

May it please the Court and Members of the Bar and Fellow Citizens:

The President of the Racine County Bar Association has appointed a Committee consisting of William D. Thompson, E. John Wehmhoff and Elbert B. Hand to announce to this Court in this formal manner the death of our friend and brother, Louis H. Rohr, a member of the Bar of Racine County, who died at the City of Milwaukee May 16th, 1922.

Although most of us were present on that May day when our dear friend was laid away among the flowers he loved so well, when all nature was bursting into bloom under the quickening touch of spring; yet, in accord with the honored custom of our profession it is fitting that some formal recognition of the event be taken, so that the records of this Court may speak in imperishable words of the love and esteem in which Louis H. Rohr was held by all who knew him, and particularly by the members of the Bar of this Court with whom he practiced.

It is appropriate that the memorial of this Committee should be presented by one who knew him well; who saw him daily and by that contact learned to love and admire him for his splendid integrity, his unswerving honesty and above all his kind and simple nature, stripped of all semblance of pretense or artifice. For the life of Louis H. Rohr was an open book. In it was nothing hidden from his God or his fellowman. I now call upon E. John Wehmhoff, his fellow townsman and practitioner at the Bar to present the Memorial.

MEMORIAL OF THE RACINE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION ON
THE LIFE OF LOUIS H. ROHR.

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MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT: The Committee of the Racine County Bar Association presents for record the following memorial on the life of Louis H. Rohr:

Louis Henry Rohr was born in the town of Franklin, in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, on the 25th day of April, 1864. He

died in the City of Milwaukee May 16th, 1922, fifty-eight years of age. He was the son of Jacob and Sophia Rohr, pioneer settlers of Racine and Milwaukee Counties. His father was born in Switzerland January 23rd, 1823, and came to America with his parents when a child, settling in Rochester, New York State. His mother, whose maiden name was Rohrig, was born in Alsace, Germany, March 10th, 1827. She too came to America when a child, eight years of age, and with her parents settled in Rochester.

Jacob and Sophia Rohr were married in Rochester, New York, June 17th, 1847. They moved to Wisconsin with their two oldest children in the early sixties. Here Jacob Rohr began farming, without having had much, if any, farming experience prior to this time. They first lived in the Town of Franklin, Milwaukee County, where Louis H. Rohr was born, and later moved to the Rohr farm in the Town of Raymond, Racine County, near Kneeland, now occupied by the brother Oscar F. Rohr. Here both parents died. Jacob Rohr died at the age of seventy-two years, January 25th, 1895. Sophia Rohr lived to be over ninety-three years of age, and died August 25th, 1919.

Mr. Rohr spent his boyhood days on the farm. He received only a country school education. He often spoke of his lack of schooling and regretted the fact that he did not have high school and college training. However, the foundations were well laid, and this together with his natural desire for knowledge and his varied and extensive reading more than made up for any lack of formal training. As a matter of fact, and as a result of his constant desire for mental improvement, he was better trained and better educated than most men who have had all of the educational advantages.

Mr. Rohr worked at the printer's trade for about six months after leaving the farm. This was in his brother's office in Milwaukee. His brother Jacob L. Rohr, for whom he worked, established the first job printing office on the "South Side."

After his printing experience he taught district school for a number of years, working on the farm during the summer months. It was while teaching school, and boarding at the home of her parents, that he became acquainted with Miss Ella Davis, who he later married.

In the year 1887, 35 years ago, Mr. Rohr went to Burlington, Wisconsin, and began to study law in the office of his brother-in-law, Mr. Thomas M. Kearney. He had decided that he would study either law or medicine, and the opportunity presenting itself, choose the law. He took the State Bar examinations and was admitted to practice August 5th, 1890. He began practicing with Mr. Kearney immediately after being admitted. The firm was known as "Kearney & Rohr" until Mr. Kearney moved to Racine in September of the year 1893. Mr. Rohr practiced in Burlington alone after Mr. Kearney went to Racine, and so continued down to the time of his death last May. On November 21st, 1893, he married Miss Ella Davis, of Milwaukee, daughter of Capt. Charles Davis, a well known Great Lakes navigator.

