

IN MEMORIAM
WILLIAM BLACKSHEAR HAMILTON

FILED

SEP 20 1965

W. O. Jones
DEPUTY CLERK

When William Blackshear Hamilton passed away on February 3, 1965, Shreveport and Louisiana lost a citizen of noble character, and the bar of the State lost a lawyer of the highest honor and integrity. He was a member of one of this community's oldest, most honored, and most respected families - a family that has contributed greatly to the civic, religious and social life of Louisiana. He was married to Miss Nell Barrow, who also came from one of Louisiana's time-honored and esteemed families, and is survived by his wife, one son, David B. Hamilton, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, and a brother, D. Philip Hamilton, one of Shreveport's outstanding citizens and business men.

Mr. Hamilton was born in 1893 and has been a lifelong resident of Shreveport. His life span has covered one of the most momentous and revolutionary periods of American and World history, politics, science and law. During his boyhood years he attended the public schools and graduated from the old Shreveport High School on Hope Street. He then attended the Sewanee Military Academy and later the University of the South where he was awarded the Bachelor of Arts

degree. His training for the legal profession took place in the Tulane University School of Law. One of his greatest interests outside the circle of his family and his profession was the advancement of his alma mater - the University of the South at Sewanee.

In October 1917 William Hamilton appeared before the Supreme Court of Louisiana to receive his certificate of admission to the Bar of Louisiana, and later began his practice of law in Shreveport. In the early twenties he entered into a partnership with George G. Dimick, under the firm name of Dimick and Hamilton. That partnership enjoyed a great measure of success and continued through the years until 1963 when Mr. Hamilton's health made it advisable for him to retire from the active practice of law. As a lawyer William Hamilton was a prodigious worker who gave unsparingly of his time and talents to the interests of his clients, thus fulfilling in a fine way the demands and the ethics of his profession.

When the First World War gripped our Nation in 1917, William Blackshear Hamilton was among the first fine groups of America's young manhood that volunteered to go into battle to maintain liberty and freedom for the country they loved so well. Although he did not reach the firing line he almost lost his life with an illness contracted

during his training for combat duty.

Mr. Hamilton also made a notable contribution to the religious life of his city, and worked assiduously for the welfare of his church. He served for many years as an officer and as a member of the vestry of St. Marks Episcopal Church in Shreveport. It was most fitting and appropriate that his funeral rites were solemnized in the church which he regularly attended for divine worship.

An ancient hour glass bears this inscription which may serve as an indication of the Christian faith of this fine gentleman, counselor and attorney:

Ponder mortal while you watch
Time flowing through my golden sands
What you have in your heart you keep
But not what you hold in your hands.


When man, in life's last moment, is summoned to meet his maker, mortals will ask what he left behind him, but angels in Heaven will inquire, "What hast thou sent before thee?" Although William Hamilton had a reasonable measure of worldly goods the greatest good that he has sent before him and the greatest heritage that he has left to his family and friends is a heritage of honor and integrity and an unselfish love for his fellow man.

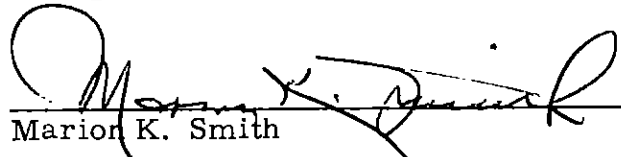
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Shreveport Bar Association that we express our regret and sorrow in the loss of our highly esteemed and respected member William Blackshear Hamilton and that we express to his widow and son, and to his family our sympathy over their bereavement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this memorial and resolution be filed in the archives of the First Judicial District Court and that copies thereof be sent to the members of the family of William Blackshear Hamilton.

Memorial Committee


W. Scott Wilkinson, Chairman


George G. Dimick


Marion K. Smith

September 20, 1965

CHIEF JUDGE CLARK, THE OTHER HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, OTHER DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY HERE PRESENT, THE MEMBERS OF CHIEF JUSTICE HAMITER'S FAMILY, HIS NIECES - MRS. WILL K. ANDRESS AND MRS. JAMES W. ALLEN: HIS SISTERS-IN-LAW MRS. SUE COURTNEY BROWN AND MRS. M.W. BLACKMAN; HIS BROTHERS-IN-LAW - MR. J. A. COURTNEY AND MR. J. C. COURTNEY; HIS DEVOTED HOUSEKEEPER OF MANY, MANY YEARS - MS. CLAUDINE WASHINGTON; MEMBERS OF THE FAMILIES OF THESE OTHER LAWYERS FOR WHOM TRIBUTE IS THIS DAY BEING PAID BY BENCH AND BAR ALIKE; INVITED GUESTS.

JOE B. HAMITER WAS A LIFE LONG RESIDENT OF SHREVEPORT. HE WAS BORN HERE ON NOVEMBER 16th, 1899 AND WENT HOME ON JANUARY 7th, 1986, AT AGE 86. FOR ALL OF THIS TIME HE WAS A DEVOTED FOURTH GENERATION MEMBER OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH. HIS ROOTS WERE DEEP AND HIS ANCHOR WELL SET, FOR HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND A DESCENDANT OF ONE WHO MANUFACTURED GUNS FOR THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.

