

ALLEN COUNTY INDIANA BAR ASSOCIATION

IN MEMORIAM

WALTER G. BURNS

September 10, 1871

September 23, 1951

For more than fifty years Walter G. Burns engaged in the practice of patent law in Allen County, Indiana. His death on September 23, 1951, removed from the membership of the Allen County Indiana Bar Association one of our most loyal members. His faithful attendance at our quarterly meetings not only gave evidence of his deep interest in the legal profession, but often gave inspiration to our younger members.

Walter G. Burns was born at Medway, Ohio, on September 10, 1871. He came to Fort Wayne by horse and buggy at the age of eighteen years. Shortly thereafter he began work as a draftsman in the law firm of Chapin and Denny, prominent Fort Wayne patent attorneys of that day. In this firm he served a practical apprenticeship in the field of patent law. After this apprenticeship, in the parlance of the profession, he hung out his own shingle and began his career as a practitioner, a career which included more than half a century of service to his clients in this community. His will to work and his strong determination to stay in the harness enabled him to continue his practice until two weeks before his death. The morning of his eightieth birthday was the first that he was unable to go to his office, and the gravity of his illness finally overcame his determination to continue in the profession he had learned to love so much.

During almost his entire career he practiced alone. Only recently, when it became clear to him that he would not be able long to continue, he became associated with Arthur A. Smith, another Fort Wayne patent attorney and member of this association.

In addition to his membership in this association, Walter G. Burns was a member of the Wayne Street Methodist Church and was a charter member of the Fort Wayne Elks Lodge No. 155. He is survived by his beloved wife, Vina M. Burns, a son, Robert W. Burns, and a granddaughter, Mrs. Kenneth Vance, all of Fort Wayne. We extend to them our deep and sincerest sympathy in this hour of their bereavement. We shall miss his familiar figure at our meetings. We humbly pray that, after a long lifetime of service, the Almighty God will grant him eternal rest.

Henry Hasler  
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Memorial Committee