

I N M E M O R I A M

MORTIMER EUGENE WALKER

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

The Committee appointed by the Racine County Bar Association respectfully presents to the Court this memorial to the life and character of MORTIMER EUGENE WALKER, long a beloved and respected member of the Racine County Bar, who died at Racine, Wisconsin, November 23rd, 1942, at the age of seventy years.

MORTIMER EUGENE WALKER was born in the Town of Mount Pleasant, Racine County, Wisconsin, on June 25, 1872.

His paternal grandfather, Nelson A. Walker, was a native of Vermont, and made the long journey on foot across the country from Vermont to Wisconsin, where at one time he owned a farm in that part of the present City of Racine known as Sagetown.

His father, Robert M. Walker, was also born in Vermont, but was still a young boy when he came to Racine County, where he later married Minerva Secor, a native of the State of New York. Robert M. Walker and his wife owned and lived on a farm located on the Twelfth Street Road at the present west limits of the City of Racine, but at that time a considerable distance outside of the city. It was there that Mr. Walker's parents reared their family, consisting of two sons, Nelson A. Walker and Mortimer E. Walker, and a daughter, Mabel E. Walker, now Mrs. Stanley Tallman, of Racine, Wisconsin.

Mr. Walker's youthful experiences were those of the average farm boy, working in the fields, feeding and caring for the stock, and attending to the countless tasks of a boy living on a farm in those days. Thus, early in life, he began to acquire the habits of work, persistence of effort and self-reliance which were so characteristic of him throughout his life.

As a boy he attended the district school at Mygatts Corners, and upon completing his work there entered Racine College, which at that time had a high scholastic standing, particularly as a preparatory school. There he earned special recognition, not only for his scholastic accomplishments, but also as a member of the College baseball team, where his ability as a pitcher contributed to many victories.

By this time he had chosen his life work, - an important step, perhaps the most important step, in most boys' lives. He had decided to be a lawyer, and with this end in view he entered the law school at the University of Wisconsin, from which he graduated with the class of 1895, and was admitted to the Bar in the same year.

He began the practice of law in the office of Cooper & Nelson, but left that firm for a time to practice in partnership with a former schoolmate, John Richards, under the firm name of Walker & Richards. In 1900, however, he resumed his connection with the Cooper firm under the name of Cooper, Simmons, Nelson & Walker, John B. Simmons having joined the firm in the meantime, and for more than forty-two years until his death remained a member of that firm and its successors, including the present firm of Simmons, Walker, Wratten & Sporer.

On July 24, 1900, he was married to Florence Bull, of

Racine. They became the parents of two daughters, now Mrs. Jane Stuart Sommers and Mrs. Florence Bull Cushman, both of Racine.

The professional career of Mr. Walker embodied the natural talents and the conscientious training which should be our ideal of a lawyer. He possessed a keen and inquiring mind, a most pleasing personality, a ready wit, a comprehensive understanding of human nature, a ready command of language, and a store of nervous energy which sometimes exceeded his physical strength. He will long be remembered as an able trial lawyer and for his successful conduct of some of the most vigorously contested litigation in the courts of this county.

It is an anomaly that Mr. Walker, who defended relatively few criminal cases, first gained public recognition, particularly as a trial lawyer, in a criminal case. Early in his career his success in defending a man named Corbett, who was tried for shooting and seriously wounding a well-known local clergyman, attracted much attention, both because of the prominence of the parties involved and the ingenuity and skill of the young lawyer in the successful defense of his client.

There was never a dull moment when he was trying a case. He was colorful, and his keen sense of humor often enlivened and relieved the monotony of what would otherwise have been a drab and boring trial. His ability to lay bare the controlling issues of a case and his knowledge of human nature were demonstrated in his skillful examination and cross-examination of witnesses, for which he attained well-deserved renown. He was ever at ease in court, but he would have been the first to acknowledge that, while law suits may be lost in the court room, they are seldom

won there alone. He devoted the most arduous and unremitting labor to the preparation of every case in which he was engaged. It mattered not whether the amount involved was large or small, or whether his client stood high on what we are wont to call the social scale, or was one of the most humble of our citizens. For this he won the love and esteem of people in all walks of life.

