Class of 1897

Class Bulletin no. 61: Law Class of 1897

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Law Class Of 1897
University Of Michigan
ABBOTT, CHARLES F., Middlebury, Vt.—Deceased, April 27, 1929.

ABBOTT, CHARLES S., Chicago, Ill.—Deceased March 12 1946.

AIRD, C. W., Brantford, Ont.—Deceased, September 8, 1931.

BABB, MAX WELLINGTON, Milwaukee, Wisconsin—Deceased, March 13, 1943

BAER, AUGUST H., Bellville, Ill.—Deceased, October 27, 1918.


BARTLETT, CHARLES L., Detroit, Mich.—Deceased, July 14, 1951.


BLACKBURN, JAMES H., 702 Mulberry St., Mt. Vernon, Ind.
I am doing my best to enjoy a quiet, rather inactive life. Last month I enjoyed my 87th birthday and my guess is that I have the honor of being our oldest living member. I am sorry that I could not attend the class reunion last summer. I was hardly equal to it. However, I am in very good health now. My sincere thanks for your work on the Bulletin, and my best regards and good wishes to you and all the other classmates.

BODMAN, HENRY E., 1400 Buhl Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich.—Happy those whose annals are few. There is little or nothing for me to relate. I am still practicing law with my old firm, but for the last year I know less and less about more and more. However it is a pleasure to keep up the old association and occasionally be able to pull an oar when the ship has hard going.
I am glad to hear from you and to learn that you are still engaged in the legal profession. I hear from John Pratt of Toledo. Regards to all surviving classmates.


DANCER, HERBERT A., 274 Monterey Road, Palm Beach, Fla. I fear my report is late. Is it the warm relaxing climate that is slowing me down? I hope so. It could not be my eight-four years surely. I am a mere child in comparison with Grandma Moses and others in their nineties. I will be very modest in this note and only brag a little about our grandson, Stephen Kott who finished his four year’s course in the University of Michigan in three years and still made Phi Beta Kappa. He is now in his second year in Medical School and receives A’s in his tests, so we are quite proud of him. And so now we can take it easy and enjoy life. He can probably support us, his grandparents, in our old age which I hope is a long time coming. I send best wishes to you and all the brothers of our class, and hope that this coming year brings to all of us three hundred and sixty-five days of happiness.


DRUMHELLER, THOMAS J., Box 538 Walla Walla, Wash.—Deceased, January 28, 1954.

FIELD, FREEMAN, Los Angeles, Calif.—Deceased, Jan. 10, 1931.

FORD, DELBERT E., 2233 East 70th St., Chicago 49, Ill.—No report. I have a letter from his brother Vernon Ford, resident of New York City and a member of Law ’95 University of Michigan under date of Dec. 2, 1957 in which he says: “I spent a few days with my brother (Delbert) in the first part of October and found him slipping mentally, but physically he is all right. He is also going quite blind. He was eighty-two years of age last July. He is able to get around, but cannot read. He has a niece living with him taking care of his needs and is very comfortable. He cannot attend to any business.” I am sure our sympathy goes out to brother Ford, and we wish him well.

FOUTS, ROBERT M., Paradise, Calif.—Deceased, April 25, 1943.

FREEDMAN, H. Y., 2366 Panorama Terrace, Los Angeles 39,
Calif.—So, another year has passed, and another report is due. Old mistakes, old triumphs, old griefs are behind us; tomorrow and tomorrow hold the challenge of the days ahead. We old codgers must make the best of these numbered days. It is generally conceded that three score and ten is the allotted span of life to be expected. Yet every living member of our class has exceeded this expectation by ten years or more. I don’t know what this proves; but if we still have good health, the chances are good we will survive for some time to come. So it is up to each survivor to so conserve, use and enjoy each and every precious remaining day and hour as best suits his condition, demands, temperament and environment. At this age it is fascinating to watch the fast moving changes occurring in this physical world. We, in our lifetimes have been privileged to witness many wonderful advances:—electric lights and power, telephones, radio, television, airplanes, etc. A child born today will mature in a world as different from that we have known as ours is different from that of the ancient Greeks. Space control, guided missiles, moon trips, already fill the news items. This child will witness great progress in psychic phenomena, better methods of food production, increase in education and better living conditions for the masses in Asia and Africa, and innovations and inventions even more wonderful and revolutionary than those of our times. In the intervals between a new kink here and a strange pain there, while we watch the old chassis creak and groan with the strains of wear and tear, we have ample time to reflect on what is happening in this world around us, and try to find suitable answers for new problems. Kindest regards to you and all the boys of ’97 Law.


