



MASSACHUSETTS

WITH WAR RECORDS

BY

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LAWRENCE BAR ASSOCIATION

The Lawrence Bar Association represents the law fraternity of the city. Some of the keenest legal minds in the State have been and are still identified with the organization. It has furnished four judges of the Superior Court, Judges Edgar J. Sherman, Charles U. Bell, Charles A. DeCourcy and Louis S. Cox. Judge DeCourcy, until the time of his death, August 22, 1924, also served for a number of years as a justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. The association has provided a judge of Probate Court, Judge Harry R. Dow. Members of it have been prominent in municipal, county, state and national affairs, as well as in the courts of law.

Although there has been an organization, of some kind, of local members of the bar since about the beginning of the city, it was not until January 11, 1905, that the present incorporated association was organized. This organization was brought about by a movement for a suitable law library in Lawrence, the need of which was felt by the local fraternity. The association has been instrumental in having established at the County Court House one of the finest law libraries in the State, for the upkeep of which the County of Essex contributes a certain sum each year.

The first officers of the incorporated association were: President, William S. Knox; vice president, William J. Bradley; treasurer, John P. Kane; secretary, John C. Sanborn, Jr.; executive committee, Newton P. Frye, Harry R. Dow and John J. Donovan. In 1923 it had a membership of 90, including men reputedly well versed in every branch of law.

Lawrence has always had big men in the law profession. Among the outstanding figures, and who are still remembered for their accomplishments, were John K. Tarbox who had served as Mayor, member of Congress and insurance commissioner; Elbridge T. Burley who had a state-wide reputation as a lawyer, and especially in the later years of his career as an authority on the law of wills; William S. Knox, a notable criminal lawyer, who for eight years represented this district in Congress; Col. John P. Sweeney, one of the most notable lawyers in Massachusetts, who at this writing is still with us; and then, there was Daniel Saunders, who passed away April 19, 1917, at the ripe old age of 96 years. Mr. Saunders at the time of his death was the oldest living alumnus of Harvard Law School. He was a man of wonderful vitality, and his keen mind stayed with him to the last. He practiced up to the time of the illness which resulted in his death.