

CHAPTER TWENTY

The Bar.

CHARLES E. ESTABROOK.

Charles E. Estabrook was born on a farm near Platteville, Wisconsin, October 31, 1847. He was educated in the public schools of his district and later attended the Normal School at Platteville.

He enlisted in the Army of the United States during the Civil War, on August 31, 1864, when less than seventeen years of age, and served as private and corporal in Company B of the Forty-third Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers until the close of the war, on June 24, 1865. On his return from the war, he resumed his studies and graduated from the Platteville Normal School. His attention had been attracted to the law, and in the intervals of his work on the farm and teaching school he read law under the Supervision of Honorable William E. Carter, a capable and prominent lawyer of Platteville.

In the autumn of 1872 he came to Manitowoc as principal of the First Ward School of that city, where he taught for a year, meanwhile continuing his studies under the supervision of Honorable J. D. Markham.

After finishing his school year he regularly entered the office of Mr. Markham, where he remained as a student clerk until he was admitted to the bar at the term of court for January 1874, and in March following opened an office for practice.

In April he was elected as City Attorney of Manitowoc and held that office until December 1880, when he resigned, having been elected the previous month as member of the state legislature.

He served as representative of the Third Legislative District, which comprised the City of Manitowoc, for three annual terms. In the November election of 1886 he was elected Attorney-General of Wisconsin and was re-elected in 1888, serving until January 1, 1891.

Three or four years after his retirement from the office of Attorney-General he removed to Milwaukee, where he

established a successful general practice. He also served three terms as member of the legislature from the district of Milwaukee in which he resided, his last service being in the years 1913-14. During the period of his practice at the Manitowoc County bar, he was a member of the law firm of Estabrook & Walker, and later of Estabrook, Walker & Baensch. He was a studious, scholarly and capable lawyer, but was much more prominent for his work as a legislator, than as a trial lawyer. He originated and procured the passage of the law, creating the system of Farmers' Institutes, in which Wisconsin was the pioneer state.

He died at his home in Milwaukee about four years ago.

ISAAC CRAITE.

Isaac Craite was the son of Eusebe Craite and Zoe (Ruelle) Craite, pioneer settlers who came from Canada and settled in the Town of Manitowoc Rapids, Manitowoc County, in the year 1849. Here the future Judge Craite was born on April 26, 1856.

His primary schooling like other children of that period was had in the log school-house of his district. His vacations were spent in assisting his father on the farm. After graduation from the log school-house, he came to the City of Manitowoc and attended one of the high schools for a short period. Being then well grown, he engaged in manual labor of different kinds for a year or two, meanwhile economizing his earnings closely. He then attended the Oshkosh Normal School for one or two terms and in 1877 received a certificate entitling him to teach school.

He engaged in teaching in Manitowoc and adjoining counties until 1885, when in company with another young man he engaged in mercantile business in the village of Mishicott. He remained in this line of work for about five years.

His parents were Canadian-French and about that period the family removed to Mishicott. There were numerous families of French stock among the settlers of that section and Judge Craite's knowledge of the French language gave him considerable influence among them. He was elected Town Clerk, and later became Justice of the peace. The latter office proved congenial to him and he tried many cases within that jurisdiction. He was possessed of a strong natural instinct for what was fair and just, and often interfered to bring about a settlement of some controversy before it reached a trial.

He studied his cases in the light of the Statutes and books of Justice's practice and listened attentively to the arguments

of attorneys from the city. He became much interested in Law as a science, purchased some text-books on fundamental law; borrowed others, and settled down alone and unaided, to serious study.

