

NORMAN FARRELL:

NORMAN FARRELL was born in Nashville on December 1, 1874, at Burlington, the home of his parents, his grandparents, and his great-grandparents. The beautiful home, designed by Strickland, stood where the Father Ryan School now stands, and was part of an estate which at one time included the Vanderbilt Campus and Centennial Park. His great-grandfather was Joseph Thorpe Elliston, one of the first mayors of Nashville, a man of great wealth and influence.

His father, Norman Farrell, left Columbia University to join the Army of the Confederacy. He fought with Forrest's Cavalry throughout the War, and came home to marry the lovely Josephine Elliston of Burlington. The family consisted of four brothers, William, Norman, Louis and Herbert, and two sisters, Miss Josephine Farrell and Mrs. Donald W. Southgate.

Mr. Farrell had his preparatory education at the old Wallace University School, and at the Webb School in Bell Buckle. He then entered Vanderbilt University, where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. He graduated from Vanderbilt in the class of 1895, and studied law there. At Vanderbilt he was a champion tennis player and a member of the Glee Club.

Early in his career, Mr. Farrell became a protege and associate of the late John J. Vertrees, whom he regarded as the greatest lawyer of his time. He was associated with Mr. Vertrees in many important cases, including the famous Ballinger case, involving the defense of a member of President Taft's cabinet.

Among his contemporaries and close friends at the Bar were the former Governor Hill McAlister, the late Thomas H. Malone, Jr., Charles C. Trabue, K. T. McConnico, Ed Seay, Dan McGugin, E. J. Smith and many others.

In 1937, there occurred the "Gas Tax Scandals" involving a tremendous loss of revenue to the State by reason of alleged mishandling of gasoline tax funds. Mr. Farrell was appointed by the State to institute civil action to recover these deficiencies, and his efforts resulted in the collection of a very large amount of revenue for the State.

Mr. Farrell was actively engaged in the practice of law for more than 50 years in Nashville, and the Tennessee Reports, commencing with Volume 96 and up to Volume 190, contain many reported cases in which he participated. He never aspired to the Bench, but was frequently drafted as a Special Judge, and on many occasions during his later years he sat for short periods on the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

Mr. Farrell was a lawyer of the old school. He had enormous powers of concentration, and a most extensive and scholarly knowledge of legal theory and principles. He seldom dealt with a number of matters simultaneously, but, when he had a case to try, he immersed himself in the case for weeks and even months ahead of time. He would spend literally the full day, day after day, reading and studying and otherwise acquainting himself with every aspect of the matter; and when he came to the day of the trial, it was almost impossible to surprise him with any fact or legal point which he had not fully considered.

Mr. Farrell was exceedingly conscious of the difficulties, particularly the financial difficulties of young lawyers, and like many of his contemporaries, he always went out of his way to help and advise new members of the Bar, and he often gave office space to young lawyers from time to time. Mr. Farrell however, was never associated in partnership with another lawyer, except for a brief period with the late Thomas Kittrell and, toward the close of his career, with his nephew Louis Farrell, Jr.

Mr. Farrell was one of the signers of the Charter of Incorporation of the Nashville Bar and Library Association, and served as a member of the Board of Directors and as

Vice-President of the Association.

In his later years, Mr. Farrell's eyesight failed, and this was a particularly difficult burden for him to bear. To a man who had read so extensively, it was a trial to be read to, but his patience and his gentleness in bearing his long illness proved the greatness of his spirit, and were an inspiration to all who saw him. Mr. Farrell's brilliant intellect, his quick sense of humor, his keen wit, his courtly manner, his sterling integrity were not accidental, nor were these qualities acquired entirely by his own effort but both inheritance and environment prepared him to become the peerless gentleman he was. He was one of the most thoughtful and generous of men and his small nieces and nephews adored him.

Mr. Farrell's interest in sports, and especially in tennis, was strong as long as he lived. He attended most of the athletic contests at Vanderbilt, and even after his sight had failed, he continued to go to the tennis matches with a young student beside him to interpret the action. He played golf at the Richland Country Club and listened to the radio broadcasts of every football and basketball game which he could not attend in person.

Mr. Farrell died in Nashville on March 20, 1957, after an extended illness. His funeral services were conducted at St. George's Episcopal Church and he was buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery. He is survived by his two sisters, Miss Josephine Farrell and Mrs. Donald W. Southgate, and by his nieces and nephews.

Mr. Farrell enjoyed the fellowship of his brother lawyers; he enjoyed traveling in Europe and Ireland where he visited the estates of his father's family, and in England where he could breathe the same air with Winston Churchill, whom he admired so greatly. But everything in life dimmed to insignificance beside the love he bore for his country, - particularly his southland - and no one ever strove more valiantly to preserve her purity and her peace, than he.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in the death of Norman Farrell Nashville has lost one of her splendid citizens and we have lost a beloved associate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that these resolutions be spread upon the Memorial Book of the Chancery Court and that copies be sent to the members of his family.

(A. B. Neil,
(Charles C. Trabue, Jr., Chairman,
(Albert Williams,
(Hill McAlister.

COMMITTEE.
