc.)

List important positions of leadership held Mason, Scottish Rite Mason,
(32nd Degree); Shriner (Retired but eligible for reinstatement)

18. HOBBIES AND LEISURE INTERESTS:

Favorite Hunting Others Fishing

19. PUBLIC SERVICE: (Military, educational, political, etc. not previously listed)

The information for items #1-19 has been filled in by A. P. Stephens

Mailing address 312 W. 26th Street, Lumberton, N.C.

Sources used in compiling the information are: (Example: personal knowledge; minutes, Calvary Baptist Church, Wisner, La.; Court Records, Copiah County, Miss.; etc.)

Memory, Family Bibles

20. DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERIZATION (Please read special instruction sheet carefully and sample biographies before proceeding.)

Name of person writing the above characterization _____

P. O. Address _____

Return to:

Name _____

P. O. Address _____

STATE North Carolina

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(Place) (County) (State) (Date)
DEATH _____3. PARENTS J. E. and Emma Thompson Stephens
[EXAMPLE: Alec Joe Doaks and Lucy Mae (Brown) Doaks]Father's occupation Farmer Mother's occupation Housewife4. BROTHERS (2) List full names and year of birth 1898, 1903
(Living or deceased) NumberDeceased But Stephens, Robert Henry Stephens5. SISTERS 5 (4) List full names and year of birth Living
(Living or deceased) Number
Ruth Stephens, April 6, 1900 Mrs. Ababel McKethan
Nov 15, 1904
Living Sept 9, 1914 Mrs. Fannie Stephens Finner, Living, Nov 6, 1917
Mrs. Alice Finner, Deceased Mrs. Emily Dolly

6. CHILDHOOD RESIDENCE: (Please list each residence of 3 years duration or more, up to the time of the 18th birthday)

Type of Community Post Office County State Dates
Rural (R); town under 2500 pop. (T); city 2500 or more pop. (C). Check one.R ☒ T ☐ C ☐ Robeson County, Lumberton, N.C. Route 2
R ☒ T ☐ C ☐ Columbus County, Evergreen, N.C.
R ☐ T ☐ C ☐ _____
R ☐ T ☐ C ☐ _____

7. EDUCATION:

Grammar school: Graduate? Yes (✓) No () Year graduated 1914-1916High school: Graduate? Yes (✓) No () Year graduated 1916School attended: Evergreen N.C. Buies Creek Academy
(Name) (Place) (State)

(Whether graduate or not; if more than one was attended, show the last one.)

College: Years attended: None () One () 2-3 () Graduate (✓)
Whether graduated or not, list college(s) attended: (EXAMPLE: 1935-'38)Alford P. Stephens Wake Forest N.C. 4 A.B.
(Name) (Place) (State) (Years attended) (Degree)

(Name) (Place) (State) (Years attended) (Degree)

Graduate-level: List college(s), seminary(ies), etc. attended; earned degrees

(Name) (Place) (State) (Years attended) (Degree)

Alford P. Stephens Wake Forest University - Degree A.B.
Southern Baptist Seminary, Degree Th.M.

8. SPECIAL AWARDS OR RECOGNITION RECEIVED: (Honorary degrees, such as: D.D., Howard College, 1948; citations, such as: *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, 1939*; honorary positions, such as: "Man of the Year"—Pryor, Okla., 1943; etc.) *News and Observer Tax Head of the Week, Trustee of Campbell College, Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Trustee of Greenville School, N.C., Advisor W.F.O. Member of General Board, twice 2nd degree mason, member*

9. MARITAL INFORMATION:

Spouse	Birthdate of Spouse	Place of Marriage (Town and State)	Date of Marriage
(1)	<i>Jan. 15, 1904</i>	<i>Brie Creek, N.C.</i>	<i>1921</i>
(2)			

Number of children (). List their full names and birthdates: (an example of a married daughter would be: Mrs. John Alan (Mary Lou) Ross, 3-7-1918)

Nov. 23, 1923 *Oct. 4, 1926* *Aug. 18, 1929*
Dr. Edwin W. Stephens, Jr., John A. Stephens, F. Harold Stephens
Mrs. M. P. Stephens (Louise Stephens) Jan. 2, 1922

10. VOCATIONAL HISTORY (List all vocations, occupations, trades, or professions engaged in for two or more years) *Minister 53 years*

11. RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE:

Conversion *Oct. 11, 1904* (Date) (Age) Baptism *Oct. 12, 1904* (Date) *South Branch, Route 2* (Church) (Location of Church)

List any church, other than Baptist, with which formerly affiliated

Ordained as: Minister (✓) Deacon () Other *1921*

1921 (Date ordained) *Evergreen Baptist* (Church) *Evergreen* (Place) *N.C.* (State)

12. LOCAL CHURCH ACTIVITY, UNSALARIED (Place the number of years service, in the space provided, for each office ever held.)

