

A fascinating court case which came up about 1815 was one involving the then young Dr. John Hunter Pope and Peter Bennett. Old Peter Bennett served as a constable of the French Store District of Wilkes, so-called because of the refugees from Santo Domingo. Bennett was a gaunt, pigeon-toed man with unusually long arms who was quite celebrated as a county character. Having come to Dr. Pope for medical attention, he was dissatisfied with the doctor's fee and refused to pay. Taken to court, Bennett defended his own case and with an impassioned, if homespun, plea, convinced the jury to side with him in this rather humorous miscarriage of justice. Bennett was later vividly, and accurately, described as "a high Jack Straw of an old fellow that didn't give a damn."