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**THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES**

MEMORIALS

OF

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MEMORIAL OF GEORGE FORBES

BY HENRY L. WORTCHE

George Forbes, a member of this association for many years, died at his home outside of Baltimore, Maryland, on March 8th, 1941. He was born in Baltimore on June 25th, 1873, and had been practicing law in the cities of Annapolis and Baltimore, Maryland, for the past forty-seven years.

Mr. Forbes was educated at St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland, and was admitted to the Bar of Maryland when he was but twenty-one years of age. He was a devout member of the Protestant Episcopal Church and a member of the Vestry of Grace Church at his home, Elkridge, Maryland. He was a member of the Propeller Club, The Gibson Island Club, the Churchman's Club of Maryland, the Southern Maryland Society, the Maryland Historical Society, and The Annapolitan Club.

A scion of a colonial family in Southern Maryland, he numbered among his many friends a large number of that section of the State, as well as from Baltimore City. It had been a custom for many years for Mr. Forbes to invite many of his friends to a birthday party at his home, "Tutbury", Lawyers' Hill, located about twelve miles outside of Baltimore. These parties were always given on the last Saturday in June nearest the giver's birthday—June 25th—and are delightfully remembered by many members of the Baltimore Bar.

Mr. Forbes at the time of his death was the Dean of the Admiralty Bar of Maryland, having entered the Admiralty field quite early in life when he became associated with the firm of Blackiston and Blackiston, and after the dissolution of that firm, he opened up his own law office where he carried on an extensive Admiralty practice for something over a quarter of a century until the time of his death.

He was counsel in most of the important Admiralty cases which were tried in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, the most recent and important ones being *The Richelieu*, reported in 48 Fed. 2nd 497; *The Smaragd*, reported in 302 U. S. 556, and *The Ferncliff*, 306 U. S. 444.

Although engaged in a very large law practice, Mr. Forbes found time to delve into the colonial customs and history of Maryland, on which he was quite an authority, and leaves a wealth of material on this interesting subject to posterity, having by his will devised it to the Hall of Records at Annapolis, Maryland.

He leaves surviving him his widow, Garretta Roach Forbes.

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS DENISON HEWITT

BY WILLIAM HARISON

Thomas Denison Hewitt (Yale, 1899; New York Law School, 1901) died at his home in Greenwich, Connecticut, on February 19, 1941.

Mr. Hewitt came of an old New England family, the first of whom to settle in America was Thomas Hewitt, who came to Mystic, Connecticut, and married Hannah Palmer in 1659. The family has ever since been connected with Eastern Connecticut. Thomas Denison Hewitt's father, Thomas Browning Hewitt, who died in 1921, was a member of the New York Bar, and a very able general practitioner of the old school. His wife, Thomas Denison Hewitt's mother, was Amanda Evelyn Brower, daughter of John H. Brower of the New York shipping firm which owned the clipper ship "Andrew Jackson", holder of the sailing record from New York to San Francisco. Mr. Hewitt was proud of his inherited painting of that famous vessel.

Thomas Denison Hewitt was born in Brooklyn on July 5, 1877. He attended the Brooklyn Latin School and afterwards Yale College, where he was graduated in 1899. He was a popular member of his class, and always maintained a loyal interest in his Alma Mater. He was admitted to the New York Bar in 1901 and became associated with the firm of Parsons, Shepard & Ogden and (after the dissolution of that firm) with Parsons, Closson & McIlvaine. In 1910 he formed a partnership with Lawrence Kneeland and William Harison, the firm being known as Kneeland, Harison & Hewitt, and so continuing until Mr. Kneeland's death in 1920; after which the surviving partners continued under the name of Harison & Hewitt until Mr. Hewitt's death.

Mr. Hewitt was elected a member of the Maritime Law Association at the annual meeting in 1911. He was engaged in Admiralty practice while associated with Mr. Kneeland, and though he afterwards devoted himself chiefly to the law of estates and taxes he always continued his interest in the Admiralty and regarded with pleasure his contacts with the members of the Admiralty Bar.

Mr. Hewitt was a member of the University Club, Yale Club, and Down Town Association, in New York, and of the Middle Patent Club and Field Club of Greenwich. With his brother Brower Hewitt he inherited from their father a farm and woodland property of many acres at North Stonington, Connecticut, to which he was greatly attached. He was president of the Wheeler School at North Stonington and was interested in all current concerns of the neighborhood, as well as in its history. He was a great reader, and had a large circle of friends.

