Class of 1886

Minutes of Reunion

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To the Members of the Law Class of 1886, University of Michigan:

In accordance with the usual practice, I took notes, made memoranda, and did the best I could to keep a general run of what occurred at our 1921 reunion. I have assembled and written it into the form of Minutes of the meeting.

Immediately after returning home from the reunion I prepared and sent out a printed letter giving a general account of what happened at the meeting. The Minutes are a little more full. I have probably left out the most important things; if so, I have done it through oversight; and some of you may think I have inserted unimportant matters; if so, just overlook it. I hope those of you who were not able to attend may be interested in the report.

Feel free to write me about corrections, additions, omissions and suggestions; especially as to whether you think the Minutes are worth-while. I can assure you that if you think they are not I will be very glad to be relieved of the work of keeping the memoranda and preparing them.

The next Reunion has been fixed for Friday and Saturday, June 11 and 12, 1926; be particular to remember these dates. It will NOT be on Monday and Tuesday. Since our last reunion the University has re-arranged its schedule and now holds Commencement on Monday instead of Thursday.

I want forty present at the next reunion! Write me and say you will be one of them.

JOHN T. MOFFIT, Secretary

Mon, Iowa.
October 12th, 1925.
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
LAW CLASS 1886

MINUTES OF REUNION
JUNE 27 - 28, 1921
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Sunday, June 26, 1921, 3 P. M.

How quickly, of recent years, the Reunions come and go! The Law Class of 1886, University of Michigan, held its first Reunion ten years after graduation, June 1896; its second in twenty years, June 1906; its third in twenty-five years, June 1911; its fourth in thirty years, June, 1916. At the close of that Reunion, on motion of Dudley, the class adjourned to meet on Monday and Tuesday of Commencement week, 1921.

This, then, is the beginning of the fifth Reunion, or the thirty-fifth anniversary of the graduation of the class. In some manner the habit has been formed to come early, to be on time. The old-timers almost know in advance whom they will meet if they can get there on the Sunday preceding the Reunion.

President Crawford, Clary and the Secretary met in Chicago, leaving there on the 9:05 Michigan Central. Boyd was expected on the same train; the conductor informed us it was a busy day and that the train was made up of twenty cars and had to run in two sections. He, thereby, became separated from the rest of us. We all arrived at Ann Arbor at three o’clock.

Crozier from New York was at the depot, loud of voice and cheery of manner as usual. We found Stephens, who has been ten years on the bench and comes up this fall for re-election; Spears, who had just got the court to continue an important divorce case which had been on trial for some time; Nieman, the banker, who had driven over with his family in an auto; (the family had prepared a picnic dinner; the secretary was invited to
join them and help eat the good things but he arrived too late, greatly to his sorrow); W. A. F. May, who was attending his first, from Los Angeles; Humphrey, that dear boy, also attending his first; Brunson, who has never missed and who always brings his son with him; and Judge Dresbach, who had come for the first time, and who has a son—his only child—in the University. All these were there to welcome us. Boyd came in a short time; Merithew and Aldrich came from Detroit. Now——14

Crawford had come up to the hotel in a taxi, but claimed he had been driven in a round-about way and that he was mixed in his directions; he took Boyd and Merithew out to walk him around on the street and try to straighten him out. Some thought he might have chosen better guides as in days past there were rumors that at times they needed help to get in.

Brunson has lost much flesh, is much lighter; Merithew said in meeting him, “You are back to thirty-five years ago.”

At 6:15 Helmick, of Minneapolis, in poor health, and McMillen, of Albuquerque, came in. Helmick and Brunson had been room-mates, but had not seen each other since graduation day. It was a good part of this Reunion to see how pleased these two old friends were to see each other. Now——16.

During the dinner hour Breek of Jackson came into the dining room. And at 8 P. M. E. L. Smith arrived. Now——18.

