

May 18, 1934, 2 o'clock P.M.

Special meeting of the Franklin County Bar Association held to take appropriate action on the death of Walter King Sharpe, Esquire.

President J. A. Strite called the meeting to order and briefly stated the purpose of the meeting.

Those present were Watson R. Davison, P. J., George W. Atherton, Esq., John W. Hoke, Esq., E. C. Wingerd, Esq., J. H. Light, Esq., Jere Amwake, Esq., H. Blair Minick, Esq., William Minick, Esq., Wm A. Alexander, Esq., George Black, Esq., T. K. Scheller, Esq., H. N. Spangler, Esq., Benj. L. Heefner, Esq., John R. Jackson, Esq., H. F. Keller, Esq., Henry P. Fletcher, Esq., Albert Strite, Esq., O. Edw. Long, Esq., J. Glenn Benedict, Esq., Stenger A. Diehl, Esq., Edwin D. Strite, Esq., Wm R. Davison, Esq., George Wenger, Esq., John R. Lashley, Esq., Isaac Wingert, Esq., John A. Smarsh, Esq., C. H. Clippinger, Esq., A. J. White Hutton, Esq., and Paul M. Crider, Esq.

Edmund C. Wingerd, Esq., Chairman of the Resolution Committee. Consisting of Mr. Wingerd, Wm S. Hoerner, Esq., Geo. W. Atherton, Esq., John W. Hoke, Esq., and Henry P. Fletcher, presented a minute of appreciation of Walter King Sharpe, Esquire, and moved its adoption.

Judge Watson R. Davison seconding the motion, spoke briefly of the loss of Mr. Sharpe as leader of the Bar and as a leading citizen of Chambersburg.

Henry P. Fletcher spoke of his personal pleasure in early associations with Mr. Sharpe.

John W. Hoke spoke of Mr. Sharpe as the outstanding member of the Bar for many years.

Edwin D. Strite commented on the resolution and spoke briefly of Mr. Sharpe's kindness and personal interest in the younger members of the Bar.

George W. Atherton, Esq., spoke of the many experiences with Mr. Sharpe as Co-Counsel.

J. A. Strite
President

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and his Complete Confidence in Mr. Sharpe's ability and fairness both as an associate and as an adversary.

A. J. White Hutton, Esq., spoke of Mr. Sharpe and his relations with the County Board of Law Examiners of which Mr. Sharpe was Chairman for many years and stated that Mr. Sharpe would have made an excellent teacher of the law.

Benz. L. Heefner, Esq., spoke of his pleasant associations with Mr. Sharpe as a neighbor and a friend and regretted his loss.

President J. A. Strite called for a vote on the resolution and it was unanimously adopted and the Chairman of the Resolution Committee was directed to deliver a copy of the resolution to Mr. Sharpe's family and to the newspapers of the County. The Secretary was directed to spread the minute upon the records of the Association.

The minute is as follows:

Whereas, Walter K. Sharpe, for many years a member of the Franklin County Bar, has, in the providence of God, entered into rest, we, the members of the Bar, take this opportunity of expressing our deep sorrow because of his death and our most sincere sympathy for his bereaved family.

Mr. Sharpe, the son of an eminent lawyer, John Mc Dowell Sharpe, was admitted to practice in February, 1889, and, from that time until his death, was engaged in the active practice of law in Franklin County. He was a graduate of Phillips Academy at Andover, Massachusetts, and attended Princeton University until his father's death made it necessary for him to discontinue his studies at college and return to his home. He studied law in the office of John Stewart, Esquire, late

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Judge of the Courts of Franklin County and Asso-
ciate Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

From the beginning of his practice, Mr. Sharpe showed marked ability as a lawyer. His knowledge of the law was deep and profound. His practice was large and varied. Like most Country practitioners he could not really specialize in any one branch but had to enter all fields, and in all of them he became the leader. He was a safe Counselor, an adroit advocate and a sure draftsman.

