

PROCEEDINGS  
IN THE  
Supreme Court of the State of Nevada

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MONDAY, April 6, 1914.

Present—Hon. G. F. TALBOT, Chief Justice,  
          Hon. F. H. NORCROSS, } Associate Justices,  
          Hon. P. A. MCCARRAN, }

and Officers of the Court.

The committee heretofore appointed to draft appropriate resolutions expressing the sorrow of the Court and Bar due to the death of Honorable WILLIAM A. MASSEY, formerly a Chief Justice of this Court, presented the following memorial:

**WILLIAM A. MASSEY**

*To the Honorable the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada:*

Your committee, appointed to prepare a memorial of the late Judge WILLIAM A. MASSEY, who died en route to Susanville, California, on the 5th day of March, 1914, respectfully reports as follows:

When death claimed WILLIAM A. MASSEY, its toll was Nevada's most distinguished citizen, and it is but fitting that his associates in the legal profession, those who knew him at his best, should pay their highest tribute to his memory and exalted character.

Judge WILLIAM A. MASSEY was born in the State of Ohio, on the 7th day of October, 1856, and died in the midst of his activities, while on his way to engage in the trial of a case. The fifty-seven years of his busy and fruitful life were filled with acts, deeds, and accomplishments that called for the exercise and possession of every quality and attribute of mind and heart that men admire and value most.

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William A. Massey

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Judge MASSEY was of Irish extraction, his grandfather having come from Ireland to the State of New York, whence he journeyed to Ohio, where his son, William, a distinguished Civil War veteran, the father of Judge MASSEY, was born.

Later, his parents moved to Illinois, where Judge MASSEY's first years were passed, and where he received his early education. His later education was had at U. C. College, Indiana, and Asbury College, which later became Depauw University, situated at Greencastle, Indiana. In 1877 he was admitted to the bar of the State of Indiana, and in 1893, he became a member of the Nevada bar.

From the date of his admission until his death, his ability and high character commanded the esteem and confidence of all who knew him, and identified him with the most important litigation and legal business of the period, and brought to him as well in his election as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada, in 1896, the highest honor that a people can confer.

In 1879, Judge MASSEY journeyed from Sullivan, Indiana, to San Diego, California, but after a year there, he came to Nevada, and settled at Tuscarora, in Elko County, then at its height as a mining camp. Judge MASSEY remained there for about twelve years, engaged in mining, and in the practice of law, as well. These years were trying ones, and called for the exercise of tenacity of purpose, resourcefulness in adversity, fidelity and fortitude, such as Judge MASSEY possessed in marked measure. For these were hard years, involving personal privations and discomforts; loss of fortune through the vicissitudes of the mining business; and long periods of the closest economy, devoted to grinding manual toil in the depths of the earth.

Out of it emerged the man whom the citizens of the State never ceased thereafter to honor; first, as a member of the Elko County delegation in the Sixteenth Session of the Nevada Legislature, in 1893; then as District Attorney of Elko County, in 1895 and 1896; afterwards

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William A. Massey

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as a Justice and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada, from 1897 to 1903; and finally as a Senator of the United States, from the State of Nevada, in 1912.

In the intervals between his public services and duties, Judge MASSEY served faithfully and well a large clientele, and his name will be long associated with the legal history of Nevada, in the making of which he played an important part.

Judge MASSEY was married, in 1879, to Miss Florence Massey, a distant relative. Two sons, Dr. R. R. Massey, of Verna, Illinois, and Dr. W. H. Massey, of the United States Navy, issue of the marriage, together with his wife, formerly Miss Annie Sheehan, of Elko County, Nevada, to whom he was married on February 12, 1898, several years after the death of his first wife, survive him.

In politics, Judge MASSEY was a Republican. He stood high in the councils of his party, and upon many occasions was honored by it. While United States Senator, at Washington, though he served but a short time, he gained, by the sheer force of his intellect and personality, a position of influence and power seldom reached there except by years of service; and when the news of his death reached his former associates at Washington his untimely taking off was genuinely mourned.

Judge MASSEY'S was a well-rounded life. He lived well the roles of a good citizen, a capable legislator, an able lawyer, an upright judge, a staunch friend, a dutiful husband and father, and an honest man; a splendid example of the Western type of manhood. But above all, while his associates at the bar will long respect his memory, and emulate his example, in the broader fields of his activities he will be best and most tenderly remembered for his courtesy, geniality, and the never-failing sympathy, helpfulness and kindness with which he was so generous, when the struggles and impetuosity of the forum were laid aside.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved,* That this Court be requested to cause this memorial to be spread upon the records of

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William A. Massey

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this Court, as a mark of the esteem of the bench and bar of this State; that a copy thereof be published in Volume 37 of the Nevada Reports; and that certified copies thereof be forwarded to the wife and sons of Judge WILLIAM A. MASSEY.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES G. SWEENEY,  
CHARLES B. HENDERSON,  
GEO. A. BARTLETT,  
SYLVESTER S. DOWNER,  
H. R. COOKE.

The resolutions were approved by the Court and ordered to be spread upon the minutes, and the Clerk directed to forward copies to the family of deceased.

In further honor of his memory the Court adjourned for the day.

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