

IN MEMORIAM
DEATH OF CHARLES DAVIS ROHR.

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May it please the Court:

At a meeting of the Racine County Bar Association recently held, the undersigned were appointed a committee to prepare and present to this court a memorial of the late Charles Davis Rohr, and in compliance with such appointment we beg leave to present to the court this testimonial of affection and esteem for our departed friend and associate at the bar of this court.

Charles Davis Rohr was born at Burlington, Wisconsin, March 25, 1896. He was the only son of attorney Louis H. Rohr and Ella Davis Rohr, now both deceased. He died on July 7, 1933, at the age of thirty-seven years, three months and twelve days. Mr. Rohr received his early education in the public schools and after graduation from the Burlington High School attended both Beloit and Oberlin Colleges. His early inclinations were for a literary or journalistic career along which lines he showed evidence of unusual talent, but in compliance with the earnest wish of his father he entered the Law School of the University of Wisconsin to prepare himself for his life's work.

His college course was interrupted by the World War and without waiting for his call under the draft, he enlisted in the medical corps and served with the thirty-second division in France. At the close of the war he served with the army of occupation in Germany, and was stationed at Coblenz. When troops were withdrawn and his services were no longer needed he returned home and resumed

his interrupted studies. He maintained his interest in the service and was a captain in the Medical Reserve Corps at the time of his death. He was a member of the American Legion and was active in its affairs, having served as commander of the Ross Wilcox Post and held other positions of honor.

Before completing his law course he suffered the untimely loss of his father who died suddenly and at the height of his worthy and useful career as a lawyer and citizen. Charles at once returned from the University and arranged for the carrying on of his father's business. He secured a partner and when the business was well established returned to the Law School from which he was graduated with the class of 1923.

While completing his studies he married Miss Dorothy E. Hahn in 1922 and this union was blessed with four beautiful and gifted children, Louis H., Elizabeth Ann, Davis Charles and Michael John, who were aged approximately nine, six, three and one years at the time of their father's death, and who with their mother are left to mourn the untimely passing of a kind and indulgent husband and father.

As a lawyer Charles Rohr did not seek the lime light or attempt to engage in the trial of contested cases, but sought rather to care for the everyday needs of his clients in his office and in ex parte matters before the courts. He disliked criminal practice and did not become interested in petty disputes and disagreements except as he might be able to reconcile such disputes and help his clients to adjust their differences instead of allowing them to be drawn into expensive litigation. He was a strong advocate of a Small Claims Court for Racine County with an experienced lawyer presiding and holding court in Burlington on certain

days each week, as he saw in such a court a place where people of small means might take their troubles for quick and equitable adjustment without the expense of attorneys fees or the uncertainty of the ordinary Justice Court procedure as it now exists.

In politics Charles, like his father, was a staunch republican of the conservative or stalwart branch of that party. He never sought office for himself, but held office in high esteem and contributed of his time and money freely and cheerfully in the aid of his party and its campaigns.

He was a member of the Racine County Bar Association and of the State Bar Association, and took a keen interest in their affairs. He was actively interested in educational affairs and, on account of his children, in the schools of Burlington, and at the time of his death was a member of the school board of the Burlington Union School District. He was a charter member of the Burlington Historical Society, and was active and enthusiastic in the search for data and relics for the association, and particularly in the ancient Mormon Colony at Voree; as chairman of the committee he had charge of marking the grave of James Jesse Strang in the town cemetery, and he also prepared a paper on the history of the colony. He was also a member of the State Historical Society and of the local Lodge of the Masonic Order.

Like his father, Charles was fond of books and was a voracious reader, spending a large part of his spare time in reading instead of on the golf links or in some other form of active exercise, and this fact probably had a detrimental effect upon his health. He read good books, -- history, art, science, fiction, biography and especially the life of Napoleon Bonaparte of which

he was particularly fond. The library he inherited from his parents with the additions made by him and his wife, is one of the best and most complete in the city of Burlington. The public library in which his wife serves as a member of the board, received his active interest and support and this was especially true of the collection of books purchased with the income from the Rohr endowment established in memory of his father.

As a husband and father he was devoted and indulgent. His children were his especial pride and delight. He spent much time in their company and lavished upon them everything which would contribute to their welfare and happiness. It was a source of great delight to him to watch the unfolding of their intellects and to observe their early indications of becoming lovers of books and reading. He preserved for them the tradition of Santa Claus, and Christmas was a joyous time in the Rohr household. He also was looking ahead and evidently planning for the future in the fond expectation that one of his children would follow in his footsteps as he had followed his father, as witness these paragraphs taken from the provisions of his will,

"I will and direct that my law books, papers and the filing cases containing such papers, together with my office desk and chair, be suitably stored and given to the child of mine who shall first undertake the practice of the law.

"I request that my family papers, bar certificates, etc. be given to my eldest son surviving me, and that any jewelry belonging to my mother which I may have at the time of my death, be given to my surviving daughter".

Such in brief is a summing up of the history and activities of this short but active life. Granting that the old adage, that it takes a young lawyer seven years to establish himself in his profession, still holds true, we must realize that Charles Rohr was just entering upon his period of greatest achievement and usefulness in his profession and in the community in which he lived, and we can only vision the achievements to which he might have attained had he been permitted to live mans allotted span of three score years and ten, by viewing the record of the years already spent, and considering those inherent qualities and talents which entered into the character of the man Charles D. Rohr as he was known to us in our daily association with him.

The only son of devoted parents and with life's path made easy and with every advantage for the gaining of an education placed at his disposal, he fully justified the hope and confidence placed in him, and preserved and maintained to the time of his death those sterling virtues of Christianity, honesty, sobriety and right living which he had inherited in his birth and which had been taught to him in his youth.

Charles Davis Rohr was a true patriot, who defended his country in its time of need and continued subject to its call. He was a loyal citizen, ready and willing to serve in any capacity for the betterment of the community in which he lived. He was a good lawyer, ever zealous in protecting and promoting the interest of his clients and scrupulous and ethical in all his dealings. He was a kind and loving husband and father, a good provider and always solicitous for the welfare of his family. He was a true and loyal friend, always ready to do a favor for another and always ready to

contribute to any cause for the relief of the needy or the betterment of mankind. He was a delightful companion and associate; educated and well read, with a keen wit and ready repartee, -- yet without sting of sarcasm or ridicule.

His life was short but full of action, and while we mourn his untimely death we can but say with the poet:

"We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives,
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

Therefore be it

Resolved: That in the death of Charles Davis Rohr our country has lost a devoted and patriotic citizen, Racine County and the City of Burlington have lost a valued and useful citizen, our profession has lost an upright and conscientious lawyer and his family has lost a kind and loving husband and father.

Resolved further that this memorial be spread upon the records of this court, and a copy thereof, under the certificate of the Clerk and the seal of the Court be transmitted to the widow and family of our deceased brother.

Dated at Racine, Wisconsin, this 20th day of November, 1933.

George D. Waller
E. John W. Schumbert
Nellie E. Karcher
Committee.

FILED

NOV 20 1938

Richard W. Simpson
Clerk of Circuit Court