Although Mr. Walker prepared every case carefully and tried it with every ounce of his skill and energy, he would take no unfair advantage. He was scrupulously honest and did not deviate from either the written rules or the unwritten principles governing proper conduct of members of our profession. Personal characteristics are often more clearly defined by illustration than by abstract language. A most apt illustration of Mr. Walker's appreciation of right and propriety is found in the records of a case which he tried in the Municipal Court of this county before a jury. During the progress of the trial, while testimony was being taken and before the issues were submitted to the jury, Mr. Walker's client reported to him that one of the jurors had met him on the street and made the casual statement that he had nothing to worry about, that on the basis of the testimony which had been heard up to that time, the jury were all for him. Mr. Walker insisted upon reporting this incident to the presiding Judge and accepting the ruling of a mistrial which it necessitated, rather than to proceed to secure a favorable verdict which he might reasonably have expected to secure.

Mr. Walker was possessed of a remarkable ability to judge the human element in any situation. This was a great aid

to him in the trial of cases, but it contributed even more to his ability to act as a counselor. No one recognized better than he that fairness must characterize all relations between man and man. No one appreciated more keenly that no legal document, no matter how carefully prepared from a technical standpoint, would long permit infliction of undue hardship upon any person. No one possessed a clearer understanding of the fact that the "old order changeth." He had sufficient courage to advise clients that changing times required abandonment of positions previously believed impregnable and that compromise was necessary, just as he had the courage to advise a litigious client that the circumstances of a particular lawsuit made a settlement advisable. It was this rare combination of human understanding and courage that caused his opinion to be so highly valued by men of business and affairs. In this field he did some of his best work, and in the later years of his practice much of his time was devoted to it.

In spite of his diligent attention to his regular practice, Mr. Walker found time to participate in civic matters and render public service.

He served as City Attorney of Racine from 1902 to 1906. During this time he prepared a complete indexed compilation of the "Charter and Ordinances of the City of Racine," which was published in book form in 1906, -- a much needed and useful work, but a long and tedious task above and beyond the ordinary duties of the office.

Over a period of more than a year in 1921 and 1922, as Special Assistant Attorney General appointed for that purpose,

he conducted a grand-jury investigation and prosecutions of bribery and other crimes in Kenosha County, which resulted in the conviction and punishment of a number of important public officials and many others. His work in this matter and the results accomplished were a valuable public service.

For a number of years he was an active member of the Racine Memorial Hall Commission and City Planning Commission. During the present War he served as a member of the Racine County Selective Service Advisory Board and as such advised and assisted many young men of the community in the preparation of their questionnaires and many other matters pertaining to their selective service status.

He was a member of the American Bar Association, the Wisconsin State Bar Association, and the Racine County Bar Association, -- of which he had served as President, -- and the Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity.

Mr. Walker always took an active and kindly interest in the younger members of the profession. He never assumed that years of experience or a measure of success in the practice placed him on a plane higher than younger members of the Bar. He was ever willing to meet them and to discuss their problems. He had a full realization of the problems which confront a lawyer in the early days of practice, and the damage which may be done to professional reputation despite the utmost care. He was known to personally assume the trial of a contested action, the outcome of which appeared to be hopeless, in order that he might have the responsibility of the unsuccessful outcome upon his own shoulders rather than see the defeat charged against a younger and more in-

experienced associate.

It may well be said that the professional career of Mortimer E. Walker was one that should be a model for those entering our profession. No one man can excel in all work which a lawyer is called upon to do, but he was able to do any part of a lawyer's work well, and in many respects he had few equals. His was a well rounded, highly successful and universally respected career.

