

FRANK A. BERRY

Frank Allen Berry, long a member of this association and a distinguished practicing lawyer at the Nashville Bar for more than half a century, died at the age of seventy-nine on September 24, 1965. He is survived by his son, Frank A. Berry, Jr., two daughters, Mrs. Martin Condon, III, and Mrs. A. W. Hutchinson, and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Berry was born on October 13, 1885 here in Davidson County and received his preparatory education at Wallace University School and later attended both Vanderbilt University and Princeton University, where he was graduated in 1906. Thereafter, he studied law at the Harvard Law School, receiving his LLB degree therefrom in 1909 and then began to practice his profession in Nashville, Tennessee in the same year. He died suddenly while attending an Executive Committee Meeting at First American National Bank of Nashville, after an illness of more than a year, and at the bank of which his father, W. W. Berry, prior to his death, was President and Chairman of the Board for many years. After beginning the practice of law in 1909, he thereafter, in the year 1914, formed a law partnership with another distinguished lawyer, R. T. Smith, the firm being known as Smith and Berry and the American Bank being one of their principal clients.

At the time of his death, Mr. Berry was engaged in the active practice of law as a member of the law firm of Bass, Berry & Sims, which was formed in 1922 at the time of the consolidation of the American National Bank with the Cumberland Valley National Bank, both of Nashville, Tennessee. In the depression years he dealt with many difficult financial questions presented by the "bank holiday", and his legal ability and wise advice were invaluable to his banking clients during the period of the depression, he having advocated and sponsored the issuance of clearing house certificates by member banks, a procedure which provided a successful and orderly solution to major monetary problems

posed during this unprecedented period, for all of which he received national recognition.

As publicized in the publication issued by First American National Bank entitled "The First Family", Mr. Berry first became a Director of the Bank in the year 1916 and served for a period of two years. Thereafter, he was re-elected a Director in 1923 and remained a member of the bank's Board of Directors until his death.

While he was a distinguished member of the legal profession for more than half a century, he also had interests and performed services not related directly to his profession but touching upon other aspects of life in the community in which he lived.

Mr. Berry was indeed a gifted man, kind, gentle and possessed of a rare perception and tolerance of human nature, an effective negotiator, and when occasion required, an able and forceful advocate at the Bar. He was always affable and companionable, but never without dignity. He radiated a strength and depth of character that never failed to command respect and admiration in all who knew him. He was, indeed, a scholar and a gentleman in every sense of this often abused phrase.

He will long be remembered at the Nashville Bar for these characteristics, both by the practicing lawyers and by the judiciary.

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Nashville Bar Association that we express our sorrow at the passing of Frank Allen Berry and adopt this resolution in evidence thereof and direct that it be entered on the official records of the Association and that the same be enrolled in the "Memoriam Book" of the Chancery Court of Davidson County, Tennessee and a copy be sent to the members of his family.

Littell Rust,

J. Connelly Edwards,

Cecil Sims, Chairman