

Alexander, Julia McGehee ^[1]

Alexander, Julia McGehee

by Harold J. Dudley, 1979; Revised by SLNC Government and Heritage Library, July 2023

14 Jan. 1876–23 Feb. 1957

Julia McGehee Alexander was an attorney, author, legislator, and historian. She was born of Scot-Irish ancestry at Enderly, her father's plantation, three miles north of [Charlotte](#) ^[2] in [Mecklenburg County](#) ^[3]. Her father, [Captain Sydenham B. Alexander](#) ^[4], was a U.S. congressman and North Carolina Senator. Julia Alexander's mother was Pauline Violet Nicholson.

Julia Alexander was the second woman to be licensed to practice law in North Carolina and the first woman to enter independent law practice in the state. She was also the second woman to serve as a representative in the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1925, behind [Lillian Exum Clement Stafford](#) ^[5] in 1920. Following graduation from [Mary Baldwin College](#) ^[6] in Staunton, Virginia, she studied law at [The University of North Carolina](#) ^[7] where she was president of her class, then at the [University of Michigan](#) ^[8], and still later at [Columbia University Law School](#) ^[9] in New York. After her admission to the North Carolina bar in 1914, she practiced law in [Charlotte](#) ^[2]. She served as a representative in the North Carolina legislature from 1925 to 1927. She was a vice-president of both the [Mecklenburg Bar Association](#) ^[10] and the [American Bar Association](#) ^[11], and in 1924 she represented the [National Bar Association](#) ^[12] as a guest of the British bar (while in London was entertained at Buckingham Palace by Queen Mary). Her chief legislative interests were taxes and agriculture.

Alexander was elected the first president of the [North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women](#) ^[13] in 1919. The first regent of the Mecklenburg chapter of the [Daughters of the American Revolution](#) ^[14] (1912), she was also lifetime president of the Stonewall Jackson chapter of the [United Daughters of the Confederacy](#) ^[15]. She had a charter membership in the American Legion Auxiliary of Hornet's Nest, Post 9. As the official Mecklenburg county historian, she was partly instrumental in having the historic U.S. Mint rebuilt as the [Mint Museum](#) ^[16]. She helped organize the [Charlotte Humane Society](#) ^[17], and served as its first president. In 1932 she chaired the George Washington Bi-Centennial Commission for Charlotte. She was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church and engaged in various philanthropic causes.

Miss Alexander was author of *Charlotte in Picture and Prose. A Short History of Mecklenburg County* ^[18], and *Mothers of Great Men* ^[19]. Her hobbies included historical research, sports, and travel.

She was buried in Elmwood Cemetery, [Charlotte](#) ^[2].

References:

American Women, vol. 2 (1939–40).

Ellis, Marion A., Howard E. Covington, and E. Osborne Ayscue. *An Independent Profession : A Centennial History of the Mecklenburg County Bar*. Davidson N.C: Lorimer Press. 2012. Accessed September 19, 2022 at: <https://archive.org/details/independentprofe0000elli> ^[20].

Charlotte Observer, 23 Feb. 1957.

North Carolina Manual (1925).

North Carolina Presbyterian News, October 1965.

Presbyterian Church in the U.S., *Minutes of the Sessions*, North Carolina Synod (1909).

Raleigh News and Observer, 21 Dec. 1924.

Additional Resources:

Alexander, Julia in Mecklenburg Bar News: http://www.meckbar.org/newsevents/Alexander.Julia_.pdf ^[21]

Alexander, Julia M. *Charlotte in picture and prose; an historical and descriptive sketch of Charlotte, North Carolina* [New York, Blanchard Press, 1906] Image. Accessed September 19, 2022 at: <https://www.loc.gov/item/07000420/> ^[22].

Alexander, Julia McGehee. *Findagrave.com*. Accessed September 19, 2022 at: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/34265937/julia-mcgehee-alexander> ^[23].

Subjects:

Biographies ^[24]

Historians ^[25]

Lawyers ^[26]

Writers, journalists, and editors ^[27]

Authors:

Dudley, Harold J. ^[28]

Origin - location:

Charlotte ^[29]

From:

Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press.^[30]

1 January 1979 | Dudley, Harold J.

Source URL:<https://ncpedia.org/biography/alexander-julia-mcgehee>

Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/alexander-julia-mcgehee> [2] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/charlotte> [3] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/mecklenburg> [4] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/alexander-sydenham-benoni> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/stafford-lillian> [6] <http://www.mbc.edu/> [7] <https://ncpedia.org/university-north-carolina-chapel-hi> [8] <http://www.umich.edu/> [9] <http://www.law.columbia.edu/> [10] <http://www.meckbar.org/> [11] <http://www.americanbar.org/> [12] <http://www.nationalbar.org/> [13] <http://www.bpw-nc.org/> [14] <https://ncpedia.org/daughters-american-revolution> [15] <http://www.hqudc.org/> [16] <http://www.mintmuseum.org/> [17] <http://www.humanesocietyofcharlotte.org/> [18] <https://archive.org/details/charlotteinpicu00alex> [19] <https://archive.org/details/mothersofgreatme00alex> [20] <https://archive.org/details/independentprofe0000elli> [21] http://www.meckbar.org/newsevents/Alexander,Julia_.pdf [22] <https://www.loc.gov/item/07000420/> [23] <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/34265937/julia-mcgehee-alexander> [24] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/biography-term> [25] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/historians> [26] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/lawyers> [27] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/writer> [28] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/dudley-harold-j> [29] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmon-24> [30] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/dictionary-no>