The Secretary had assembled and brought with him the complete letter files and many bundles of memoranda. Those of you who never come will be interested in knowing that every member of the class present was even more interested than the Secretary in seeing that not a single letter, or scrap of paper, or memorandum, or newspaper clipping
was lost. They all appeared to appreciate the fact that most of this stuff could never be replaced. The files contain every letter, clipping, account and story that the Secretary has ever received in these thirty-five years from or about any member of the class. If the class is fortunate enough not to lose these files they will eventually contain a large amount of valuable matter.

This was the largest number that had ever arrived in advance and our visiting continued until past midnight.

Monday, June 27, 1921; 10 A. M.

The class gathered rather early on the campus in front of the Law Building and at ten A. M. the meeting was called to order, in Room C of the Law Building, by President James A. Crawford, of Memphis.

The roll was called: Aldrich, Boyd, Breck, Brunson, Clary, Crawford, Crozier, Dresbach, Garrigues, Helmick, Humphrey, C. D. May, W. A. F. May, Merithew, Volney Miller, Moffit, McMillen, Nieman, E. L. Smith, Spears Stephens; in all——22.

The Minutes of the meeting of June 25, 26 and 27, 1916, were read.

During the reading of the minutes Meeker and Shepherd arrived.

Now——24.

Correction of Minutes of 1916

The Secretary stated that the printed Minutes sent out under date of August, 1920, should be corrected in the following respects:

They should show that A. O. Crozier was present at the morning meeting on Monday; he was out on the campus discussing some important questions of state, and did not get in to the meeting until after roll call.

E. E. Hogg, of Kentucky, should also be marked present at the Monday morning meeting. He is on the Secretary's check list but his name was inadvertently omitted by the printer.
E. L. Smith came in during the Monday morning session and is marked "Present" in the Minutes, but through error his name was omitted from the roll call.

The Minutes of the 1916 Reunion, as corrected and amended, were approved. There were present at that reunion:

14 Sunday evening;
21 Monday forenoon;
23 Monday afternoon;
30 Tuesday.

The list of those who have died—seven—since the last Reunion was submitted in chronological order, as follows:

CLARK, John Wharton, October 9, 1916; at Garfield Hospital, Washington, D. C.
GILLESPIE, John Wesley, December 19, 1916; at Shamokin, Penn.
TALCOTT, William Harvey, April 15, 1917; at South Lyon, Mich.
SERVIS, Charles Edward, May 12, 1918; at Columbia Sanitarium, Seattle, Wash.
ANDREWS, Stanley Corwin, October 31, 1918; at Conneaut, Ohio.
HOSTETTER, Frank M., December 25, 1919; at New Castle, Ind.
McNAMARA, James, October 30th, 1920; near Mt. Clemans, Mich.

Inquiry was then made whether there was a COMPLETE Chronological List of all of our dead, it being thought it would be interesting to note whether the deaths were regular each year or in what ratio they came. The Secretary produced the list and it was ordered placed in the Minutes, as follows:

Death Roll—Chronologically

Law '86, University of Michigan.
June 27, 1921.

1. Peele, Charles Edward, November 22, 1889.
2. Burlingame, Lettie Lavilla; December 12, 1890.
3. Miller, Charles Frederick; May 20, 1891.
5. Hamble, Charles Brook; June 14, 1894.
7. Ishii, Yasnoskeh; February 14, 1901.
8. Dimmitt, George Zophar, August 9, 1903.
10. Wright, Francis; October 10, 1904.
11. Brady, George Andrew Callahan; August 7, 1905.
12. Higgins, Francis Grant; November 15, 1905.
15. Oglesbee, Rollo B.; August 17, 1908.
17. Cross, James Edmund; May 19, 1909.
18. Lee, Roger Miller; September 2, 1909.
20. Wendell, William Worth; May 9, 1913.
21. Hibner, George Everard; June 7, 1913.
22. Macdonald, William Archibald; December 10, 1913.
25. Shiveley, Benjamin Franklin; March 14, 1916.
27. Gillespie, John Wesley; December 19, 1916.
28. Talcott, William Harvey; April 15, 1917.
30. Servis, Charles Edward; May 12, 1918.
32. McNamara, James; October 30, 1920.

