Class of 1886

Minutes of Reunion

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University of Michigan
Law Class 1886

MINUTES
OF
REUNION

June 26-27, 1916
Ann Arbor - Michigan
To the Members of the Law Class of 1886, University of Michigan:

During the last reunion whenever I had an opportunity I made notations and memoranda in order that I might be able to prepare proper minutes of the meeting. I probably missed the most important things. If you think it is easy, try keeping the minutes yourselves the next time. I have had them printed and a copy is herewith enclosed. Feel very free to write to me about omissions, additions and corrections; I want to get them right. I am a lawyer; I am not thin-skinned and am not easily hurt. If I were I would have Honder called before the bar of the class for using sarcasm. A carbon copy of the minutes, before printing, was sent to him for review and correction. He wrote, "I have read the minutes with a great deal of pleasure and I would not for one minute think of making any changes in the running account of the meeting. As the minutes are written up they are Moffitesque and it would be almost sacrilege to make any changes, besides they tell the story in exact accord with the circumstances and happenings. My recollection is refreshed on many points."

Come to the reunion June 27 and 28, 1921, and have the minutes properly corrected.

JOHN T. MOFFIT, Sec'y.
Tipton, Iowa, August, 1920.
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
LAW CLASS 1886

MINUTES REUNION, JUNE 26-27,
1916
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Sunday, June 25, 1916, 4:30 P. M.
At the reunion of the Law Class of
1886, University of Michigan, held June
25, 26 and 27, 1911, it was, on motion,
adjourned until Monday and Tuesday
of Commencement week, 1916.

The Secretary sent out circular let-
ters on April 7, April 29, June 7 and
June 14, 1916. He wrote hundreds of
other letters, and, in addition, Mr.
James A. Crawford, President of the
Class, at his own expense, sent thirty
telegrams urging members, who had
not definitely promised to come, to
report at Ann Arbor for the reunion.

The Secretary, loaded down with
grips and letter files, and beaming with
enthusiasm, arrived heralding that
many larger classes may have left the
University; but that no class had better
kept in touch with each other, nor had
a more kindly feeling for each other,
than the fine bunch of fellows leaving
the Law Department on July 1, 1886.
He stated, on seeing so many present
so early in the meeting, that he was
not now mad at the fellows who had
not answered his letters.

The 30th anniversary of the Law
Class of '86, U. of M., is now on.

Headquarters at the Allenel Hotel,
the old Cook House. A beautiful
day—the first fine one for some time.

J. W. Houder, the old reliable, of
Rock Island, Ill., came first; on Sat-
urday morning; so report says. Then
came Jas. A. Crawford, of Heathman, Miss., just as full of good humor and the milk of human kindness as ever. Capt. J. S. Lydick of Pittsburg, now devoting his whole time to the Pittsburg Coal Co.; H. D. Meritew, automobile salesman; F. L. Boyd, the old sport, his first reunion, of Chicago; Chas. H. Dudley, of Colorado Springs, also reporting for the first time; (Dudley came by easy stages, stopping in Iowa to bring the secretary with him); A. O. Crozier, the man with the great voice, from Cincinnati; A. B. McMillan, who never misses, honors us by bringing his wife and two daughters, one having recently graduated at Madison; McMillan left no skeletons in the closet at Ann Arbor and doesn't seem to be afraid to bring his family—I can't say as much for some others; Robt. E. Evans, from Dakota City, Neb., reporting for the first time; all these came in and were followed by C. D. May, the banker from Clinton, Iowa, a regular attendant, and accompanied by A. C. Wright of Brookdale, Ills., his old roommate; and Aldrich of Detroit, who now has a son in the University, came in.

This was a very satisfactory advance guard for the regular reunion which will open tomorrow.

A delightful visit was had in the lobby of the hotel. The exchange of reminiscences and experiences commenced without delay.

And just as the midnight bell was tolling, under a full head of steam in came our politician and candidate for congress, with a bold front, W. J. Spears.

Shortly after the arrival of Spears, at the zero hour, everybody was tuck-ed away in bed—apparently sober.
Monday, June 26, 1916, 10 A. M.

James A. Crawford, the President, called the class to order in room B of the Law Building. The original call was for room C, but the meeting was transferred to room B because the old class picture was hanging in that room.

