

IN MEMORIAM

MARTIN MATTHEW HUEFFNER

FILED
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CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Edu. J. Daley

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

Martin Matthew Hueffner was born in Racine, Wisconsin, on March 2, 1884, and with the exception of the time he was away from home attending school and for a short period after his graduation from the University of Wisconsin he remained a lifelong resident of Racine, where he died on July 14, 1949.

Martin Matthew Hueffner was a member of one of the old Racine families. His grandfather, Ernst Hueffner, came to this country from Germany in 1848 as a young boy, and later founded the leather business which for more than one hundred years has been continued under the Hueffner name. His father, E. J. Hueffner was one of the leaders in the business and financial circles in Racine for many years. E. J. Hueffner was a Vice-President of the Manufacturer's National Bank from the time it started business up to the time he became President. E. J. Hueffner was married to Martha Kuehne and there were nine children born of this marriage. Martin Matthew Hueffner was the youngest. There are now only two of the family living, Alfred Hueffner and Fred Hueffner.

Martin Matthew Hueffner was married to Catharine Light February 27, 1918 and they had two sons, Ernest L. Hueffner and William L. Hueffner who, with three grandchildren and their mother are still living.

Martin Hueffner graduated from the Winslow School in Racine and then continued his studies at the Racine High School

which was then located on the block where the Court House now stands. He was a good student, diligent and persevering in his efforts. Outside of his scholastic work, he was very much interested in athletics, particularly in field and track work. He was also a member of the high school debating society known as the Literary Fraternity. After his graduation from the Racine High School he entered the University of Wisconsin and received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1906. He then entered the Law School and received the degree of Bachelor of Law from the University of Wisconsin in 1908, and in the same year was admitted to practice law in the State of Wisconsin.

During his days at the University, Martin participated in athletics and was a member of the University track team. His specialty was pole vaulting, but he was an all around athlete, participating in running, swimming and track events. His interest in athletics continued after his graduation from the University and his interest was shared by some of his brothers. The name of Hueffner was well known in athletic contests in these parts for many years. Often the record of winners following an athletic contest in which the Hueffner brothers had participated, had only one name for the winner of all events, and that was Hueffner. His family is the possessor of numerous medals that Martin won during the course of his athletic career.

Following his graduation from Law School, Martin spent a short period of time in Spokane, Washington, but then returned to Racine and became associated with the firm of Simmons & Walker

and maintained such association for a period of nine years until July, 1917. This firm, like many other law firms of that time, maintained a collection department and Mr. Hueffner was in charge of this work. Because of his untiring and persistent effort, he was successful in his practice. In this field of endeavor, before the days when Finance Companies were operating, the collection of accounts was a large part of the work of many lawyers and Mr. Hueffner was recognized as one of the leaders in this field, in Racine County. He was a member of the Commercial Law League and attended its convention.

During these years, Mr. Hueffner became a member of the Blackstone Club, famous in the memory of many of the lawyers now practicing in Racine. In those days the Bar Association was not organized and held no meetings except on the death of a lawyer when they gathered to attend his funeral and appointed a committee to present a memorial at the next term of the Circuit Court. A group of young lawyers feeling the need of getting together to discuss their problems organized the Blackstone Club and held a dinner meeting once each month. At these meetings papers were prepared and read by the various members, current matters of interest were discussed and perhaps most important, the members related their various experiences, particularly in the Justice Courts. The club members, for their own guidance adopted a schedule of minimum fees which was perhaps the first of its kind offered by any lawyers in Racine County. The Blackstone Club aroused so much interest around the Bar that the older members decided to incorporate the Racine County Bar Association, and after this was done, the Blackstone

Club was absorbed into the new association. Mr. Hueffner was always a regular attendant of the Blackstone Club meetings and he continued up to the time of his death to be one of the staunch supporters and most regular attendants of the Bar Association. He was proud that he was a lawyer and did what he could to keep the Bar Association active in maintaining the ideals of the profession.

In 1917 Martin Hueffner left the practice of the law to become Treasurer, Credit Manager and Legal Counsel for the Chicago Rubber Clothing Company. He maintained his connection with this company until January, 1935. One of his accomplishments during his association with the Chicago Rubber Clothing Company was the successful prosecution of a claim for a tax refund from the Federal Government which secured the return of \$60,000.00 to the company. In those days taxes were not such an important part of our lives and this was considered quite an accomplishment.

In January, 1935 Martin Hueffner sold his interest in the Chicago Rubber Clothing Company and resigned his offices. Thereupon, he became associated with his family's leather store and traveled around Southern Wisconsin on behalf of the store until the advent of the war made traveling difficult. At that time he was ready to retire from active business life, but he was impelled by a desire to further the war effort and took employment with the Webster Electric Company of Racine for a period of three years during the war.

Our deceased brother was blessed with a very pleasant, cheerful disposition and even we who knew him in the days of his

practice find it difficult to recall a time when he lost his composure, even when engaged in a hotly contested law suit. He was held in high esteem by people, both young and old, who were fortunate in having his friendship. His genial nature prompted the children of the neighborhood in which he lived to call him Martin or Uncle Martin. Although he was supposed to be in retirement for about four years before his death, he never was inactive. He continued his interest in financial affairs and was generous with his counsel and assistance to people who needed it. At the time of his death he was actively engaged in working upon property belonging to one of his sons. When Mr. Hueffner was around, there were not many idle moments and his genial nature was a comfort and a blessing to his wife, and his family.

Mr. Hueffner possessed the faith that life on earth is being shaped to glorious ends, and that order, justice and love mean man's completeness.

No one could engage in conversation with Martin Hueffner very long without seeing a smile break on his countenance. He carried with him all through his life a boyish enthusiasm which made him love people and caused them to like him. He did not remain in the practice of our profession long enough to determine his capacity as a lawyer, but he has left with all of us who knew him memories of a genial disposition and when we speak of "Marty", as we knew him, there is always a recollection of some happy memory. What better heritage can a man leave than to cause a fervent

glow at the recollection of his life and the mention of his name.

Respectfully submitted,

E. R. Burgess

Jerome J. Foley

Charles F. Watten

COMMITTEE

STATE OF WISCONSIN : CIRCUIT COURT : RACINE COUNTY :

RESPONSE OF THE COURT TO THE MEMORIAL)
PRESENTED BY THE RACINE COUNTY BAR)
ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF MARTIN MATTHEW)
HUEFFNER, Deceased.)

After being admitted to the bar Martin Matthew Hueffner engaged in the practice of his profession for about nine years, then ceased to practice and thereafter throughout the remainder of his lifetime did not resume active practice of the law. Members of the bar are frequently offered opportunities of becoming associated with commercial and industrial enterprises. Some take advantage of some such opportunity and others decline. Knowledge of the law is generally considered a desirable qualification in many lines of endeavor other than active practice. The Memorial recites an incident in which this knowledge undoubtedly proved of great value to the firm with which Martin Hueffner was associated.

Where members of the legal profession perform services outside of and apart from active practice and so order and conduct their lives as citizens and as members of a community as to command the respect of those who know or know of them, they not only reflect credit upon themselves but also upon the profession in which they have been deemed worthy of membership. Martin Hueffner was such a lawyer and always took pride in his membership in our honorable profession.

There exists a bond between the individual lawyer and his profession which continues to endure and is seldom, if ever, severed during his lifetime. In recognition of it and in response to it we submit this simple tribute to the life and memory of Martin Hueffner.

Dated at Racine, Wisconsin, April 10, 1950.

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