

May 27, 1952

Minutes of the special meeting of the Franklin County Bar Association held at the Court Room, Chambersburg, Pa., May 27, 1952, at 1:00 o'clock P. M., D.S.T.

The Franklin County Bar Association met at the call of the president after notice to the members.

The meeting was called to order by the president, John M.D. Sharpe.

Those present were Mr. Sharpe, Edmund C. Wingerd, Jr., Judge Edmund C. Wingerd, D. Edw. Long, Thomas R. Scheller, Benjamin L. Hegfner, Albert Strite, George S. Black, Daniel W. Long, Edwin D. Strite, Jr., Lawrence Zeger, Thomas Steiger, Thomas Humelsine, Stenger Diehl, LeRoy Maxwell, Roy Angle, Anson B. Good, Robert Shremaker, N. F. Keller, John Keller, George Eppinger, T. J. Minchhart, Millard Ullman, Edwin D. Strite, Sr., and J. Glenn Benedict.

Guests present were: Judge E. M. Biddle and Boyd Landis, Esq., of Cumberland County and Senator Donald B. McPherson of Adams County.

President Sharpe stated that the meeting was called in memory of Judge Watson R. Davison who died Sunday morning, May 25, 1952, at 12:30 A. M. Mr. Sharpe commented on the loss of Judge Davison and his special interest and pride in the Franklin County Bar Association and the County lawyers generally.

Judge Edmund C. Wingerd presented the resolution prepared by the Committee for the purpose, and after reading the resolution moved its adoption. The resolution is attached hereto and made part hereof.

D. Edward Long seconded the motion to adopt the resolution and spoke of his personal loss in the death of Judge Davison.

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Commented on the life of Judge Davison and his
close personal friendship.

N. F. Keller seconded the motion and dis-
cussed some of his many experiences with Judge
Davison, both as a lawyer and as a judge.

Mr. Sharpe invited Judge Biddle to comment,
whereupon Judge Biddle spoke briefly of Judge
Davison's qualifications and their intimate
friendship.

Judge Harvey Gross of York County arrived
at this time, and on invitation from Mr. Sharpe
spoke in effective language of his keen ap-
preciation for Judge Davison's ability and his
qualifications as a judge and, more particularly,
on their intimate friendship over many years.

On motion the meeting adjourned to attend
the burial services in a body.

J. H. B. and S.
Secretary

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Resolved by the Franklin County Bar Association upon the death of the Honorable Watson Rowe Davison, as follows:-

A courageous man has passed away. In youth he fought disease and emerged triumphant to live a long, active and successful life. He spoke what he thought regardless of consequences, judged righteously and abhorred hypocrisy.

Watson Rowe Davison departed this life on May 24th,* 1952, in his 82nd year, honored, respected and genuinely liked by those who knew him and held in the highest esteem by the people of the county in which he was born, bred and lived his whole life.

Although for over 25 years a resident of Chambersburg, for Greencastle his home town and for Waynesboro where he, very successfully, practiced law for many years, he retained great attachment, taking pleasure in talking of his experiences and associates during his boyhood and practice of the law.

Elected President Judge of the 39th Judicial District of Pennsylvania he took office on the first Monday in January, 1926, and was re-elected for a second full term in 1935. For twenty years he presided over the Courts with dignity and honor, held in high respect and real affection by the members of the bar. His decisions were fair and just, his opinions well reasoned and sound and the integrity of his conclusions could never be questioned.

To him life was his family, his church, the law, literature and his friends.

No man can be more interested in or more proud of his family than was Judge Davison. With few formal social interests, such as clubs, he spent, as a rule, his evenings at home. Mrs. Davison, his children and his grandchildren were foremost in his thoughts.

He was a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian and more religious than many suppose for he did not vaunt his faith but cherished it in his heart as his intimate friends well know.

In the law he was a student with a remarkably quick mind, a logical approach and a full quota of common sense. His interest never lagged and to the last the keenness of his mind remained to satisfy this interest.

An omnivorous reader he was intrigued by the English and American classics, loved to delve into local history, was greatly interested in biography and books written on the Civil War and the two World Wars. His memory was amazing and he was a most

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pleasant and interesting conversationalist, a keen sense of humor always creeping into his talk and into his ever ready repartee.

His friends were many and varied. To him friendship was important and not a matter of expediency. To his friends he was loyal and true, fair in his judgment and unbiased in his counsel and advice.

In Judge Davison's passing, his friends and this County have suffered a real loss but in his life experienced a gain. Yes, he is gone yet he is with us for, his spirit, his example, remains to spur us on to higher goals, to better living.

And it is further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to Mrs. Davison and each of his children.

A. Edw. Long
Edwin D. Strite
J. J. Benedict
Edmund C. Wingard
Committee

* May 24th, Eastern Standard Time
May 25th, Eastern Daylight Time