

Oct. 9, 1937

Wingerd, Esq.,
Following Committees:

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Chairman

Special meeting of the Franklin County Bar Association held October 9th, 1937, in the Court Room, Chambersburg, Pa.

The meeting was called to order by President, Edmund C. Wingerd, Esq.

Those present were T. Z. Minehart, Paul M. Crider, Daniel W. Long, Edwin D. Strite, J. A. Strite, Hon. Watson R. Davison, Geo. W. Atherton, T. K. Scheller, Benj. L. Heefner, John M. D. Sharpe, A. J. White Hutton, Rudolph Wertime and J. Glenn Benedict.

President Wingerd briefly stated that the meeting was called for the purpose of taking appropriate action in the death of J. R. Ruthrauff, who died Wednesday, October 6th, and called upon the Committee previously appointed to make a report.

Edwin D. Strite submitted resolutions prepared by himself, G. W. Atherton, John W. Hoke, Arthur W. Gillan and N. N. Spangler. After reading the proposed resolution he moved its adoption.

Judge Davison in seconding the motion to adopt the resolution commented on his early acquaintance with Mr. Ruthrauff and of his ability as a lawyer.

Geo. W. Atherton recalled his first association with Mr. Ruthrauff in the days of their youth while he was engaged on the Ruthrauff farm and Mr. Ruthrauff was then twelve years of age and further spoke of his long friendly relations with Mr. Ruthrauff.

Thos. K. Scheller expressed his personal appreciations of the assistance received from Mr. Ruthrauff as a new attorney at this Bar and hoped that he might carry out the ethical practices of Mr. Ruthrauff.

President Wingerd called for a vote on the resolution which was unanimous in favor

of its adoption.

On motion, meeting adjourned.

J. M. D. D.
Secretary.

The resolution adopted is as follows:

Whereas, John R. Ruthrauff, the oldest member of the Franklin County Bar in point of service, died October 6, 1937, the members of this Association hereby express our deep sorrow because of his death and our sympathy for his family.

John R. Ruthrauff was born in Antrim Township, Franklin County, January 12, 1857. After registering as a law student with William F. Patton, Esq., Greencastle, he was admitted to the Franklin County Bar in April, 1880, practicing in Greencastle until 1887, and subsequently in Waynesboro until 1901. In 1901 he formed a law partnership with W. U. Brewer, Esq., under the firm name of Brewer and Ruthrauff. On the dissolution of this firm he entered into a partnership with W. O. Nicklas, Esq., under the firm name of Ruthrauff and Nicklas, which continued until the latter's death in 1927. After that time Mr. Ruthrauff continued his practice until he was stricken with what proved to be his fatal illness.

Mr. Ruthrauff was engaged in active practice for more than fifty years. At the Bar he was a contemporary of three generations of lawyers standing shoulder to shoulder with such lawyers as Judges Rowe, Judge Stewart, Judge Gillan, J. M. D. Sharpe, A. C. Bowers, Charles Walter, Walter N. Sharpe, William S. Hoerner, not to mention others still living. He achieved a high rank among

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this group of extremely able lawyers.

In his practice as Counsellor and solicitor he represented municipal Corporations, manufacturing Corporations, banks, railroads, educational institutions, and a great number of individuals of all walks and stations in life. The skill and integrity with which he represented these interests is perhaps best attested by the proper pride he took in the fact that he rarely lost a Client who once came to him.

He believed in the saying of Justice Holmes that "The first business of a lawyer is to know the law". Every matter which he litigated, or upon which his advice was sought, involved to him a most painstaking search of the authorities after a most complete analysis of the facts. His insistence upon mastering the facts led him into some distaste for litigation involving disputed questions of fact, but in the application of legal principles to ascertained facts his mastery was supreme.

He carefully noted all authorities examined, beginning with his first litigated case. These were kept in a "brief book" which in the latter years of his life had become a reservoir of legal authorities on a vast number of questions. In his hands it was as useful a tool or as deadly a weapon as are many of the text books or encyclopedias which lumber our shelves in the hands of a less experienced practitioner.

Outstanding among his qualities were a devotion to duty in the matter of business entrusted to his care and an extreme courage and tenacity of purpose in performing his duties as attorney or Counsellor. This care and courage inspired confidence

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in both Court and Client, a confidence which was never misplaced.

Underlying his professional and personal life was a devout religious faith, from the principles of which he never deviated, and from faith in which he never flattered. Thus, having achieved the supreme accomplishment, a long, useful, and well-ordered life, during the long years of his last illness he, supported by this faith, looked back without regret and forward with confidence to the reward of his services.

Therefore, be it resolved that this minute be entered upon the minutes of the Association as an expression of our desire to perpetuate his memory and to go forward with the traditions of the Bar which he, with others, have bequeathed to us.

John W. Hoke
 H. N. Spangler
 Arthur W. Gillan
 G. W. Atherton
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