

June 12, 1954

Minutes of a special meeting of the Franklin County Bar Association held in the Court Room, Franklin County Court House, Chambersburg, Pa., June 12, 1954, at 1:00 o'clock P. M.

The meeting was called to order by the President, John McD. Sharpe.

George C. Eppinger was elected Secretary pro tem.

The following members were present: Charles W. High, William R. Davison, Edwin D. Strite, Sr., A. J. White Hutton, John McD. Sharpe, Daniel W. Long, Paul M. Crider, N. F. Keller, John R. Lashley, William C. Hazlett, Lawrence C. Zeger, George C. Eppinger, Roy S. F. Angle, Thomas H. Crider, Stenger Diehl, Thomas H. Humelsine, Anson D. Good, Paul Mowers, Edwin D. Strite, Jr., Charles H. Davison, Thomas J. MacBride, and Judge Edmund C. Wingerd.

On the opening of the meeting, the President announced that the Association had gathered together to consider a Resolution to be offered at the death of Benjamin L. Heefner. The President then read the Resolution, a copy of which is attached.

Edwin D. Strite, Sr., then moved the adoption of the Resolution.

This motion was seconded by A. J. White Hutton who commented on Mr. Heefner's law school days and his associations with Mr. O. Bowers, and stated he was impressed with Mr. Heefner's receptiveness to compromise when it was to the best interest of his Client. The motion was also seconded by Judge Edmund C. Wingerd, who stated that he felt that Mr. Heefner was one of these individuals who was entirely open and above board. Judge Wingerd also spoke of his sense of humor, indicating it was his feeling that Mr. Heefner

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meeting of the Franklin
in the Court Room,
Chambersburg,
12 o'clock P. M.

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was elected Secretary

and were present: Charles

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McD. Sharpe, Daniel

Keller, John R. Lashley,

C. Zeger, George C.

Thomas H. Crider, Stenger

Anson B. Good, Paul M.

Charles H. Davison,

Judge Edmund C. Wingerd.

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was a person of natural humor. The motion was
also seconded by Daniel W. Long who stated that
in a conversation with a person outside the
membership of the Bar Association, the gentleman
had said that Mr. Heefner was one man in Chambers-
burg about whom he never heard a bad or mean
word said. The motion was also seconded by
Charles W. High who stated that he had known
Mr. Heefner from his boyhood and Mr. Heefner
had served his clerkship in Mr. High's office.

At this time the President announced that
the motion had been duly seconded, and the
motion was then adopted unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting
was adjourned and the members attended in
a body the funeral services conducted for Mr.
Heefner.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary Pro tem.

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Resolution upon the death of Benjamin L. Heefner,
Esq., submitted by the Committee appointed for
that purpose and proposed for adoption by the
Franklin County Bar Association

It is with a deep sense of sadness that we must record the
death of Benjamin L. Heefner, Esq., a member of our Bar, on June
9th, 1954. Mr. Heefner's death came with a suddenness which was
a profound shock to all of us, for only a week before his un-
timely death he had been with us at a meeting of the Bar Associa-
tion held in this very Court Room, and at that time was in ap-
parently good health.

All those who have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Heefner
well will join with us in expressing our feeling of loss. When
one with whom we have been closely associated and have respected
passes from our midst, it is always somewhat bewildering as we
contemplate the uncertainty of life and the void that is left
by the one who has passed away.

Mr. Heefner was well known to all of us and a close friend
of many of us, particularly those who were his contemporaries.
Through our daily contacts with him we admired him and held him
in affection. He was possessed of an amiable and cheerful dis-
position and it was always a pleasure to deal with him in the
daily routine of our profession or to discuss with him the lighter
side of life. Harshness was foreign to his nature. Always cour-
teous and friendly, it was possible to discuss with him divergent
viewpoints affecting a case or legal matter under consideration,
knowing he would approach the question with a complete sense of
fairness and without acrimony. This is not to say, however, that
he ever yielded any rights which he felt would adversely affect
his client's interest, but it was rather that one sensed his
willingness to weigh conflicting contentions and attempt to re-
solve them in a manner which would be just, having constantly
in mind the objective to be obtained on behalf of his client.

