

Racine County Bar Association Memorial

To

FRED AHLGRIMM

Before the

Circuit Court of Racine County, Wisconsin,

April 2, 1962.

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

In behalf of the Racine County Bar Association, its Committee appointed for that purpose presents this Memorial in memory of Fred Ahlgrimm, a beloved and respected member of this Bar for forty-four years, who died at Racine, Wisconsin, January 24, 1962, at the age of sixty-six years, after a brief illness following a heart attack which occurred about a month before his death.

He is survived by his widow, the former Ruth Sistik, of Racine, whom he married June 17, 1920; four children, -- James Ahlgrimm, of Racine, an engineer with Walker Forge, Inc.; the Honorable John C. Ahlgrimm, Judge of Branch 4 of the County Court of Racine County; Milton Ahlgrimm, of Webster Groves, Missouri, an engineer with du Pont de Nemours, Inc.; and Mrs. Patricia Ahlgrimm Bogdanoff, of Little Falls, New Jersey; also by several grandchildren. A fifth child, Thomas, died in infancy.

Fred Ahlgrimm was born at Racine August 11, 1895, the son and only child of John and Louisa Ahlgrimm, his father a native of Germany, and his mother a member of an early pioneer Racine County family.

He attended the old Washington grade-school and the old Racine High School, which was located on the northwest portion of the block now occupied by this Court House, and included the space now occupied by Branch 4 of our County Court in which his son, Judge John C. Ahlgrimm, now presides as Judge of that Court. He played

on the Racine High School football team, usually at left tackle, and one of the members of this Committee who played beside him can testify that what he lacked in size for that position was more than compensated by his determination and fighting spirit.

Graduating from Racine High School in 1915, he entered Marquette University Law School, from which he graduated with high honors in June 1918, leading his class with the highest average grades for his entire law course. For this he was awarded a forty-volume set of the Cyclopedia of Law and Procedures, commonly called "Cyc", -- a rich prize in those days for a young lawyer about to begin the practice of law.

Equally important, he accomplished this scholastic record without ever becoming the proverbial "grind" or losing touch with his fellow students. We who were his schoolmates during part of his law-school years remember him as a genial companion, who had the time, disposition and temperament to join in the lighter side, and even some of the frivolities, of college life.

Following his graduation from law school he successfully passed the Wisconsin State Bar examination, -- a stern ordeal in those days, -- and on August 21, 1918 in the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, he was admitted to practice law in Wisconsin and signed the Roll of Attorneys in the Circuit Court of Racine County shortly thereafter. He was also admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. He served as a Circuit Court Commissioner from 1923 until his death, devoting much time and careful attention to the duties of that office.

The first several years of his practice were spent with Kearney, Thompson & Myers, one of Racine's leading law firms, whose office adjoined the old Court House on the west side of Monument Square. It was here that his frequent contacts with the Farm Drainage Law laid the foundation for his later practice in that

field, both in reshaping and refining the law itself, and in representing the Commissioners of several such Districts in Racine County over a period of many years.

Leaving the Kearney firm in 1923, he opened his own office, and thereafter continued to practice alone until 1949, when his son, John C. Ahlgrimm, joined him in the practice under the firm name of Ahlgrimm & Ahlgrimm. This partnership continued until December 31, 1961, when John withdrew from the firm to take his place on the Bench. His father intended to return to his practice upon recovering from his illness, but death intervened.

He was a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin and of the Racine County Bar Association, which he served as a member of its Board of Governors for several years and more recently as its Secretary until his death. Also he belonged to various Masonic orders, the Knights of Pythias, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Racine.

Fred Ahlgrimm was an able lawyer of fine character and great personal and professional integrity, who served his clients faithfully and well, and thereby earned well-deserved respect for his profession and himself. True to his scholastic record, he always remained a student of the law as well as a practitioner of it, and perhaps for that reason we are inclined to think of him more as a counsellor than as an advocate.


Among his outstanding characteristics were great courage, industry and determination. Throughout his life he was afflicted by seriously defective vision. We say "afflicted" rather than "handicapped," because he simply refused to allow it to be a handicap, and in that spirit he undertook and accomplished what few others would even have attempted under like circumstances.

