

Life of Judge John C. Moran Was Filled With Many Good Deeds

Life History of Judge John Moran

Judge John C. Moran, endeared in the hearts of all who knew him, and known by practically every person in the county and surrounding community, was a native son of Adams County, being born in Jefferson township on February 15, 1870. He was the son of Thomas and Anna Moran, both natives of County Galway, Ireland. He was the eldest son and fourth child of a family of nine. His parents emigrated to this country in 1865 and settled in Preble County, Ohio. Shortly afterwards the elder Morans came to this county and settled on a farm in Jefferson township. Judge Moran's father lived to be over 85 years of age and for a number of years made his home with his son, at which place he died. His good mother died on May 27, 1887 when her son, John was seventeen years old.

Was a School Teacher

During the time that he was attending the grade schools in his township, Judge Moran helped his father on the farm. Later he attended the Ohio Northern University at Ada, the Tri-State Normal school at Angola, Valparaiso university and spent two years in the Portland Normal school. He then struck out for himself and at the age of nineteen, took up the profession of teaching, his first term being in Mercer County, Ohio. He taught seven terms, four of them in the Cottonwood school in French township, and many of his former pupils remember him as a man of sincerity and patience, all of whom will be grieved to learn of his untimely death.

A Student of Law

Giving up teaching, Judge Moran took up the study of law and entered the office of Judge R. H. Hartford at Portland, where he completed his reading of Blackstone.

Admitted to Bar in 1897

Judge Moran, then a young attorney, was admitted to the Adams county bar in 1897, twenty-six years ago. He opened his first law office at Berne during the same year, and within a short time gained for himself an enviable reputation as a brilliant and capable lawyer. He lived in Berne for three years.

Was Prosecutor Six Years

Judge Moran was a democrat in politics and in 1900 was elected Prosecuting Attorney on the democratic ticket and was re-elected to two other two-year terms, having served six years in all. When elected Prosecuting Attorney, it necessitated his moving from Berne to Decatur and since that time he has been a resident of this city. Speaking of his services as prosecutor, Lewis' history of Adams and Wells counties, says: "It is doubtful if

that office ever had a better administration than in Mr. Moran's hands. One feature of Mr. Moran's record in the prosecuting attorney office, is that he never drew a defective affidavit or indictment throughout his three terms." John F. Snow, speaking of his record in "Snow's history of Adams County," says: "During the incumbency of his office he discharged all of its duties and obligations with intelligence, fearlessness and marked ability. He tried numbers of important cases, and in each he displayed a profound knowledge of the law and skill as an attorney. His chief concern was the interest of the public he served and he retired from office with the plaudits of the members of all political parties and the esteem of his fellows."

Formed Law Partnership

Early in his career as an attorney, he formed a law partnership with the late Shafer Peterson, this partnership continuing until Mr. Peterson's death. A number of years ago he was admitted to practice in the State Supreme Court and carried a number of trials to that tribunal. In the practice of law, Mr. Moran built up a wonderful clientele, and his services were always in demand. Much of Mr. Moran's enjoyment in life was in doing something for his fellow man and in giving advice or rendering service to those less fortunate than he and to those troubled with legal matters or difficulties. It has been said that he gave as much of his service and talents without recompense as those for which he received pay. He represented hundreds of property owners previous to becoming judge, in the matter of presenting petitions for gravel roads to the board of commissioners.

Was Married in 1901

Mr. Moran was married in Decatur, September 23, 1901, to Miss Rosella Yager, daughter of Charles and Magdelene Yager, of French township. The bereaved wife and two children, who with the hundreds and hundreds of friends of the judge are heartbroken over his untimely death, survive. The children are: Margaret Moran, a student at St. Mary's College, South Bend, and Richard at home. Three brothers and four sisters also survive, they being Judge James J. Moran and Dr. Mark Moran, of Portland; Patrick Moran, of Jefferson township, Adams County, and the sisters, Mrs. P. K. Kinney and Mrs. T. F. Golden, of Fort Wayne; Mrs. James Kinney, of Jefferson township, and Miss Margaret Moran, a teacher in the public schools of this city.

