

Hale R. Stancil
Circuit Judge – Fifth Judicial Circuit
110 NW 1st Ave.
Ocala, FL 34475
(352) 401-6763
October 13, 2010

Not complete

JUDGES OF MARION COUNTY¹, FLORIDA

Marion County was created in 1844, when Florida became a state. Marion County was a part of the Eastern Circuit, which included fourteen other counties located east of the Suwannee River. In 1868, the Eastern Circuit ended and Marion became a part the newly created Fifth Circuit.

The following individuals served as County Judges in Marion County from 1845-1868:

Judge of Probate (Term of 4 years)

John M. McIntosh ² Born 2 Aug. 1807 Died 23 Oct. 1888	1845-1849	
Soloman F. Halliday ³	1849-1851	Resigned (Born about 1805 in NY, Resided in Alachua, Florida in 1850 census listed as S.F. Halliday).
William McGahaen	1851-	
John M. McIntosh	1851-1859	
William F. Harrison*	1859-	
Robert Crutchfield*	1862-	
BG Mills*	1862	

¹ In 1843, Alachua County was divided to form Levy, Marion, and Benton (Hernando) Counties.

² John McIver McIntosh was born in Moore County, NC. He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1843. The Florida legislature met In July 1845 and he was appointed first, Judge of Probate for Marion County and he served a 4 year term. Elected Judge of Probate in Oct 1851 for 2 year term by 65 votes and reelected in 1853 over the Whig Party Candidate Major Dixon. Oldest resident of Marion County at the time of his death. Buried in the Jim Carter cemetery, about six miles west of Ocala on state road 27.

³ Was a member of the first county commission.

F.S. Caldwell*	1863
Fred Sanders*	1865
D.S. Dupris*	1866
W.W. Matchel*	1866
H.L. Mann*	1866
Thomas Williamson*	1866
D.B. Copplemann*	1866
Retis Williams*	1867
Robert Bullock* ⁴	1867
H.W. Long*	1869
W.M. Hillyer*	1868
Edward Barker*	1868
J.J. Moreolour*	1871
George Tehnbouer*	1871
Wm R. Hillyer*	1871-1872
James T. Stockton	1863-
Robert Bullock	1865-1866
Born 8 Dec. 1828	
Died 27 July 1905	

Judge of Criminal Court (Term of 2 years)

Robert Bullock	1866-1869
Born 8 Dec. 1828	
Died 27 July 1905	

James A. Wiggins	1867-1868	Resigned
------------------	-----------	----------

The Constitution of 1868 in Article VI Section 9 established the county court: There shall be a county court organized in each county. The Governor shall appoint a county judge for each county, who shall be confirmed by the Senate, and such judge shall hold

⁴ Robert Bullock was a field commander during the Civil War. After the war he returned to Ocala to practice law and was elected a probate court judge in Marion County in 1866. In 1879, he was elected to the state legislature and later was elected and served two terms in the US House of Representatives.

his office for four years from the date of his commission, or until his successor is appointed and qualified.

Edward Barker 1869-1871

The following individuals served as County Judges in Marion County from 1871: (Term of 4 years)

Wm R. Hillyer ⁵	Feb. 1871-	Removed from office in January 1877
John M. McIntosh	Feb. 1877-Feb. 1881	(1879 entry as county judge and ex-officio judge of probate 2 Mar 1879)
Samuel F. Marshall ⁶	Feb. 1881-1889	Probably two terms
W. S. Bullock ⁷ Born 16 May 1856 Died 28 May 1935	1882	
J. H. Williams ⁸	1885-1887	
Richard McConethy	Jan. 1887-Jan. 1893	
James H. Hill	Jan. 1893-Jan 1897	Died during term

*From the Probate Inventories Book 1859-1892 in the archives of the Clerk of Court for Marion County, FL.

