January 2018

Report of the Necrology Committee

Wyoming State Bar

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It is anticipated that there will be a further small drop in the enrollment for the 1950 fall quarter. It appears at present that 48 second and third year students will return next year. We anticipate an entering class of about 30, hence our total enrollment should be in the neighborhood of 75 to 80. Of course, the unsettled world conditions may affect our enrollment. Some unrest is evident among our students and a substantial number of them are reserve officers.

The College is again fortunate in being able to retain its complete full-time staff. The President of this Association, Mr. A. M. Pence, was kind enough to conduct the course in Municipal Corporations for us last year, but will be unable to carry on the work in that course next year. Mr. Gordon Davis, of the Albany County Bar, will teach the course conducted by Mr. Pence.

Professor Frank J. Trelease accepted an invitation to teach in the Law School of the University of North Carolina during the second 1950 summer session. The Dean lectured in Teachers College, Columbia University, the first three weeks in August.

Members of the Bar will recall that in the last two previous reports the matter of a Law Institute in connection with the Annual Meeting of this Association was discussed. We are indeed happy that at this meeting such an Institute is having its beginning and it is our hope that the members of the Bar will find it so useful and inspiring that the Bar will wish to expand the program in subsequent years. The College of Law stands ready to perform any service in this connection which the Association may request of it.

The College deeply appreciates the support accorded it by the Bar during the year and we earnestly solicit the continuation of such support and encouragement. We are eager to render any possible service to the Bar and to improve the work of the College to the end that the Bar of the State may be advanced. Any suggestions any member of the Bar may have to this end will be appreciated.

R. R. Hamilton
Dean.

REPORT OF THE NECROLOGY COMMITTEE

Since the 1949 Annual Meeting of the Wyoming State Bar at Rawlins, Wyoming, on September 2nd and 3rd, 1949, five members of our association have passed from this life to the great beyond.

Volney Jean Tidball

Volney Jean Tidball had been Judge of the District Court of the Second Judicial District of Wyoming, for more than 36 years, prior to
his death on October 13, 1949. Judge Tidball was born April 7th, 1883, in Bozeman, Montana, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Lewis C. Tidball. The family moved to Sheridan, Wyoming in the year 1884 and Judge Tidball spent his younger years there. He entered the University of Wyoming in 1901 and received his B. A. Degree at Laramie in 1905. In 1908 he received a Law Degree from the University of Michigan and he began the practice of law at Laramie that same year. He was very active in all community affairs and from 1909 to 1913 was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Wyoming. Judge Tidball was married January 15, 1913, to Gertrude Ponting, a member of a pioneer Laramie family. In addition to his wife he is survived by their four children, Volney Jean a lawyer at Sheridan, David who lives in San Francisco, Mary Grace, an Art Instructor at the University of Alabama at Tuscallosa and Marjorie who lives in Laramie. Judge Tidball was appointed to the bench on January 6, 1913, by Governor Joseph M. Carey to fill the vacancy created by the death of District Judge Charles E. Tucker.

From the time of the founding of the University of Wyoming Law in 1920, Judge Tidball was a member of the faculty. Thus his death brought to a close a very distinguished career as a lawyer, scholar and judge.

JOHN STANSBURY

John Stansbury passed away Monday, November 28, 1949, at the Douglas Clinic in Douglas, Wyoming, at the age of 87 years. John Stansbury was born in Scotland, near the English border, on April 14, 1862, and was brought to the United States of America by his parents who settled in Brazil, Indiana, in the year 1869. He went to work in the mines at an early age and in the year 1888 was appointed mine inspector for the northeast district of Illinois. In 1889 he entered the law school at the University of Michigan and was elected City Attorney of Braidwood, Illinois, while still a student at the University.

Mr. Stansbury moved to Washington, D.C. in 1897 and served as an assistant to the United States Attorney General during the administrations of Presidents McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt and Taft. In the year 1913 he moved to Douglas, Wyoming, where he has resided since that time. He was very active in the early days in settling Indian and Spanish claims and traveled extensively throughout the west and southwest.

Throughout his adult life he has been extremely active and interested in the Masonic Lodge and has held all of the principal offices in Wyoming Masonic Orders.

He is survived by a son, Harry, of Chicago, Illinois, and a daughter, Mrs. Alta Shaffner of Lake Charles, Louisiana.
Mark A. Chapman

Mark A. Chapman of Cheyenne, Wyoming, died on Wednesday, April 19, 1950, at Santa Fe, New Mexico. Funeral services were held in Cheyenne on Saturday, April 22, 1950. Mr. Chapman was 64 years of age at the time of his death, having been born at Winchester, Illinois, and having moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming, with his family as an infant. He graduated from the University of Illinois and was active in the real estate and insurance business in Cheyenne for many years. He is survived by his wife Grace Chapman.

Lin I. Noble

Lin I. Noble passed away at Thermopolis, Wyoming, on Thursday, June 15, 1950, at the age of 77 years. He was born August 20, 1872, at Garner, Iowa, later moving to LeGrand, Iowa, where he attended the LeGrand Christian College. He was married to Mattie S. Richards on October 10, 1891. They then moved to Glenwood, Nebraska, where Mr. Noble owned a newspaper. Mr. and Mrs. Noble later moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he entered the law school of the University of Nebraska and was graduated in 1902. After graduation from the law school, Mr. Noble again entered the newspaper business and practiced law at the same time. The summer of 1905 the family moved to Basin, Wyoming, and he practiced law until 1909 when they moved to Thermopolis. At Thermopolis Mr. Noble owned the Thermopolis Independent until 1920 and also practiced law at Thermopolis during that same period. In 1920 Mr. Noble sold the newspaper and from that time forward devoted his full time to the full practice of law. He was appointed District Judge of the Ninth Judicial District to complete the term of E. H. Fort, who died in 1934. In 1935 the Ninth Judicial District was abolished and Mr. Noble returned to his private practice of law.

Mr. and Mrs. Noble observed their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1941 and had been married almost 59 years at the time of Mr. Noble's death. Survivors include his wife and two sons, Ralph W. Noble of Thermopolis and Burnette (Fritz) Noble of Lincoln, Nebraska.

James H. Burgess

Judge James H. Burgess of Sheridan, Wyoming, died in Sheridan on June 19, 1950, at the age of 74 years. Judge Burgess was born in Garden City, Nevada, on June 16, 1876. His father was a gold miner who participated in the Gold Rush earlier in the century. In 1881 the family came to Wyoming, settling first at Big Horn where Judge Burgess received his first formal education. He received his law degree from Michigan Law School in 1902. He was married to Mary Helen Helvey at Sheridan in October 1908. Judge Burgess was active in the practice of law at Sheridan until he went on the bench in 1915, where he served with distinction until his retirement on May 16, 1950.
Judge Burgess in addition to a distinguished career as a jurist, a private practitioner of the law and as County and Prosecuting Attorney of Sheridan County, Wyoming, also maintained a very active interest in ranching throughout his life time.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Wyoming State Bar in regular annual meeting assembled at Buffalo, Wyoming, August 31, 1950 and September 1st and 2nd, 1950, pay its respect to Volney Jean Tidball, John Stansbury, Mark A. Chapman, Lin I. Noble, James H. Burgess, and recognize their contribution to the legal profession to the State of Wyoming and that their memories be perpetuated by spreading this resolution upon the minutes of the meeting of the Association.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the families of each.

Respectfully submitted,

THE NECROLOGY COMMITTEE
Hazel B. Kerper
Warren Winter
Oliver W. Steadman, Chairman.