Church and Lodge Membership

Judge Moran was a member of the St. Mary's Catholic church and was most devout in his religious duties. He was one of the church trustees and held other offices within the church circle. He was a member of the St. Joseph and Holy Name societies and at all times lead an exemplary life.

He was one of the forty-six charter members of the local Knights of Columbus, Decatur Council Number

the local council. He was also a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Improved Order of Red Men, and his presence and guiding hand

county democratic committee and took an active and public-spirited part in politics.

Elected Judge in 1918 the twenty-sixth judicial circuit, and

at all times, unafraid of public opinion and desirous only to be just to all. He has not been reversed a single time by the supreme court, and his services have been much in demand as special judge in surrounding cities. Speaking of his ability as a legal authority, Lewis' history says: "John C. Moran is one of the men who have contributed the resources of a fine mind and of an equally fine character to the prestige and activities of the Adams county bar. While he was making his maiden efforts as a lawyer, he attracted the attention of older attorneys and has been steadily rising in esteem and in the extent and importance of the business entrusted to his care."

ing jurist were broadcasted throughout northern Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois. A reward of \$500 was offered by Judge James C. Moran, of Portland, a brother. Many theories were advanced to account for Judge Moran's disappearance, but the one most generally believed was that he had suffered a nervous breakdown, due to his weak physical condition which was caused by a serious illness last fall.

The police department and detectives of Fort Wayne worked diligently in an effort to locate Judge Moran, but they were baffled until the St. Mary's river gave up the body Saturday evening. A search of the surrounding territory was made Saturday afternoon by the Boy Scouts of Fort Wayne and another search was to be made Sunday afternoon by friends of the judge in this city.

Believe He Suffered Breakdown

The most plausible theory now, is that Judge Moran suffered a breakdown due to his hard work in connection with his court affairs, that he turned into an alley soon after leaving the restaurant, proceeded a block west to Harrison street, followed that street north to the railroad river bridge where he walked into the river. The body was found about two blocks down the river from this point.

A report from Fort Wayne is to the effect that the Starke boy will claim the reward offered by Judge James Moran.

The body was brought to Decatur Sunday morning and held at the Yager Brothers Undertaking establishment until this morning when it was removed to the residence at 615 Marshall street.

Lodges to Attend Funeral

Members of the Knights of Columbus, B. P. O. E., and I. O. O. F., of which organizations Judge Moran was a member, will attend the funeral in a body tomorrow. The active pall bearers have been chosen from the membership of the Adams County Bar. They are C. J. Lutz, judge protem; Mayor Huber M. DeVoss; Henry B. Heller, county attorney; J. T. Merryman former judge; J. Fred Fruchte and Frank Cottrell.

Honorary pall bearers chosen from the Knights of Columbus are T. J. Durkin, Nick Miller and Fred Schurger. Honorary pall bearers chosen from the Elks lodge are D. M. Hensley, exalted ruler, Phil Macklin and Dick Boch.

Court will convene tomorrow morning and will be dismissed immediately for the remainder of the day.

The office of the clerk of the court will be closed all day and other county offices will close if possible. Every business house in the city has been asked to close during the funeral tomorrow.

MET AN UNTIMELY DEATH



The above likeness of the late Judge John C. Moran, who met death by accidentally drowning in the St. Mary's river at Fort Wayne last week, was made from a photograph made in 1919 when he became Judge of the Adams circuit court. This was the last photograph made of the deceased.

Community Is Grieved Over Tragic Death

(Continued From Page One.)

marks of any kind of violence which might lead one to believe that Judge Moran had been a victim of foul play. Another fact which strengthened the belief that he had met death accidentally, was that \$55 in cash was found in his clothing. Dr. Benninghoff declared that death was due to accidental drowning.

