

December 2019

Report of Necrology Committee

Wyoming State Bar

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.law.uwyo.edu/wlj>

Recommended Citation

Wyoming State Bar, *Report of Necrology Committee*, 15 Wyo. L.J. 159 (1961)

Available at: <https://scholarship.law.uwyo.edu/wlj/vol15/iss2/13>

This Special Section is brought to you for free and open access by Law Archive of Wyoming Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in Wyoming Law Journal by an authorized editor of Law Archive of Wyoming Scholarship.

REPORT OF NECROLOGY COMMITTEE

Since the last annual meeting of the Bar, there have been reported to the Necrology Committee the names of four members of the Wyoming Bar who have attended their last call of the docket. One of them, a leader of the Judiciary for many years in the State of Wyoming; another, with almost fifty years of honorable practice in the State of Wyoming; another, who in his later years saw fit to become a member of the State Bar and served worthily thereafter; and yet another, one of the few lady members of the Bar, born in Scotland.

HONORABLE RALPH KIMBALL

Ralph Kimball was born in Nevada, Missouri, on November 23, 1878. He was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 1899 and to the Wyoming and Colorado Bars in 1901. It is reported that he had one of the best grades made in a bar examination in Wyoming. Judge Kimball started to practice in Lander. At various times, he practiced with William Hardin and Jack Dillon. He was married on October 11, 1905, to Marion B. Bunce. In 1906 he was elected to the dual offices of County and Prosecuting Attorney and County Clerk, which position he held until 1915. In 1915 he was elected to the State Legislature. In 1919 he was appointed District Judge. He was then 41 years of age. In 1920 he was appointed to the State Supreme Court. It is reported that he was the youngest man to serve on the Supreme Court and for the next 31 years he served in the Supreme Court of Wyoming. Many of the court decisions written by him are being studied in law textbooks.

He retired in 1952 and moved back to Lander. He later became ill with a heart condition, gave up his office in Lander and donated the bulk of his law library to the Fremont County Law Library. For the last few years of his life he was a semi-invalid. He died on the 19th day of November, 1959, in Lander. He is survived by his wife, Mary; one sister, Mrs. Mary Kimball Scott; one nephew, Bill Scott, a law professor at Kansas University; two nieces, Mrs. Mildred Temple and Rosemary Desjardins.

Judge Kimball will be remembered because of his faithful service on the Supreme Court and the decisions he rendered as a member of that honorable body.

JOSEPH R. SULLIVAN

Joseph R. Sullivan was born on June 20, 1880, in O'Neil, Nebraska. He received his Bachelor of Art degree from Creighton University and was valedictorian of his class in 1904. He received his LL.B. degree from Creighton and began his law practice in Laramie in 1910 and continued until the day of his death on December 4, 1959. For almost half a century he was engaged in the practice of law in Laramie, Wyoming, and during

that period he rose from a struggling young lawyer to a position of leadership among the members of the Bar of the State of Wyoming. He was a member of the Albany County and Wyoming Bar Associations and served as president of each.

During his career he engaged in the general practice of law and served many clients. He was courteous, earnest, had a desire for justice and was highly respected by the Bench, the Bar and the public. He accepted his responsibilities and performed his duties with diligence. He was active in the community life and participated in the social, religious and civic affairs of his community. He had a friendly and sympathetic attitude and a sense of humor.

He was married on November 27, 1909, to Amy Byrne. They celebrated their Golden Wedding on Sunday, November 29th, just prior to his death.

He was a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives from 1913 to 1915 and 1917 to 1919. He served as County Commissioner, County Attorney, City Attorney and Municipal Court Judge. In 1957 he was awarded the Lions Club-Daily Boomerang Award for outstanding community service, the citation being as follows:

"For forty-seven years of active participation in Laramie civic affairs you have been chosen as the outstanding citizen of the year."

He is survived by his wife, Amy Byrne Sullivan; three sons, Joseph B. Sullivan, attorney at Douglas, John F. Sullivan, attorney at Laramie, Dr. Bernard B. Sullivan, Laramie; one daughter, Mrs. Patricia Queal; and two sisters, Mary Sullivan and Mrs. William Hanley.

He died of a coronary occlusion and had worked the previous day in his office.

He will be remembered for his public service, diligent service to his clients, whether rich or poor, and as a capable and industrious member of the Bar of the State of Wyoming.

C. J. DEVEREAUX

C. J. Devereaux was born on January 11, 1889, at Steelton, Pennsylvania. He has been a resident of Wyoming since 1924. During the 1930's he was well known in Casper and Worland where he operated a credit agency. In later years he studied law and was admitted to practice in the State of Wyoming on September 6, 1949. He commenced his law practice in Basin where he practiced for four years and then moved to Thermopolis, where he was practicing at the time of his death on August 28, 1960. His death was caused in an automobile accident in the Wind River Canyon.

He regarded the law with high esteem and was proud to be a member of the legal profession. He was conscientious and his manner was a credit to the Bar.

He is survived by his wife, Grace; his step-son Lester C. Lewis, Jr.; a brother, Robert and a sister, Mary Coney.

He is illustrative of the type of individual that has made America great by his desire to grow and progress throughout his lifetime. He would not permit age to stop his learning and advancement, being admitted when he was 60 years of age. He was a man of outstanding courage, optimism and never failing courtesy.

JEAN McMANUS

Jean McManus, one of the few lady members of the Bar, was born on February 8, 1917, at Larkhall, Lanarkshire, Scotland. She became a naturalized citizen of the United States at Sheridan, Wyoming, on February 4, 1919. She graduated from the National University and was admitted to practice law in the State of Wyoming on June 13, 1941.

She died on July 12, 1959, in Washington, D. C., where she had been living for a considerable length of time.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Wyoming State Bar, at its regular annual meeting held in Casper, Wyoming, September 8, 9 and 10, 1960, pays its respects to: Honorable Ralph Kimball, Joseph R. Sullivan, C. J. Devereaux and Jean McManus, and recognize their services and contributions to the legal profession and the public of the State of Wyoming, that our sympathies and condolences be hereby extended to their families and that their memories be perpetuated by extending this resolution upon the minutes of the meeting of the Association.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the families of these four distinguished members of our profession.

Respectfully submitted,

THE NECROLOGY COMMITTEE

Les S. Nebeger, Chairman

R. B. Bowman