



THE COURT *Legacy*

The Historical Society for the United States District Court
for the Eastern District of Michigan ©2001

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Sixth Circuit Judge Halmor H. Emmons

By David A. Couch

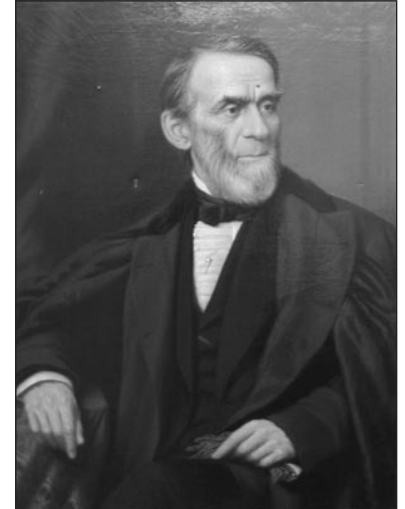
Halmor Emmons was considered by his contemporaries to be one of the best and brightest Detroit lawyers in the mid to late 1800s. Born in upstate New York in 1814 in the small town of Sandy Hill, Halmor was the son of a would-be newspaper man. As a young boy, he dedicated to books those hours that other boys his age spent in recreation. His family later moved further north to Keesville, New York where he set type in his father's office three days a week and attended school three days. He stood about 5'8" in height, with a spare frame and a "feeble constitution."^[1] He was dark-complected, with piercing eyes, straight black hair. In later years, he wore a full beard and no mustache, as was the style of the day.^[1]

Halmor's younger brother, Jed Philo Clark Emmons, completed his study of the law and moved to Detroit in 1836 where he established himself as a lawyer. His father, Adonijah Emmons, also a lawyer by training, abandoned the newspaper business and moved to Detroit as well. Halmor remained behind to finish his legal studies in Keesville. After his admission to the New York Bar in 1837, he emigrated to Cleveland, Ohio. Before he had established a practice, however, he was invited to join his father and brother in Detroit in 1838. The firm of A. Emmons & Sons was subsequently established in 1840. Halmor was quickly recognized as a brilliant young man and gave early promise of distinction at the bar. Their firm was retained in a number of important cases and enjoyed much success.

Always considered a dedicated worker and a gifted practitioner, this drive eventually proved to be his downfall. Despite the fact that he practiced a

lifelong devotion to the principle of total abstinence, as early as 1833 his health became impaired by the long hours and he partially retired from active practice. He continued to act as counsel for the Michigan Southern, Detroit and Milwaukee and Great Western Railroad Companies.

At one time, he was even threatened with tuberculosis. A physician friend advised him that the best place for consumption was in a malarious district. He suggested Emmons move east from Detroit out to what is now Grosse Pointe. He reasoned that, in a marshy area, while the inhabitants might be subject to fever and ague, no one ever died of pulmonary diseases. Other physician friends urged him to "go to the northern part of the state and live among the pines."^[1] Emmons did not try either experiment. Rather, consultation with a medicine man of the Wyandottes directed him to the land at the point of the Ecorse River in what is now the City of Wyandotte. This area abounded in mineral deposits and was looked upon by the indigenous people as a healing ground. He immediately invested in an estate of 622 acres upon which he planted orchards and young pine trees. Some of the large trees remain to this day. He built a fine home near the river bank and lived there each summer, "always in sight of the rushes and lulled to sleep by the music of the bull frogs."^[1] Emmons Boulevard and Emmons Court currently bear the name of the former landowner.



Halmor H. Emmons

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THE COURT LEGACY

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Emmons was included in one of the first biographical works issued in this country that was published in New York in 1853 and entitled, "Portraits of Eminent Americans." The work was illustrated with steel engravings of the eminent citizens of the day. In truth, the entries were nearly all autobiographies, and each person paid a large sum for his "write up" and picture. Emmons' life doings occupied thirty-four pages of the book and was, by far, the longest in the collection. The length of the biography, and its peculiar style, provoked largely unfavorable comment among the elder members of the bar. As the criticism reached Emmons, he made a prolonged effort out of embarrassment to have the book suppressed. For this purpose, he personally, and by proxy, went to everyone whom he knew to possess the work and bought it at any price demanded.

