

from the EDITOR

Edward J. Reisner, Assistant Dean

First Native American Graduate

THE LONGER I spend at this Law School, the more fascinating facts I learn and the more mysteries I face! Next year, our School will be 135 years old but there has been no comprehensive history written of it. If you are old enough, you may be aware that when we celebrated our centennial in 1968, the Wisconsin Law Review published an issue with seven historical articles. I have referred to this issue countless times to answer various questions about our School. One article, "The University of Wisconsin Law School 1868-1968: An Outline History", by W. Scott Van Alstyne, Jr. '53, is an excellent summary of the first hundred years but in its 15 pages cannot be expected to cover any aspect of our history in depth. A Ph.D. dissertation by William R. Johnson, turned into a book titled *Schooled Lawyers*, provides more historical information on our School, at least up to 1930. However, it was written as a contrast between legal education and medical education, not as a history of the School.

The writing of a definitive history will fall to someone else, perhaps in celebration of our 150th anniversary in 2018, but I continue to collect information and anecdotes that may help in that project. Some mysteries have been solved: when the first woman graduated (Belle Case La Follette in 1885), and when the first African-American graduated (William Green, in 1892, although some believe we may have an earlier candidate). One mystery I have been considering for some time is who may have been our earliest Native American graduate.

My interest was revived recently when James Washinawatok II, a second-year student and a member of the Menominee Tribe, told me that there was someone pictured among the members of the Class of 1905 who appeared to James to be a Native American. That individual, T. L. St. Germaine, must have been considered part of the Class of 1905 for

his picture to be included among the graduates but, try as I might, I could find no record of him. It would not be unusual in that period for a student to attend a few classes, then leave to finish his or her study in a law office before seeking admission to practice. Unfortunately, records of individuals who may have attended our School but did not graduate were lost in the State Capitol fire of February 1904.

If the first Native American graduate wasn't Mr. St. Germaine, could it have been John Niemesto '73? I asked John. He replied that he had been told on entering the Law School that he would be the first enrolled member of a recognized tribe to attend the Law School. I am sure that whoever made that comment to John was convinced it was accurate. Time, however, has proven it at least partially incorrect.

I then contacted James Schlender '77, a member of the Bad River Tribe, and asked him if he had ever heard of tribal elders who may have attended our School. Jim came back with three possibilities including Mr. St. Germaine, who may have been a member of the Lac du Flambeau Tribe. The second was Thomas Husting (tribe not recorded). The third was most interesting.

Eugene Ward Winton, of the Lac Courtes Oreilles Tribe, graduated in the Class of 1920. Returning to Shell Lake, he practiced law there until elected District Attorney, then County Judge for several terms each. Winton was a historian himself and, after retiring as Judge, persuaded the County Board to establish a county Historical Society. During his years in practice he represented his tribe in several suits. Winton was also instrumental in establishing the St. Croix Scenic Riverway and preserving the Namakagon River. His son, Warren E. Winton '48, and his grandson, Ward William Winton (Hamline '77) have followed him in practicing in northwestern Wisconsin.

Odyssey of a Labor Law Library

Clearly E. Ward Winton is a graduate this School can recognize with pride for his service and accomplishments. We can also point to him as our first Native American graduate, although someone may yet come forth with an earlier candidate. ♦

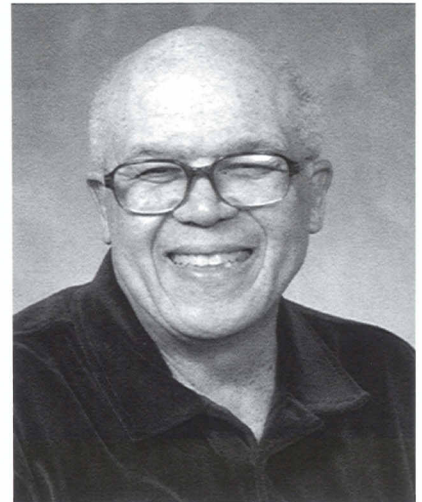
Another Brush With Fame

IN A CLEAR CASE of serendipity, while studying the microfiche for E. Ward Winton's records, I noticed that the next record belonged to Norton Labatt Wisdom. That name would not have made much of an impression (except wouldn't you like to be named Wisdom?) but for a chance encounter about ten years ago. During a visit to New Orleans with Dean Dan Bernstine and our former Development Director Chris Richards, we were invited to dinner by a local alum, Harold Judell '38. On the way to dinner, Harold said he had a surprise treat for us. We stopped at one of those fine old houses in the Garden District and were met at the door by a charming elderly man in his bathrobe and slippers. That man, a close friend of Harold's, turned out to be the Hon. John Minor Wisdom, a legendary member of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. We spent about an hour being charmed by the Judge and his wife. If you know nothing of the late Judge Wisdom, I suggest you find something to read about him. You will be impressed.

