

## HAROLD JAMES KRESS

by

Raymond J. DeRaymond

Harold James Kress, a respected member of the Northampton County Bar, died on January 28, 1971.

Mr. Kress was born in Pen Argyl, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, about the turn of the century, attended the local school and graduated from Pen Argyl High School in 1918 at the age of sixteen. Because of his age he was unable to continue immediately with his college education and held various jobs with a bank in Pen Argyl, Easton Trust Company and Bethlehem Steel Corporation. He then attended Lafayette College and graduated with the class of 1924. He accepted employment with the New York Telephone Company, a subsidiary of American Telephone and Telegraph Company. His talents and abilities were quickly recognized and he was sent to the legal department of the parent corporation, American Telephone and Telegraph.

He then attended New York University Law School in the evenings and graduated from New York University Law School in 1929. He continued his studies at New York University Law School and received a further law degree in 1931, at which time he became a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. In 1938 he became a member of the Northampton County Bar Association. The passage of the Banking Act of 1935 created many many legal problems. Mr. Kress authored an article published in the University of Michigan Law Review which discussed the act in detail. The article became a landmark and looked to and cited by the courts as an aid in interpreting its various provisions.

It is a tribute to his interest in the law, and in the research of the law, that he was a frequent visitor to our law Library. This interest must have impressed itself on his friends in New York as well for following his death the Law Library Committee of Northampton County was asked to create a Law Library Book Fund in his name to be used for the deposit of funds in his memory for use in the purchase and maintenance of appropriate volumes for the library. We might note that the Law Library Committee, at a meeting held on

March 8, 1971, approved the creation of such a fund, and implemented the suggestion of those interested, by the opening of a special account in which monies for memorial book funds might be deposited on his behalf, as well as on behalf of other members of the Bar, or their friends, in the future.

While working with American Telephone and Telegraph he was placed in the tax division of the legal staff and remained in that division until his retirement in 1966. However, his retirement was not a retirement from law but merely a retirement from his employment with American Telephone and Telegraph.

In the truest traditions of the law, Mr. Kress set up an office in his home and participated in private practice. He seemed to derive great pleasure from his legal activities and participated actively in the Northampton County Bar Association functions. He became a frequent visitor at the various terms and sessions of the Court, enjoying the drama of trial. He also continued in his learning by attending the seminars sponsored by the Northampton County Bar Association and also attended, whenever possible, the meetings of the Northampton County Bar Association and the meetings and seminars of the State Bar Association. In addition to setting up a private practice on his return to Northampton County and Easton, he became an active member of The First Methodist Church of Easton, participating as a Sunday School teacher and member of the administrative board.

Mr. Kress is survived by his widow, the former Gladys Shingler; a daughter, Mrs. Walter J. Krantz; and two granddaughters.

This review of Mr. Kress' career illustrates the full and complete life of a man dedicated to his profession, family and community. He was a gentle and considerate person who maintained an unswerving loyalty to the letter of the law. Our Bar has lost a fine scholar, a gracious gentleman and a friend.

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