Private Practice – The Old Rotunda

In his private life, Emmons was said to have been simple in manners and tastes, most affectionate toward his family and never allowed professional opposition or rivalry to interfere with social ties. Fellow attorney, Levi Bishop recalled that Emmons was the type of man who, if he saw a poor, friendless boy struggling against the tide of misfortune, would take him into his tutelage and lead him toward greatness. Perhaps that quality was best illustrated in the number of apprentices he accepted as students in his law office.

In 1843, Adonijah Emmons died, the family practice dissolved and Halmor went into partnership with fellow Detroiter, James Van Dyke. One of Halmor's most notable cases came in the latter 1840s and involved a clergyman who delivered several lectures in Detroit in which he harshly criticized Catholicism and the Irish. His lectures created considerable excitement, given the fact that Detroit was then populated by many Irish immigrants. Young Emmons defended the cleric, claiming that, in this free country, he had a perfect right to preach on any topic he consciously believed to be injurious to the welfare of his fellow citizens. With this representation, Emmons achieved considerable prominence throughout the city and state.

In a very important case between the Great Western Railroad and the Commercial Bank of Canada, Emmons was the leading counsel for the former. He traveled to London to meet the president, directors and principal lawyers of the railroad in order to devise their legal strategy. During their meeting, he showed such a marvelous knowledge of English railroad law, and the decisions of that country's courts, that his auditors were astonished. When the meeting adjourned, the president requested as a favor that Emmons repeat his presentation so that he could be recorded by a stenographer. "Mr. Emmons," said the president, "we have been discussing common law, equity and railroad law. Would you be kind enough to let us know what you consider your specialty?" Emmons replied, "I know something about these departments of law, but I have always considered that I am strongest in admiralty."^[2] Indeed, Detroit was one of the busiest Great Lakes' ports, and most federal litigation at the time involved commercial and maritime cases. He was a natural to excel in this city.

Outside of a courtroom, Emmons was known to be impulsive in manner and excitable in speech. For many years, his office was in the old Rotunda Building on Griswold Street, which was torn down in 1879. The Rotunda, as its name suggests, had a large open space in the center with offices and galleries on each floor. The occupants, if so inclined, could simply speak with one another from their doorways. In this building were many of the leading lawyers in the city, including William Grey, Alfred Russell, A. B. Maynard, J. Logan Chipman, Theodore Romeyn, George Jerome, Levi Bishop, A. D. Frazer, Alex Buell, D. C. Harbaugh, Ashley Pond, and John S. Newberry.

One day while sitting in his office, Emmons read an article in an agricultural paper stating that gas tar was an invaluable remedy for the ravages of bugs and insects on fruit trees. Because his vast orchard in Ecorse had suffered from these pests, he made up his mind to try the remedy at once. He jumped into a buggy and proceeded to the city gas works where he purchased several barrels of tar and proceeded to have them immediately transported to his estate. The next day, he had a dozen French settlers in his orchard anointing the trees.

The following week, while reading the next issue of the same paper in his office, his eye fell upon an alarming paragraph. It was an apology for an earlier misprint. By mistake, gas tar had been recommended instead of pine tree tar. Gas tar was obviously noxious to vegetable life and would certainly kill young fruit trees.

The other attorneys who practiced in the Rotunda were said to have been treated to a sample of Emmons' "vituperative" profanity, in the use of which he surpassed most other Michigan lawyers, living or dead. He cursed the agricultural paper "with a fiery vehemence that resounded through the building, at the same time tearing the paper to shreds, gesticulating like a maniac, howling like a lion and swearing at intervals that he would sue the condemned paper." The other lawyers rushed to their doors and listened. "What on earth is the matter?" anxiously inquired William Grey. "Oh, it's only Hal Emmons giving somebody a piece of his mind," responded Theodore Romeyn.^[2]

Emmons was just as prompt to undo the damage. Before nightfall, the same detachment of Frenchmen were busily engaged in scraping the gas tar from his trees.