Alphabetical Death Roll

2. Andrews, Stanley Corwin; October 31, 1918; Conneaut, Ohio.
3. Brady, George Andrew Callahan; Aug. 7, 1905; Portland, Ore.
4. Burlingame, Lettie Lavilla; Dec. 12, 1890; Joliet, Ill.
5. Carlson, Charles Henry; June 26, 1906; Santa Cruz, Calif.
6. Clark, John Wharton; Oct. 12, 1916; Washington, D.C.
7. Cross, James Edmund; May 19, 1909; Chicago, Ill.
8. Dimmitt, Geo. Zophar; Aug. 9, 1903; Denver, Colo.
11. Hamble, Charles Brook; June 14, 1894; Holton, Kansas.
13. Hibner, George Everard; June 7, 1913; Lincoln, Neb.
14. Higgins, Francis Grant; Nov. 15, 1905; Portland, Ore.
17. Ishii, Yasnoskeh; Feb. 14, 1901; Odawara, Japan.
18. Lee, Roger Miller; Sept. 2, 1909; Ravenna, Ohio.
19. Marquardt, William Lewis; May 25, 1908; Port Angeles, Wash.
20. Miller, Charles Frederick; May 20, 1891; Chicago, Ill.
21. MacDonald, William Archibald; Dec. 10, 1913; Seattle, Wash.


23. Nye, Robert Allen; Jan. 25, 1894; Winamac, Ind.

24. Oglesbee, Rollo B.; Aug. 17, 1908; LaPore, Ind.


26. Servis, Charles Edward; May 12, 1918; Seattle, Wash.

27. Shaw, John Clarence; Jan. 23, 1911; Denver, Colo.

28. Shiveley, Benjamin Franklin; March 14, 1916; Washington, D. C.


30. Talcott, William Harvey; April 15, 1917; South Lyon, Mich.

31. Wendell, William Worth; May 9, 1913; Pontiac, Mich.

32. Wright, Francis; Oct. 10, 1904; Lake City, Mich.

The following additional corrections of the Minutes of 1916 and the late Roster were made of record:

Charles Edward Peele's death occurred Nov. 22, 1889; correctly shown in the roster but printed "1899" in Minutes of 1916.

William Worth Wendell's death occurred May 9, 1913; correctly shown in the Roster but printed "May 13, 1913" in the Minutes of 1916.

The printed copy of Minutes of 1916 recites there were 26 deceased at that time; that is not correct; 25 is the correct number.

Charles Brook Hamble's death was on June 14, 1894; correctly shown in Roster but printed "June 16, 1894" in Minutes of 1916.

Correction of Roster of 1921:

John Wesley Gillespie's death occurred December 19, 1916. In roster of 1921 it was erroneously printed "January 12, 1916."
The following note was received from the new President:

June 25, 1921.

My dear Judge Moffit:

Your extremely interesting letter of June 23 has just reached me this morning. I shall count it a rare honor to receive the class of 1886 of the Law School on Monday forenoon in my office at eleven o'clock. If, for any reason, this is an inconvenient hour, please feel perfectly free to get in touch with my Secretary who will be able to readjust the plan.

I must congratulate you with all my heart upon the facts which you state in regard to your class.

Believe me, with very best wishes for your reunion,

Cordially yours,

M. L. BURTON.

At this time Huntsberger of Los Angeles came in, having arrived on Saturday evening and stopped with his sister, Mrs. May C. Thomas, at 42C: Maynard Street.

The hour having arrived the class went in a body to the President's office in the Main Building. Just as President Burton came out of his private office the clock struck eleven, before introductions. Mr. Crawford explained to him that there would be a slight interruption as this class has a custom that at eleven o'clock on the first day, each Reunion, those present stand with bowed heads out of respect for those who have gone before, and also that every member of the class, wherever he might be, on land or sea, was expected to do so, and generally made report that he observed this custom.

After a moment of silence each of the members of the class was presented to the new President, Dr. Marion Leroy Burton, with a short account of who he was, where he was from and what he amounted to.

