

MART BALLEW

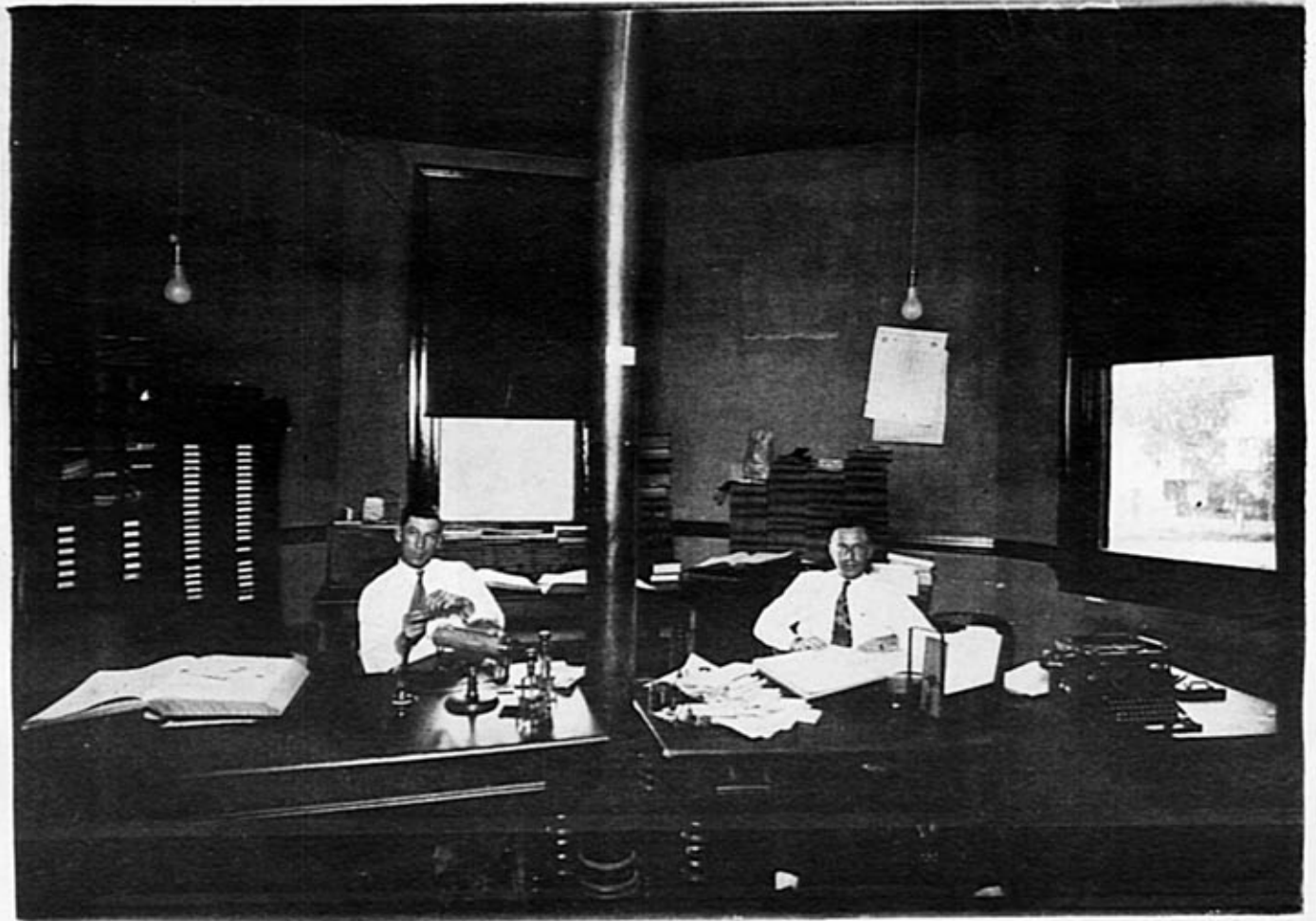
For a period of twenty years, Mart Ballew distinguished himself as Pulaski County's Circuit Clerk and Recorder of Deeds. Upon retirement from office, he had served in a county office longer than anyone up to that date, with the exception of former County Clerk E. G. Williams. Though having campaigned unsuccessfully for office three times before, Ballew's persistence paid off in his being elected for five terms to the office of circuit clerk, serving 1927 through 1946.

In 1945, Mart went into the lumber business with his son-in-law Gene Farnham, who operated Waynesville Lumber Company until it was destroyed by fire in 1973. He also was a builder and constructed several houses and buildings in Waynesville. One of these structures, built with the help of a former sheriff of the county in 1930, housed Roubidoux Gardens. This rock structure currently houses a couple of firms, including Dye Shelter Insurance.

As Recorder of Deeds when the federal government purchased land and built Fort Leonard Wood, Mart took on the additional duty of administering the oath of allegiance to soldiers who wanted to become American citizens. In a ceremony May 20th, 1944, he administered the oath to 29 Fort Leonard Wood soldiers.

One of his many special qualifications for office was the ability to remember in great detail the boundaries of Pulaski County's many farms.