From what has been said of Mr. Walker's professional and other activities, it might be supposed that he had no time to spare for anything else. Such, however, was not the case.

He always manifested the tenderest affection toward his family, and they toward him, and, in spite of the heavy demands of his work and other activities upon his time and energy, he found his greatest happiness in his family and home life.

He loved good literature and was a thoughtful and discriminating reader, steadily enlarging his fund of knowledge and breadth of understanding and enriching his mental and spiritual being. His amiable and congenial spirit, his charm and understanding of people, made him a welcome guest in any company, as a speaker or otherwise, and endeared him to his many friends. And though often on such occasions his "eye begot occasion for his wit," --

"Yet sometimes when the secret cup  
Of still and serious thought went round,  
It seemed as if he drank it up,  
He seemed with spirit so profound."

As we advance along the pathway of life we realize more and more that happy, pleasant memories are the roses of life, and what a wonderful bouquet of happy, joyous memories he has

left for his family, his friends and all with whom he came in contact.

His work is done,  
His life has measured now its full extent of time,  
He walks no more among us in his wonted way,  
and yet he is not gone -  
For there are those whose lives his life did touch,  
and touching shape,  
There are things his mind and hand did build  
which leave their mark upon the timeless page,  
There are thoughts his heart did utter in our  
midst which linger yet in undimmed memory,  
These things all speak to us in this sad, quiet  
hour and say,  
His spirit lives,  
He moves among us yet,  
He has but changed his earthly cloak for one of  
immortality.

*E. R. Burgess*  
*Jerome J. Selig*  
*Robert B. Vane*  
*Charles F. Walter*

Committee.



STATE OF WISCONSIN : CIRCUIT COURT : RACINE COUNTY :

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RESPONSE BY THE COURT TO THE MEMORIAL )  
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PRESENTED BY THE RACINE COUNTY BAR )  
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ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF MORTIMER )  
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EUGENE WALKER, Deceased. )  
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Again we pause to pay respectful tribute to a man whom we called friend, to a member of the Bar whom we held in high regard, and who has found his final rest after more than forty-seven years of useful service in the practice of law. No one who really knew Mortimer Eugene Walker could fail to feel a pang of pain when the tidings came.

Although well aware of the success which he had attained in the practice of his profession, he insisted upon serving clients from all walks of life with the same thorough preparation and with like ability, zeal and fidelity. When clients came to him with their troubles, they became his troubles and the subject of his anxiety until a wrong had been righted or a right vindicated. In this way he gave himself to his clients and although constituting a strain upon his health, it was something he could not avoid or prevent.

He was modest and he was loyal. Well merited praise caused his face to flush with embarrassment. When moving into new and better equipped offices he was more concerned about how it would be regarded by his friends and clients of modest means than he was about his own comfort. He wished to continue throughout his life their easily approachable and loyal friend, and he was determined that success should leave his friendships and his

loyalties unimpaired.

Thoroughly prepared, both as to the evidence and the law, and with a well and carefully charted course, he was a dangerous adversary in the trial of a case. He was able and on many occasions brilliant in his presentation of cases. If there was humor in a situation he was sure to see it and time and again the sparkle of his wit made or emphasized a point in favor of his client.

The records of the courts bear abundant and imperishable evidence of his character and high ability as a lawyer. He had the confidence of this and all other courts in which he practiced as well as that of the community in which he lived. He performed with marked ability and great fidelity the tasks which he undertook and his life will long be remembered as an outstanding example of steadfast devotion to the law and to the attainment of justice.

The Memorial of the Racine County Bar Association and this response will be spread upon the records of the court.

DATED APRIL 12, 1943.

A MEMORIAL UPON THE LIFE  
of  
M. ARTHUR KETCHIAN

MESSIAH ARTHUR KETCHIAN was born of Armenian parents at Kaisrie, Turkey in 1903, and came to the United States at the age of 11 years. He was born and lived his earlier years in extreme adversity and hardship. Both of his parents were massacred while he was yet a child.

