

HARRY ABRAM LUCK:

To the Members of the Nashville Bar Association:

Your Committee appointed to draft appropriate Resolutions commemorating the life of the late HARRY ABRAM LUCK, respectfully submit the following memorial and Resolutions:

HARRY ABRAM LUCK was born in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, on October 13, 1872, and was, therefore, seventy-three years of age at the time of his death which occurred in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, on September 10, 1945. His father was John Luck who for many years engaged in the mercantile business in Nashville. His mother before her marriage, was Susan March, whose family were early settlers in Davidson County. His paternal grandparents were Abram Luck and Ellen Webb Luck, his maternal grandparents being Jesse March and Sarah Thompson March.

His early education was obtained in the public schools of Nashville. From these schools, he went to Vanderbilt University and there studied law, and graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Laws on June 13, 1890, at the age of twenty. He was licensed and admitted to practice on January 19, 1892, and continued in the active practice for over fifty-three years.

He began the practice of law at Nashville, Tennessee, in association with the late Honorable A. G. Rutherford, later Circuit Court Judge of Davidson County, and that association continued for about five years. Mr. C. H. Rutherford, brother of the late A. G. Rutherford, joined the association, and it was at the time of the formation of the firm of Rutherford and Rutherford that the subject of this Resolution became association with the late Joseph Branch, then a prominent member of the Nashville Bar.

On November 9, 1899, he married Miss Margaret Clayton of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, a member of a very prominent family in that City, and a daughter was born to this union, Susan Luck, who later married, and is now Susan Luck Wrenn.

Devoting himself earnestly to the practice of law, he soon became recognized as one of the leading members of the Nashville Bar. Throughout his entire career, he engaged in the general practice of the law, and except for a brief period as a young lawyer, his abilities and talents were directed exclusively to civil practice. He had a marked ability in retaining the confidence of his clients and at no time during his career as a lawyer, did he lose sight of the delicate and fiduciary relationship existing between attorney and client. He was best recognized for his wise counsel, and he presented his cases to courts and juries, alike, with plainness and the greatest deliberation.

For a number of years, he was associated with the late W. D. Covington who for many years was renowned in this community as a Chancery Court lawyer. Still later, and when they were all young men, he was associated with Garland S. Moore, Theodore T. McCarley, Jay G. Stephenson, James A. Newman, Weldon White, Carmack Cochran, James C. Havron and Wilson West, and was at the time of his death, associated with Charles Campbell Brown and William C. Bowen.

He cast his first ballot in a national election for Grover Cleveland, for President, but he changed his affiliations from the Democratic to the Republican Party during the Bryan-McKinley campaign over the free silver issue. His allegiance to the Republican Party never wavered thereafter, and he remained a firm believer in the gold standard to the end. He was active in the councils of the Republican Party, and was, on innumerable occasions, elected as a delegate to its conventions.

He served as United States Commissioner at Nashville for sixteen years by appointment of the late Honorable Edward Sanford, Judge of the United States District Court at Nashville. He served with distinction for three years each on the Nashville City Board of Education and the State Board of Education. He was elected and served as Special Judge of the Circuit and Chancery Court at Nashville on innumerable occasions. He presided in the trial of many important cases, and he so demeaned himself in the trial of these cases as to command the respect of all persons who had business before him. He was patient and courteous to a degree. He was painstaking in investigation, positive in his convictions, but just in his attitude toward all litigants, rich and poor alike, but fearless in the expression of his convictions. He was especially considerate of the young and inexperienced lawyer, and he retained throughout his long career the friendship of many younger members of the Bar. As he grew older, and the burdens of his practice grew, it was his custom to associate other lawyers with him in his cases, and he most frequently associated younger members of the Bar.

In his private practice, he represented many business interests. His father left extensive real estate holdings located in the business section of Nashville, and for more than fifty years he skillfully handled and managed such properties for the heirs of his father, and the properties had never been divided at the date of his death on September 10, 1945.

In May 1929, in conjunction with A. J. Linx, S. H. Eason, Jay G. Stephenson and the late L. W. Hall, he organized the State Mutual and Building Association which later converted into a Federal Association and became the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Nashville. He served as President of the Association from the date of the organization until his death, and during his administration, the institution grew from a small beginning to the largest thrift and home financing institution in Nashville. He believed in thrift, and was peculiarly fitted to head a financial institution whose primary objects were the encouragement of thrift and home ownership. He commanded the confidence and respect of the investors in the institution to the same extent that he merited the confidence and esteem of the Bench and Bar.

In his young manhood, he became a member of the Church of Christ, and his religious convictions were strong. He was generous in his treatment of his fellow lawyers, and on many occasions he extended the friendly hand of assistance to less fortunate members of the Bar. He was charitable even beyond his means. His sympathies were broad and his life was pure. He was a sane and safe counsel, a true and loyal friend. His personality was appealing, his manner was gentle, and his life was correct. He brought honor to his profession and left unblemished his good name.

He was buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, beside the grave of his wife, who predeceased him some twelve years.

His departure saddens many friends, and it is but befitting that his memory should be revered and honored.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Members of the Nashville Bar Association that we in reverence of the memory of Harry Abram Luck, a Christian lawyer, gentleman and fellow-citizen and co-laborer in all things for the advancement of justice and the promotion of the welfare of our community honor his sterling qualities of character and pronounce this testimonial of sincere and lasting esteem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we tender our sincere sympathies to his family and that a copy of these Resolutions be delivered to his daughter, Mrs. Susan Luck Wrenn.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of these Resolutions be presented to the several Courts of our County and State with the request that the same be transcribed upon the records of such Courts.

Jay G. Stephenson,  
Chairman.

C. H. Rutherford,

A. G. Ewing,

W. C. Bowen,  
COMMITTEE.

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GEORGE JACKSON GALE.

GEORGE JACKSON GALE, a Member of this Association, died August 14, 1946, in Nashville, Tennessee, at the age of forty-four.

Mr. Gale was the son of the late W. D. Gale and the former Meta Jackson. He was educated in the South, taking his college degree from the University of the South at Sewanee, and taking his law degree at the University of Michigan.

After practicing in Nashville he entered Government service in 1938, serving with the Legal Division of Reconstruction Finance Corporation, returning to Nashville in 1939, but continuing his connection with that Corporation, as well as other Governmental connections. He was connected after his return to Nashville, and at the time of his death, with the firm of Hume, Howard, Davis & Gale.

Mr. Gale had not reached the height of his promise as a lawyer. The Tree of Life was expanding in a splendid pattern, with the topmost branches reaching towards the Sun, and as to why he was called at this time, we do not know, as it is part of the pattern of the universe.

We do know that his splendid integrity, legal attainments, and the pattern of his life will not be unremembered or unfollowed by those of the profession who remain, and it is with the deepest regret that this Association records his death on its minutes.

BE IT RESOLVED, by this Association that

- (1) A copy of these Resolutions be spread upon the Minutes of this Association, and
- (2) A copy be furnished to his family as a token of respect and affection of his brother lawyers and this Association.

Respectfully submitted,

( Signed)

William Waller,  
J. Connelly Edwards,  
John K. Maddin,  
F. A. Berry.

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