

# Charles Albert Burnett 1861-1942

obituary of Charles A Burnett, in the "Lafayette (IN) Journal and Courier - Northwestern Indiana's Greatest Newspaper" Tuesday Evening, Feb 24, 1942

## **Chas. A. Burnett, Dean of US Bankruptcy Referees, Is Dead.**

Charles A. Burnett, 81, widely known attorney and resident of Lafayette and for 41 years federal referee in bankruptcy for the northern district of Indiana, died at 9:30 p.m. at his home, 925 State Street, where he had been ill for two weeks. It was known that he was seriously ill, but word of his death proved a shock to his many friends. He was the oldest federal bankruptcy referee in length of service in the United States.

Born at Terre Haute Jan 9 1861, he was a son of Jerome Clarke Burnett and Elizabeth C. (Lange) Burnett. His father was a pioneer editor and author and served as chief of the division of national banks in the U.S. Treasury Department in Washington.

### **HERE IN 1895**

Mr. Burnett attended grade and high school in Terre Haute and Indianapolis, and was graduated from Indiana University with an A.B. degree in 1881, receiving his A.M. degree in 1886, and his LL.M. degree from the National University law department, Washington, D.C. in 1885. He began his professional career at Seattle, Wash. In February, 1891, and practiced there until 1893 when he moved to Port Townsend, Wash., where he remained until coming to Lafayette in 1895. Admitted to the Tippecanoe county bar that year, he was appointed federal referee in bankruptcy in February, 1901, serving continuously ever since in that capacity. He served as judge pro tem of the circuit court for a period in 1915-6 during the absence from the bench of Judge James L. Caldwell.

Dec 31, 1901, Mr. Burnett was married to Jessie Emily Stewart, who survives, together with a son, Alan Burnett, Cincinnati, O., and a sister, Mrs. William E. Beach, Honolulu, Hawaii.

### **PROMINENT FIGURE**

Mr. Burnett was prominent in several clubs, fraternities and legal groups. He belonged to Phi Gamma Delta; Phi Delta Phi, legal fraternity; Phi Beta Kappa, at Indiana University; National Association of Referees in Bankruptcy; American Bar Association; Tippecanoe County Bar Association; Masons, Rotary Club, Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Parlor Club, Country Club of Lafayette, Town and Gown Club, Lincoln Club and Lafayette Club; he had served as president of the county Bar Association, Rotary, Parlor, Country, Town and Gown, Lincoln and Lafayette Clubs. During and after World War I, he was chairman of the civilian relief committee of the Tippecanoe County Red Cross chapter.

His paternal ancestors came to this country from England and his father was one of the founders of the old Daily Evening Gazette in Indianapolis in 1863; the latter was a close friend of Governor Oliver P. Morton and was sent on secret missions during the Civil War.

### **FUNERAL WEDNESDAY**

The body was removed to the Bradshaw funeral home where friends may call. Services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at St. John's Episcopal church, the Rev. Reese F. Thornton officiating; burial in Spring Vale cemetery. The casket will not be opened at the church.

The Tippecanoe County Bar association, at a meeting in the circuit court room Tuesday afternoon, with President Brenton A. Davol presiding, voted to attend the services in a body.

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