

WILLIAM SANDERS

October 9, 1852

April 16, 1937

William Sanders was born in the Village of Waterford on October 9, 1852. He was the son of Louis J. and Frances M. Sanders, who were born in Germany, and were pioneer residents of the Village of Waterford. Louis J. Sanders was a cooper by trade and it was in his father's cooperage shop that young William as a boy first acquired habits of industry and perseverance which contributed to his success in later life. He attended as a boy the St. Thomas Parochial School at Waterford but for lack of funds was unable to pursue his studies further; and also because during his later youth he was the sole support of his aging parents. At the age of twenty he was engaged as a clerk by the grocery firm of Heg & Christenson at Waterford for whom he worked thirteen years, until 1885, at which time he established a grocery store of his own and also conducted an office for the writing of insurance and conveyancing. In 1886 he was appointed Postmaster of the Village of Waterford by President Cleveland and again in 1894.

Although his opportunities for education were limited by circumstances, he had a thirst for knowledge and during his years in the grocery business he read law whenever he had the opportunity, beginning with the Commentaries of

Blackstone, which in those days were considered the essential portal to legal lore and practice. Even at that time his advice was sought by his neighbors and friends, and he determined to qualify for legal practice and he accordingly entered the Northern Law School of Indiana where he was graduated; and admitted to practice in the Courts of Wisconsin in 1892 at the age of forty years, where he engaged in his profession actively until the time of his death.

Mr. Sanders' activities, however, were not confined to the law. He was intensely interested in education and in its promotion. He was active in establishing the Joint High School of the Village and Town of Waterford, and was obliged as director of the School District to defend its existence in the Courts, where he prevailed in the Supreme Court of Wisconsin in the case of State ex rel Greeley vs. School District of Waterford, 145 Wisconsin 608. After the continuation of this school had been assured by this decision, a new building was constructed which today remains as a monument to Mr. Sanders' industry and perseverance.

He believed in education. He paid the entire expense of the college and legal education of his nephew, Lewis J. Quinn, a member of the Racine County Bar; also of his nephew, Thomas Quinn, and others of his family.

As he grew older his interests broadened. In 1903 he organized the State Bank of Waterford and held the position of Cashier until the death of Walker Whitley, the then

President, which occurred in 1914, at which time Mr. Sanders was elected President of the Bank, which office he held until the time of his death. Associated with him, during his entire business and professional career, was his sister, Miss Josephine Sanders. Miss Sanders was appointed Cashier of the Bank in 1914, which position she now holds.

As a banker he was conservative and guarded jealously the interests of the depositors. During the depression years of 1932 and following, the integrity and soundness of the Bank were never questioned. No Federal help was needed nor requested. Through the Bank Moratorium and the years after, it has stood and stands today unscathed and unscarred; a monument to the wisdom and foresight of its founder.

As a lawyer Mr. Sanders was highly regarded as an able adviser. His advice was sought, particularly in the settlement of estates and during many years of his legal career his probate practice was as large, if not larger, than that of any other firm of attorneys in the County. He disliked the trial of cases, but his fine business judgment and general knowledge of the farmers' problems caused his advice to be eagerly sought.

His devotion to clients when he believed in their cause is well illustrated in the case of Kortendick vs. the Town of Waterford, which at the time was quite a cause celebre in the community. Mr. Kortendick was his client and suit was brought for the value of a horse which was injured by a fall caused by the horse stepping in a hole in the culvert on one of the Town's highways. The case was tried five times;

once in Justice Court; twice in the Circuit Court, and twice in the Supreme Court, where it is reported in 138 Wisconsin 77 and 142 Wisconsin 413. The Court says in its opinion by Justice Barnes:

"The record does not disclose whether or not the litigants or their ancestors came from Missouri. Be this as it may, a stern purpose is evinced to see that justice is administered as far as earthly tribunals are capable of dispensing it. The damages finally recovered are \$12.50 less than those originally found. The costs are a mere incident anyway, and the wisdom of the fathers in providing that writs of error should never be abolished has been again vindicated. The judge of the Eleventh circuit, who resides in the extreme northwest corner of the state, presided at the last trial in the circuit court. Thus the cause was tried before a judge who was geographically farthest removed from the scene of the conflict, and who presumably was as little liable to have any preconceived opinions or prejudices upon the merits or demerits of the case as any one who could be selected, unless some judge from a foreign jurisdiction were impressed into service."