Mr. Heefner needed no code of legal ethics to guide him in
his professional work. One knew instinctively when dealing with
him that no undue advantage would ever be taken and that when
something was promised it would be fulfilled.

Mr. Heefner was born in Quincy Township on Sept. 1, 1900,
the son of Charles and Ella M. Heefner. He was educated in the
public schools of Quincy Township, including the High School of
that Township, and then took one year at the Waynesboro High
School, where he graduated in 1918. After being employed in
industry for a short period and after teaching for one year in
the Quincy Township schools, Mr. Heefner entered the Dickinson
Law School in the fall of 1920. It is a tribute to his ability
that he was able to complete his law school studies and to pass
his State Bar examinations successfully without the benefit of
a college education.

On Sept. 25, 1923 Mr. Heefner was admitted to practice law
as a member of the Bar of Franklin County upon motion made by
J. R. Ruthrauff, Esq. He immediately began his practice in the
office of the late Oliver Cromwell Powers, Esq., one of the
titans of a generation of lawyers long since extinct and whose
personality will never be forgotten by those of us who knew him.

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Upon Mr. Bowers' death several years later Mr. Heefner bought the building on Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg, where Mr. Bowers had lived and had his law office, and ever after that conducted his law practice at this location.

Mr. Heefner was admitted to practice before the appellate courts of Pennsylvania and in the Federal courts. In 1931 he was appointed Referee in Bankruptcy for Franklin and Fulton Counties and served in this capacity efficiently for a number of years. This encompassed a period when there was a great number of bankruptcy cases, and Mr. Heefner's duties in this respect were quite exacting. He had a large general practice, to which he applied himself diligently and faithfully. He was highly regarded not only by his many clients but by the members of this Bar.

During his earlier years Mr. Heefner was engaged in a number of cases tried in our Courts, but in later years he apparently preferred to devote his energies to his office practice, in which he did a considerable amount of estate and real estate work. He represented two or three financial institutions and at the time of his death he was the Solicitor for the Commissioners of Franklin County. He never entered into any law partnership, but chose to practice alone.

Mr. Heefner was also active in the community. Without recounting the organizations to which he belonged or the civic enterprises in which he was interested, it is sufficient to say that his aid was sought on many occasions by those interested in civic affairs, and he was at one time a Director and President of the Board of the Chambersburg Hospital. He was also much interested in hunting, fishing and other sports, and was a long time member of the Explorers Club.

Mr. Heefner was a devoted husband and father, and despite his many outside interests he delighted in spending his time with his family. Some years before his death Mr. Heefner bought and moved to the spacious home formerly owned by Mr. C. M. Davison near Scotland, and there he spent many of his happiest hours. To his wife, Pearl Gardner Heefner, and his two children, Lowell and Linda, we extend our sincerest sympathy.

Therefore, be it Resolved that this Association expresses its sadness and sense of loss because of the death of Benjamin L. Heefner, Esq., and be it further Resolved that a copy of this Resolution be entered upon the minutes of the Association and that a copy be sent by the Secretary to the members of Mr. Heefner's family.

J. H. Bowers
J. Stewart Hiler, Jr.
Paul Hiler
Charles Hiler
John H. Bowers, Jr.
Chairman

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The foregoing Resolution was submitted to the Franklin
County Bar Association for adoption at a special meeting held
in the Court Room, Chambersburg, Pa. on Saturday, June 12, 1954
at one o'clock P. M., and on motion duly seconded, the Resolution
was unanimously adopted.

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... W. High who stated that he had known
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... his clerkship in Mr. High's office.

J. H. Inn Bond
Secretary

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Respectfully submitted,

George H. Davis
Secretary Pro Tem.