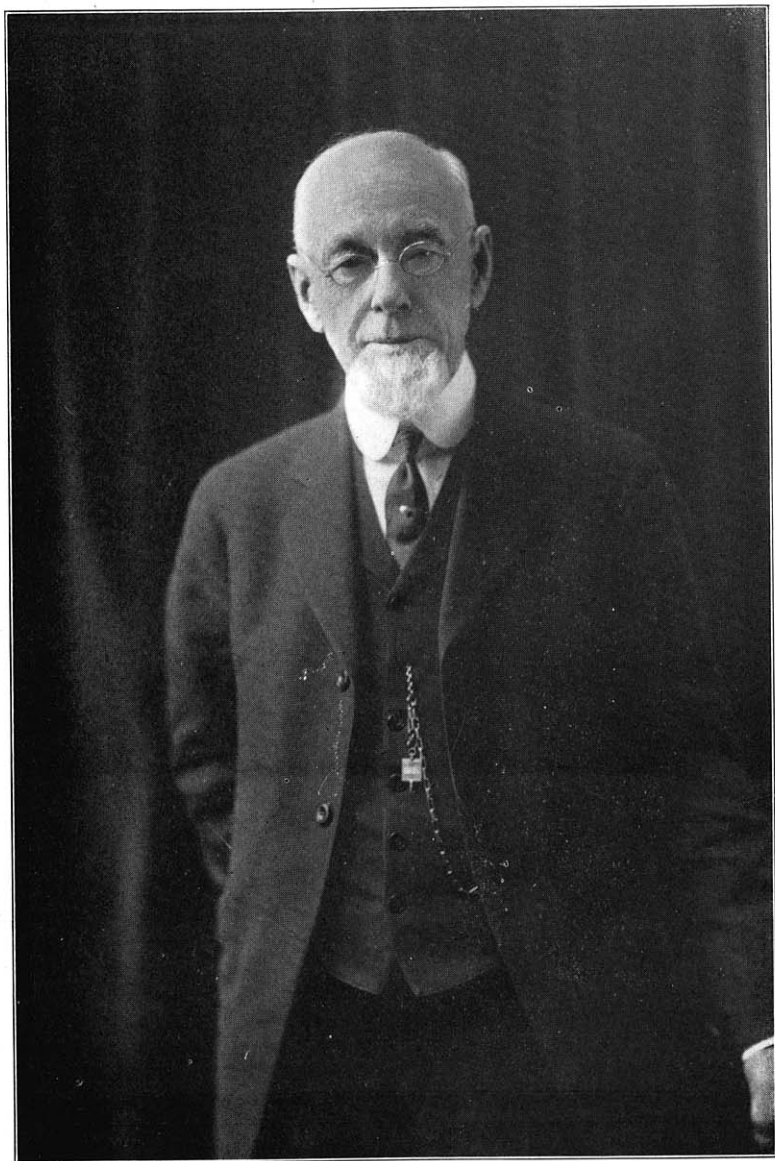
In 1887 he was elected to the legislature from the Second District of Manitowoc County and was re-elected in 1889. His legislative experience was just what he needed. It broadened his views and gave him an outlook on life far beyond anything his previous opportunities had afforded. The writer had been elected to the Assembly from the Third District in 1889 and so was his colleague in the session of that year. As Judge Craite represented a staunch Democratic district he was with the minority, while I, being a Republican, with a fairly large acquaintance among the leading men of that party, was able to be of assistance to Judge Craite in some local matter he was interested in, that had got stuck in some committee. He never forgot the circumstance, and in spite of our political differences we were personal friends, thereafter, until his death.

During all this time Judge Craite had been pursuing his law studies with patience and persistence, asking assistance from no one. In 1890 he appeared before the board of law examiners, passed his examination, and soon after was sworn in as a member of the Manitowoc bar, though he does not seem to have been formally enrolled until January 1895.

On March 9, 1895, the legislature passed the act creating the Municipal Court, of Manitowoc County. Judge Craite was nominated by the Democrats as a candidate for Judge of that court and he was elected without opposition. The court was new, and he was inexperienced. Yet he built up a reputation for the court and incidentally for himself as a judge that was held in high esteem by the people and the bar of Manitowoc County.

Judge Craite was a telling example of what a young country lad with ambition and determination to succeed could achieve under very adverse environment. He was a product of the back-woods. His manner was abrupt, almost gruff. His scholarship and knowledge outside of the law was scant and without system. His command of language was limited. Yet in spite of all this, he became a successful lawyer.