He persevered on the ladder toward his chosen profession by rung after rung of extreme physical and nervous hardship and sacrifice. Through diligence, long hours and wearisome work he made his way through grade school, high school, three years at the University of Illinois, one year in the undergraduate school at Marquette University, and Marquette Law School. After his graduation he practiced law in Texas for a time and then returned to Racine, where he was enrolled on the bar of this Court on April 9, 1934.

Through the years of struggle toward his profession he was also keenly interested in the fields of history, political science and literature. He read and thought widely with concern and high hope for the future of civilization, and was a frequent contributor to papers and periodicals on philosophical and political subjects.

In his profession he had taken the hard and courageous path of setting out in practice alone, where he was without the advice and help which might be had from an older associate. As a lawyer he did the right as it was given to him to see the right.

On October 22nd, 1942, when he was on the threshold of a happier and less difficult life, the scars and wounds of the work, worry and hardship of his earlier days took their toll and he was called by the decree of a Higher Forum to his eternal rest.

He was survived by his wife Nozlea M. Ketchian and infant daughter, Carlotta, to whom the Racine County Bar Association extends its sympathy and understanding.

RACINE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By

Ernest F. Hardy  
Marvin Stovess  
Edward E. Vance  
James C. Payne

STATE OF WISCONSIN : CIRCUIT COURT : RACINE COUNTY :

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RESPONSE BY THE COURT TO THE MEMORIAL  
OFFERED BY THE RACINE COUNTY BAR ASSO-  
CIATION ON BEHALF OF MESSIAH ARTHUR  
KETCHIAN, Deceased.  
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As the Memorial states, the parents of Messiah Arthur Ketchian were massacred when he was a child. He was thereby denied parental love, affection and guidance. He never became very strong physically and the hardships and privations which he endured in his early youth left their marks upon him throughout his life and undoubtedly contributed to his early death.

Upon coming to America he welcomed the opportunity to gain an education. He overcame the handicap of learning the language of the country and the handicap of being obliged to earn the funds with which to complete his education. Perhaps the tragedy in his early years implanted in him the spirit and the indomitable will to carry through so great an undertaking. He constantly drove his mind and his body to accomplish the ambition to become a member of the Bar.

Perhaps it was pride which prompted him to see how far he could go alone as a lawyer. His practice in this circuit was limited to the comparatively short period of about eight years, during which he continued his efforts each day and each year to become a better practitioner of the law. As the Memorial states, he did right as he saw it and he found, as does every lawyer, that the law is a hard task master. If here today he would make no claim to greatness but the history of his life illustrates what may be accomplished from a most humble beginning by means of that freedom of opportunity, that ideal of our forefathers, that outstanding principle of our form of government, which loyal Americans love and are now fighting to preserve.

It is fitting and proper that we should pay tribute to  
Messiah Arthur Ketchian who by a noble struggle gained membership  
in our profession.

The Memorial of the Racine County Bar Association and this  
response will be spread upon the records of the court.

DATED APRIL 12th, 1943.

To the HONORABLE COURTS of Racine County:

We respectfully submit the following memorial in behalf of Charles Krenzke, Esquire, a member of the Wisconsin Bar.

Charles Krenzke was born on his father's farm in the town of Caledonia, Racine County, on March 2, 1871; his death occurred in this city October 19, 1943.

Mr. Krenzke was the son of August and Wilhelmina Krenzke and he was the oldest of ten children. His father came to this country from Germany in 1868.

Mr. Krenzke attended St. John's Lutheran Parochial School at Racine, where he received the equivalent of the usual ward school primary education. He never attended any other school, no high school, college or university.

The early years of his life were spent on the farm of his father, and working as a farm-hand for the neighbors-- particularly for a farmer named Scott.

