

ROBERT F. JACKSON:

Pursuant to the direction of the President to draft appropriate resolutions regarding the death of that kindly and courteous gentlemen, beloved friend, and distinguished lawyer, Colonel Robert Fenner Jackson, the Committee respectfully reports the following resolution:

Colonel Robert Fenner Jackson was born October 12, 1857, near Jackson, in Madison County, Tennessee. The son of Dr. Alexander Jackson, an eminent surgeon, and Eunice Buford Jackson, a beautiful southern belle, Colonel Jackson was reared in an atmosphere of culture and refinement. His parents were typically southern. His half-brother, General William H. Jackson, owner of Belle Meade, was a distinguished and honored citizen of his day. His other half-brother, Justice Howell E. Jackson, a great lawyer, was one of few Tennesseans to ever sit upon the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Marræd April 17, 1889 to Miss Mammie Baxter, daughter of Colonel Nathaniel Baxter of Nashville, Tennessee, three children, Baxter Jackson of New York, Mrs. Marvin E. Holderness of St. Louis, and Robert F. Jackson, Jr. of Nashville, and Colonel Jackson's widow, survive him.

Following his graduation from Union University at Jackson, Tennessee, Colonel Jackson entered Vanderbilt University, and shortly after receiving his diploma and license to practice law, at the age of twenty-four years he entered actively into the practice of his chosen profession at Nashville, associating with the firm of Whitworth & Whitworth. Eight years later, or in 1889, the firm of Steger, Washington & Jackson was formed, composed of Captain Thomas Steger, General W. H. Washington, and Colonel Robert Fenner Jackson, which firm enjoyed a large and lucrative practice. Following the dissolution of this firm, Colonel Jackson had no other partner in the practice. For more than forty years he was one of the trial counsel for the local street railway, and for many years represented in the courts the old Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, Tennessee Central Railroad, and many other large corporate interests. His name appears innumerable times in the Tennessee Reports as counsel in cases decided by our Supreme Court involving for the first time in Tennessee many important questions relating to the rules of evidence, procedure, and, especially, the law of torts.

Colonel Jackson was a strong advocate, a tireless and conscientious worker, able and fearless in the discharge of every duty, and a dauntless defender of the rights of his client. In fact he thought that his client was always right and could do no wrong. He could not be persuaded to the contrary. He could hardly bear to see his client's money taken away in compromise or at the end of litigation. There was never a lawyer who represented his client with greater zeal or fidelity. He was a fine judge of the law and well versed in its various branches. His arguments in the courts were forceful, sincere and clear. He was the soul of honor. He despised short or sharp practices. He never took an unfair advantage of an adversary in his life. He believed in the dignity of the courts and the majesty of the law. Money meant nothing to him. He did not permit a greed to make it center his heart or shrivel his soul. He enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. He never forgot a kindness or courtesy extended him. He loved his friends, and we know they loved him. He had his share of suffering and disappointment, but these did not embitter his spirit. Malice or hatred was to him unknown. It was impossible for him to cherish ill will towards any man.

For many years Colonel Jackson was a member of the Board of Stewards of West End Methodist Church. and from 1910 to the date of his death he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Vanderbilt University. For the welfare and good of both he gave the best that was in him.

He had a deep religious conviction. Unpretentious in this, as in all other matters in life, he had an abiding faith in God and in the world to come. His life was the best evidence of his religion. Able and strong in mind as a lawyer, gentle and kind in heart as a little child, he was an honor to his profession and a noble christian gentleman. He died as he lived, uncomplaining and unafraid.

Be It Therefore Resolved, That in the death of Colonel Robert Fenner Jackson the Nashville Bar has lost a distinguished member who exemplified the highest ideals in our profession; that we shall miss him and ever cherish his memory; that we tender our sincere sympathy to his bereaved family, and that a copy of these resolutions be furnished them by the Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth M. Walker,
Thomas H. Malone,
Fitzgerald Hall,
COMMITTEE.