⁵ Have not been able find much information of Judge Hillyer. However I did find the following contained in the book, History of Women Suffrage 1868-1885 at page 829 "In 1880 the agricultural department at Washington, paid a premium \$12 to Madame Atzeroth of Manatee for the first pound of coffee ever grown out of doors in the United States."

"The following is from a letter to the Savannah News, reporting a judgment rendered by a Florida County Judge, in a case between an old blackman and his wife:"

Ocala, Florida May 12, 1874

"Be it know throughout all Christendom that the husband is the head of the wife, and whatever is his'n, and whatever is hers is his'n, and come weal or woe, peace or war, the right of all property is vested in the husband, and the wife must not take anything away. The ox belongs to Uncle Ben, and he must keep it, and the other things, and if the old woman quits she must go empty handed. Know all that this is so by order of the Judge of Probate." Signed Wm R. Hillyer

⁶ Ex-officio Justice of the Peace 1876-1878

⁷ William Simeon

⁸ Ex-officio Justice of the Peace

Robert Bullock ⁹ Born 8 Dec. 1828 Died 27 July 1905	10 Jun 1897	Completed Hill's term and was elected 8 Nov. 1898 for the years 1899-1000 term in Jan. 1901 and Jan. 1905
Joseph Bell ¹⁰	9 Aug. 1905	Elected in Nov. 2006 for Judge Bullock's unexpired term in Aug. 1907 and served another term from Jan. 1909-Jan. 1913
William E. Smith	Jan. 1913-Jan. 1921 (Re-elected in 1917)	
L. E. Futch ¹¹ Born 20 Aug. 1892 Died 17 Aug. 1969	Jan. 1921-1941	
D. R. Smith ¹² 18 Jun 1913 Died 9 Dec 1995	Jan. 1941-July 1957 (Appointed to the Circuit Bench in 1957 and served until his retirement in 1978)	
Lewis O. Myers, Jr. Born 16 Dec. 1921 Died 11 Jan. 1996	July 1957-	Unseated in 1968 election by J. Elwyn Leak
J. Elwyn Leak Born 1939 Died 27 Apr. 2009	Jan. 1969-June 1971 (Resigned in 1971)	
Seymour Hopper Rowland Born 24 Mar 1922 Died 25 June 1987	_____ 1971- Jan. 1973	Unseated in 1972 election by Clyde G. Trammell
Clyde G. Trammell Born 12 Mar. 1921 Died July 1983	Jan. 1973-July 1983	Died in Office in July 1983
William T. Swigert	20 Aug. 1973- 23 Sept. 1974 (Elected to the Circuit Bench in 1974)	
Carven D. Angel	Nov. 1974-1978	(Elected to the Circuit Bench in 1978)

⁹ Commissioned 10 June, 1897.

¹⁰ Commissioned ad interim 9 Aug. 1905.

¹¹ Leverett Earl Futch was elected in 1921 and issued his commission by Governor Sidney J. Catts.

¹² Judge Smith presided over the Pitts and Lee murder case after his appointment as a circuit court judge

Raymond T. McNeal	Jan 1979-Dec 1983 (Elected to the Circuit Bench in 1983)
Hale R. Stancil	Jan. 1983-Dec. 1993 (Appointed to Circuit Bench in Jan. 1994)
Victor J. Musleh, Jr.	1983-1988 (Appointed to the Circuit Bench in 1988)
Thomas D. Sawaya	Jan. 1987-Dec. 1990 (Elected Circuit Court Judge in 1990 and remained in that position until he was appointed to Fifth District Court of Appeal in Feb. 2000.
John E. Futch	4 Feb 1988
Sandra E. Stephens	Jan. 1991-June 2000
Janet W Behnke	Mar 1994 Appointed to replace Hale R. Stancil, unseated by Francis S. King in 1994 fall election
Frances E. King	3 Jan. 1995-Jan 2007
S. Sue Robbins	15 Aug. 2000- 31 Dec. 2001
Robert James McCune, Jr.	Mar. 2002
Steven G. Rogers	Nov.2005
Sarah Ritterhoff Williams	Jan. 2007