Mart descended from one of this county's earliest settlers. His great grandfather was Jesse Ballew, the first white settler in Laclede County. This rugged pioneer crossed the Gasconade River near where the Indian Trail forded the stream, close to where the Hazlegreen bridge eventually was constructed, and built a small log cabin at the site. Mart's father was a grandson of Jesse Ballew,



MART BALLEW AND CLAUDE MORGAN in the Circuit Clerk's Office in the old county courthouse in Waynesville . Picture taken about 1939. Courtesy of Maxine Farnham.

David Martin Ballew.

Born in 1894, Mart grew up near where his famous ancestor had originally settled. To attend Richland High School, he rode the distance there and back on horse-

back. After attending Springfield Normal School, which is now S-M-S, Mart taught for thirteen years.

He married Molly Carver May 1st, 1923, in Waterloo, Illi-

nois. Their marriage produced two daughters, Maxine Ballew Farnham and Jean Etta Ballew Browne.

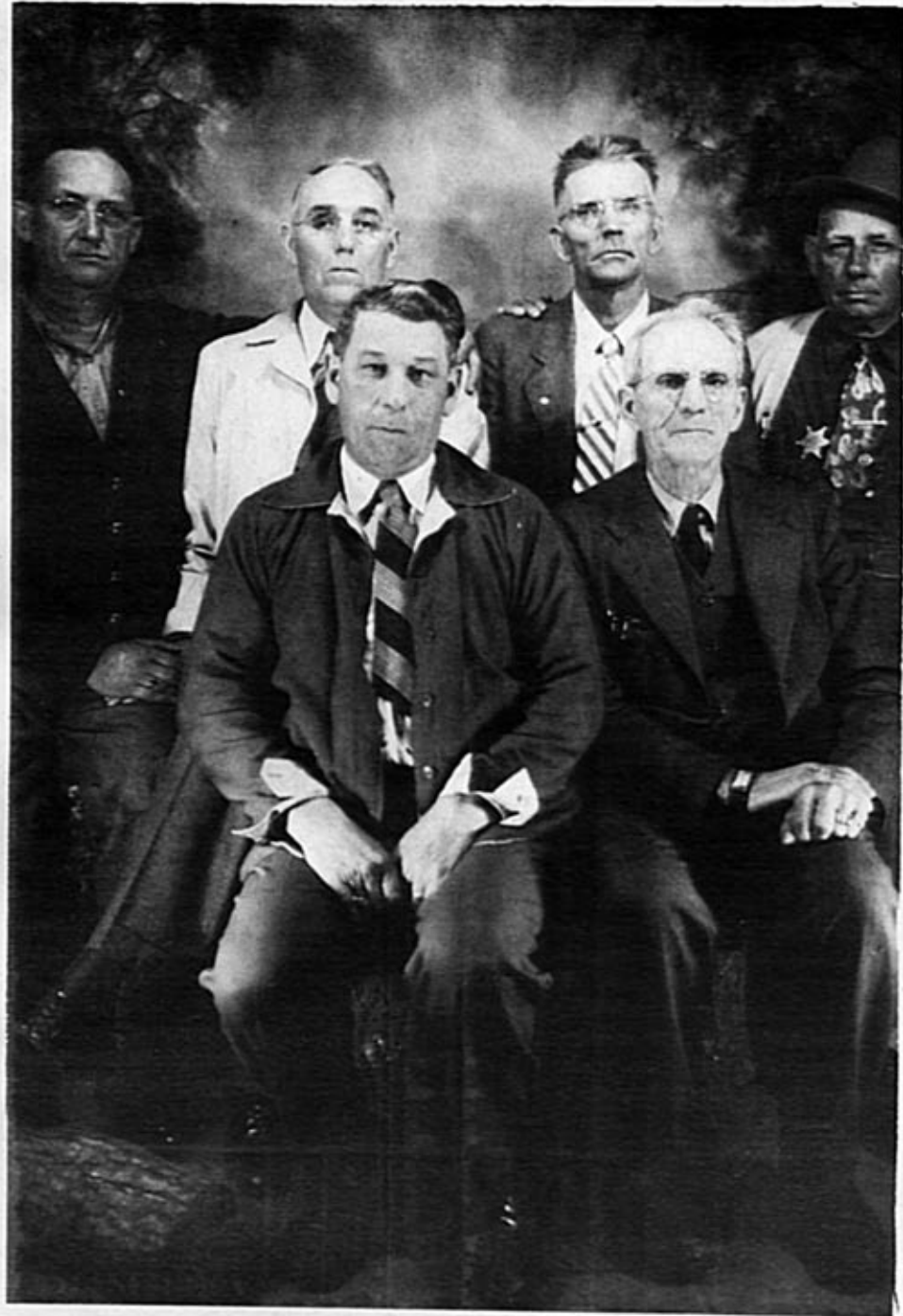
Mart Ballew died in 1954.



WAYNESVILLE LUMBER COMPANY
Courtesy of Maxine Farnham.



MART BALLEW (around 1945.) Courtesy Of Maxine Farnham



MART BALLEW SITTING IN THE FRONT ROW NEXT TO JUSTICE OF THE PEACE J.L. HICKS. Sheriff Everett Pummill is the man with the star badge on the right in the back row. Courtesy of Maxine Farnham.



MART AND MOLLY BALLEW. Courtesy of Maxine Farnham.



MART BALLEW at around age 20, standing on a street in Richland. Courtesy of Maxine Farnham.