Mr. Sharpe lived through the transition from the old to the new practice of law. He combined the two to the great advantage of his clients, for although he had the new view-point of modern methods he clung to a great extent to the preciseness, particularity and minuteness of the old. Each paper he wrote was to him a special work, just as is each picture to a painter, and whether the matter involved was large or small, the document was most carefully composed and most complete in its scope. The contracts, petitions, pleadings, opinions and briefs written by him are indicative of his great knowledge of the law and of his power of clear and unambiguous expression.

Mr. Sharpe, with all his natural ability, recognized the necessity for hard work, painstaking effort and prolonged consideration. Time meant little to him when wrestling with a legal problem. He was never satisfied until he had exhausted the sources of information or until he had fully considered every angle and avenue of thought. It was not uncommon to see him sitting in the large rocking chair, which he used as his office chair, rocking back and forth, wrapt in deep thought, and oblivious to his surroundings, his mind engaged with some perplexing legal

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problem. Mr. Sharpe's thoroughness and care are an example to all lawyers. In this day and age we are too prone to judge ability and accomplishment by rapid movements, too prone to spring to an end without full consideration of the intervening steps, too willing to consider as trifles the little things which in the future may prove the undoing of the result desired. Well may we stop and remember Mr. Sharpe's method, and in deep thought consider fully before we leap. For if a mind so sure and so facile as his, if an intelligence and knowledge so broad and so deep as his, found it necessary to consume hours of intense deliberation before reaching a definite conclusion, what risks we run in our first blush opinions and quick actions not based upon mature consideration. One of the great legacies left by a lawyer of Mr. Sharpe's eminent ability is his method of thought and work which formed the basis of his outstanding accomplishments.

Socially, Mr. Sharpe was a thorough gentleman. The smaller, and often considered unnecessary, courtesies were important to him. His manner at times was almost courtly and he inclined to the old school of politeness which, unfortunately, is becoming quite rare. Mr. Sharpe's greeting and smile, his pleasing manner and his consideration for others will remain in the memories of us all.

Even when at the height of his powers and when undoubtedly the leader of this Bar in every branch of his profession, his genuine interest in and kindness to the young lawyers was remarkable. Never was he too busy to talk over a matter with which the youngster was troubled, never did he seem irritated or

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annoyed by a young lawyer's queries or theories,
 but always was he most interested and helpful.
 Carefully and painstakingly he would go, step by
 steps, through the legal reasoning involved,
 seemingly enjoying it all, and making the young
 er man feel entirely at ease. In any law school
 Mr. Sharpe would have shone as a teacher, for
 he had the rare ability to impart his know-
 ledge to others and a love for abstract legal
 reasoning which was never lessened by his
 activity as a banker, business man and
 practical lawyer.

We have thought of him as a lawyer but his
 activities had a much wider scope. He
 found time to be a practical banker and was
 for many years a director and Vice-President
 of The National Bank of Chambersburg and
 President of The Farmers and Merchants Trust
 Company from its organization until his death.

Mr. Sharpe's hobby was farming, fruit
 growing and cattle. His prize-winning cattle
 were his joy and he spent much time at his
 farms and orchards. This hobby and read-
 ing were his only forms of relaxation from
 his pressing duties. His life was a life
 of work which he loved. He was a worker
 whose pleasure and enjoyment were largely
 his work.

To us who knew him, it is hardly neces-
 sary to comment upon the great pride he
 took in his home and family and how
 dear they all were to him. His leisure hours
 were almost entirely spent in his home and
 with his family.

In Mr. Sharpe's death, this Bar has lost
 a great lawyer and a true gentleman.
 We mourn his loss. We awkwardly express
 our appreciation of him. We feel, what we
 cannot in words express. In the fact

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of inevitable death all this seems so futile, so inadequate. We must rely upon memories and, as we are human, we follow the custom of putting down in writing these few memories, with the hope that they may be some comfort to the living and may outlast us and prove some benefit to those who will follow.

To his family, we again express our sincere sympathy at this sad hour and know that the memory of a loving husband and father will comfort them in their sorrow.

Henry D. Fletcher
William S. Hoerner
G. W. Atherton
John W. Hake
Edmund C. Wingard, Chairman
Committee.

Meeting adjourned to the late residence of Mr. Sharpe to attend the funeral services.

A. Stint
President

J. H. Benedict
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