GALEN, ALBERT J., Helena, Mont.—Deceased, May 16, 1936.

HANDY, JAMES S., Chicago, Ill.—Deceased, September 27, 1941

HARPER, DAVID N., 5534 Locust Street, Kansas City, Mo.—No Report.

HARRISON, GEORGE B., Kansas City, Mo.—Deceased, March 4, 1930.

HART, WILLIAM L., 135 Overlook Drive, Alliance, Ohio.—Ret’d from the Supreme Court of Ohio on January 2nd, 1957 at the expiration of my term after eighteen years service on that Court. I notice we have reached a period when we are not sensitive as to our age. I claim to be the oldest member of our class. I was 90 on February 5, 1957. I am in good health and
am still doing some law work at my home in Alliance—consultation, estate planning, wills and trusts. During the past year, I have done the editorial work for a law-publishing house in the revision of an article of 250 pages in Ohio Jurisponderence, (second series), now in revision after first publication 25 years ago. I much enjoyed this work. I was reelected a trustee of Mount Union College last June after forty-five years continuous service in that capacity. I was the lone member of the class to attend the 60 year "reunion" at Ann Arbor last June, but on my way to Ann Arbor, I stopped at the home of brother Pratt at Toledo and had a nice visit with him.

HAYES, HENRY N., Salt Lake City, Utah—Deceased.
HILLS, CHARLES W., Miami Beach, Fla.—Deceased, April 2, 1950.
KOCOUREK, ALBERT, Beloit, Wis.—Deceased, June 8, 1952.
LAWTON, CHARLES T., Toledo, Ohio.—Deceased, June 13, 1929.
LONG, WILLIAM M., Deerfield, Mich.—Deceased.
LUX, ARTHUR W.—Deceased, September 25, 1910.
MILLER, HARRY A., Glen Ellyn, Ill.—Deceased.
MILROY, CHARLES M., Toledo, Ohio—Deceased, December 12, 1931.
MINER, KARL R., Newton, Conn.—Deceased, August 28, 1947.
NORRIS, JAMES T., Wilkinsburg, Pa.—Deceased, May 29, 1949.
ORTON, JESSE F., Jackson Heights, New York—Deceased, October, 1956
PADLEY, W. H. Reardon, Wash.—Deceased, March 28, 1955. He is survived by Mrs. Padley.
PRATT, JOHN SHERRING, 1652 North Cove Boulevard, Toledo 6, Ohio—I have very little to report for the Class Bulletin. Mrs. Pratt and I leave December 10, for Vinay Park Hotel, St. Petersburg, Florida where we will spend the winter months as we have done for the past ten years. I have completely retired so far as the law is concerned. I find that as time goes on, like Brother Bodman, I know less and less about more and more. Such is life as the years pass on. My best regards to all the surviving members of our class.
RILEY, B. T., Paloa, Kan. —Deceased, July 10, 1940.

ROGERS, JR., ALBERT T., Crockett Building, Las Vegas, New Mexico.—The past year has been uneventful. I am still in the active practice of law but limit my work mostly to office work and estate and land title matters, foreclosures and suits to quiet title. I no longer try jury cases, as that line of practice is too exacting. I did take part last summer in the argument of a case in the Supreme Court involving the law of water rights; a very important case as it involves over a million dollars; the case is still under advisement but we have hopes of a favorable decision. My Son, Waldo, is making an enviable record as United States District Judge for New Mexico; was mentioned and strongly supported for appointment to the United States Supreme Court. Altho I attend my office daily, time has taken its toll, as need be expected. Returning to my home at night last summer from a conference in Santa Fe on Supreme Court matters, I missed my footing in ascending the several stone steps to my home, and fell backward,—but by Act of Providence I am sure. I was saved a broken head or bones altho I fell down the several stone steps to the walk. I still feel the effects and shock of that experience, and its injury I fear will be permanent. But I am thankful for all the years of superb health despite the strenuous professional life I lived for over forty years. When a person exceeds the Biblical three score and ten by a decade he has been greatly blessed, and I am humbly thankful to God for such a blessing.

