

CREIGHTON H. WILLIAMS

IN MEMORIAM

The Angel of Death has again visited the Fort Wayne legal fraternity and called one of our venerable and most highly esteemed members to his reward. Creighton H. Williams quietly answered the inevitable call and took his leave from among us last Friday morning, August 22. It is fitting that we, the Members of the Allen County Indiana Bar Association, pause in tribute to his memory, to review the fruitful and contented life which was his and to reflect upon those rare qualities of heart, mind, and character which endeared him to us--those personal endowments that enabled him to become a good lawyer, a worthy citizen, a trusted public servant, and a devoted friend.

Creighton H. Williams came from a prominent pioneer family. Indeed, his forbearers were of that sterling, sturdy, quaker stock, which for several generations had contributed conspicuously and generously to the early history of Fort Wayne and to the professional, civic, social, religious, and cultural life of its people. Born on November 26, 1874, he was the son of Henry M. and Mary Hamilton Williams, the grandson of Jesse L. and Susan Creighton Williams. From such ancestry he inherited an insatiable ambition for an education and the cultivation of those traits of character, the attainment of which unmistakably stamped him a thorough gentleman. Educated in the elementary schools of Fort Wayne, he thereafter enjoyed the training then afforded by Groton Preparatory School in Massachusetts, from which he went to Harvard. That University conferred upon him both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in 1898 whereupon he returned to Fort Wayne and began his study of the law in the office of the late Judge Samuel Alden. After two years with Judge Alden, he spent another year in the Harvard Law School and then returned to Fort Wayne for admission to the Bar of Allen County in 1900. He engaged in the active and continuous practice of law in

our community for fifty-six years, retiring therefrom in December, 1956. Throughout that extended professional experience he practiced alone, although for many years he had a legal associate in his office. As an adherent of the Republican party, he actively supported the candidacy of the late Sherman Gutshall for Mayor of Fort Wayne in 1917 and was thereafter appointed his City Attorney. In that official capacity he served faithfully and well to the extent that he became widely recognized as an authority on Municipal Law. Throughout his long professional experience, Mr. Williams was keenly interested in the law, in legal subjects, and in lawyers. As a faithful member of our Bar Association, he attended our meeting last February at which we honored those among us who had practiced for more than fifty years. He was a charter member of the Fort Wayne Kiwanis Club, and, in late years, became a member and officer of Trinity Episcopal Church.

Endowed with a scholarly mind, intellectual honesty, unquestioned integrity, and the loftiest of ideals, he adhered to the highest precepts of our profession. The attainment of justice was to him the noblest objective of the law. In pursuing that objective, he walked honorably, gentlemanly, and at all times considerately of the rights of those whom he opposed as well as those he served. To him the practice of law was the profession of gentlemen--the Court Room an arena in which the participants acted with dignity, propriety, and deference. Success in his professional endeavors, although usually attendant upon his efforts, was less important to him than the methods and manner employed in accomplishing it. As a result, he enjoyed the confidence of the Courts before which he practiced, the respect of his adversaries and the admiration of his clients. He walked uprightly among his fellows and at all times, reflected those fine qualities that made him an elegant, Christian gentleman. Kind, thoughtful, gentle, and deferential to all with whom he dealt, Mr. Williams endeared himself to a wide circle of friends during his active years. In spite of becoming well nigh the "Last leaf upon the tree" of his contemporaries at

the Bar, yet he ever retained a youthful spirit and a keen interested in life.

Although denied intimate contact with him and his refreshing personality during recent years, the members of the Allen County Bar will long cherish the memories of pleasant professional associations with Creighton Williams. We shall miss his stimulating spirit. We lament his passing, but are indeed grateful to the Maker of men who gave us such an exemplar of so much in our profession that is good, honorable, and worth while.

Be it therefore resolved, Mr. President, that the Allen County Indiana Bar Association express a tender and reverent tribute to Creighton H. Williams, who for almost six decades labored so faithfully and so well in the vineyard of our profession and whose endeavors during that period cast a definite glow of dignity and respectability upon it.

Be it further resolved that we express our sincere sympathy to his devoted wife, to his daughters, and his son in this, the hour of their sadness. May their grief be assuaged by the assurance of his certain reward at the hands of the Judge of all men—even our Father in Heaven.

Respectfully submitted,

Memorial Committee, Allen County
Indiana Bar Association

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Hon. William H. Schannen

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Attest:

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