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IN MEMORIAM: JUDSON ADAMS CRANE

JUDSON ADAMS CRANE died on July 20, 1964, at his home in Manomet, Massachusetts. He had retired from the Hastings faculty at the end of the school year 1963-1964, and had turned in his grades to the administrative office. He and Mrs. Crane had packed and shipped the contents of their San Francisco home to their home in Manomet, a few miles from Plymouth, Massachusetts, which they had used as a summer home during Professor Crane's active years. Everything was in order. They went East, and within less than a month Professor Crane passed away, after a brief illness.

Judson Crane was one of the ablest of the distinguished company of teacher-scholars assembled by the late Dean Snodgrass into his Hastings faculty. His education was at Brown University and the Harvard Law School, with Harvard degrees of LL.B. and S.J.D. His law teaching career extended over fifty-three years. He taught in Pei Yang University in Tientsin China, for three years, then for two years in the George Washington University in Washington D.C. Then, in 1917, began his long period of teaching in the Law School of the University of Pittsburgh, which was to continue until 1954. He was Dean of that school from 1942 to 1949.

The list of the courses taught by Professor Crane during his long career includes a large proportion of all the courses of a law school curriculum. He had no hesitancy, even in his later years, about undertaking a new course and doing what was necessary to master it. Although he became a recognized authority in certain subjects, he never had the fault of the specialist who, by keeping his interests narrow, learns more and more about less and less. The wide scope of his learning was particularly useful to his students in such courses as Equity and Restitution.

He was the author of widely used books on Partnership, Damages, and Corporations. He contributed articles to many law reviews.

Judson Crane was a conservative in politics and in social outlook. His New England upbringing no doubt was a contributing factor. In his latter years the innovations in government and in the customs of the population were disturbing to his sense of proprieties. In his teaching and in his social contacts he left no hearer in doubt as to his views. Though one could not say that he "suffered fools gladly," he was capable of genuine friendship even with persons with whose views he disagreed, but whom he found otherwise acceptable.

In class Professor Crane was notable for the dignity of his demeanor and his imposing physical presence. Students were not slow to discover that beneath a gruff exterior there was a gentle, witty, and generous spirit. He could represent to them, in all seriousness, that he, too, was a member of an oppressed minority because he was born a Republican, and was the owner of a cat, which latter characteristic made him ineligible to occupy most otherwise available apartments. He could designate as "coach" a student who tried to whisper answers to his classmate in distress, or as "our distinguished visitor" a student who only occasionally came to class.

On the occasion of Professor Crane's eightieth birthday, not long before the end of his last year of teaching, his class in Equity arranged a surprise party for him which was a genuine surprise and a really notable demonstration of the admiration and affection which his students and colleagues had for him. When one considers that former students numbering thousands, scattered throughout the United States, share the sentiments expressed at the party, one must recognize that the influence of the life and work of one such able and good man is great indeed. A poem by Charles Brigham, a student, was read at the party and is reproduced on the following page.

The Hastings community of students and teachers will miss Judson Crane and his wife Jane, who expects to remain in the East. They were an ideally matched couple of intelligent, witty, friendly persons. We are grateful that they were with us for so many years.

J. W. MADDEN
Professor of Law
Hastings College of the Law

Who is it teaches us Equity's function,
Of covenants, nuisances, bills for injunction,
And still perseveres in the wearisome chore,
Of making us chancellors—it must be a bore—
Enduring obtuseness from all of the class?
The wily grey oracle of Plymouth Rock Mass.

Yet through tribulations of unprepared pupils,
Of trials that would shatter a lesser man's scruples,
He somehow continues with patience and wit,
Thrice weekly in front of us dunces to sit,
Disdaining the years, ever sharp as a razor,
Sartorially splendid, a bloom in his blazer.

So on this occasion we feel we must pause,
With thanks to acknowledge his skill in the laws,
And heartily wish him of birthdays the best
And hope number Eighty outshines all the rest;
Affectionate memories in our hearts we'll retain
Of the honorable, admirable

JUDSON A. CRANE

With the greatest fondness and respect
Section B—Hastings Class of 1965

The Ad Hoc Committee for commemoration of Prof. Crane's 80th birthday.



JUDSON A. CRANE