RYAN, EMMETT C., Uhrichsville, Ohio—Deceased January 16, 1940.

SALISBURY, DUANE C., Battle Creek, Mich.—Deceased November 26, 1913.

SHELDON, CLAUDE, Warren, Ohio—Deceased June 7, 1930.

STANLEY, FRED B., Beverly Hills, Calif.—Deceased, May 17, 1943.

STEARNS, CLAIRE H., Carmel by the Sea, Calif.—Deceased, December 29, 1943.

STEVENSON, ARCHIBALD, Rockport, Indiana—Deceased February 10, 1925

WEHRLE, EDWARD F., Los Angeles, Calif.—Deceased May 30, 1941.

WHITE, CHARLES E., 510 North Fourth Street, Niles, Mich.—Deceased, August 3, 1957 Early this year a letter of mine to
Brother White was answered by a member of his original law firm at Niles, in which the firm reported as follows: “Mrs. White died on August 13, 1926, and the Judge is in quite poor health. He is up and around but rarely leaves his house. A palsy affliction makes it impossible for him to do any writing and this probably accounts for his failure to reply to your letter.” Later I received news of his death as above noted at the age of 84 yrs.

WILLIAMS, ROY H., Sandusky, Ohio—Deceased December 18, 1946.

“CLASS REUNION”

Early in the spring of 1957, I put out a call for the 60 year Class Reunion of our U. of M. Law Class of '97. We had held a class reunion every five years since our graduation, and this was to be our twelfth reunion. From advance responses, I was quite sure that at least three of the members of the Class would be present. On Thursday morning, June 13, 1957, my son William and I left for Ann Arbor over the new Ohio Turnpike from Ravenna to Toledo, and from there to Ann Arbor arriving about two o'clock in the afternoon, stopping for a short visit on the way with John Pratt and his wife at their home in Toledo. We had a wonderful, though, short visit and reunion at their home. By the time I reached Ann Arbor, I learned that for various reasons no other member of the class would attend. In the evening, I attended the All-Class dinner at the Michigan Union ball room. There were present at least five hundred reunion guests from various classes. We had a good dinner and President Hatcher and others gave splendid addresses. The next morning at ten o'clock I went to Hutchins Hall where we were accustomed to hold our class reunion, and held a “Class Reunion” all to myself—not not exactly by myself. I went to the class picture room where the class pictures of the graduating law classes of the Law School since 1890 are mounted on revolving standards for easy inspection. I turned to the front, the fine class picture of our '97 Law Class and sat down in front of it and in imagination had a wonderful “Class Reunion”. And, incidentally, our class picture shows up with great fidelity as to the recognition of the identity of its members because of the small number of our class, as compared with the pictures of other law classes. I had present with me the beautiful gold watch which the members of the class presented to me at our 25 year reunion in June 1922, and which still keeps perfect time. I consulted it when it came time to adjourn the “reunion”. I then
visited the Alumni office and met our genial Secretary, T. Hawley Tapping and his good assistant Robert Morgan, and had a nice visit with them. I then went to the Clements Library on the Campus where I saw our Memorial Class Bulletin volume, beautifully bound and containing copies of our annual Class Bulletin for the first fifty years after our graduation. It is designated in the library as "Michigan University Law School—Class of 1897—U. of M. Collection G, 1897, 1-J. C." I spent some time roving over the beautiful campus and visited several of the newer buildings. Before leaving, I went to the Wahr Book store on State Street adjoining the campus where we in 1895-1897 purchased our law books—still in operation by members of the Wahr family—and there purchased a new book as has been my custom in returning to the Michigan campus. We returned home from Ann Arbor the same evening, Friday June 14th. I had a wonderful trip. I only regret that the other seven surviving members of our class could not have been present. On July 17, 1957, I turned over to the Alumni Association $30.00 as our class dues to the Alumni Council, and this pays our dues for all remaining time. As a consequence our class is on the Council's Honor Roll Roster.

WILLIAM L. HART, Secretary
This is the 61st consecutive edition of the Class Bulletin that "Bradshaws" have printed for your editor, W. L. Hart.

Fred
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