It was then finally summed up that we represented twelve states, and were present—26.
President Burton was very gracious; he asked that he might say a word to us, and McMillen responded that was why we had come from all these different places, bearing good wishes and glad tidings, and that we were anxious to hear him. The President then told us of the loyalty and growth of the University, the interest that the state was taking in the whole school, and that it was quite remarkable that a class as widely scattered, and out of school so many years, should return to reunion after reunion in such numbers, and he commended highly our custom of remembering, at each reunion, the departed members.

Huntsberger responded on behalf of the class with commendation of the President on his work and success during his first year; and especially on his ability and accomplishment as a collector of greatly increased revenues from the State under the new tax levy which he had persuaded the legislature to pass in favor of the University.

The class then went in a body to the Alumni office to register. This is one of our strong points; we always go to the Registrar's office in a body. They all stood aside for us; no other class out of school so long a time had anywhere near so many on the registration list.

Re-convened in the Law Building. The banquet committee, consisting of Lincoln Avery, Spears and Breck (Breck having been substituted in place of our good friend McNamara) reported that arrangements had been made for a banquet at the Michigan Union at 6:30 P. M.

Judge M. B. Stephens of Pennsylvania was named as Toast Master. Ladies were invited to the banquet. Shepherd and Breck passed the hat soliciting funds to cover minor expenses. They turned over to the Secretary $81.00.

The Secretary made the following statement as to class finances:

In reference to the Finances of the Class, the Secretary begs leave to report that he finds:
The Minutes of the June, 1896—the 1st—Reunion show that 7 of the members threw a dollar apiece into the hat. That has been so long ago that the Secretary must say he has no bank book showing the deposit of this amount. The only way he can account for it is that he has spent a good deal more than that for postage and it must have been charged against the postage account.

Commencing, however, with the 1906—the second—Reunion, the Secretary exhibits herewith his bank book showing all credits and debits.

The item of April 29, 1907, marked “Check No. 642” for $37.50 was in payment of the first Roster.

There was left on hand at that time a balance of $2.23.

Then at the beginning of the 1916 period we would have had a balance of 12 cents; but the President sent his draft for $100, which was deposited to the account as a working balance; so the balance carried forward was $100.12.

That $100 is still intact. If it were not for this our balance would be only $25.69. However, we have all the money we need.

The expenses of the last ten years for printing are $108.43; the bank book shows a credit balance of $125.69.

There has been No Charge for stationery, postage or stenographic work.

The Secretary exhibited the bank book of the Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank, of Tipton, Iowa, showing all items since 1906. He could not find what happened to the original $7; Helmick moved that the financial report be approved and that the loss of the $7 be forgotten. In fact it is generally known that many times seven dollars were spent for postage.

Gardner came in.

Aldrich reported that arrangements had been made to take a picture on Tuesday morning at eleven.
Huntsberger and Crozier were appointed to arrange time of meeting with Dr. Hutchins and Dean Bates.

It had been decided that we all take lunch at the Michigan Union.

There were now present—26.

Adjourned until after lunch.

Monday, June 27, 1921, P. M.

Roll Call. All members present who were at morning session.

1921 Law Classday Exercises occurred in Room C. Our afternoon meeting held in Room B. Very hard rain during the noon hour. We had a most excellent lunch.

Huntsberger and Crozier reported calling for Dr. Hutchins; his wife reported he was at Detroit and had been delayed by the rainstorm but would be back early; she said Dr. Hutchins had some important engagements but had left word that NOTHING SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE with his meeting with the Law Class of 1886.

Major H. M. Bates, Dean of the Law Department, sent word that he desired to call and pay his respects. Shepherd remarked that the President Emeritus and the Dean calling suggested the thought to him that they might want something for the University put in the wills of the members.

McMillen read a letter from A. G. Avery, who made a mistake in trying to name the fellows in the last class picture taken in 1916—called Shepherd McMillen; to those who remembered the difference in the size of these men that was a joke. Garrigues had met Avery at St. Augustine two years ago. Huntsberger had seen our old friend W. L. Mason of San Pedro, and had corresponded with Carpenter relative to a local branch reunion in Los Angeles for the California members not coming to Ann Arbor. We were glad to hear of these members.
Dean Bates called: after meeting the members of our class he made quite an interesting talk, explaining to us the present method of teaching law, known as the "case system". We who had the lecture system were much pleased with the Dean's manner of presenting the matter.