The opinion is not without a touch of humor, but to Mr. Sanders it was a vindication of a principle and a cause which he believed to be just, and the amount involved or the emoluments received by him were unimportant. He was the soul of undisputed and uncompromising integrity. Although not admitted to the Bar until he was forty years of age, his practice grew because he had the confidence of his people.

At the time of the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 when it was proposed to pipe Waukesha spring water to the fair grounds, Mr. Sanders was active in the project. Land owners in this section began to ask exorbitant prices for rights-of-way through their farm property for the pipe line's

short cut. It was largely through Mr. Sanders' influence with farmers and land owners that the right-of-way was finally secured within the quota set for the project.

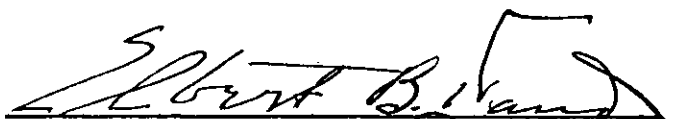
As a citizen of his community Mr. Sanders was outstanding. Any matter of civic betterment for his Village or Town had at all times his active assistance and cooperation.

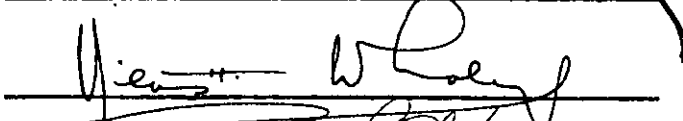
He was a devoted and faithful member of the St. Thomas Aquinas Church and was a member of the State and Racine County Bar Associations, the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin and the Holy Name Society. He gave generously but without ostentation to his church and to every worthy community enterprise.

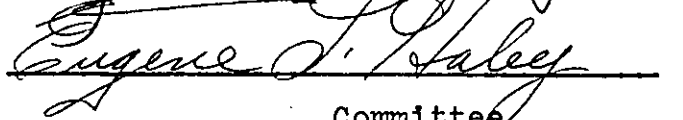
His life is an exemplification of the idea that success need not necessarily be sought in the strife and din of large cities, nor in seething marts of trade, but may be attained in the peace and quiet of a rural habitation. He lived his life on the spot where he was born, which looked upon the noble spires of the church where he worshiped, and upon the river which wandered silently through the beautiful village he loved so well.

Mr. Sanders never married. The devotion and affection which might have been given to a wife and children were lavished upon his devoted sister Josephine, who survived him, and upon his nephews and his nieces.

Although eighty-four years of age, Mr. Sanders continued in the active practice of the law and as President of his Bank. The love of work and accomplishment which dominated his boyhood persisted when he was far beyond the span of years allotted to mortals. While motoring to Racine on a Tuesday morning with a friend to attend a session of the Probate Court he was fatally injured in an automobile crash on April 13, 1937. He never recovered consciousness and died on Friday, April 16, 1937. He died like a soldier at the post of duty. His kindly greeting and cheerful word are missed by his friends and neighbors. The memory of him to all who knew him will remain as long as they live, as green and abiding as the hills and meadows which encircle his beloved village. To the members of the Bar who knew him will remain the heritage and memory of an honorable and useful life; a respected and valued friend.







Committee

I feel a very great personal loss in the death of Mr. Sanders. During the years that I have been County Judge, most of Mr. Sanders' Court work was in the County Court, and I have known him as a most careful and accurate attorney, whose work was of the highest order. He was meticulous in his own appearance and in the papers that he produced in Court, gracious and pleasing in manner, and it was evident from the regard of his clients toward him that they appreciated his worth as attorney and counsel.

Mr. Sanders was of great value to the people of his community as a counselor in other matters than strictly the law. He recognized the duty of a lawyer to give of his training to the public generally, and the many outside interests that he had were a great help to the community in which he lived. His generosity, not only to his own relatives, but to many others among his acquaintanceship, was well known, although not because of any show on his part.

I regret that a Court matter outside of the County makes it impossible for me to be present and express my respect for Mr. Sanders and my sympathy for his relatives, in person.

Judge Belden has kindly consented to read this brief statement for me.

