

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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JUDGE DAVID A. WHITE 1887-1958

"Compassion is the beginning of human-heartedness.
Shame is the beginning of righteousness,
Modesty and yielding are the beginning of,
graciousness.

A sense of right and wrong is the beginning
of wisdom.

We possess these four beginnings as we
possess our four legs and arms."

Confucianism - Chung Yung

David Aloysius White was born in Medina on Dec. 14, 1887, the son of John and Ellen Pendergrast White. He attended and graduated from Medina High School and from Cornell University Law School. He began his practice of law at Albion in 1912 with the firm of Fluhrer, Reed, Wage and White. In 1922 he left this law firm and established his own practice in Medina.

Mr. White began his public service in 1915, first as Justice of the Peace for the Town of Ridgeway. He also acted as police judge in Medina at the same period of time. In 1916, as a candidate, he made an unsuccessful bid for Congress. He also ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1920-22-26-30-32 and 34. In several of these congressional campaigns he had opposed the very popular James W. Wadsworth, our Representative in Washington.

David White was appointed Orleans County Judge and Surrogate twice in his lifetime. First in 1925 upon the death of Judge Gerald B. Fluhrer and again in 1940 when Judge Bertram Harcourt resigned. Judge White was never elected to this county position and only served the above years mentioned.

Judge White served as Orleans County Democratic Chairman from 1931 to 1939, and was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in 1924 and 1936. During World War II he served as attorney for the office of Price Administration in Buffalo. Later he entered into private practice in that city with a firm known as White, Huntly and White. There he was associated with a nephew, Vincent S. White Jr. Together, the two men opened a Medina based law office in the mid-1950's.

Judge White's last attempt to run for political office came in 1955 when he ran unsuccessfully for the State Supreme Court Bench from the Eighth Judicial District.

In 1912 he had married Mary Grace Henry of Washington, D.C. They made their home in Medina all of their married life. They had three children: David A. Jr., Elizabeth and Marietta.

Judge White was a member and Past Exalted Ruler of the Medina Lodge of Elks, a member and Past Grand Knight of Medina Council, Knights of Columbus and was a member of the Fourth Degree Assembly K of C. He was a member of the Holy Name Society of St. Joseph's New Cathedral in Buffalo, where he lived for several years prior to his death. Judge White was also a member of both the Orleans and Erie County Bar Associations.

During his long and colorful career in the practice of law he gained much esteem and prominence in Western New York.