

Giles Lincoln Evans:

Giles Lincoln Evans was born near Mackburg, Lincoln County, Tennessee, on June 15, 1890. He was the son of George W. and Frances Collins Evans. He received his early education in the Lincoln County Schools and entered the Morgan School of Fayetteville, Tennessee, for his preparatory work at the age of sixteen, from which institution he graduated. He then entered Vanderbilt University, receiving his A. B. degree in 1913. During the last year at Vanderbilt he took his law course, which was customary at that time. During the time he attended Vanderbilt University he taught school in Bedford and Lincoln Counties.

On December 30, 1913, he married Georgia Mae Fly at Livingston, Alabama, and to this union were born five children, his sons, Giles, Jr. and Clarence, are now students at the United States Military Academy at West Point, a daughter, Frances, now at Vanderbilt University, and William and George are now in the Hume-Fogg High School.

He was admitted to the Bar in 1913.

He belonged to the Masonic Order, the Scottish Rite Bodies, the Shriners and the Elks.

He was a member of the American Bar Association, the Bar Association of Tennessee, serving the Bar Association of Tennessee as President during the years 1919-1920, being one of the youngest members in age to serve the organization as President; and was a member of the Nashville Bar Association.

Having obtained his license to practice law he actively engaged in the general practice of law at Fayetteville, Tennessee, and practiced in the courts of surrounding counties. During the years he practiced at Fayetteville he was associated as a partner with Minus Nesbit. In 1925 he came to Nashville and became associated as a partner in the firm of McGugin and Cate, and continued with this firm and its successors until 1933, when the firm dissolved and he entered the practice alone and continued to practice alone up until his death.

He represented Lincoln and Marshall counties in the State Senate in 1925, being one of the leaders of that Legislature, and served on many committees, being Chairman of the Finance, Ways and Means Committee.

He was a man of tireless energy, was loyal to his clients, working day and night on anything that he undertook to do, never giving up until the Court of last resort had passed on the questions of law involved. He had an unusual capacity to handle large and complicated matters with dispatch.

He possessed a brilliant legal mind, read continuously, and kept abreast of the times on all matters. His powers of memory were unusual and his fellow lawyers were frequently amazed by his almost inexhaustible storehouse of cases which he could cite upon the many legal points which arise during the preparation of a lawsuit or in casual conversation.

He was frank and honest in all his dealings and conducted himself in keeping with the highest order of the ethics of the profession and expected all other lawyers to do the same. He was intolerant of sham and hypocrisy in any form.

He was a fine conversationalist and always had a ready story for most any occasion and took great delight in telling of interesting events that occurred in his early years of practice.

He lost a leg in an accident when a boy, and although handicapped in this manner, never did he expect or accept any favors on account of this fact.

He was public spirited and readily responded with his time and energies as a citizen.

He was a devoted father and husband and was keenly interested in the activities of his children, and was particularly proud of the progress his two sons were making at West Point.

He died at his home in Nashville, Tennessee, on January 2, 1937, and was laid to rest

in Mount Olivet Cemetery at Nashville,

Be it Therefore Resolved: That by the death of Giles Lincoln Evans the Bar of Tennessee and particularly the Bar of Nashville, have lost a most distinguished member.

RESOLVED: That the Nashville Bar Association extend to his bereaved family their sincere condolence and sympathy, and that his family be furnished with a copy of these resolutions.

RESOLVED; As a further mark of respect that a copy of these resolutions be furnished the Obituary Committee of the Bar Association of Tennessee.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) J. G. Lackey, Chairman.  
" Fyke Farmer,  
" A. W. Akers,  
" Thos. O. H. Smith,  
Committee.

John Hibbett DeWitt:

A lawyer honors his profession when he so lives that his death is a loss not only to his brethren of the Bar, but to his city and to his state. John H. DeWitt lived and died that kind of lawyer. He possessed a rare capacity for service and a great willingness to serve. He will be widely missed for his death leaves a vacancy in many directions. A mere catalogus of some of his activities affords the best commentary on his life and on his likings.

He had an abiding trust in the Christian faith and he exemplified that trust not only by His Christian life and by his native honesty and integrity, but by his active and lifelong support of organized religion. He was for over thirty years an elder of the Hillsboro Presbyterian Church of Nashville. 'His was a deeply religious nature', as one of the Nashville papers said of him, 'and his life was consistent with his professions.'

He served the cause of the poor and underprivileged. When he was a young man he wrote the Act creating the Davidson County Charities Commission; for many years he was Chairman of the Davidson County Welfare Commission, and for many more an officer of the United Charities.

He served the cause of education in many ways and conspicuously as a member of the Nashville Board of Education, as a director of the Nashville Public Library and as a member of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust; but the labor in this field that attached him closest and held him longest was as director or trustee of Watkins Institute. Its object to afford education and training to those who for want of time or means or opportunity had missed them made a strong appeal to him. He was at all times active in his care of the interests of that fine institution and he had the gratification of seeing its service expand through the years and of witnessing from year to year, as it were in concrete form, the results that were being accomplished.

Judge DeWitt found time to be a wide reader and he was a scholarly one. He had a general knowledge of things and affairs and a store of information about those that especially interested him. He liked discussion with his friends and exchange of views. He enjoyed literary gatherings and was a member of the Round Table and Old Oak and Freolac and derived great pleasure from their meetings and proceedings.

He served the cause of his profession ably and honorably in his practice as a member of the bar and as President of the Nashville Bar Association, and for ten years as a Judge of the Court of Appeals for the Middle Division. He possessed the judicial mind.