Lincoln Avery and Evans (our congressman from Nebraska) arrived at this time. Now present——27.

The secretary then started in to make report of each deceased member, what he had learned about him and his family; said that he was making an effort to keep in touch with the families of the deceased classmates.

Adjourned for the banquet.

Monday, June 27, 1921, 6:30 P. M.
All members present during day met at the banquet table, and while we were there Searl came in. Now present——28.

The banquet was everything that had been promised. The Toast Master and the banquet committee had arranged for speeches and their program was a scream. Certain ones of the class had been told that they would be called on to talk on given subjects; when the call came the subject announced was entirely different from that about which the speaker had been thinking, and was in fact a roast on him. Dresbach's subject was "How to Conduct the Reunions." This was his first attendance. Clary—whom you will remember had been lost for fifteen years and just recently found—after all the arrangements for this Reunion had been made—sent out a general letter in the form of a summons commanding everyone to be present and demanding to know why he had not heard from them in thirty-five years, was given the subject, "How to Conduct the Secretary's Office." And to Crozier was assigned "How the Eighteenth Amendment Affects Me." The roast on Boy! I will not put in print. Huntsberger and McMillen completed the regular toasts. They can always be depened
upon to respond with something out of the usual. Then followed a call on each member, in his order; but the hour was getting late so all could not respond.

Fred W. Stevens, Law '87, who had just returned from a trip to China where he represented the American Bankers on the Chinese Consortium Loan, happened in the building during the banquet. Some of the boys saw him and pulled him into the room and the whole class called on him for a speech. He responded in some happy remarks about old times and then graciously invited the class to call on him in a body at his home. Huntsberger flashed back, "We accept the invitation, and I'll furnish the transportation for the class free'.

Breck announced that there would be no charge for the banquet tickets, one of the class having asked the privilege of giving his check for the whole entertainment. We afterwards learned this was Aldrich.

After leaving the banquet hall we went back to the hotel and put in a good part of the night visiting.

Tuesday, June 28, 1921, 9 A. M.

Met in Room C Law Building. Roll call; all those present on Monday were again with us. Now———28.

Letters and telegrams from absent members were read. Gill telegraphed from California: "I will be at the next reunion if I have to crawl'.

E. L. Smith and F. L. Boyd had to leave. Huntsberger kindly offered to furnish autos to take the class out to call on Stevens, and the offer was accepted.

Garrigues moved that John I. Breck cast the unanimous vote of the entire class for the re-election of the present officers, as follows: James A. Crawford, President; W. J. Spears, Vice President; John T. Moffit, Secretary and Treasurer; J. W. Houder, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer. The motion was put by Garrigues. Carried. Breck cast the vote as directed.

Evans handed in $5.00.
Breck suggested that at another reunion it might be possible for the class to take over a house—it might be a Fraternity House—commencing Saturday and ending Wednesday, so that we could all be lodged in one house and have our meals served there. This appeared to meet with the approval of the class, if proper arrangements could be made.

On motion John I. Breck, Lincoln Avery and W. J. Spears were appointed the committee to arrange for a banquet on Monday evening of the next reunion, and also to look after the matter of renting a house if they should think it best.

Dr. Harry B. Hutchins, President Emeritus, accompanied by three members of his literary class then holding a reunion, their fiftieth anniversary, called on us. The Doctor, as usual, after greeting each one (he remembered many of them and knew about more of them) made a very nice talk; told us something of his experiences when he came to Ann Arbor in 1884 with us, and somewhat of his fears when he started in to lecture on equity to us.

On motion of Huntsberger, Dr. Harry B. Hutchins, President Emeritus, was elected an honorary member of our class. This is the first and only honorary member.

The photographer appeared at this time. Dr. Hutchins remained to have his picture taken with us.