A Secret Agent

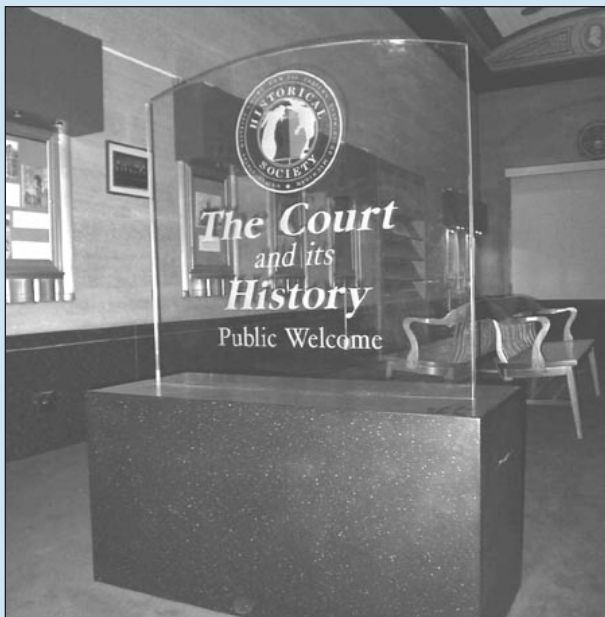
During the American Civil War, Emmons' knowledge and gift for diplomacy enabled the northern government to overcome serious difficulties in Canada. Fellow attorney Sylvester Larned noted that Emmons' services to the government during the "dark days" of the rebellion were but little known to the world.^[4] He was appointed by the government as a secret agent in Canada. One of his duties was to obtain evidence of the Rebel conspiracy to introduce rags infected with yellow fever into the ports of the northern states. He traveled extensively throughout Canada and had a corps of detectives under his command. He was often accompanied by fellow Detroitier George Jerome who was also counsel for the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad.

The two men stopped one evening at a hotel in Quebec. News had just arrived of a set back to the Union Army, and a number of southern men who boarded at the hotel were celebrating quite loudly.

Court Historical Society New Exhibition Gallery

The old postal lobby of the courthouse will soon be turned into an Exhibition Gallery to house an attractive exhibit on the history of the court and its judges, significant cases and other relevant historical events. The exhibition has already progressed through the research, writing and design, and fabrication stages, and is ready for installation.

A free-standing entrance sign will identify the gallery. Placed on a solid base will be a three-foot high, thick acrylic slab, sandblasted with the Historical Society logo.



The focal point will be a computer kiosk with a touchscreen monitor at the rear of the gallery. Behind it, on the west wall, will be a ten-foot high and ten-foot wide panel to draw visitors into the gallery. The seven postal windows on the south wall will be used for significant case exhibits. Attached to the north wall will be five, lighted wall units angled toward the gallery entrance. Initially, these exhibits will depict the history of the court and its architecture.

The gallery is scheduled to open in November ■

Mr. Jerome, who was said to be cool and phlegmatic, took little notice of the excitement. Emmons, however, became infuriated. Standing on a stairway in the office and overlooking the crowd, he bitterly denounced the southern men present as traitors to their country and taunted them with cowardice for hiding in a foreign land instead of remaining at home and fighting for their principles. The landlord intervened, and Emmons then turned on him, too. There was considerable excitement, and a small riot was on the verge of breaking out, but the matter calmed down, and Emmons was said to have emerged in good standing.

On another occasion, when again in the company of Mr. Jerome, Emmons denounced several southern men at a hotel for expressing sentiments of secession in front of his daughter. Mr. Jerome declared afterward that “[he wasn’t] going to travel with Emmons anymore.”^[1]

Dinner with Jefferson Davis

In the year following the end of the Civil War, Jefferson Davis was released from Fortress Monroe on bail before paying a short visit to Europe. He then returned and took up residence in Montreal, where he rented a fine house at the base of what is called “The Mountain.” Mr. Davis’ friend, Jacob Thompson, Secretary of the Interior under President Buchanan and Governor of Mississippi during the Civil War, was also living in Montreal.