Gen. Supt., Director, President	Dept. Supt., Director, Circle Chm.	Teacher, Counselor, Sponsor, Leader	List below other offices or service, such as: Sec., Assoc. Supt., etc.	Other Offices (give number of years service)
<i>S.S.</i>	<i>Pastor of Baptist Church</i>			Deacon — Ch. Treas. — Trustee — Ch. Library — Usher — Ch. Recreation — Ch. Clerk — Choir Mem. — Other — Choir Direc. — Ch. Committee Chm. —
<i>T.U.</i>	<i>for 53 years</i>			
<i>V.B.S.</i>				List completed Study Course diplomas (Indicate related organizations, such as: S.S., T.U., etc.)
<i>Broth.</i>				
<i>W.M.U.</i>				

13. DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE, UNSALARIED. (Please list positions held in Baptist associations, conventions (state or Southern), national and world-wide organizations, such as; moderator, president, clerk, trustee, board, commission or committee members; etc.)

Example: S.S. Superintendent Bethel Association Kentucky 1942-1944
(Position) (Organization, board, agency, etc.) (State) (Date)

Pastor: First Baptist, Red Springs, N.C. 6 years. Pastor First Baptist - Morehead City, twice, 1929-1938. 1950 1 year, Morehead Baptist Church, Morehead City, N.C. 1938 7 years. Pastor of County Church in Robeson, Columbus, Robeson Counties 1950-1970

14. TO BE FILLED OUT ONLY BY THOSE WHO ARE, OR HAVE BEEN, IN SALARIED CHURCH-RELATED VOCATIONS. (Including pastors, denominational workers, missionaries, ministers of education and music, church secretaries, faculty members or employees of Baptist institutions, agencies, etc.)

TYPE AND LENGTH OF SERVICE: List all positions of such service with one or more years of duration; check F (full-time) or P (part-time). Examples:

(Position)	(Church, agency, area, institution, place of service)	(Date of service)
F ☐ P ☒ 1. pastor	County Line Baptist Church, Turkey Creek, La.	1925-1929
F ☒ P ☐ 2. missionary	Ogbomosh, Nigeria, W. Africa	1930-1952
F ☐ P ☒ 3. pastor	County Line Baptist Church, Alico, Texas	3 years
F ☐ P ☐ 4. pastor	First Baptist, Red Springs, N.C.	1929-1931
F ☐ P ☐ 5. pastor	Morehead City, N.C.	1929-1938
F ☐ P ☐ 6. pastor	Morehead Baptist	
F ☐ P ☐ 7. pastor	Church, Burlington, N.C.	1938-1948
F ☐ P ☐ 8. pastor		
F ☐ P ☐ 9. pastor		
F ☐ P ☐ 10. pastor		
F ☐ P ☐ 11. pastor		
F ☐ P ☐ 12. pastor		
F ☐ P ☐ 13. pastor		
F ☐ P ☐ 14. pastor		
F ☐ P ☐ 15. pastor		

15. OTHER TYPES OF RELIGIOUS SERVICE: (In associations, assemblies, colleges, conventions (state or Southern), national or world-wide meetings, such as: speaker, music director, committee chairman, etc.)

Moderator Mt Zion Bap. Association, Trustee Burlington Minister Assembly, Trustee Campbell College, Crossnore High School, Trustee Southwestern Bap. Seminary, Member of N.C. Bap. General Board, Advisor of Wake Forest University, Attended Baptist World Alliance Berlin Germany, News & Observer Tax Head of the Week, 32nd degree mason, Shriner

16. AUTHORSHIP (Include books, booklets, lesson courses or curriculum material, and tracts) (Book, item, etc.) (Publisher) (Date published)

Wrote as a member of staff, Daily Roman, Lumberton, N.C. for 7 or 8 years

17. CLUB OR GROUP MEMBERSHIP: (Service organizations, fraternal, P.T.A., Civic, etc.) List important positions of leadership held *32nd degree mason, Shriner, member of N.C. Historical Association*

18. HOBBIES AND LEISURE INTERESTS:

Favorite *Hunting* Others *Fishing*

19. PUBLIC SERVICE: (Military, educational, political, etc. not previously listed)

Member of General Board N.C. Baptist Convention 2 or 3 times - Travelled widely, Europe, Asia, Holy Land, etc.

