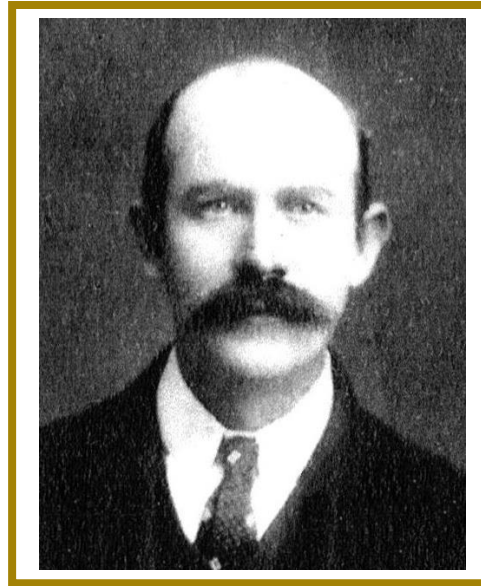




# ALONZO C. SOWELL

## 20<sup>TH</sup> SHERIFF



Alonzo Campbell (A. C.) Sowell served as Sheriff from 1901 – 14.

A.C. Sowell was born February 13, 1871 in Henry County to Martin Van Buren Sowell and Mary Jane Whitaker Sowell. A. C. was one of eight children.

He married Antoinette E. Culpepper, also of Henry County, on January 21, 1891. They had six children. Antoinette was born to Robert Jefferson and Mary Elizabeth (Graham) Culpepper on September 19, 1871. Antoinette died November 26, 1973 at the age of 102, outliving all their children.

A. C. was elected Sheriff in 1901 reportedly after a local “bad man had run the town marshal out of town”. Although he had no interest in politics, he was well known and friends convinced him to run for Sheriff. Lon served until December 1914 when he resigned and went to Atlanta to work for the Federal Government. There he served in several law enforcement positions until becoming a Deputy U. S. Marshal. He retired from the U. S. Marshal Service at the age of 71 in May, 1942 due to illness.

A. C., also known as Lon, was six foot three inches tall, red headed and blue eyed. The newspaper article after his death said of his 42 years in law enforcement that he was “one of the last of the horse and buggy sheriff’s” who “...was a gentle, friendly man, the big officer was never known to have to had trouble with a prisoner or had to use violence to make an arrest.” A. C. was a deeply religious man who made hundreds of arrests and is said to have had the ability to “make and retain the friendship of all of his prisoners.”

As a career lawman, Lon strongly supported the developing improvements in law enforcement techniques and the use of forensics and technology.

He served on the Board of Commissioners for Henry County in 1941.

A. C. died in Fulton County on February 9, 1943 after a lingering illness.

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If you have photographs or additional information about past Sheriffs' of Henry County that you would like to share for this display, please contact Major Jack Oakman at 770-288-7034.