One day, Emmons and a fellow Detroit attorney, E. W. Meddaugh, were in Montreal on business. They met Mr. Thompson who invited them to call on Davis. The invitation was eagerly accepted, and the three went to the home of the former President of the Confederacy where they were royally entertained, and did not leave until well after midnight. The conversation was almost entirely monopolized by Davis and Emmons, and was nearly all in relation to the recent war. Both were magnificent debaters, and the discussion took a wide range. The cause of the war, the relations of the ex-slaves to the whites, the treatment of Rebel and Union prisoners, and the possibilities of reconstruction were argued exhaustively. The debate was said to have shown the “splendid mental resources of both men.”^[1] At times, they became quite loud and excited, but the controversy never exceeded the bounds of propriety or courtesy. Mr. Meddaugh was later quoted as saying that he would be willing to give a handsome sum for a stenographic report of that evening.

As a U.S. Circuit Judge

On January 10, 1870, Emmons was nominated by President Grant as a United States Circuit Judge, covering Michigan, Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky. His was the first appointment under a recently enacted law. He was quickly confirmed by the United States Senate and received his commission on January 17, 1870.

Prior to his appointment, the United States Courts held sessions in the Old Fellows Hall, located on the north side of Jefferson between Bates and Randolph. They were soon moved to a building at the corner of Jefferson and Griswold and remained there until 1867 when the “old” Federal building was completed on the corner of Griswold and Larned. This was where Judge Emmons held court. It was not until 1898 that the “new” Federal building and post office was completed on Fort, occupying the block also bounded by Shelby and Wayne – the current site of the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse.

When he first opened court in Memphis, an interesting scene transpired. The lawyers at the bar were all prominent citizens, many of them having served as officers in the Confederate Army. Some eight or ten of them, beginning with General Forest, a Rebel Cavalry leader, addressed the court in turn. They claimed that the jurors were improperly drawn, that the officers of the court were all Republicans appointed by a carpetbag state administration, and that it would be a travesty of justice to try cases under such circumstances. Judge Emmons gave a spirited answer, in which he referred to his loyalty to his own state and the disunion sentiment of Tennessee. He then adjourned court and invited the lawyers present into his private office. When they had all gathered, he told them that, while policy should partially guide his action, he must keep before him the sacred principles of justice. “Now, gentlemen,” he said. “I will remove all grounds for your complaints. I request each and all of you to at once make out a list of whom you consider the best men in your respective communities, and I will have them appointed as jurors.” The request was followed, and the jurors were gathered together in due time.^[2]

The prisoners whom the lawyers defended were all charged with offenses against the United States and, in most cases, were undoubtedly guilty. Judge Emmons instructed the district attorney to proceed. In the end, nearly all of the accused were convicted by the jurors selected by the lawyers themselves. When the term ended Judge Emmons was on excellent terms with his professional brethren, and General Forest jokingly remarked, “My dear Judge, we don’t care about selecting any more jurors. Please do it yourself in the future.”^[2]

Judge Emmons’ special forte was the study of the great principles and technicalities of the law. Never did a seasoned lawyer boast of catching Judge Emmons napping. In delivering opinions from the bench, he was known to “drop gems of pure English,” illustrating that, while he had spent countless hours doing legal research, he had never lost sight of those qualities which so distinguished him as an advocate in the years past.^[4] United States District Court Judge Henry Billings Brown (See *The Court Legacy*, Fall 1996, for an article on Henry Billings Brown) noted that, while Judge Emmons was ready and patient at all times to listen to the trial of causes, counsel who came into his court unprepared met with a sharp rebuke. His love of truth, his great learning and general ability earned the respect of all who knew him.