FILED

NOV 15 1937

Michael E. Martin
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

CHARLES H. WELCH was born at Vineland, New Jersey, May 3, 1856 and came to Milwaukee while a young man. He was married in 1880 and at that time decided that he would make shorthand reporting his life work. There were very few schools at that time where shorthand was taught and accordingly Mr. Welch taught himself the Pitman shorthand system, which he did by merely purchasing a Pitman textbook and studying evenings and at such other times as he could spare from his business of selling typewriters and typewriter supplies. He always credited his devoted and faithful wife for his success as a shorthand reporter for it was through her untiring efforts dictating and reading and encouraging him that he was able so thoroughly to master the shorthand system upon which he built his successful life.

For the first few years of his reporting career he carried on his typewriter business as well. He had an office in the Iron Block on Wisconsin Street in Milwaukee. As he became more and more proficient, however, in his reporting work he finally abandoned the typewriter business and devoted his entire time to reporting. Mr. Welch's court reporting began in the Milwaukee Courts where he remained for a few years. It was during this period that he formed a reporting partnership known as Carney & Welch, and when not engaged in court work he reported the proceedings of conventions and other gatherings and meetings of similar nature. Because of

his unusual skill, accuracy and speed he was in great demand for reporting work. One of the heaviest assignments ever undertaken by him was the reporting at Madison of the Isaac Stephenson Senatorial Primary Investigation. His reporting partner in that particular investigation was Mr. E. L. Smith. The investigation extended over quite a long period and the completed investigation required four printed volumes of some twelve hundred pages each.

After a few years' connection with the Court at Milwaukee, Mr. Welch finally became the Official Reporter for the First Judicial Circuit of Wisconsin, comprising Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties; serving first with Judge Wentworth for some three or four years, and then successively with Judge Winslow for ten years; Judge Fish for ten years and Judge Belden for thirty-two years; thus making his total continuous reporting service in this First Judicial Circuit approximately fifty-six years.

During this long career Mr. Welch reported many important law suits. He was a model Court Reporter. Added to his accuracy and speed was a calm, even tempered disposition, never ruffled by the outbursts of opposing counsel. In fact, he was able to get not only the remarks of opposing counsel, but of the witness himself, in the record, although all speaking at the same time. No attorney need fear that on appeal to the Supreme Court the stenographic record of the proceedings

in the trial court would not be full, complete and without error when transcribed by Mr. Welch. The Judges of the Circuit Court under whom Mr. Welch served passed to their last reward, retired to private practice, or were called to preside in other Courts, but the familiar and kindly presence of their court reporter continued for over half a century to grace the Circuit Courts of the First Judicial Circuit. His service outspanned the practice, and even the life, of many an attorney in his Circuit. Mr. Welch had a most uncanny faculty of forecasting the results of jury trials, which was perhaps the result of his long experience as a court reporter and his ability to judge the credibility of witnesses; the weight to be attached to their testimony and the various seemingly unimportant by-plays and happenings of a jury trial which disclosed to him the way the wind blew. Often after the jury had retired his opinion was sought by counsel engaged in the trial as to the probable outcome and it was generally conceded that he was almost always right.

"Charlie," as Mr. Welch was affectionately called by those who knew him and who worked with him for many years, was most highly respected by the Bench and the Bar of his Circuit; not only for his unusual abilities as a reporter, but also as a cultured, refined and genial gentleman. Not long after his retirement he was given a testimonial dinner by the Bench and Bar of the First Judicial Circuit, at which

not only the Judges, but the members of the Bar, were given an opportunity to express to Mr. Welch the esteem in which he was held.

Mr. and Mrs. Welch had three children; his son Arthur, now living in Milwaukee, and two daughters, both of whom now live in the East. Mrs. Welch died July 5, 1934, and after her death Mr. Welch endeavored to continue his reporting work for a time, but because of the unusual and remarkable companionship which existed between them, and because he never fully recovered from the shock of her death, he resigned as court reporter in the fall of 1934 and went to Noroton, Connecticut, where he lived with one of his daughters up to the time of his death, on December 23, 1937, having attained the ripe age of eighty-one years.

This brief narrative of the facts of the life of Charles H. Welch would be amply sufficient without further praise or approbation, for it portrays the life of a man, loyal, friendly, kind, devoted to his wife and family and to his life's work. To those who knew him well and who worked with him, Charles H. Welch will remain in their memory as a true and honorable gentleman, and after all, can any one be given higher praise than that.

W. D. Longfellow
M. E. Walker
Robert B. Vand

Committee