The information for items #1-19 has been filled in by Alfred P. Stephens

Mailing address Route 2, Box 455, Lumberton, N.C.

Sources used in compiling the information are: (Example: personal knowledge; minutes, Calvary Baptist Church, Wisner, La.; Court Records, Copiah County, Miss.; etc.)

Memory and Experience

DO YOU HAVE LETTERS, DIARIES,
PHOTOGRAPHS, OR OTHER MEMENTOES????

The Baptist Historical Collection would like to have this material or be allowed to photocopy such items for permanent preservation here in the Collection. We establish personal collections by the name of the donor. Any donated materials relating to the life and endeavors of our N.C. Baptist pastors and denominational leaders will be preserved for future generations of Baptists. Too often in our highly mobile society these items are thrown away or hastily discarded. They should be preserved. Let us know if we can assist you with the preservation of your personal papers. Phone (919) 825-9711, extention 277 collect.

Can you use local photo? If not, send it
back, please

Rev. A. P. Stephens: Always on Call

By JNE HALL
Staff Writer

Most people in Robeson and the adjoining counties don't think their friends have been properly buried unless the funeral was inducted, at least in part, by the Rev. A. P. Stephens of Lumberton.

Although his Baptist to the core and past of six country Baptist churches near Lumberton, about half the funerals Stephens conducts are those of friends in other denominations.

The truth of the matter is that the Lumberton preacher looks upon the ministry chiefly in terms of its pastoral functions and pastoral functions are people, all kinds of people.

In accord with this notion, he spends a good deal of time visiting the sick in the big (200-bed) Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton and frequently visits in the Bladen County Hospital in Elizabethtown and hospitals in Whitewater and Fayetteville. Some two years ago, as a matter of practicality and because the area appealed to him and his wife, the Stephenses moved to a new home a very short block from Southeastern General.

Visits All

Denominations simply doesn't enter into the Rev. Mr. Stephens' pastoral visits. He visits all the sick and his visits are cheerful, for to this Robeson County Baptist minister the Gospel truly is good and happy news.

His days are filled with people—home visits, counseling or deacons' council counseling among my people, particularly

married couples"); visiting in the communities he serves, attending meetings in connection with his churches; and, currently, looking after the 9-to-15-year-old boys' baseball teams recently organized at Dublin and Bloomingdale churches. He remains on call through the night hours answering no matter what the hour requests to come and comfort the dying.

On a typical Sunday, say a fourth Sunday, the Robeson preacher will preach twice in the morning, once in the afternoon and once at night, with a few pastoral visits tossed in for good measure. "Only a young man can do that," he said, laughing.

Country-born and country-bred in Robeson County, the Rev. Mr. Stephens is a true countryman at heart. Although he has held pastorates in small towns and cities (Red Springs, Morehead City, Burlington), he always wanted to be a country preacher. Sixteen years ago he returned to Lumberton and became just that.

Six Churches

He's now pastor of Baptist churches at Romer, Renner, Pleasant Hope, Mt. Elm and Bloomingdale, all in Robeson County, and Dublin Baptist Church in Bladen County. Two of the churches he serves—Mt. Elm and Bloomingdale—were once served by his grandfather, the Rev. M. A. Stephens. He's been pastor at Romer for 16 years and at Renner and Pleasant Hope for 15 years.

At Evergreen in Columbus County, where he spent his "teen years," the Rev. Mr. Stephens has twice been pastor of Ever-

green Baptist Church. His second pastorate there lasted from 1947 to 1960. "I make every effort to help my churches develop into full-time pastorates and when they do I cut loose," he explained. "That's what happened at Evergreen. When it got big enough to have a full-time pastor, I cut loose."

"I've been fortunate in all my pastorates, town and country," he continued. "All my people have been wonderful to me. There are no finer people anywhere than my country people. I'm a countryman and always have been and I love it."

"Here I preach to people the greater number of whom I've known all my life and here, too, I have lots of kinfolks. I perform all the baptisms, weddings and funerals among my people."

The Lumberton preacher is well known among Baptists throughout the State, as well as in Robeson County. He has conducted revivals in 34 of the 66 churches that comprise the Robeson Association. He has served on the General Board of the Baptist State Convention; is a former president of the Burlington City Ministers Association; a former moderator of the Mt. Zion Baptist Association (that included Durham, Burlington and Chapel Hill); and a former trustee of Campbell College, Crossnore School and the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Succeeds Education

A theme that threads his preaching and his life is education—more of it, not less. He is enamored of books (he has a

fine library) and feels "I'm in good company when I'm with my books." He constantly urges young people to go to college. "I was one of the early contenders for co-ed at Wake Forest College," he said, adding that "I lost my shirt to some people but I soon got another." He smiled.