Mr. Rohr is survived by his wife and one son, Charles D. Rohr, and by three brothers, Dr. John H. Rohr, of North Milwaukee, Oscar F. Rohr, of Raymond, Jacob L. Rohr, of Wauwatosa, and two sisters, Mrs. W. A. Whitney, of Summer Lake, Oregon, and Mrs. Thomas M. Kearney, of Racine, Wisconsin.

During the last thirty-five years of his life Mr. Rohr devoted practically his entire time to the study and practice of his profession. As attorney, he early became acquainted and associated with the late C. B. McCanna in his various enterprises. Mr. Rohr was an important factor in the up-building of the Wisconsin Condensed Milk Company, the Bank of Burlington, and the Burlington Brass Works, industries which have played such an important part in the development of Burlington and its vicinity. He had charge of the legal affairs of these companies and was

consulted at all stages of their progress. Their success stands as a monument to his judgment and ability. At the time of his death Mr. Rohr was Secretary of the Wisconsin Condensed Milk Company, Vice-President of the Bank of Burlington, and Vice-President of the Burlington Brass Works.

When this country was engaged in the World War Mr. Rohr gave his undivided attention and effort to the Government. He was Chairman of the Local Exemption Board for the 3rd District of Racine County. These services covered a period of nearly two years and demanded the highest degree of firmness, of tact and of judgment on the part of the Chairman. For his efficient and conscientious work in this office Mr. Rohr received the highest praise from the heads of this department of the government service. He refused to accept the compensation that the government allowed. He said he was only doing his duty as a citizen.

In politics Mr. Rohr was a Republican. He was always considered the Local Headquarters of the conservative branch of the Republican party. He enjoyed this work. The association with keen, active, capable men appealed to him with great force. He not only followed the political thought and movement of his time with the greatest interest, but he contributed to this thought as well. Men high in the party ranks eagerly sought his views and opinions. He gave his time and his money freely to the advancement of his political ideals. Mr. Rohr never sought a political office for himself. In this he was peculiar, and yet this attitude reflects an outstanding characteristic of his nature, the unselfishness of his disposition. Aside from his war work and work done as a member of the School Board of the Burlington Union School District his influence in public affairs was exerted indirectly through others who held office and who came to him for counsel and advice. Mr. Rohr once stood for election to the office of County Judge. It is certain that had he been elected to that office he

would have performed its duties faithfully and with efficiency.

Mr. Rohr was a great lover of books. He kept his law library up to date by the constant purchase of reports, digests, testbooks and other works of reference. In this particular he went considerably beyond what one would expect of a country lawyer. Beside his interest in the works of his profession Mr. Rohr was interested in general literature. His home library contained many volumes of the better editions which most of us do not purchase. Because of his book interests and associations Mr. Rohr was an exceptionally interesting companion, beside being naturally agreeable, to those fortunate enough to really enjoy his acquaintance. He would illustrate his ideas with quotations from the gems of literature, with bits of odd or quaint learning gathered from far and near, for his own delight and the pleasure of his hearers. He knew Shakespeare and Dickens and the works of the standard authors as probably few lawyers have found time to know them.

Louis H. Rohr was a successful lawyer. He was faithful and loyal to his clients, and they knew it. They received full measure at his hands. They liked him, relied upon him with utmost confidence and trusted him. In association with other attorneys he was kind, agreeable, helpful and appreciative. To his opponants he was fair and just. The fundamental principles of the profession were part and parcel of his make up. In his analysis of right and wrong he drew the lines more closely, and made finer distinctions, and lived up to these measurements. A client said of him - "You can depend upon Rohr's being upon the right side of every moral issue": This is high praise!

Before we close this halting and incomplete enumeration of our colleague's virtues we must call attention to his exceptional modesty and self-effacement. While there was no movement that did not receive his critical attention and no proposition that made for progress that did not receive his unqualified support,

yet he never put himself forward as its sole exponent and defendant. He was content with the privilege of counseling and advising, he was zealous in giving credit where credit was due, where others were concerned, but as for taking or compelling credit to himself he could not arouse any interest. He did his work as it came before him. He was pleased with the opportunity for service. In these respects we associate Mr. Rohr's attitude with the sentiment of the poem:

"Who drives the horses of the sun
Shall lord it but a day;
Better the lowly deed were done,
And kept the humble way.