Judge Moran left Decatur on the morning of April 19, going to Huntington where he acted as special judge in a law suit that day. The trial at Huntington was completed on Thursday and Judge Moran started for home that evening, returning by way of Fort Wayne. In that city, he stopped to visit with attorneys, and early in the evening he was accompanied to the traction station by Attorney Elmer Leonard, where Judge Moran boarded an interurban for Decatur. When the car reached the Baker street stop near the Pennsylvania railroad station Judge Moran alighted, according to the conductor. A little later in the evening he was seen in a restaurant, two blocks south of Baker street on Calhoun street, by Attorney R. C. Parrish, of Fort Wayne, who was passing the restaurant. Mr. Parrish decided to return and talk with Judge Moran for a few minutes. When he reached the restaurant, less than five minutes after passing it, Mr. Parrish found that Judge Moran had left. He looked around the street for him but failed to find him. The next day the search for Judge Moran started and every possible clue was investigated without any light being shed on the mystery of his disappearance.

Diligent Search Conducted

No one was found who has seen the judge after he left the restaurant on Thursday night. Photographs and descriptions of the miss-

CLEAN-UP DRIVE STARTED TODAY

City Trucks and Wagons Begin Hauling Cans and Rubbish in City

This is clean-up and paint-up week. Early this morning, under the direction of city street commissioner, Ed L. Augenbaugh, with two teams and wagons, with one and two men in charge, started to make the rounds in gathering up the old tin cans, bottles and other rubbish from the alleys throughout the city.

Owing to the unexpected arrival of six cars of coal consigned to the city light and power plant, the two big Indiana trucks were being used today to haul the coal to the municipal plant. Commissioner Augenbaugh stated that in all probability the big trucks would be put in service in the clean-up drive Tuesday or Wednesday.

A complete canvas of the city will be made. Beginning tomorrow or Wednesday one of the trucks will begin on First street and work cross-town, west to the corporation line. Today one truck was gathering up the cans, etc., in the south end of the city, while the teams and wagons were working in the west and north-west part. It is a big job to haul the winter's accumulation of cans, bottles and other unsightly trash and it is thought that it will take a week or ten days to complete the clean-up drive. All cans and bottles should be placed in boxes or barrels and set in the alley or along the curb so they can be picked out and thrown into the truck.

In connection with the clean-up movement, the council will see that bills and placards are removed from the telephone and electric light

poles and the poles will be painted. The business men are going to put up new awnings and paint their store room fronts. Ornamental lights are going to be installed on Second street from Jackson to Jefferson, and Decatur is going to be a "spick and span" city.

AGED RESIDENT OF COUNTY DIES

Mrs. Rosanna Baumgartner, of French Township Expires Sunday A. M.

Mrs. Rosanna Baumgartner, age 81 years, a resident of Adams county and French township for sixty-five years and mother of L. L. Baumgartner of this city, former county surveyor, died at her home at two o'clock Sunday morning after several weeks' illness with the influenza and infirmities of old age.

The deceased was one of the well known and highly respected women of this county. She was born in Starke county, Ohio, March 27, 1842, being eighty-one years old on her last birthday. When a young woman she married John J. Baumgartner and to this union ten children were born. Her husband died about twenty-nine years ago. Following her marriage she made her home in French township where her husband was a progressive farmer and later engaged in the general store business.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock at the Linn Grove Evangelical church. Rev. Lauer officiating. Burial will be held in the Linn Grove cemetery. Besides L. L. Baumgartner of this city the following children survive: Rev. G. H. Baumgartner and Mrs.

Mary Opliger, of Berne; Charles Baumgartner, Mrs. Charles Rohm, of South Whitley, and Ben and Ida Baumgartner at home.

PAINTERS' NOTICE

A great many merchants have inquired at this office for painters to take a contract for the painting of their business fronts. Lots of work to be had at good prices. Let's get the town painted as soon as possible. Come in and see us. Help make Decatur's business section shine and help put the town on the map.