The Secretary was directed to call the roll of the class. The following members reported present: Aldrich, Boyd, Crawford, Dudley, Evans, Houd-er, Lydick, McMillan; May, C. D.; Meredith, Miller, Volney, Moffit, Shepherd, Spears, Wright.

The Secretary was directed to read the minutes. At this point McNamara and Brunson, both regular attendants, came in.

It was then suggested that the Secretary be directed to read all of the minutes of the reunions of 1896, 1906 and 1911. These were read and approved.

Prewitt and McNamara came in while the minutes were being read.

The hour of eleven o'clock had arrived. It has always been the custom that at some time during each reunion all of the members would stand, with bowed heads, in kind remembrance of the classmates who had gone on before. McKenzie, evidently after reading the outline of the last minutes which had been sent out in advance of this meeting, suggested that the hour of eleven o'clock, on the first day of each reunion be fixed as the time that every member of the class, wherever he was, should pause for one minute and stand with bowed head—even though he be in a foreign state—and join with the members of the class who were present. In accordance with this suggestion the class followed its regular
custom, and fixed the hour at eleven o'clock for all reunions hereafter to observe this custom. The class thereupon stood, with bowed heads, in kind remembrance of the following twenty-six boys, who had already passed away.

George Callinan Brady, died at St. Vincent's hospital, Portland, Oregon, Aug. 7, 1905.
Lettie L. Burlingame, died at Joliet, Ill., Dec. 12, 1890.
Charles Henry Carlson, died at Santa Cruz, Cal., June 26, 1906.
James Edmund Cross, died May 19, 1909, at his home in Chicago.
George C. Dimmitt, died at Denver, Colo., Aug. 9, 1903.
Charles B. Hamble, murdered at Holton, Kansas, June 16, 1894.
Thomas D. Healy, died Jan. 15, 1909, at Fort Dodge, Iowa.
George E. Hibner, died at Lincoln, Nebraska, June 7, 1913.
Capt. Francis G. Higgins, died at Portland, Oregon, Nov. 15, 1905.
Edward E. Hull, died at Flagstaff, Arizona, July 7, 1894.
Yasnoskeh, Ishii, died at Odawara, Japan, Feb. 14, 1901.
Roger Miller Lee, died Sept. 2, 1909, at Cleveland, Ohio.
William A. MacDonald, died at Seattle, Washington.
William L. Marquardt, died at Port Angeles, Wash., May 25, 1908.
Charles F. Miller, died at Chicago, Ill., May 20, 1891.
Robert A. Nye, died at Winamac, Ind., Jan. 25, 1894.
Rollo B. Oglesbee, died Aug. 17, 1908, at Indianapolis, Ind.
Francis Wright, died at Lake City, Mich., Oct. 10, 1904.

McNamara and Brunson were appointed a committee to call upon Dr. Hutchins, in accordance with our custom, and ask him to fix an hour that would be agreeable to him when we might call and pay our respects to our old law lecturer. The committee returned and said that the President had suggested four o’clock as the most convenient hour. Wright arose in his place and inquired as to whether he understood that to be in the afternoon or morning.

There were now 21 members present. On motion, adjourned until 2 P. M.

All took lunch at the Allenel Hotel.

Stephens and Wolfe arrived during the noon hour.

Monday, June 26, 1916, 2 P. M.

The class reconvened at room B. Law Building. The roll was again called, all of those present in the morning again reporting, with Stephens and Wolfe added. Total now present was 23.

Aldrich reported that a photo would be taken at 3:45.

The afternoon was pleasantly spent.

All members of the class repaired to the Alumni Building and registered. At this time more members had reported from this old class than from
any other class in the University. A visit was had with the Alumni Secretary who expressed much satisfaction that a class now thirty years out of school should return in such numbers. The members returned to their meeting place and a group picture was taken of all those present.

The proceedings were broken into at 4 P. M. by the class going in a body to the President's office. He then sent the class for a visit and inspection of the Martha Cook Home. The President expressed himself as highly pleased with our visit and was much elated to know that after thirty years we could have so large a delegation present at the reunion. We pronounced our appreciation of our old professor's good words and particularly that we desired to meet him again in five years.

Some member of the class persisted in talking out of order and interrupted everybody by insisting that the gathering of so large a number of a class out of school so many years was largely due to the plan the class had of sending out communications and follow-up letters, reporting good times at the last reunions and making rather flowery promises of what would happen at the next.