"The rust will find the sword of fame
The dust will hide the crown;
Ay, none shall nail so high his name
Time will not tear it down.

"The happiest heart that ever beat
Was in some quiet breast
That found the common daylight sweet
And left to Heaven the rest."

(John Vance Cheney.)

Mr. Rohr's home life was ideal. After office hours he was to be found at home where he spent his time in his garden or in his library. The last month of his life seemed especially happy. He seemed in better health than he had been for some time. He rejoiced in the coming of spring. He took greater delight in his beautiful home, in his garden, his shrubs and in the growing things about him. He and Mrs. Rohr were planning an automobile trip through the New England States during the coming summer, and he had ordered a new automobile especially for this purpose.

On Tuesday morning, May 16, last, he took the early morning train for Racine. This was the day he died. He was particularly happy. At Racine he transacted his business, proved a will in the Probate Court and attended to other matters that required his attention. At noon, together with a friend of his boyhood days, he went to Milwaukee planning to attend a Masonic meeting there. He and his friend, Mr. Frank Horton, lunched together,


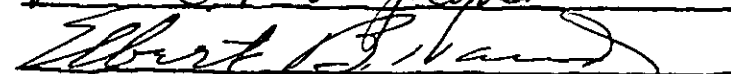
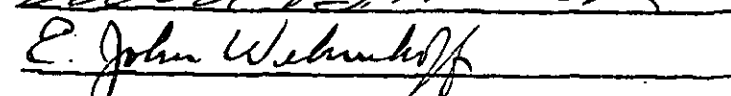
and were just about to separate, when Mr. Rohr complained of a severe headache. His condition suddenly became critical. He lapsed into unconsciousness, and died at the Emergency Hospital within two hours. His brother was called, and every effort made to render assistance, but to no avail.

Mr. Rohr died in the prime of life. As his brother, Dr. John H. Rohr has said: "His sun went down at noon." He was honored and respected by every one. His sudden death has shocked us all. The poem that the late Chief Justice Winslow quoted in response to a memorial on the late John Barnes is equally appropriate here:

"Why mourn for him?
For him the welcome angel came
Ere yet his eye with age was dim
Or bent his manly frame.

"His weapon still was bright,
His shield was lifted high,
To vanquish wrong, to save the right,
What happier hour to die?"

Respectfully submitted:-
November 20th, 1922.

Committee Racine County Bar Association.

May it please the Court:

In concluding this memorial The Committee respectfully ask the adoption of the following Resolutions:

WHEREAS, Death has taken from us our dearly beloved friend and brother, Louis H. Rohr, who died at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on May 16th, 1922, and who for a period of thirty-two years practiced his profession at the Bar of this County and State;

RESOLVED, that while bowing in submission to the Divine Will; we in common with the other members of the Bar deeply deplore his loss;

RESOLVED, that in his death the Bar has been deprived of one of its most useful and honored members, and the community and State in which he lived has been bereft of an upright and exemplary citizen, whose services to his fellowmen will be greatly missed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in remembering his unflinching courtesy, his industry, his keen sense of honor, which stood the test of every experience, we will endeavor to emulate his virtues, to the credit of the beloved profession in which we are co-workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that while we mourn his loss and the departure of his earthly presence, the spirit of his life and acts will be a cherished memory and an example and inspiration to so do and live that it may be said of us as it may be so fittingly said of him; -

"Life is all the sweeter that he lived,
All he loved seems sweeter for his sake;
Death is all the brighter that he died,
Heaven is all the brighter that he's there."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our heartfelt sympathy be tendered to the bereaved family; that this memorial and these Resolutions be spread upon the Minutes of this Court and a copy be transmitted to his widow; and as a further mark of respect that the Courts of this County adjourn for the day.

John C. Hood, Clerk
11-20-22