

Martin, Charles Henry ^[1]

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by [William S. Powell](#) ^[2], 1991

28 Aug. 1848–19 Apr. 1931

Charles Henry Martin, congressman and Baptist clergyman, was born near Youngsville, [Franklin County](#) ^[3], the son of William K. and Lucy Temperance Jones Martin. He was the great-grandson of [Nathaniel Macon](#) ^[4]. After his graduation from [Wake Forest College](#) ^[5] in 1872, he taught Latin at the college for two years and then at the [Chowan Baptist Female Institute](#) ^[6] in Murfreesboro. For a time he was principal of Yadkin Mineral Springs Academy at Palmerville in [Stanly County](#) ^[7]. Martin studied law at the University of Virginia, was admitted to the North Carolina bar in 1879, and practiced first in Louisburg and later in Raleigh. Ordained to the ministry in the [Baptist church](#) ^[8] in Rolesville in 1886, he undertook a course of study at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. With no initiative on his part, he received the [Populist](#) ^[9] nomination for Congress in 1895. Following a contested election, he was declared the winner and served two terms from 1896 until 1899, his opponent already having served a part of the first term.

Martin was pastor of churches in [Richmond](#) ^[10], [Stanly](#) ^[7], and [Anson](#) ^[11] counties. In Anson, he was pastor of the Polkton Baptist church for many years. A poet and a contributor to numerous periodicals, he had the manuscript of a book, "The Theory of Evolution," ready for publication at the time of his death. Its purpose was to refute Darwin's theory of evolution.

Martin married Mary Lemuel Williams in 1889, and they were the parents of Isaac W., Lucie, Annabel, and Mildred. He was buried in the Williams cemetery at Polkton.

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Subjects:

[Biographies](#) ^[15]

[Lawyers](#) ^[16]

[Public officials](#) ^[17]

[Religious Leaders and Clergy](#) ^[18]

Authors:

[Powell, William S.](#) ^[19]

Origin - location:

[Hertford County](#) ^[20]

[Murfreesboro](#) ^[21]

[Anson County](#) ^[22]

[Franklin County](#) ^[23]

[Youngsville](#) ^[24]

[Richmond County](#) ^[25]

[Stanly County](#) ^[26]

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