Alford F. Stephens was born in Robeson County on July 17, 1895, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Stephens. He grew up in Robeson but in his teens the family moved to Evergreen in Columbus County. When he was about 18 he "felt the Lord wanted me to preach" and he set out for Campbell College (then a high school) with \$19 in his pocket.

The future minister worked his way through Campbell firing the boiler in the girls' dormitory. Toward the end of his stay there he got into the "tailoring" business, measuring boys for suits bought from a manufacturer. This proved profitable and he continued it while at Wake Forest College. He met other college expenses by preaching once a month at Collins Grove Baptist Church near Holly Springs in Wake County. Later in his college career he became pastor of his home church, Evergreen Baptist, and commuted between Wake Forest and Evergreen.

Stephens graduated from Wake Forest in 1920 with an A.B. degree and promptly married Mary E. Stephens (no kind of Fuquay Springs. Together they went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex., where both

look courses. The Rev. Mr. Stephens was graduated from the seminary in 1923 with a Th.M. degree. A pastorate near Fort Worth helped him pay his seminary expenses.

Four Children

The Rev. and Mrs. Stephens have four children: Mrs. M. P. Nicholson Jr. of Raleigh, Dr. E. W. Stephens of Lenoir, S. C.; Dr. John A. Stephens of Burlington; and Leonidas Stephens of New York. All the boys are graduates of Wake Forest and Mrs. Nicholson is a graduate of Elon College.

Even now his voice softens when he speaks of the late Dr. J. A. Campbell, founder of Campbell College. "He did more for me than any man ever did, encouraged me, stuck by me."

And there's still a touch of awe in his voice when he speaks of the great teachers he had at Wake Forest and the great leaders he encountered there—Dr. W. L. Potest, Dr. Hubert Potest, Dr. Thurman Kitchen, Dr. Benjamin Stedd, Dr. James Lake. "They taught more than they knew," the Rev. Mr. Stephens said, slowly. "They taught boys to be men."

Although his main business is preaching, as he puts it, the Lumberton minister has a sideline that interests him much—farming. Five miles south of Lumberton on Highway 74 he has a 75-acre farm that not only provides an income and gives him pleasure but keeps him constantly aware of the farmers' problems.

As a consequence, he's not only able to preach the gospel to his people but to discuss with them up to the minute farm news and happenings.

Sermon Ideas

For sermons the writer a new one each week, he gets ideas from the things he sees, hears and observes in his daily rounds. He notes down an idea and mulls it over in the days that follow. Then he goes to the Scripture for pertinent passages, outlines his thoughts and develops the subject into a full sermon.

Reaching back of his desk chair, he opened a drawer beneath the bookshelves and, pointing into it, said: "I have enough notes for sermons here to outlast me."

Nowadays, the Rev. Mr. Stephens stays too busy to indulge in his former recreation, hunting and fishing. He still reads a great deal, however, usually late at night, and he devotes a part of every morning to study. "A lot of people," he observed, "are going fish-by because they either don't read or they read trash."

He's a strong supporter of the Deacons Club at Wake Forest College and he likes to travel. The Stephenses have traveled in every state except Alaska and Hawaii. They've also been in the British Isles, Europe, the Holy Land and Africa.

A man of confident cheerful faith, the Rev. Mr. Stephens surveys his ken with a deeply thankful heart for, as he said humbly, "The Lord has blessed me."

Rev. A. P. Stephens

Staff Photo by Ed Chason

THE ROBESONIAN

129 PUBLISHED DAILY, MONDAY TO FRIDAY IN ROBESON COUNTY LUMBERTON, N. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1964 ESTABLISHED 1870 COUNTRY, GOD AND TRUTH TWENTY-FOUR PAGES—Price Five Cents

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area. In a surprise and dramatic

To Price Supports Feared By Leaders

Concern among leaders that program is in creating sit-
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Under the agreement an ear-
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the Mansfield amendment.
Dirksen reserved the right to
offer such a motion.

Off and on since Aug. 12,
Democratic liberals have been
conducting a filibuster against
the Dirksen-Mansfield amend-
ment designed to force the fed-
eral courts to delay Supreme
Court-ordered reapportionment
of both houses of state legisla-
tures on a population basis.

