Class of 1897

Class Bulletin no. 63: 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.


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


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


BLACKBURN, JAMES H., 1018 East 5th St., Mt, Vernon, Ind. Recently sold home on Mulberry Street and moved to address above noted. Will look eagerly forward to receipt of Class Bulletin No. 63. We remaining six members must close ranks and keep close to each other. Sends greetings and good wishes to all members of the class “and especially to Brother Hart for his fine work in keeping us together”.

WILLIAM L. HART, Editor
OUR ranks are certainly becoming thinner. The death of John S. Pratt of Toledo, Ohio, was a great shock to me. He was not only a classmate but one of my most intimate friends. He was a fine man and had a distinguished career as a lawyer, faithfully serving the federal government in many very important matters of litigation. I congratulate you on your faithful service in keeping the members of our class in touch with each other. My kindest regards to all surviving members of our class.


DANCER, HERBERT A., 274 Monterey Road, Palm Beach, Fla. Deceased, June 20, 1959. On June 27th, 1959, I received a letter from Mrs. Dancer advising that her husband, Herbert Allan Dancer had passed away on Saturday morning, June 20th, 1959 in the Community Hospital in Montclair, N. J. Mr. & Mrs. Dancer had gone to the new home of their daughter, Helen Dancer Kott at Essex Falls, N. J. to spend the summer where Judge suffered an attack from hardening of the arteries and passed away. Judge Dancer spent most of his active life of sixty years in Duluth where he presided over the District Court from 1911 to 1924 when he resigned to resume the practice of law with his former law firm. For twenty seven years he served as chairman of the Duluth Charter Commission. He was executive director of the Alworth Memorial Scholarship fund. Brother Dancer was one of the outstanding members of our law Class of '97. Surviving are his wife, Ruth Dancer of Palm Beach; a daughter, Mrs. Hermann Kott of Essex Hills, N. J. and a grandson, Stephen Kott.

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

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

FORD, DELBERT E., Harvey, Ill.—Brother Ford has been in ill health for the past several years and has been unable to make a report. His brother Vernon O. Ford, a New York City lawyer, so advised me by letter in September 1957 Vernon Ford has since died. The U. of M. Alumni Association in April 1959, advised me that our classmate Delbert was in a convalescent home in Midlothian, Ill., but I have been unable to get any response to my letters addressed to that institution. The new University of Michigan Law School Alumni Directory, published in July, 1959, gives Delbert Ford’s present address as Harvey, Ill. I get no response to letters addressed to him at this point.

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

FREEDMAN, H. Y., 2366 Panorama Terrace, Los Angeles 39, Calif.—The passing of three members of our class within the past year is a matter of regret but “on reflection we are reminded that death is only a process of nature by which we all live and that we all must pass on. According to the tenets of some religions this passing on is the very acme of life—an exodus from this mundane sphere into a much better and more beautiful existence. It’s something to think about. It would be presumptive to attempt to predict when our decks will be cleared, but let us hope that
death will be long delayed." Nothing of note has occurred during the past year. He and his wife are taking life as easy as possible, enjoying the advent of each day, and planning to take advantage of every opportunity to profit by the delightful California climate. He extends his warmest greetings to the other five surviving members of the class, and hopes that these six long-livers will still be reporting for the Class Bulletin in 1969.


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.—Deceased, March 9, 1959. Being unable to get any response from Brother Harper to my letters, I learned through the U. of M. Alumni office and the Michigan Alumnus that he passed away on March 9th, 1959 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Bert Neidig, 2802 Nila Ave., Orlando, Florida. I have written to Mrs. Neidig for further particulars concerning her father's passing, but to date I have had no reply.

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

HART, WILLIAM L., 135 Overlook Drive, Alliance, Ohio.—Death is constantly taking its toll. On February 5th, 1959, I lost a grandson, William L. Hart III, son of William L. Hart Jr. from a virus infection which suddenly proved fatal. He was a keen beautiful young man fifteen years of age, engaged in first year high school work. On October 3rd, 1959, my only surviving brother, Charles G. Hart, 86, of Salem, Ohio, passed away. He was an accomplished gentleman and business man. On April 3, 1959,
Judge James Garfield Stewart of the Ohio Supreme Court, the father of Justice Potter Stewart of the United States Supreme Court, suddenly passed away. He had been my colleague on the Ohio court for ten years, and upon his passing, I was appointed a member of a Memorial Committee to prepare and present a Memorial for the Judge. This was done in open Court on June 25, 1959. Have done some law work during the year, and have spent much time in my home library and in Mount Union College library located near our home. I have served on the Board of Trustees of Mount Union College for forty seven years and was reelected for another three year term in October, 1959. I gave an address on “Lincoln the Man” before the Alliance Historical Society on February 12th, 1959.

HAYES, HENRY N., Salt Lake City, Utah—Deceased.
HILLS, CHARLES W., Miami Beach, Fla.—Deceased, April 2, 1950.

KOCCOUREK, 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 K., Newton, Conn.—Deceased, August 28, 1947.

PRATT, JOHN SHERRING, 1652 North Cove Boulevard, Toledo 6, Ohio—Deceased, May 12, 1959. While Mrs. Pratt was in a Toledo hospital as the result of a fall and fractured right leg, classmate Pratt suddenly passed away at his apartment. The Toledo Blade on May 13, in a column and a half story concerning Pratt's life and work as a federal prosecutor said: "As a special assistant attorney general, Toledo-born Mr. Pratt was credited with sending to prison one of the biggest hoaxers of the 20th Century—Frederick A. Cook, who claimed that he discovered the North Pole. It was an oil-stock selling scheme that eventually brought Cook in a courtroom on the opposite side of the bar from Mr. Pratt. In the case, Cook was found guilty, and Judge Killets sentenced him to 15 years. Mr. Pratt's career in federal service spanned 31 years. He was named assistant U. S. Attorney in 1908. One of his earliest cases involved Jesse McDowell and was tried in Toledo. The case lasted nine months before ending in a mistrial after one of the jurors died. This led Pratt to campaign for a bill that called for the impaneling of a 13th juror or alternate juror. Congress enacted the bill into law. His most celebrated case involved Oscar Hartzell, an Iowa farmer. Hartzell concocted a fantastic scheme claiming that he was a descendant of Sir Francis Drake worth 20 billion dollars and that British nobility was trying to defraud him out of the fortune. He offered the public $1000.00 return on each $1.00 invested to help him secure his fortune. In this scheme he swindled gullible contributors of one million dollars before the U. S. Courts caught up with him. After a trial in Sioux City, Pratt obtained a conviction of Hartzell who drew a long prison term. He is survived by his wife Helen Pratt and a daughter, Alice Doyle Brown of Waterbury, Conn.

RILEY, B. T., Paloa, Kan.—Deceased, July 10, 1940.
ROGERS, ALBERT T Jr, 1100 Seventh St., Las Vegas, N. M.  
My beloved wife passed away April 2nd, 1959. She was a most wonderful woman and I am most deeply grieved. We enjoyed a happy marriage for 53 years. My own health has not been so good and I have adopted semi-retirement. Still do some work for regular clients but have ceased trial work. Sorry to learn of the passing of Pratt, Harper and Dancer.


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.

STEARNES, 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

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

EDITORIAL

Charles T. Lawton Jr. of Toledo, son of our classmate Charles T. Lawton died of a heart attack on May 13, 1959. He was a lawyer and at the time of his passing he was Director of Law of the city of Toledo. While I was on the Supreme Court of Ohio, he presented a number of cases to our court on behalf of the city of Toledo and always made a fine presentation. I very much enjoyed his acquaintance.

William L. Hart