

TO THE COURT AND BAR:

We, the undersigned committee and members of the Shreveport Bar Association, having been appointed by the Bar to compose a short sketch of the life of the late J. Fair Hardin, and obituary, to be presented on the occasion of Memorial Exercises held by the Shreveport Bar Association and the Court on the 14th day of November, 1940, respectfully submit the following:

J. Fair Hardin was a native of Louisiana, having been born at Mansfield on October 27, 1893, the son of Thomas Rollins Hardin and Sarah Moore Fair Hardin. After attending the public schools of this State, he attended Kentucky Wesleyan College where he graduated in 1911. He thereafter became a professor of history at the Athens Louisiana High School and at the same time studied law and was admitted to the Bar in 1915 and practiced until the United States entered the First World War in April, 1917. Upon the declaration of war by the United States against Germany, J. Fair Hardin enlisted at once as a private and by hard work and through merited promotion obtained the rank of Captain and served in that capacity in France with the American Expeditionary Forces. He was detailed for duty in the Judge Advocate General's Department at Headquarters of the 39th Division and served in that capacity until after the signing of the Armistice. He did not return to the United States until October, 1919, after having served more than fifteen months in France.

After returning to civil life after the World War, J. Fair Hardin began the practice of law in the City of Shreveport. With the exception of a brief period, he served as First Assistant United States District Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana from 1921 until he resigned that office in 1939. During that period he prosecuted many notorious criminals and gained a reputation as a most vigorous but fair prosecutor. As a lawyer he was painstaking, studious and thorough. He had a quick conception of legal principles and a remarkable power of analysis. He was a safe advisor, a tireless worker and a hard

fighter and, although taken in the prime of life, he has attained a niche among the leaders of his profession. He was past President of the Shreveport Bar Association, a member of the Louisiana Bar Association and of the American Bar Association.

Aside from the duties of his profession, he found time to do many things for his city, state and nation, both from a military and civic standpoint. As a citizen soldier his efforts were unceasing and untiring. After his discharge from the army he finally became a Colonel in the State National Guard which he served as Judge Advocate until his selection in the year 1940 as the one to organize and command the 204th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) a new unit of the Guard. With characteristic energy he took upon himself the task of organizing this regiment whose progress and military education during the few months of its existence has won acclaim from citizens and military experts alike. Through his efforts this regiment procured the building of an armory at Fort Humburg in Shreveport which was recently dedicated as Hardin Memorial Armory. He was to have taken his regiment for a years active duty training in January, 1941.

He was one of the pioneer workers for the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps in Shreveport schools and had aided other Louisiana cities in seeking similar units. While a Reserve Officer, he served as Department President of the Louisiana Reserve Officers Association.

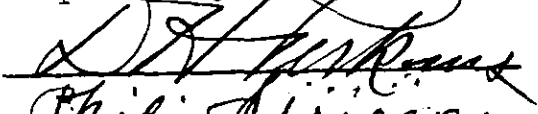
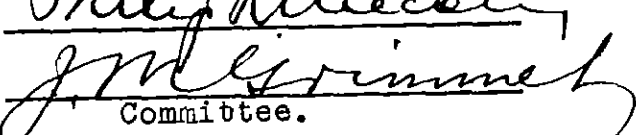
He further found time to devote to the history of the State of Louisiana of which he was a great student, painstaking and accurate in the assembling of historical facts. He wrote the "History of Northwest Louisiana" in three volumes which was printed in 1937. He was also the author of "The First Great Western River Captain-Henry Miller Shreve" and among his other works was "Courts of Appeal of Louisiana and their Judges". When Shreveport celebrated its Centennial in 1935, he was

given the task of assembling the historical data for this occasion and it was largely through his efforts that this celebration was made a success.

He also found time for civic duties as well as work in his church. He was past President of the Kiwanis Club, Vice-President of the North Louisiana Historical Society, a member of the Educational Advisory Board of the Louisiana Historical Quarterly. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and teacher of a Sunday School class in that church known as the J. Fair Hardin Bible Class. He was past President of the Men's Club of the Church and active in laymans' activities in his church. He was a Knights Templar, Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

He was taken from among us by a sudden and tragic death on October 30th, 1940, and to those who wish to measure men justly by their merits and deeds, to those who knew J. Fair Hardin closely, he will always stand as a great lawyer, a great citizen soldier, a great historian of our State, a great civic worker and a fine and valuable citizen, and we offer to the Court, the Bar and his assembled friends here this humble and lasting tribute, this brief memorial of the life of J. Fair Hardin to become permanently inscribed in the minutes of this Court.

Respectfully Submitted,


Philip Hines

Committee.