After he retired from the bench of the Municipal Court, he built up an extensive and lucrative practice. He was very successful before a jury, especially in his defense of small criminal cases. His plain every-day manner of speech, seemed to carry a weight with the ordinary jury, beyond that of florid oratory and elegant expression. He was a member of the law firm of Schmitz, Burke & Craite and afterwards, Burke &



HON. LYMAN J. NASH

Craite, until the removal of Richard Burke to Florida, after which time he practiced alone until his death. His death was sincerely regretted by his fellow members of the bar, who paid him a marked tribute, the principal addresses being made by Ed. L. Kelley and E. G. Nash, who were responded to by Circuit Judge Michael Kirwan.

He died on February 23, 1918.

L. J. NASH.

Lyman Junius Nash is of Revolutionary Ancestry. He was born in the State of New York on January 18, 1845. He came to Wisconsin with his parents at an early date. The family settled on a farm in Rock County, near Janesville. Here he grew to manhood, working with his brothers and father on the home farm and attending at intervals the public school of the district. As he neared manhood he taught for some time in the public schools of the neighborhood.

In the spring of 1866 he entered Lawrence University in the full classical course, graduating in the class of 1870 as the valedictorian. In the autumn of that year he came to Manitowoc and for two years was principal of the North Side graded schools.

He began reading law under the superintendence of Elery B. Treat in July and was admitted to the local bar on examination in open court on December 14, 1872. On January 1, 1873 he entered into partnership with his preceptor E. B. Treat and was soon in active practice. This business relation lasted until May 1st, 1874, when he entered into partnership with Oscar F. A. Greene which lasted until December of the same year when Mr. Greene decided to remove to Colorado Territory.

Mr. Nash then practiced alone until October, 1875, when he formed a partnership with A. J. Schmitz, now of Milwaukee, the firm being known as Nash and Schmitz. They made a busy firm and continued together until January 1st, 1881, when the firm was dissolved by mutual consent. Mr. Schmitz associated himself with Michael Kirwan, forming the partnership of Schmitz & Kirwan.

Edwin G. Nash a younger brother of Lyman J. Nash who, for two or three years had been a student and clerk in the offices of Nash & Schmitz, meanwhile had been admitted to practice as an attorney. The brothers became associated in business under the firm name of Nash and Nash and so continued up to within five years ago. In the meantime L. J. Nash had married as heretofore mentioned and the passing years brought him a family of two sons and a daughter. The

elder of the sons Archie L. Nash had grown to manhood. He attended the University of Wisconsin for three years, later, studied for the law in the office of Nash and Nash and after passing examination before the Board of State Examiners was enrolled with the Manitowoc county bar on November 6, 1899, and became a member of the firm of Nash & Nash.

He continued with the firm until the United States entered the World War. He had been trained in a military school and at once tendered his services which were accepted. He spent most of his period of service in training camps as organizer and teacher, but arrived at the front in France in time for the final scene. On his return he resumed his place in the firm.

