

LOUIS FERGUSON:

Louis Ferguson, a much beloved and respected member of the Nashville Bar, died on April 25, 1960, here in Nashville, at the age of sixty. He was born in the Town of Manchester, Coffee County, Tennessee, on October 21, 1899, the son of William T. Ferguson and his wife, Etta Bagget Ferguson. He attended the city schools of Manchester and was graduated from the Manchester High School. The President of this Association, the Honorable B. B. Gullett, was a classmate of his and graduated in the same high school class with him. He attended the University of Tennessee for a period of time, but always having an ambition to become a lawyer, he early quitted college for Cumberland University at Lebanon, where he graduated in the class of 1924. Upon his graduation, he returned to his native county to practice and opened a law office in the City of Manchester.

Always interested in public service and civic betterment, in 1929, as do many young lawyers, he offered himself as a candidate for the State Legislature, and was duly elected as a representative from Coffee County and served a term as a direct representative. Shortly thereafter, he removed to Nashville and opened a law office here in the building now occupied by the E. J. Sain Jewelry Company, at the corner of Third Avenue and Union Street. There, he shared offices with Ewing Clouse for a number of years. He retained his office in Manchester for several years and divided his time between the two offices.

After several years he moved his offices and became associated with the late General Sessions Judge and former United States Assistant Attorney, Owen W. Hughes. After the death of Judge Hughes, he became associated with former Mayor, Thomas L. Cummings, in the Third National Bank Building and practiced with him until his death.

Mr. Ferguson married the former Miss Elsie Curtis, and they had a beautiful and happy life together. He came from a large family, and he is survived by four sisters and a brother. One sister, Mrs. James T. Glenn, and his brother, Clarence Ferguson, live here in Nashville. Another sister, Mrs. Lowice Allen, still lives in Manchester. The other two sisters, Mrs. James Hopp and Mrs. Sam Medley, live at a distance. Mrs. Hopp lives in Oakland, California, and Mrs. Medley lives in Detroit, Michigan.

He was a devout and faithful member of the Baptist Church throughout his life, and had held for many years prior to his death membership in the Belmont Heights Baptist Church here in Nashville. Outside of his church affiliation, he limited himself to his professional organizations, the Nashville, Tennessee, and American Bar Associations, and the Odd Fellows Lodge. He was a Democrat, and always took a great interest in the welfare of the Party and worked hard in many elections for it.

Having been born in what was at that time a small country community and county seat, as did so many of us who are contemporaries of his, he early learned the enjoyment of communion with nature in all of her varied aspects. As a boy, in the summer, he found pleasure in the creeks and rivers and swimming holes of Coffee County. He learned to enjoy the simple pleasures of wandering over the hills and valleys and through the barrens of his native county. He early learned to match wits with the finny and furry creatures of the fields and streams and to call them friend or enemy as the occasion demanded. Learning to hunt and fish at an early age, it became one of his chief pleasures throughout his adult life, and often, when any spare time was afforded, he sought renewal of his spirits in the woods and lakes and rivers of his native State. He never lost his love for fishing or hunting, and it was always a pleasure to hear him tell in his own inimitable way of his hunting and fishing trips.

Louis Ferguson was a simple man in the best sense of that term. He was a faithful student of the Law, but he always attempted to reduce its complexities and to translate its terms into a common denominator with which he and the majority of his fellow citizens could understand, and he used this ability with telling effect in the courtroom. He was a man of unimpeachable integrity and he was reared on a philosophy that a man's word was his bond. If he made a promise, he believed that it should be kept even if it took the hide. He was by nature kind and gentle and was innately a gentleman in the highest sense of that term. He was plain of speech and had a quaint and humorous phraseology which always kept his hearers in smiles. He was always good humored in dealing with his fellow members of the Bar, courteous to the Courts and fair in his treatment of his clients. He was a man of singular intensity and devotion to duty. When he took a client's case he was fiercely loyal to him, persisting to the bitter end in the prosecution or defense of his rights. He probably never had an enemy and it is certain that he never knew a stranger. His approach was always so gentle and friendly that all who ever met him were numbered among his friends. He was a very earnest man and deeply religious and the trials and tribulations of our complex civilization never shook his faith in the everlasting mercy of his Creator. There were no shades of gray in his understanding of good and evil, and he always held steadfast that "tho right were worsted, wrong would never triumph". The world is richer for his presence, and we are poorer for his passing.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Crownover, Jr.,
Chairman

Judge Roy Hickerson

Claude Callicott