

FRANK REEDER, JR.

Frank Reeder, Jr., a member of the Northampton County Bar for the last sixty-two years, died on October 20, 1967. He was of the illustrious Reeder family, which, of English origin, settled in Easton in 1784. And, for the last one hundred thirty-nine years, there has always been one or more of this family gracing the Bar of this County.

I am certain that there is not a member of the Bar today who remembers when there was no Reeder group of portraits in the main Courtroom of our Court House. The group now hangs on the west wall of the main Courtroom opposite the jury box. Facing it, the portrait on the left is General Frank Reeder, Frank Reeder, Jr.'s father, who at the outbreak of the Civil War left Princeton to enlist as a private in the Pennsylvania Volunteers and had a distinguished military career, finally achieving the rank of Brigadier General. He later became Secretary of our Commonwealth and then Commissioner of Banking.

The second portrait is of Judge Howard J. Reeder, Mr. Reeder's uncle, who was a Judge of our Courts and later of the Pennsylvania Superior Court.

The last portrait is of Governor Andrew H. Reeder, Mr. Reeder's grandfather, who, by presidential appointment, was the first Governor of the Territory of Kansas.

Frank Reeder, Jr. was born on May 4, 1880. He prepared for college at the Easton Academy, entered Lafayette in 1897, and was graduated in 1901 with the degree of Ph. B. He studied law under the preceptorship of his father and on February 13, 1905, was admitted to the Northampton County Bar.

Mr. Reeder began his practice of law in association with the firm of Reeder and Coffin. On November 1, 1912, he formed a partnership with his father under the name of Reeder and Reeder, but this partnership was of short duration as his father died on December 7, 1912.

Unlike his father, grandfather and uncle, Mr. Reeder showed little or no interest in politics but was content to carry on a general civil, corporate and probate practice. He was,

however, an Assistant District Attorney for four years under Robert A. Stotz, later Judge of our Courts.

In 1913 Mr. Reeder was elected a Director of The Easton Trust Company and its solicitor. In 1951 he was elected its Vice President. He continued as solicitor until 1954 when, for reasons of health, he resigned. He continued as Vice President and Director until 1966 when he retired from both offices and was elected Director Emeritus.

In 1921 Mr. Reeder was appointed a member of the Board of Benchers and Law Examiners of Northampton County and was reappointed as such from time to time until a few years ago when he declined a further reappointment. He held various offices in the County Bar Association, including President. He was United States Commissioner from 1926 to 1951.

Mr. Reeder also took part in numerous civic enterprises and during the First World War was County Chairman of Public Speakers.

On April 12, 1909, Mr. Reeder married Sara F. Seitz, who was also a member of an old Easton family, and they had three daughters, Gwendolyn, Marie Louise, and Frances, all living. At the time of his death, he also had seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to have known Frank personally can vouch for the fact that he was always a gentleman and had a marvelous sense of humor. He was universally liked, admired and respected. His quick, keen wit was most appreciated by fellow members of the Pomfret Club, of which he had been President and of which he was honorary President at the time of his death. At the annual meeting of our Bar Association in 1951, he was honored for his services to the Association and was cited as a fine example of how a lawyer should conduct himself in his relationships with his brethren of the Bar.