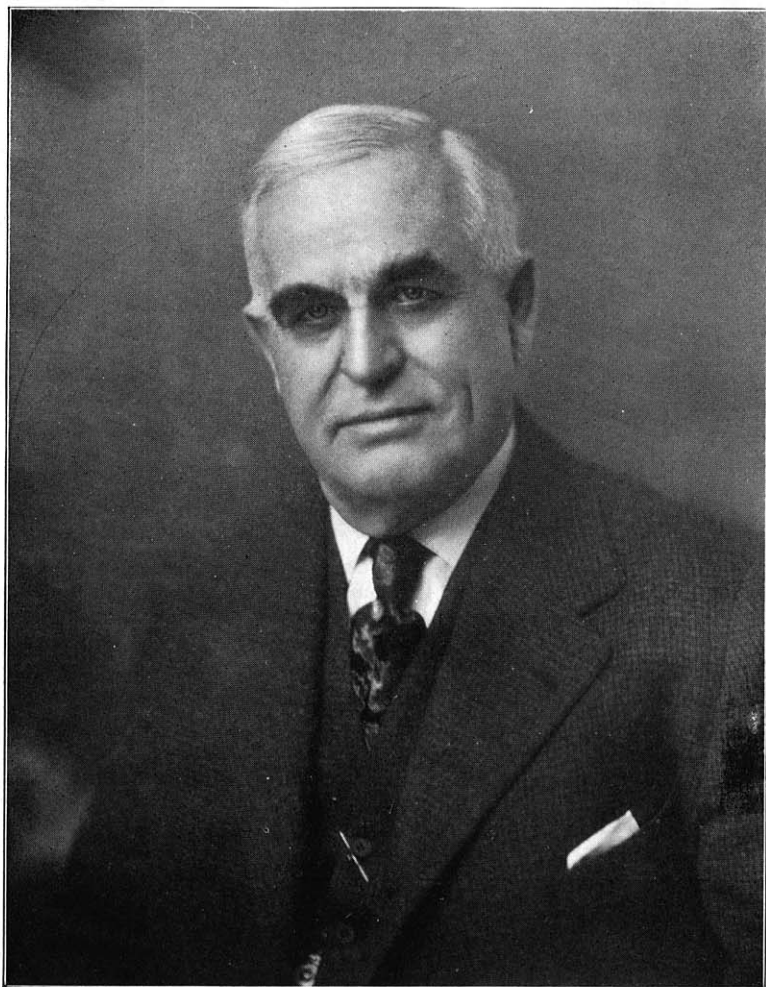
The younger son Francis Nash graduated at Princeton (then under the presidency of Woodrow Wilson later president of the United States) in 1906, in the course of letters. He then engaged in business life for about four years, and in 1910 began studying law and clerking with the firm of Nash and Nash. In July, 1913 he passed examination before the State Board of Law Examiners and soon thereafter was enrolled in the local bar and was attached to the firm. During the year 1915 he was admitted to practice in the Supreme court. In May, 1917 he terminated his connection with the firm by entering the World War.

He went to the front with an ambulance unit in which were some of his college classmates. On his arrival at the front, the United States not having entered the war, he entered the Italian service and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Italian army. Upon the arrival of the American army in France, he was transferred to service with his own nationality where he remained until the war ended.

On his return at the close of the war he formed a business connection in New York City where he is now located.

From the day he first entered the profession, L. J. Nash has been eminently a trial lawyer. Beginning as we all did with general practice, time developed for him a more special practice of business law. But he is not merely a good trier of cases. All his life he has been a constant and thorough student of the fundamental principles of the law. He is not a mere case lawyer. With him precedents have value only as they sustain and illustrate principles. Hence, while as a trial lawyer he is good before a jury, he is better still in argument before a court.

The tendency of modern business to centralize production and thence radiate distribution over great distances, led Mr. Nash as attorney for such interests into the State and Federal courts of several states. He had early achieved a



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state wide reputation as an able and busy lawyer and in later years became well known in several adjacent states.

His robust constitution and systematic methods of labor enabled him to perform an immense amount of work. He remained at the head of the firm of Nash and Nash until February 1st, 1910. Just prior to this date the state legislature had created the office of Revisor of Statutes, or "Revisor." The power of appointment was vested in the Justices of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General and they tendered the appointment to him as its first incumbent. He accepted the position and by successive appointments held the office until February 1, 1920, when he tendered his resignation.

The office of Revisor is not the only public service of Mr. Nash. Although his professional work from the beginning made heavy demands on his time, he has given freely of both time and ability to the public service. He has been member of the School Board, Alderman, County Supervisor, Member of the State Board of Bar Examiners, President of the State Bar Association, Chairman of Manitowoc Public Library Board, Trustee of Lawrence College. He was largely influential in organizing the Public Library in the city of Manitowoc. He has also held many offices in the business organizations of which he was a member.

His life has been a busy one and as he has in large measure maintained his health, doubtless still has years of useful life ahead of him.

The firm of Nash and Nash founded by him in 1881, with the changes mentioned, and the addition of L. W. Ledvina during the last two years is noteworthy as the oldest law firm in the city of Manitowoc and as having had the longest continuous existence of any law firm formed in Manitowoc county. The firm of Markham & Markham is the next in order.

On December 14th of the present year (1922) Lyman J. Nash will, we hope round out fifty years of a professional life, filled with well won honors and successes.