

\*\*\*\*\* IN MEMORIAM \*\*\*\*\*

HON. JOSHUA ERIC DODGE.

BORN OCT. 25, 1854-

DIED MAY 2, 1921.

BY THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF RACINE COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

Joshua Eric Dodge was born at Arlington, Massachusetts, October 25, 1854. He was a graduate of Iowa College at Grinnell, Iowa, and of the Law Department of Boston University. He came to Racine in the year 1878 and associated with Hon. John T. Fish, since deceased, in the practice of the law. Thereafter he was a member of the law firms of Fish & Dodge, Fish, Dodge & Fish, Dodge & Fish and Dodge & Kearney, in the order given. He discontinued practice at Racine in the year 1894 and accepted the position of Assistant Attorney General of the United States under President Cleveland. He retired from that position at the end of the presidential term, returned to Wisconsin and reengaged in the practice of the law at Milwaukee. On November 19, 1898, he was appointed an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hon. Silas U. Pinney. Ill health brought about his resignation from the bench on September 1, 1910. He retired from active work in the profession and died at the City of Milwaukee on the second day of May, 1921, in the 67th year of his age.

At a meeting of the Bar Association of Racine County, held recently, the undersigned were appointed a Committee to prepare and present to the courts of record of Racine County suitable resolutions touching the death of Justice Dodge. In the performance of that duty the Committee begs leave to submit the following:-

WHEREAS,-

Honorable Joshua Eric Dodge, formerly a member of the bar of Racine County, and, later, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Wisconsin, died at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on May second, 1921, and,-

WHEREAS,-

Through his learning, his unflinching integrity of character and purpose, and his fidelity to duty, Justice Dodge endeared himself to his friends and associates and earned and enjoyed the esteem of the people of the state at large.

Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED:-

That in the death of Honorable Joshua Eric Dodge the bench and bar of Racine County mourns the passing of an able lawyer, a just and fearless judge, a genial and dependable friend, and a wise, progressive and public spirited citizen.

Further RESOLVED:-

That as a further mark of our respect and esteem these resolutions, with the accompanying notes, be offered for record in the courts of record of Racine County and in the Supreme Court at Madison, Wisconsin, and that a copy be forwarded to the surviving members of the family of the deceased.

Dated September 29, A.D.1921.

Wm M. Kamey  
C. C. Gering  
R. M. K.

May It Please the Court:

The members of the Committee appointed by the Racine County Bar Association to prepare and present a Memorial on the life of the late William Wallace Storms respectfully submit the following:

Memorial of the Racine County Bar Association

William Wallace Storms was born in Walworth County, Wisconsin, on March 22, 1872. His father was Charles L. Storms and his mother Lucia G. (Spoor) Storms. At the age of seven years he moved with his parents to Burlington, Wisconsin, where he spent his boyhood. He there attended and completed both the common school and the high school. He was a bright and eager student and finished the high school at the age of sixteen years. He thereafter attended Beloit College and on completion of his studies there engaged in teaching for a time.

For five years he was Principal of the school at Union Grove and for one year Assistant Principal of the High School at Burlington. From 1899 to 1903 he was County Superintendent of Schools of this County. As a teacher and County Superintendent he had few, if any, equals. He was a natural born teacher, was specially gifted in the faculty of explaining any proposition in words so simple and clear that it was easy for the dullest mind to comprehend.

But he never had intended to make teaching his permanent occupation. He had early decided on the practise of law as his profession, and while teaching had commenced the study of law. He later attended the law school of the University of Wisconsin and was graduated with the Class of 1905. He had, however, previously taken and successfully passed the State Bar Examination in the summer of 1904 and began the practise of law at Racine on September 17, 1904. He was engaged continuously in the practise of law in Racine from that date until the day of his death.

Mr. Storms brought to the practise of his profession

many natural gifts, a strong and vigorous body, a clear intellect, thus equipped he was capable of enduring hard and continuous mental labor. Never indolent, nor careless, with a mind active, orderly and logical, he accomplished much; and he prided himself upon having his records and papers systematically kept and filed. Nor was he content in his practise to rely for success upon his natural endowments but applied himself assiduously to each problem with unabated zeal and industry. He crowded his work and was uniformly ready with his cases as they appeared on the day calendar, rarely asking for a continuance or seeking delay.

A period of less than twenty years marks the beginning and ending of our brother's career as a lawyer. For most members of our profession, so short a period is barely sufficient to lay a foundation for future realization, but Mr. Storms made more than ordinary progress; he had the advantage of being well and favorably known throughout the county at the beginning of his practise, his friends brought him business from the start, and he served their interests faithfully and loyally. The volume of business handled by him compares favorably with that of the leading practitioners of any community. His trial work extended into adjoining and other circuits, and he was frequently before the Supreme Court in the argument of causes.

Mr. Storms liked the practise of law; he took a pardonable pride in having his pleadings and papers neatly and orderly drawn and being prompt in dispatching business. Here and there he introduced well considered and worked out changes and innovations in office practise which caught the attention and incited the emulation of other members of the bar.

As a trial lawyer he attained enviable distinction; he was a good battler and fought without fear or favor. One felt that it was his ambition to be a leader of the Bar, and he worked earnestly and zealously to reach this end. The facts of his cases were all and well presented, and he was usually prepared

with a reason and with authority for his objections to or in support of tendered evidence. Any argument he was called upon to make he presented vigorously and lucidly, and in a masterful manner.

As a criminal prosecutor he had few equals. He was District Attorney of this county from January 1, 1911, to January 1, 1917, and his record in this office establishes that he has never been surpassed in this county in persuading juries to convict the persons he had informed against for crimes. He gave to Racine County the unqualified benefit of all his natural gifts and attainments and his services to this county deserve that sanest and highest praise, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

He was sincerely interested in public matters. For seven years he was a member of the Board of Education of the City of Racine. During the war he worked unceasingly as Chairman of Registration Board Number Two. He frequently served as a Delegate to Republican State Conventions and once as a Delegate to the National Republican Convention. At the time of his death he was President of the Racine-Kenosha County Training School for Teachers. In fact he took an active part in almost all matters affecting the public interest. He was also connected with practically all the fraternal organizations of the city and took an active part in their work. He was a member of both the State Bar Association and the Racine County Bar Association. He was especially active in the latter and always urged that the organization should take an active part in public matters.

He was married on June 23, 1906, to Miss Edith Hanson, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Hanson. He died on the morning of October 19, 1921. He is survived by his widow and two children, William Wallace and Eleanor Jean; and also ~~two~~ <sup>three</sup> sisters, Miss Edith Storms, of Burlington; and Mrs. <sup>and Mrs. Grace Regal of Philadelphia Pa.</sup> Ralph Gilmore, of Racine, and one brother, Lucien Storms, of Waterford.

As a lawyer, as a man, his life was too brief. When called elsewhere he was just entering upon the reaping of the harvest. He had, indeed, accomplished much, more than man who have practised law twice his number of years. In placing an estimate upon his work, it is just to say that he made excellent use of his powers and that he has left a good and enduring impression.

Dated at Racine this 21st day of November, A. D.  
1921.

*Chas. Benson*  
*Fulton Thompson*  
*W. E. Walker*  
Committee