We continued the session, and finished reading the mortuary list.

Evans had to take the train at 11:30 for Washington.

The class, in the midst of another rainstorm, took autos for the call on Mr. Stevens, an adjournment being taken until after lunch. Our reception at the Stevens home, which he has recently built, and which is one of the show places of the city, was very kindly. We were all glad to have the opportunity of spending a delightful hour with our old friend. During the call coffee and cakes were served.
We drove from Mr. Stevens' home to the Michigan Union and had lunch.

Tuesday, June 28, 1921, 1:30 P. M.

Re-convened in Room C, Law Building.

The question of the time of the next reunion was discussed; ten years was thought to be too long. In fact, no one would listen to that. Some wanted it in two or three years, but the large majority appreciated the trouble it is to round up all of the members, and thought that was too soon.

McMillen moved that the sixth reunion be held on the fortieth anniversary of our graduation, that is, on Monday and Tuesday of Commencement week, 1926. Motion carried unanimously.

The reading of letters from and memoranda about and accounts of each member of the class as his name was called was then continued.

Shepherd left at 2:45; Avery and Spear left at 3 o'clock.

Finally, at 4 P. M., adjournment was taken.

Everyone joined in gathering together the letters, memoranda and printed material scattered about the tables, and helped the secretary preserve our data. Judge Dresbach used his car in carting the stuff back to the hotel.

The Allenel Hotel. Evening.

The Reunion was not over. Everybody who had not been compelled to leave gathered in the hotel lobby, where so many pleasant meetings have been had, and so many sad partings have been taken. Many good-byes have been said in this hotel lobby with promises to meet again at the next reunion.

On that evening at the hotel there were Breck, Clary, Crawford, Crozier, Dresbach, Helmick, Humphrey, Huntsberger, C. D. May, Merithew, Volney Miller, and Moffit—12.
The visiting continued until 11:40 P.M., when the Secretary, along with C. D. May and Humphrey, had to take the train for their western homes.

Incidentally, the secretary wishes to say that our old friend, Merithew, has never failed at any reunion—like the faithful slave that he is—to assist in getting the secretary and his supplies to the depot and on the train.

Clary, Crawford and McMillen were the last ones left at the hotel.

The secretary again says that he would be ungrateful indeed if he did not acknowledge, as best he can, the many kind acts and words of the different ones of the class which have gone a long way towards making his task a little lighter.

Members have attended the reunion as follows:

Aldrich—1906, 1911, 1916, 1921.
Andrews—1906.
Avery, Lincoln—1906, 1911, 1916, 1921.
Boyd—1916, 1921.
Breck—1906, 1911, 1916, 1921.
Clary—1921.
Crawford—1906, 1911, 1916, 1921.
Creveling—1911.
Dresbach—1921.
Dudley—1916.
Edgerton—1906.
Evans—1916, 1921.
Gardner—1921.
Garrigues—1921.
Helmick—1921.
Hogg—1906, 1916.
Hooper—1916.
Houder—1906, 1911, 1916.
Humphrey—1921.
Huntsberger—1896, 1911, 1921.
Kline—1896.
Kraus—1911, 1916.
Lamison—1906.
Mason—1906.
May, W. A. F.—1921.
Meeker—1906, 1921.
Merltbew—1896, 1906, 1911, 1916, 1921
Miller, Volney—1916, 1921.
McMillen—1906, 1916, 1921.
McNamara—1896, 1911, 1916.
Nieman—1896, 1906, 1911, 1916, 1921
Prewitt—1916.
Servis—1896.
Shepherd—1906, 1916, 1921.
Talcott—1896, 1911.
Walser—1911.
Wright—1906.

Total—Year 1896 .................................. 15
Total—Year 1906 .................................. 24
Total—Year 1911 .................................. 20
Total—Year 1916 .................................. 30
Total—Year 1921 .................................. 28

The cry for the next Reunion is: "REMEMBER 1926".

Tipton, Iowa, October 12, 1925.

JAMES A. CRAWFORD,
President

John T. Moffit, Secretary.