Mr. Hewitt was married on April 25, 1914, to Henrietta Silliman Dana, daughter of Arnold Guyot Dana, Yale, 1883, formerly one of the editors and publishers of the Commercial and Financial Chronicle, and Grace Newton Dana. He is survived by Mrs. Hewitt and two children, Katharine Dana Hewitt (Smith College 1939) and Thomas Browning Hewitt, Yale 1943.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN EARL PURDY

BY EDMUND F. LAMB

The sudden death on March 31, 1941, of John Earl Purdy, aged 36 years, brought to an untimely end a short but brilliant career.

John Purdy will be remembered by his many friends and associates among the Bar of New York State, and more particularly among the Admiralty Bar, as a skillful lawyer of keen intellect, extensive knowledge of the law, but withal practical and understanding in the application of the law to particular problems. The high regard in which he was held by the many judges of the Federal Courts of this Circuit before whom he had occasion to practice is a lasting testimonial to his memory.

His untimely passing was the aftermath of pneumonia, which attacked him in January of this year. Of such inexhaustible energy was he that in eight days he was back on the job, but the strain proved to be too much for his heart in its weakened condition.

John Earl Purdy was born in Brooklyn, New York, on September 16, 1904, the son of William F. Purdy, himself an outstanding member of the Admiralty Bar, and Margaret Earl Purdy. After studying at Polytechnic Preparatory Country Day School, he matriculated at Harvard University, where he secured his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1925. He thereafter studied law at Columbia University and Brooklyn Law School, where he received his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1928, and later the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence magna cum laude.

Upon his admission to the Bar of this State in April, 1929, he became associated in the practice of law with his father, William F. Purdy, specializing in the practice of Admiralty law. His rapid development as an active practitioner in Admiralty matters resulted in the Brooklyn Law School calling upon him in 1933 to assume the chair of Admiralty Law in the Graduate School of that institution. His pedagogical ability was so marked that he was shortly offered the position of Professor of Constitutional Law in the same institution. He continued to occupy both positions with signal credit until the time of his sudden death.

John Purdy is survived by his parents, and by his widow, Virginia Clark Purdy, and two sons, William Crossley Purdy, aged 10 years, and John Earl Purdy, Jr., aged 8 years.

In his activities as a lawyer, John Purdy was ever characterized by his even tempered disposition, his complete fairness, and his mastery of his profession. The breadth of his experience, young as he was, is attested by the many reported cases bearing his name as counsel. As a friend he was loyal and devoted.

The hand of the reaper has truly cut short a career of brilliant promise.

MEMORIAL OF WALKER B. SPENCER

BY ESMOND PHELPS

Walker B. Spencer was born in Natchez, Mississippi, on March 13, 1868. He died in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he had lived practically all of his life, on March 15, 1941.

He received his academic and legal training at Tulane University, his graduation from the law school being marked with a summa cum laude citation. He studied also at the University of Virginia, and was admitted to the Bar of Louisiana in 1891.

In the early 1890's, he became a member of the law firm of which the late Judge William Wirt Howe was the senior partner, and at the time of his death Walker B. Spencer had been the senior partner of the successor firm for many years.

He was one of the organizers and a past President of the New Orleans Bar Association. He was also a member of the Louisiana State and the American Bar Associations, and of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. He was a life member of the American Law Institute.

Walker B. Spencer was always a fearless contender for good government in the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana. He was one of the leaders in the "Citizens League" victory in 1896 and a co-author of the state laws establishing the Australian ballot system in Louisiana. He never tired in his efforts to improve the laws of his state and their administration. He took an active part in the framing of many remedial statutes, and prior to and during the legislative session of 1940 he drafted and assisted materially in the passage of several of the major reform laws adopted by the legislature as the culmination of the campaign which overthrew dictatorship in Louisiana. In this campaign itself, he was a leading figure.

The press of New Orleans in its editorial comments gave forceful expression to the esteem in which Walker B. Spencer was held:

"In the death of Walker Brainerd Spencer, New Orleans loses a citizen whose name is writ high in civic welfare. The legal profession loses one of its greatest lights. * * * New Orleans and Louisiana are the better for Mr. Spencer's life."

"Walker Spencer was a lawyer who served his clients well, but whom his clients did not own. 'All in all he was a man.'"