He probably began the study of law sometime after he was of full age, under the direction of William W. Rowlands, a lawyer of Racine (formerly a school teacher), who had his office at #503 Monument Square. Mr. Krenzke supplemented this instruction with a course in the study of law by mail provided by a school known as the International Correspondence School.

He took the State Bar examination late in the summer of 1897, and on September 1st of that year, the Bar Examiners issued to Charles Krenzke a certificate, wherein they state that Mr. Krenzke had pursued the study of law for two years, and admitted him to practise. The records in the Circuit Court of this county show that on November 11, 1897, he signed the roll of attorneys at Racine.

At first he practised alone, having an office on the second floor of what was then known as the Secor Building, now Nelson Hotel. But very soon he associated with Max W. Heck, under the name of Heck & Krenzke, with offices upon the first floor in the rear of the Secor Building. This firm continued until Mr. Heck was elected County Judge at the spring election of 1901. For many years Mr. Krenzke practised alone, and when Judge Heck left the bench, they again resumed practise together under the old name.

In the meantime, and on November 29, 1899, he married Miss Ida C. Berg, of Racine. To this marriage there were born ten children, six boys and four girls. Mrs. Krenzke survives her husband; also, seven children, five boys and two girls; two of the boys are in the armed service of the United States, Walter and Edward.

While Mr. Heck was city attorney, Mr. Krenzke acted as assistant city attorney. Later he was elected to the office of Justice of the Peace, and also was at one time Divorce Counsel. He was a member of the local Bar Association for many years, and was president of the Association at one time.

As is commonly said of so-called "self made men" he came up the "hard way". The extra work which this self teaching entailed gave him a better understanding, a strength and self reliance which can hardly be gained otherwise than by hard work and experience.

Charles Krenzke was not known as a great trial lawyer; yet, in his quiet and unostentatious way he had the faculty of clearly and concisely stating the issues involved, and confining the evidence offered to such issues. His client always knew that his theory of the case would be fairly and lucidly



presented to the Court and jury in the most favorable light. He was patient and kindly in his examination of witnesses. He never indulged in any so-called sharp practise, observing most scrupulously the rule that "the lawyer is an officer of the Court". In the trial of cases he was not, and did not try to be spectacular, but his manner, demeanor and language bore evidence of his absolute sincerity and faith in the cause he was advocating. He was most tenacious of his theory of the case and was not easily diverted from it.

He was perhaps at his best in matters involving questions relating to real estate. In this branch of the law his advice and services were invaluable.

In the foreclosure of mortgages, clearing of titles and other matters relating to real property, he was exceptionally well founded. Questions involving title to land are often intricate and puzzling and difficult to present to the Court in a clear and concise manner, but Mr. Krenzke was always able to present the matters involved in such a way as to make them easily understandable.

He was careful, accurate and dependable, having the complete confidence of the Courts before whom he practised.

He took great pleasure in the raising of flowers, and a greater pleasure in sharing their beauty and fragrance with others. The offices in the court house were often brightened with flowers from his garden. His love of the beautiful in nature and the arts, included a considerable attainment as a musician; he could play piano, and other instruments; he was also familiar with the great literary classics.

While always loyal to the interests of his clients, he appreciated that legal problems are not usually one sided, so in negotiations with other counsel--as, indeed, in all his relations with his fellow man, he was uniformly courteous and kind, never speaking a harmful word of anyone. He was a good citizen, a man of strong moral character, thereby, throughout a period of nearly half a century of practise, he, in no small degree, brought honor and respect to his profession.

Dated November 6th, 1943.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederic Thompson  
Chairman

E. R. Burgess

Adolph R. Janesky

E. W. Leddon

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*Elmer King, Jr.*

**FILED**

NOV 15 1943

*Ernest W. Daley*

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

STATE OF WISCONSIN : CIRCUIT COURT : RACINE COUNTY :

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RESPONSE OF THE COURT TO THE MEMORIAL )  
OFFERED BY THE RACINE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION )  
ON BEHALF OF MR. CHARLES KRENZKE, Deceased. )  
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Charles Krenzke lived somewhat beyond the allotted three score and ten years. His was a long, useful and honorable life both as a citizen and as a member of the legal profession.