In a broader sense, he achieved a perfect balance

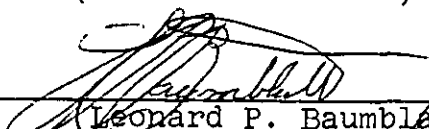
between the really important things of his life, -- his fine family, his profession, his Church and his good citizenship. All of these prospered and flourished together, never one at the expense of the others. All in all, he lived a well-rounded, worthwhile and successful life.

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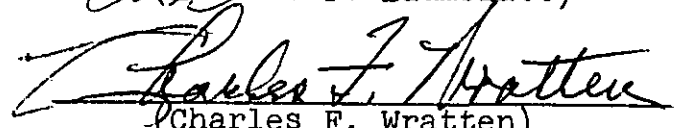
In behalf of the Racine County Bar Association, we respectfully move that this Memorial be filed and preserved in the permanent records of this Court.



(Gilbert E. Brach)



(Leonard P. Baumblatt)



(Charles F. Wratten)

Committee of Racine County Bar
Association.

To the Honorable Courts of Record of Racine County:

MEMORIAL IN BEHALF OF HENRY STUART SMIEDING

Henry Stuart Smieding, a member of the Racine County Bar, died December 27, 1961. Surviving are his wife, Ellen Guilbert Smieding, a son, Guilbert S. Smieding, and a daughter, Sandra Smieding. Two sisters, Mrs. Robert Gertenbach of Racine, and Mrs. Richard Rehwald of Rockford, also survive.

Mr. Smieding was born in Racine, Wisconsin, on March 24, 1905. He was graduated from the University of Wisconsin, class of 1927, studied law at the University Law School, and was admitted to the State of Wisconsin Bar by examination August 28, 1931, and continued the practice of law in Racine up to the time of his death.

During World War II Mr. Smieding was Commander of the Racine Unit of the Coast Guard Reserve. He was a member of the Civilian Council which worked for the establishment of Naval Reserve Units in Racine. He was a past commander of Racine Ship No. 60 of the Navy Club, and a past Commodore of the Racine Yacht Club. He was also a past President of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans.

Besides these activities he interested himself in the collection of coins and was one of the founders of the

Racine Numismatic Society. In politics he was Republican. He was elected to the office of Justice of Peace from time to time and served as such from 1932 thru the year 1945.

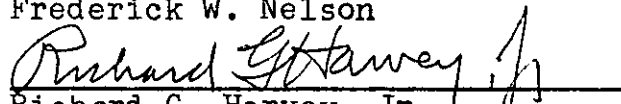
Henry Smieding was the type of man who did many kind acts for others, and was quiet and modest about it. For example, he devoted much time in starting a Stamp Saving Club at the Taylor's Children's Home, and spent many hours and attended many meetings to keep this enterprise going, and to furnish some worthwhile diversion for the children at that institution. Henry performed many legal services for people who were unable to pay him, or were only able to pay a token fee, but he seemed to take this as one of the normal burdens of the legal profession, and many of his kind acts were only revealed after his death, when people told about them to his relatives.

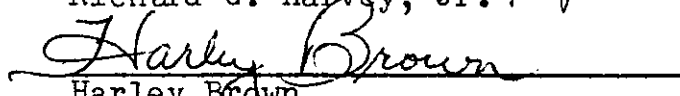
Henry Smieding loved the outdoors and had a particular fondness for the sailing and nautical matters in general. He loved to walk through the countryside and appreciated the beauties of nature.

As a man, Henry had a high sense of honor and a great devotion to duty. He always conducted himself with dignity, and he was uniformly patient and courteous in his dealings with the public and with his fellow lawyers. We know of no higher compliment to pay Mr. Smieding than to say that he was a real gentleman in accord with the best traditions described by that term.

The Special Committee of the Racine County Bar Association respectfully requests that this Memorial be accepted by the Court and be made of record thereof.


Frederick W. Nelson


Richard G. Harvey, Jr.


Harley Brown