The student record card for Norton Wisdom indicated he was from New Orleans, born in 1907 (John Wisdom was born in 1905). Both were graduates of Washington and Lee University, and Norton had spent two years at Tulane Law School, where John had graduated in 1929. Norton spent the summer of 1929 in residence here before his UW Law record goes cold. I have not found proof but I certainly suspect that Norton was John's younger brother. ♦

WHEN PROFESSOR JAMES E. JONES, Jr. retired from the faculty in 1993, he neither abandoned the Law School nor left his office. But, as his time became more free, he did begin culling almost twenty-five years of labor law materials, organizing what he would keep and clearing away that which was now not needed. The bulk of what remained was a collection of labor law reports.

In 1998, Professor Beverly Moran chanced upon a federal government program that offered Professor Jones a chance to clean his office of some 500 volumes and, at the same time, enrich the Law Library of a University in Senegal. Various faculty from that Law School have visited our School over the years including Professor Moussa Samb, who has been here a number of times. The Denton Program essentially offered free shipment of educational materials on a space-available basis using military transport. Professor Jones was thrilled and set to work with a student-research assistant to box up some 40 cartons of books and complete the rather intimidating paperwork. During the summer of 1998, all requirements of the Denton Program had been completed except for one: the Senegalese government had to execute an official document promising that no duty would be levied upon receipt of the books.



Professor James E. Jones, Jr.

The books, neatly boxed in a
Law School storeroom, continued to wait ...
and to wait ...

and to wait ...



mystery photo



This Mystery Picture must involve Homecoming, judging by the canes. Because I have an 8 x 10 original, I can actually read the name painted on one of the canes and therefore know the year and who at least one of the celebrants was. How many of them will come forward and admit to once being that young and carefree?



Several of the lawyers pictured in the last Mystery Picture contacted me and correctly identified the occasion and location, if not the date. The photo shows a gathering honoring lawyers in the Eau Claire area who contributed to the Law School by volunteering a week of their time for our General Practice Skills Course (now renamed Lawyering Skills Course). Harry Hertel '76 says it could have been in 1986, 1989 or 1992—all years that he taught. However, Jack Kaiser, one of the attorneys in the photo, has been able to date the event definitively by the presence of his beard: He concludes that it must have been in 1986.

Over the next year and a half various attempts were made to secure this elusive document. Letters, emails and faxes were sent to Senegal; phone calls were made to the Embassy in Washington; and both U.S. Senators from Wisconsin were asked for their help. Finally, in 2000, we obtained what we hoped was the key to sending the books on their way to Africa. The books, neatly boxed in a Law School storeroom, continued to wait . . . and to wait . . . and to wait . . .

Early in 2000, still waiting for free transport, we discovered that the cost of shipping even this weighty shipment was surprisingly low. Professor Jones approached the School for a small amount of gift funds to send the books on their way. In early July, a shipping agent picked up the books and soon they were on a ship headed for Africa, albeit a very slow ship.

Meanwhile we had made contact by email with the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Dakar, Christopher Datta. Mr. Datta became very important to the final steps of the donation, between the docks in Senegal and the University Library.

About five months after the books left Madison, we received word that they were on the docks. Mr. Datta was able to arrange their ultimate delivery to the Library and, on June 15, 2001, three years after the plan hatched, a public ceremony honored the donation and the donor. One of Dakar's daily newspapers, *Le Matin*, reported that the donation reflected the heart of what public diplomacy is about, and encourages mutual understanding between peoples. The Rector of the University reiterated this sentiment when he said, "I know it must have been very difficult for Professor Jones to part with his private collection and that is what makes this gift even more special to us."

The special part for Professor Jones was knowing that his books will continue to be used and may have a role in the emergence of labor law in this African nation. ♦

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