Although denied the benefit of a high school and college education, there was laid in his youth the foundation for the development of a fine character. It was not until after he had attained his majority that he entered upon the study of the law. Through a correspondence course and under the direction of and association with a member of the bar but largely through his own efforts he became a member of the bar. It required zeal, diligence and natural ability of a high order to accomplish this result. He was so constituted that his efforts did not stop there and he continued his study of the law throughout the years. The law is a hard taskmaster and unending study is required of all lawyers but with him it appeared as though he had imposed upon himself an extraordinary obligation in this respect.

He would not have us say that he was a great trial lawyer. He laid no claim to greatness in that field of the law. He preferred to arrive at what he considered the correct conclusion in the quiet of his office after careful study and deliberation rather than the quick decision which trial lawyers are frequently called upon to make in the course of a trial.

It was his ambition to be and remain a good lawyer

worthy of the confidence and respect of the profession and of his fellow men. Courtesy, amiability, quiet dignity, honesty, integrity, devotion to trust and strict adherence to right as it is conceived to be, may not attract the acclaim of the populace but does command the respect of all.

These qualities Charles Krenzke brought to the practice of his profession day by day and year by year for many long years. The history of his life is one more example of what may be accomplished from a humble beginning. He had reason to fully understand and appreciate the true meaning of "freedom of opportunity", that principle of the American form of government which we so dearly love and revere and which loyal Americans, including two of his own sons, are fighting to preserve.

As he carved his life he has carved for himself a place of honor and respect in his profession, and in the hearts and memory of those who knew him best.

The memorial presented on behalf of the Racine County Bar Association and this response will be spread upon the records of this court.

Dated November 15, 1943.

WILLIAM DWIGHT THOMPSON

Born - November 7, 1867.

Died - July 28, 1943.

William Dwight Thompson was born November 7, 1867, at Memphis, Tennessee, and died at Racine on July 28, 1943. For a half a century he was a member of the bar of Racine County, and for the greater share of that period occupied a pre-eminent place in the professional life of the City of Racine and of the State of Wisconsin. He received his early education in the common and high schools of St. Louis. Later he attended the University of Missouri at Columbia, Missouri. He was for the most part, however, self-educated. While still a boy in the years 1880 to 1884 he assisted his father, Seymour D. Thompson, in the preparation of his treatises and opinions. His father was an eminent writer of the law, and from 1880 to 1892 was one of the judges of the Missouri Court of Appeals. Seymour D. Thompson's principal legal works were "Thompson on Corporations" and "Thompson on Trials." He also edited the American and English Encyclopedias of Law.

In November, 1884, William D. Thompson came to Racine and began to work for Andrew Simonsen, publisher of the Wisconsin Agriculturist. He remained in that work until the fall of 1887, after which time he became a special student at the University of Missouri. When he had completed his studies there he returned to work for Mr. Simonsen in the Manufacturers Printing Company. While he was working for this company he devoted much of his spare time to the general study of the law,

and in 1892 he entered the old Union College of Law at Chicago, which later became the Law Department of Northwestern University.

Mr. Thompson returned to Racine in the summer of 1893, took the State Bar Examinations and was admitted to practice of the law in August of that year. He opened an office and for a time practiced law alone until 1895 when he became associated with Thomas M. Kearney under the firm name of Kearney & Thompson. Later Peter J. Myers became associated with them under the firm name of Kearney, Thompson & Myers, and then upon the retirement of Mr. Thomas M. Kearney from that firm it became known as Thompson, Myers & Kearney, and thereafter and in about the year 1924 he formed the firm of lawyers of which he was a member at the time of his death, Thompson, Myers & Helm.