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CLERK

HIS EARLY EDUCATION OCCURRED AT LINE AVENUE SCHOOL AND HOPE STREET HIGH SCHOOL, WHERE HE PARTICIPATED IN BOTH BASEBALL AND FOOTBALL. FOR TWO YEARS HE ATTENDED LSU WHERE HIS DISCIPLINES WERE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND AGRICULTURE. WHILE AT LSU HE SERVED FOR BOTH OF THESE YEARS AS A MEMBER OF THE BASEBALL TEAM, THE DEBATING TEAM AND AS PRESIDENT OF HIS SOCIAL FRATERNITY, THE KAPPA ALPHA ORDER.

AT HIS FATHER'S BEHEST HE LEFT LSU TO FARM, BUT MILKING COWS AND FOLLOWING A MULE WITH A PLOW WERE NOT HIS CUP OF TEA, SO HE ENTERED LSU LAW SCHOOL AND GRADUATED WITHIN TWO YEARS A VALEDICTORIAN OF HIS CLASS. HE RECEIVED THE DISTINGUISHED ACCOLADE - THE ORDER OF THE COIF - AND WAS TAKEN INTO BOTH PHI KAPPA AND PHI DELTA PHI FRATERNITIES.

HE PRACTICED LAW IN SHREVEPORT FROM 1923 UNTIL 1936. DURING THIS PERIOD OF TIME, HE REPRESENTED THIS AREA IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE FOR EIGHT YEARS.

HE LEFT THE ACTIVE PRACTICE OF LAW TO ASCEND THE BENCH WHERE HE SERVED ON THE LOUISIANA SECOND CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEAL FOR SIX YEARS, WHERE HE PARTICIPATED IN OVER 1200 OPINIONS, OF WHICH HE AUTHORED SOME 400. HE THEN SERVED ON THE LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT FOR TWENTY EIGHT YEARS WITH SUCH OTHER LEGAL GIANTS AS JUSTICES O'NEILL, ROBERTS, ODOM, HIGGINS, FOURNET, PONDER, McCALEB, HAWTHORNE, MOISE, LEBLANC, SIMON, HAMLIN, SUMMERS, SANDERS, BARHAM AND TATE. DURING THIS PERIOD HE PARTICIPATED IN THOUSANDS OF DECISIONS, 700 OF WHICH HE AUTHORED AND 175 OF WHICH HE WROTE CONCURRING OR DISSENTING OPINIONS. AFTER WAITING IN THE WINGS FOR TWENTY YEARS AS THE SENIOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, HE SUCCEEDED FOURNET AS CHIEF JUSTICE. UPON HIS RETIREMENT AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER HE WAS SUCCEEDED BY JOHN A. DIXON, JR, OF THIS BAR WHERE HE NOW SERVES AS CHIEF JUSTICE.

JUSTICE HAMITER WAS A MEMBER OF SHREVEPORT'S FIRST BOY SCOUT TROOP. WHILE ON THE SECOND CIRCUIT JUDGE HAMITER OFFICED NEAR THE BOY SCOUT OFFICE. THIS BROUGHT ABOUT AN ASSOCIATION WHICH WAS TO CONTINUE FOR

THE REST OF HIS LIFE. HIS SCOUTING ACTIVITIES CAUSED THERE TO BE BESTOWED UPON HIM ALL OF THE HONORS ONE MIGHT ACHIEVE. HE CONTRIBUTED HEAVILY OF HIS TIME AND MONEY TO THE SCOUTS AND REMEMBERED THEM IN THREE OF HIS LAST FOUR WILLS.

JUSTICE HAMITER WAS PREDECEASED IN DEATH BY HIS PARENTS, EMMET W. AND MARY A. HAMITER; HIS BELOVED WIFE, HATTIE WELLS COURTNEY; AND HIS BROTHER FRED HAMITER.

AS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE LAW OF LOUISIANA, CHIEF JUSTICE HAMITER WILL BE MISSED. THESE CONTRIBUTIONS, HOWEVER, SHALL FOREVER BE ETCHED IN THE JURISPRUDENTIAL REPORTS IN LOUISIANA.

ALTHOUGH HE WROTE HIS OWN OBITUARY PRIOR TO HIS WIFE'S DEATH IN 1981, HIS MODESTY HAS CAUSED ME TO DEPART THEREFROM. IF LIFE BEYOND THAT WHICH WE KNOW PERMITS HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THESE REMARKS, HE CAN WRITE HIS OWN DISSENTING OPINION--AFTER ALL HE WROTE MANY AGAINST ME.

MAY I MOVE THAT THE FOREGOING REMARKS BE SPREAD UPON THE MINUTES OF THIS, THE HONORABLE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF LOUISIANA, TO REMAIN A PART THEREOF FOR ALL TIME.

ALL OF THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING IS THUS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.



ROBERT G. PUGH

October 27th, 1986