WILL RESTONE ROAD TO BERNE

State Highway South From Decatur to be Repaired This Summer

Indianapolis, April 30.—Orders have been placed for \$50,000 worth of crushed stone and gravel by the state highway commission for immediate delivery, and the next few days will note the start of stupendous maintenance operations for placing non-rigid typed roads in the state system in excellent condition for spring and summer traffic. John D. Williams, highway director, announces.

Thirteen roads will receive the bulk of this material and as fast as they are repaved other highways of the system receive attention when they begin to show wear. Mr. Williams said.

Roads delegated to be repaired first are: No. 21, Decatur to Berne with stone. No. 12, east and west of Bicknell,

will be sadly missed by his lodge brothers.

Served As County Chairman

Besides being honored with public offices of trust and honor, Judge Moran served as chairman of the

In 1918, he was elected judge of assumed office in November 1919,

having served only three years and five months of his six-year term. His record during that time proved his ability. He was careful, honest, fair

CONSUMER WILL SHARE

Kansas City, Mo., April 30.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Consumers will share in a saving of \$10,000,000 annually as a result of the acquisition of interest of Morris & Co., F. Edison White, president of Armour company declared in an interview here today. "Competition will see to it that this saving of \$10,000,000 annually through handlings of volumes of business as one is divided between the people and the producer," White said in discussing the department of agriculture hearings on the legality of the packer merger which opened here today.

TAXES ARE NOT HALF PAID YET

Last Week of Taxpaying Time Expected to be a Busy One Here

The next six days will without doubt be busy ones in the office of County Treasurer Hugh Hite, for the reason that the last week for paying taxes finds less than half of the spring installment of taxes paid in this county. However, this is not an unusual condition as in former years the last week of taxpaying has always been the busiest. Mr. Hite stated that the receipts up to today totaled approximately \$170,000.00. The total taxes to be paid by property owners in this county this year is \$905,000.00, the half being over \$450,000.00. The receipts on Saturday were about \$18,000.00, while the largest single day's receipts during the week was \$30,000.00.

Majority Pay By Check Very little cash and currency is taken in at the treasurer's office.

BASEBALL MEN HOLD WORKOUT

Fifteen Candidates for American Legion Team at First Practice

About fifteen candidates for the American Legion baseball team reported for the initial workout at Belmont Park Sunday afternoon. Although it is too early to make predictions in regard to the strength of the team, indications are that a strong team will be developed. More candidates are expected at the next workout which will be held on next Sunday afternoon. Two or three players from Fort Wayne are expected here then in addition to a few from various towns in the county. Several "old timers" who have played on former Decatur teams were out yesterday displaying their wares.

It has not been definitely considered where the team will play this summer. The Rotary club has been considering the proposition of making a baseball park and children's playground in Ahl's field east of the Monroe street bridge. The directors of the Rotary Club will meet this evening to take definite action on the matter. The boy's work committee of which France Conter is chairman, has reported favorably on the matter of constructing a children's playground there, it is said.

CASE IS SENT TO WELLS CO.

Alberson Cemetery Case Venued From This County for a Retrial

The case of the Alberson cemetery association, of Linn Grove, against Daniel Fuhrer, for condemnation of land, which was tried in the Adams circuit court some time ago and the decision later reversed by the supreme court, has been venued to the Wells circuit court for retrial.

The case involves the appraisal set on an acre of real estate, belonging to Fuhrer, which the cemetery association wished to condemn. The original appraisal was for \$540 actual value and \$2,500 for damages done to adjoining property. The court lowered this \$500 and set the total recovery at \$2,500. The supreme court reversed this, however, holding that condemned property could be appraised only at its market value, the price it would bring for its most valuable use. It was held that any use to which the land might be put at a future date should not effect its value. The property is said to be underlaid with heavy gravel deposits.

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TRANS-CONTINENTAL FLIGHT

Washington, April 30.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Three of the four marine flyers who left San Diego, April 19, completed their trans-continental flight at Bolling Field here today. The fourth plane was forced down at Harpers Ferry, W. Va., in sight of its goal.