Mr. Thompson was married in 1895 to Marion A. Stoker, who survives him. He is also survived by a daughter, Mrs. Bernice Louise Leffler, of Washington, D. C. At the request of his father, Seymour D. Thompson, he and Mrs. Thompson also reared and cared for his sister's child, Helen A. Horlick, now Mrs. Shurley, from the time she was six years of age until her marriage. She is now living in the State of Washington. To the members of his immediate family and his relatives, we extend our sincere sympathy.

To write a memorial to the memory of William D. Thompson is not an easy task. Because of his many and diversified interests in life it is impossible for one not to leave unconsidered many of the things he did and accomplished. To speak of him merely as a lawyer is to leave untouched his other interests which should be considered.

It is true that his law office was his work shop. There he labored long hours each day. There he read law. There he read history, economics and works on archeology. There too he studied and planned his vegetable garden. His day of labor began usually at eight o'clock in the morning and ended late at night. So engrossed was he in his work and in study that he seldom left the office at midday for lunch. And on Sundays he spent most of his time at the office reading those things which he believed he ought to know more about in the way of history, economics and archeology.

And yet he was more than a student, because he possessed a keen understanding of people and their problems. Many of the younger lawyers of the Bar came to him for advice and counsel, and he willingly assisted and helped them with their problems.

His chosen profession was the law, and as a lawyer he possessed many of the qualifications that set him apart from his fellow practitioners. He had a sound mind. He possessed a keen sense of that which was right and that which was wrong. His conscience was always as clear as crystal. He thought for himself and was independent in his thinking. He was imbued with a high sense of justice and right. Though physically small in stature, his power of labor was prodigious. As a member of the Bar he was an honor to the profession. He considered it his duty to serve his client faithfully and well. He held himself every ready to assist those needing his professional service. He despised injustice and was eager to



help those who had been unjustly treated. He lived a useful life.

Always a diligent student of the law, he wrote many important briefs and tried many cases in our Circuit and Supreme Court and also in our Federal courts. His knowledge of the law was not confined to any particular branch, but rather his knowledge was comprehensive. It was his belief that in order to practice the law successfully it was necessary for one to know something about every branch of the law.

So outstanding was Mr. Thompson's interest in the law that he was appointed Chairman of the Wisconsin Committee of the American Law Institute. For a period of ten years he served as Chairman of this committee and assisted in drafting its "Restatement of the Law." In his office he spent endless hours in this work and attended every meeting of the American Law Institute that was held during the period of time that he was charged with the responsibility of assisting in making a proper restatement of the law. He always cherished the opportunity to give a report to the Wisconsin State Bar Association meeting of the activities of the American Law Institute.

He was honored by being elected President of the Racine County Bar Association in 1917 and he later became President of the Wisconsin State Bar Association in 1924. During the time that he occupied these positions of trust he fulfilled his duties with distinction and honor.

As a practitioner he never transgressed the code of legal ethics prescribed for the honorable practice of the law.

He had the respect and admiration of the members of the bar of Racine County, of the State of Wisconsin and of the nation.

Mr. Thompson had, however, other interests beside the law. He liked to work in his garden, and he gave to it the same thorough attention that was given to the work he did for his clients. He planted his vegetables with regularity each year and cultivated the soil with his own hands. He was proud of his garden, and delighted in the growth of the things he planted. On one occasion he had difficulty keeping the younger children of his neighborhood from trampling upon the things he had planted, and so - rather than scold them for what they had done - he hired them all to watch the garden for him, paying them with things that children like, and no further difficulty of that nature was ever encountered again.

Mr. Thompson also liked to bowl, and for a long time was a member of a bowling team in one of our business leagues. He played the game because he enjoyed it and the companionship that it was possible for him to have with others. On frequent occasions he attended bowling tournaments for the pleasure that he would have with his bowling league associates. Although he was older in years than most of them, he nevertheless participated in their pleasures and entertainments.