The President said that he had been put on the Secretary's mailing list and that suggestions had been made to other classes that they might profit by following the example set by the Law Class of '86.

Letter after letter was read from those absent with interesting comment by those present, and report after report was made as each one's name was called.
At 6 P. M. adjournment was taken until the next morning at 10 o'clock.

Evening: However, the meeting was continued at the Allenel Hotel. The Secretary saw that "Law '86" was written after the name of every classmate who had registered with the result that it looked as though there was hardly anyone about except our class. It was really amusing as this great bunch of fellows sat around the hotel in the evening, with scores standing back of their chairs listening to the good stories being told.

The members of the class will probably recall that we have always called our reunions for Monday and Tuesday of Commencement week in order to get in ahead of the great crowds which come later in the week, with the result we are usually better able to get accommodations and are not swallowed up in the great mass which comes later. We just have a good time among ourselves.

The whole evening and well into the night was very pleasantly spent.

Tuesday, June 27, 1919, 10 A. M.

Class called to order; roll called; in addition to the 23 reporting yesterday, Hooper, the court who tried "Chicken Joe" at Joliet for murdering the warden's wife, had come for his first reunion; Krause, a candidate for congress; Searl, Judge of the Circuit Court; White, a strong Blaine supporter, who never prided himself any because he was a nephew of the "Rum, Romanism and Rebellion" minister; Breck, the hustling life insurance man from Jackson; Nieman, the good, kind-hearted banker, if a banker can be
that; and L. Avery, the high class lawyer; a Republican boss and still out of jail; answered roll call. The grand total is now 30.

Various estimates had been made as to how many we would finally have present; the Secretary had set his heart on 30. Everyone was now content. All those present went along to have the last seven register.

Lincoln Avery could remain only an hour; an important business matter required his attendance, but we were greatly pleased that he should make the trip from Port Huron to be with us an hour between trains. It was fine! He gave us a very nice talk and wound up by saying that he wanted a reunion in five years.

The question was then discussed as to whether the next reunion should be in five years or ten years. Avery, Spears, E. L. Smith, McMillan and Lydick talked on the question. The suggestion was adopted by rising vote—unanimously—that the next reunion should be held in five years. Lydick said no one should ever miss a reunion; that he had been at every one.

It was decided that a banquet should be held on Monday evening of the next reunion. Spears, L. Avery and McNamara were designated as the banquet committee, and these three gentlemen suggested that they would look after the banquet end of it and that there need be no advance payments for tickets. It was thought that the new Michigan Union would be running by that time and that the banquet might be held there.

On motion the Secretary was directed to call the next reunion for Monday and Tuesday of Commencement week, 1921.
On motion of Shepherd the Secretary was directed to cast the unanimous vote of the class for Crawford for President. The vote was so cast.

Nieman moved that W. J. Spears be, in like manner, made Vice President. It was so declared.

Krause moved that Moffit be made Secretary and Treasurer by rising vote. Many showed a tired feeling in getting up, but all finally stood.

On motion of Aldrich J. W. Houder was made Assistant Secretary.

On motion the Secretary was authorized to buy necessary letter files; the files he had along with him being a disgrace to the class; they were somewhat the worse for the wear, bound in brown paper and tied with pieces of rope.

The Secretary was directed to get correct post office addresses of the members and print a new register. Oh! How easy to pass a motion, but, oh my! the work of getting the information!

A contribution by those present was taken up by Shepherd and Houder. Houder made out a list of names and amounts which he handed to the Secretary, with checks showing $127 contributed to pay printing bills. It was suggested that if this was not sufficient other members of the class be notified to send in $5 each to the expense fund.

At this point Evans had to leave.

We then took up the letters and memoranda about the boys where we quit yesterday afternoon, and continued reading letters, relating incidents, and hearing reports of what the different members had heard of various ones. A number of the members ex-
pressed the thought that it was fortunate that so many of this class had prospered so greatly—some in doing good, some in securing lucrative practices, and some in a highly successful business way.

The Secretary was directed to write into the minutes that it was the opinion of all members present, and they knew others would gladly join, that if any member of the class, at any time, was in need of anything he should not hesitate to take the matter up with the Secretary or any other member of the class, and that the member so consulted should take the matter up with the class, advising them of the conditions, and that help—if that was what was needed—should be rendered.

