

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LEGAL BIOGRAPHY

To the Members of the Maryland State Bar Association.

With gratification your Committee on Legal Biography is able to state that no deaths of members of our Association have occurred during the past year in the first seven Judicial Circuits embracing the Counties of our State except Mr. J. Augustine Mason in the Fourth Circuit. Members of the Bar have died in several of the Circuits but your Committee did not think it advisable to embody in its report the account of the life of any one who was not a member of our Association.

In the Eighth Judicial Circuit, Frank Gosnell, Alfred S. Niles and John C. Rose died since our last meeting, and the following sketches of their busy and useful lives woefully fail to record all their professional and civic work which was of service, not only to the Bar, but also to the State and nation.

Alfred S. Niles

Alfred S. Niles was born at St. Louis, Missouri, on October 28th, 1860. His father was the Rev. Henry Edward Niles and his mother before her marriage was Miss Jennie E. Marsh. His early education was at the York Collegiate Institute. He was a class-mate of Woodrow Wilson at Princeton University and received his A.B. degree in 1879, the Master's degree being conferred upon him by the same University in 1882. His legal education was at the University of Maryland, where he received the law degree in 1881. On October 28th, 1889, he married Miss Mary Hamilton Waters, who, together with his daughter and three sons, survives him. His family life was very close, intimate and joyous, and surrounded him with an atmosphere of confidence and love.

In 1882 he formed partnership for the practice of law with Oscar Wolff which continued, with the exception of the years he served on the Supreme Bench, until the death of Mr. Wolff in 1915. After Mr. Wolff's death he formed a new partnership with Carlyle Barton and Chester F. Morrow under the firm name of Niles, Wolff, Barton & Morrow. In 1921, George S. Yost, and his son, Emory Hamilton Niles, were admitted

to the partnership and the firm name became in 1926, Niles, Barton, Morrow & Yost.

He was appointed to the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City by Governor Edwin Warfield in 1906, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Baer, and he served with distinguished ability as a judge until his resignation from the Bench in 1912.

From 1904 to 1913 he was Dean of the Baltimore Law School, and after its merger with the University of Maryland he became a Regent of the University of Maryland and professor of Constitutional Law, in which capacities he served until the time of his death.

He was one of the founders of the City Club of Baltimore and its president in 1912; he was a Trustee of the McDonough School for Boys from 1909 to 1915; Chairman of the Mayor's Advisory Committee for relief work after the fire of 1904; a member of the Board of Police Commissioners of Baltimore from 1912 to 1916; President of the Baltimore City Bar Association, 1916-17, and a member of the Charter Commission for Baltimore appointed by the Governor in 1917.

He was constantly active upon all civic questions of his time. He was a sound lawyer and an earnest advocate, and in his professional, public and private life he bore an enviable reputation for high learning, honor and integrity.

His death was sudden and premature, occasioned by pneumonia contracted at the hospital to which he went, apparently in robust health, for a necessary operation.

His life was filled with high endeavor and fruitful toil and in his death the Bar of Baltimore has lost a distinguished jurist and lawyer and the City of Baltimore a citizen of the highest type, who contributed in full measure to the life and progress of the community.

— :: —
Frank Gosnell

On Saturday, February 19, 1927, our Bar lost by the death of Frank Gosnell an old and eminent member. He was ad-