

STATE OF WISCONSIN :: BUFFALO COUNTY :: CIRCUIT COURT

Memorial to Peter H. Urness, Deceased.

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The Tri-County Bar Association has authorized and instructed the undersigned committee to prepare and present a memorial upon the life and legal career of one of its members, the late Peter H. Urness.

Pursuant to that instruction, the committee begs leave to submit the following, and moves that it be accepted by, and made a part of, the record of this Court:

Peter H. Urness was born at Wanamingo, Goodhue County, Minnesota, on December 25, 1867, and passed away at his home at Mondovi, Wisconsin, on Friday, August 18, 1939, at the age of 71 years, 7 months and 24 days.

He came of pioneer Scandinavian stock, both of his parents having been born at Bergen, Norway, and he inherited the best qualities of the sturdy, law-abiding race from which he sprang. Before coming to Wisconsin he attended public schools at Wanamingo, Minnesota, and the Seminary at Red Wing, Minnesota. In 1878 when he was 11 years old, he and his parents moved to Mondovi, Wisconsin, and he continued his education in the Mondovi Public Schools. He worked in his father's store and later at the George Gilkey store at Gilmanton.

Although there was no high school at Mondovi, he continued studying and was able to pass entrance examinations at the University of Wisconsin. Working his way through the College of

Letters and Science and the College of Law, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1895 and his law degree in 1896.

Returning to Mondovi, he entered the law office of Hon. J. W. Whelan. After a short time he opened his own office for the general practice of law. From 1900 until the time of his death he occupied the same offices in the Mondovi State Bank building.

On December 6, 1898, he was married to Rose Fitzgerald. Four children were born to them, of whom only one, Mrs. Wilma Wright, survives. Mrs. Urness died on December 21, 1914. On November 19, 1916, he was married to Cleo Lockwood Ulrich, who survives him.

Peter H. Urness held many offices of public trust. He was City Clerk and City Attorney of Mondovi for many years. He was District Attorney of Buffalo County for ten years, serving from 1917 to 1923, and again from 1935 to 1939. His many friends urged him to become a candidate for other and higher public offices, but he declined, preferring to remain in his home and office in the city of his choice. His interest in, and devotion to, his chosen community was unbounded. He supported every movement for the advancement and welfare of the city and surrounding territory with all his resources and ability.

He loved his home and was most happy and contented there. His hospitality was genuine and sincere, and the enjoyment of his friends, when entertained at his house, as they were upon many occasions, was only exceeded by the pleasure of the host.

Like other country lawyers, his practice consisted largely of the settlement of estates and counseling and advising his clients on business matters. His devotion to his clients was

of a high degree. He was dealing, not with strangers, but with neighbors and friends. His interest in their problems was more than a professional interest; it was a personal, kindly one.

A lover of sports of all kinds, an able athlete when young, he retained his interest in athletics as long as he lived. He was a lover of the outdoors, of hunting and fishing.

He was a cheerful and optimistic person, and his daily contacts with his fellows were delightful. He was a wit and a humorist---a rare combination. He was given to satire, but it was always kindly. His friendly and cheerful disposition made his companionship enjoyable and sought after by his host of friends. It is as the friendly neighbor, the jovial, fun-loving, charming and considerate companion that those who knew him best will always remember him.

Respectfully submitted,

G. L. Broadfoot
Jas. Gleson
Elwin Lewis