Some of the successful members insisted that this should be done freely and that no one should be looked down upon when he opened his heart and told of his condition. It was suggested that there be a committee from this class to take charge of the matters and affairs of any member of the class and render the assistance; and that the members of the class would consider it a privilege rather than a burden to help in any way.

Adjourned for lunch until 1:45 P. M.

Tuesday, June 27, 1916, 1:45 P. M.

On reconvening after lunch inquiry was made for Scouton—Crozier's sidekick—with the loud voice. Someone said, "Do you remember him?" Boyd replied, "Who could forget him?"

The reading of letters and giving of information was continued. Had it not been for the coming of the closing of the day the members would have been still sitting there.

It was very pleasing indeed that so many of the class returned, from such
distant points; old friendships were renewed and cemented. The Secretary has found that it is not hard to get men to come back to reunions after they have formed the habit; in fact they report to him that they keep it on their minds; men who make few friends at home say they are surprised at the kindly feelings that come back to them on these return trips. Every person present urged that we spread propaganda about our good times and urge as many as possible to come to our next reunion, our thirty-fifth anniversary, as it is more than likely after that time that our number will commence to fall away quite rapidly.

The Secretary had compiled a list of members not now in the practice, as follows:

Carpenter Grant, Press Club, San Francisco; Author.
Wm. M. Clary, Agt. of a Publishing Co., Kansas City, Mo.
James A. Crawford, Cotton Planter, Heathman, Miss.
George B. Creveling, Advertising Agt., Medical Record, 51 5th Ave, N. Y.
A. O. Crozier, Promoter, Cottage Hill, Cincinnati.
Francis E. Durning, Farmer, Lane, Idaho.
Henry C. Gilbert, Farm Loan Mgr., Minneapolis, Minn.
E. N. Hartman, Commercial Traveler, South Bend, Ind.
F. M. Hostetter, Railway Mail Service, South Bend, Ind.
J. G. Jolly, Contractor, Tacoma, Washington.
W. R. Kendall, College Work, Oak Park, Ill.
Charles H. Kline, Theatrical Mgr., Address not known.
M. Kraus, Manufacturer, Peru, Ind.
Frank N. Lufkin, Cashier Lahaina National Bank, Maui, T. Hawaii.
C. D. May, Bank Cashier, Clinton, Iowa
W. A. F. May, with Santa Fe Ry. Co., Los Angeles, Cal.
H. D. Merithew, Automobile Salesman, permanent address Ann Arbor, Mich.
Miss Mary Merrill, cannot find her address.
E. C. Miller, special work for Pension Department, Syracuse, N. Y.
Volney Miller, Insurance, Union City, Ind.
H. W. Nieman, Bank Cashier, Elmore, Ohio.
George G. Prewitt, Tobacco Planter, Winchester, Ky.
C. E. Servis, Title Examiner, Title & Trust Co., Seattle, Wash.
Fred B. Shepherd, Capitalist, Oswego, N. Y.
A. C. Wright, Sales Mgr. Aluminum Products Co., Brookfield, Ill.

A number of the members were arranging to take the evening trains and good-byes were said to them.

Dudley of Colorado Springs moved that we adjourn for five years. Carried.
Tuesday evening, June 27.

All the members who did not have to take trains went back to the hotel. The Secretary made a list of those who were still in the bunch at the hotel at 8:30 P. M.: Crawford, Wright, Krause, Prewitt, Houder, C. D. May, Hogg, Stephens, Nieman, Volney Miller, Moffit Shepherd, Boyd, Brunson, Meritew, Hooper and Breck—seventeen. This number would have made a good re-union.

The Secretary began to gather up his letter files, memoranda and data, bid his many friends good-bye, and took the 9:30 train for his Iowa home to face five more years of plodding and working, success and failure, and with an inward promise to himself that he would, in his poor way, continue his labor of love—and real labor it is—to keep in touch with the boys and get them back in 1921.

After arriving at home $10 was received in addition to the $127 turned over during the reunion.

Referring to the contributions, it might be only fair to the Secretary to say—all the regular attendants know—that he never used nor accepted and never will accept a cent directly or indirectly during all these years. There have always been a few dollars in the treasury to pay printing—sometimes it is enough and sometimes not. This year the members present insisted enough should be on hand to pay the printing bills.