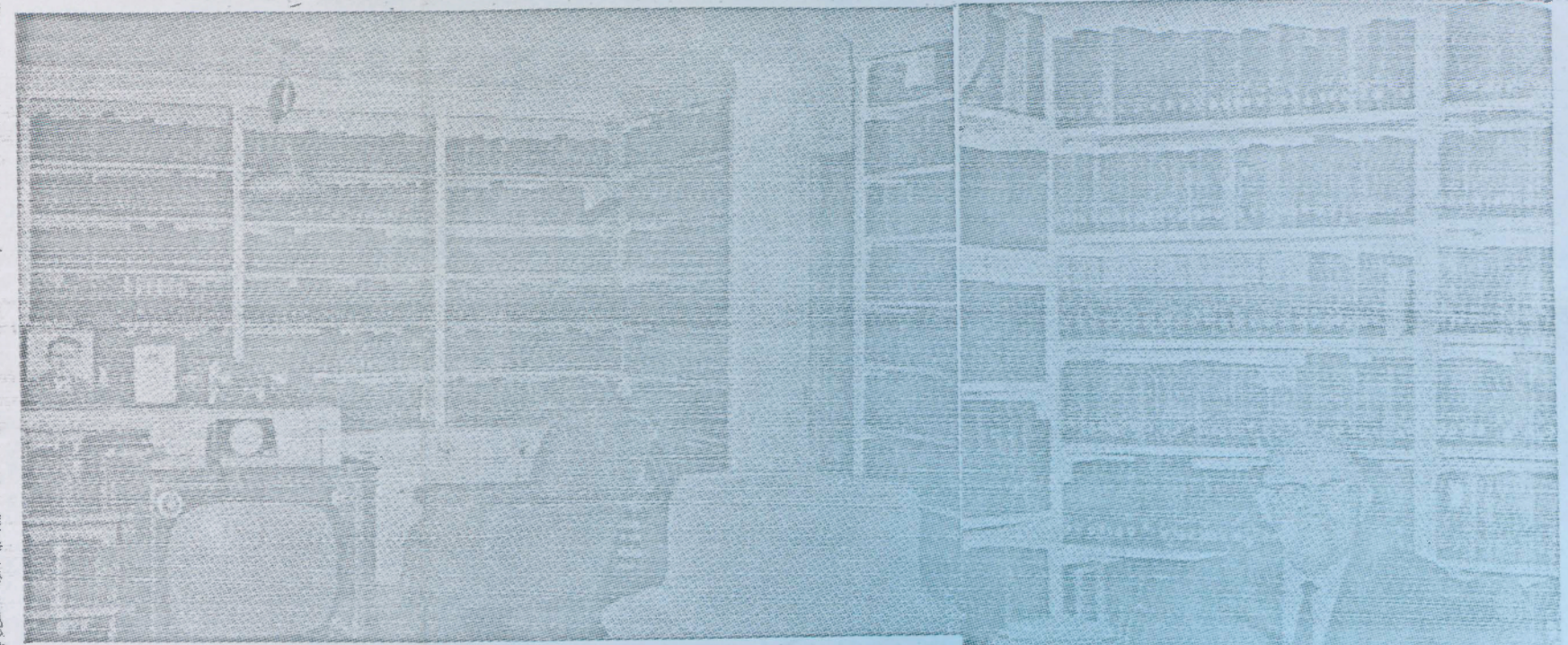
It is pending as a proposed
rider to the foreign aid bill, a
vital part of President John-
son's legislative program.

The compromise would say it
is the "sense of the Congress"
that federal district courts, in
carrying out Supreme Court
orders, should:

1. Allow the legislatures the
length of time provided for a
regular session, plus 30 days,
but not exceeding six months in

MILLER VISIT TO NC
WASHINGTON (AP) —Three
North Carolina stops are on the
campaign schedule of Rep. Wil-
liam E. Miller, R-N.Y., for
Oct. 6.

The Republican vice presi-
dential nominee will visit Wil-
mington, Hickory and Asheville
before flying to Augusta, Ga.



Largest Private Collection In Town?

This elaborate library belongs
to the Rev. A. P. Stephens, pas-
tor of six rural-Robeson Bap-
tist churches. Rev. Stephens, a
life-long Robesonian, has ap-
proximately 3,500 books which
he has collected over the years.

He and his son have cata-
loged them into the Dewey-deci-
mal system, and Mr. Stephens
boasts that any librarian can
find just what he wants by look-
ing at the number on the spine
of the jacket.
He has only one complaint

about the library built in his
home: Architects, who built the
shelves to house his treasured
books, slipped up somehow and
didn't build quite enough shelv-
es; some of his books, therefore,
don't have a home. (Photo by
Ann Genovese.)