Mr. Thompson possessed a unique personality. His was a kindly humor, and he would display his interest and affections for others not so much with his words as with his twinkling eyes and friendly smile. While he was a great student of many things, he was in no sense a recluse. He liked to be with others and enjoyed their companionship. If his friends

chose to sing, he could sing with them. If they chose to discuss some matter of public concern, he could discuss it intelligently. When he was with his friends he was completely at ease and by his mere presence added to the conviviality of the occasion.

In his lifetime he was a member of the Elks, the Knights of Pythias and the Masons and treasured his membership in those organizations. Wherever a group of lawyers would meet - whether for the furtherance of the interests of the legal profession or for mere friendly association with each other - he was present. He always attended the Midsummer Meetings of the County Bar Associations of Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties and participated in the programs of entertainment. On these occasions he would take his swimming suit with him and was proud of his ability to outdistance many of the younger men in this sport.

In the practice of the law Mr. Thompson was eminently successful. Being a profound student of the law, he would have made an excellent judge. His legal training and education and his keen sense of justice qualified him for such a position. The sympathetic qualities of his mind and heart were such that he could have sat upon the Bench with easy grace. He preferred, however, to be a practitioner of the law, and his counsel and advice were sought by many. He was charitable and kind and a good citizen. He believed in our form of government and in our way of life, and he constantly sought to do his part in its preservation.

From the beginning of our city's history we have been privileged to have in Racine many eminent and able lawyers. Many of them have passed to the great beyond. Only the records of our courts from time to time bring them back to our thoughts. William Dwight Thompson in his lifetime was a great lawyer. All of us who have been privileged to practice with him will treasure his memory. He is one of the outstanding lawyers of the community. He has helped to build the City of Racine and has left upon this community the imprint of his useful life. The few years that we call life pass swiftly. We live for a few brief moments and then pass away. If we have so lived our daily lives that it can be said of us that we were of service to our fellow men, then in truth we have deserved the breath of life. It can be said of Mr. Thompson that he lived a full life, that it was useful and worthwhile and that he made friends as he lived it. We liked Mr. Thompson because he was one of us. We liked him because while learned he was human in his understanding of others.

Oh, may I join the choir invisible  
Of those immortal dead who live again  
In minds made better by their presence; live  
In pulses stirred to generosity,  
In deeds of daring rectitude, in scorn  
For miserable aims that end with self,  
In thoughts sublime that pierce the night like stars,  
And with their mild persistence urge men's search  
to vaster issues. So to live is heaven:  
To make undying music in the world,  
Breathing a beauteous order that controls  
With growing sway the growing life of man.

Respectfully submitted,

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:

Richard G. Harvey  
Jerome J. Foley  
Albert B. Stand

-7- Frederick P. Helms



He did not enjoy taking active charge of a jury trial but preferred to act as counsel. He left the trial of jury cases to his associates but spent many a night briefing questions of law which arose during the trial of such cases. He felt more in his element in cases heard by the court without a jury. In these trials, many of them important, he invariably came into court with his case well planned and prepared. Either from a brief or frequently from memory there would be presented to the court the authority to substantiate his position.

He was an able lawyer in the field of his choice in the practice of his profession. He was learned in the law. His mind was keen, his reasoning sound, his judgment good, and his advice of great value to the clients whom he served. He had the ability to express himself clearly and concisely and conducted himself with the utmost respect for court and counsel.

He gave freely of his time to any matter of interest or concern to the bar associations, local, state and national. He was proud of his profession and eager to serve in its behalf. He enjoyed associating with members of the bar and rarely missed attending any meeting of lawyers.

We know no other lawyer quite like him and we shall miss him. It was his unswerving integrity, his faithfulness to duty, his untiring industry and his intelligent discharge of all his professional duties which commanded the respect and confidence of the courts, the members of the bar and the people.

"Only the actions of the just

Smell sweet and blossom in the dust."

The memorial presented on behalf of the Racine County Bar Association and this response will be spread upon the records of this court.