Judge Charles I. Walker recounted a story of being in Washington D.C. during Judge Emmons’ final illness. In conversation with other judges and great lawyers congregated there from all parts of the country, the illness of Judge Emmons was mentioned. He heard Judge Emmons spoken of as a jurist of great ability, and the consensus was that his loss would be a national tragedy. Even during a meeting with the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Judge Emmons’ critical condition was the “subject of deep solicitude.”^[3] Judge Walker later wrote that he returned home with a feeling of pride that a member of the Michigan Bar stood so high among the great legal minds of the country. He was a man whose mental caliber far exceeded his physique. Even when he stood at the brink of the grave in his sick chamber, “and the silent watchers saw the lamp of life extinguished,” his mind and intellect were as clear as ever.^[4]

Judge Emmons died in Detroit on May 14, 1877 at the young age of 62. Even so, he was looked upon as a leader of the Detroit Bar. The following day, a largely attended meeting of the Detroit Bar Association was held in Judge Emmons' courtroom to offer eulogies. A committee of five was formed to prepare a suitable reading: Judge Henry B. Brown, Ashley Pond, Theodore Romeyn, Judge Charles I. Walker and Samuel T. Douglass. The proceedings were duly entered into the minutes.

The next day, the members of the Bar again assembled in the courtroom and proceeded to the residence of Judge Emmons at 133 Henry St. in Detroit to escort the remains of the deceased to St. John's Episcopal Church on Woodward Avenue and then on to Historic Elmwood Cemetery. ■

Sources:

1. *Palmer, Vol. 2, P. 31, Winder's Memories, The Bench and Bar in the 30s and 40s, Anecdotes of H. H. Emmons*
2. *Early Bench and Bar of Detroit*
3. *Detroit Free Press, May 15, 1877 and May 17, 1877*
4. *Detroit Advertiser and Tribune, May 15, 1877*

Author's Note

David A. Couch is an associate attorney at Garan Lucow Miller, P.C. in Detroit. As a 1997 graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, he has developed a keen interest in the history of Detroit's legal profession. His study of Judge Emmons followed his purchase of the latter's original oil portrait dated 1876 and signed by artist L. T. Ives. Mr. Ives, incidentally, was also an attorney and even worked in Judge Emmons' office in the 1850s before leaving the profession to dedicate his time to painting.

WANTED

The Society is endeavoring to acquire artifacts, memorabilia, photographs, literature or any other materials related to the history of the Court and its members. If any of our members, or others, have anything they would care to share with us, please contact the Acquisitions Committee at (313) 234-5049.

The Eastern District Courthouse, Circa 1897, and the "Million Dollar Courtroom"

By Alison M. Dawe

This is the first of a two-part article on the 1897 Courthouse and the reconstruction of one of its courtrooms in the present-day courthouse. The next issue will discuss the courtroom in detail, describing the materials, carvings and symbolism that composed the design of this very ornate room.

Reflecting their significance as one of the cornerstones of American government, American courthouses are traditionally the most prominent and elaborate buildings in cities and towns. Courthouses are the "most visible evidence of our tradition of local self-government under law."^[1]

Cities and towns in early America would battle for the honor of designation as the county seat. If they won this honor they set out to build elaborate courthouses which would display the importance of their position. Typical courthouses of the nineteenth century were elegant structures which gave a town a distinctive character. Many United States district court buildings date from this period.

Federal buildings were of importance for cities and towns because they represented prosperity and confidence in the future. Construction of federal buildings, such as a courthouse, was a boost to civic pride, businesses and employment.^[2] After the Civil War there was a certain confidence and optimism in the expansion of the nation westward and a corresponding boom in federal court construction. Cities that received grants for federal buildings took great care when selecting the site, design and construction. There was a sense of community pride in these buildings and this is why many were the most elaborate buildings in town. "The level of community affluence could be ascertained by the ornateness of accompanying architectural details and the quality of building materials symbolizing that the majesty of the law dominates the mundane pursuits of business."^[3]

The interiors of these nineteenth-century courthouses reflected the elegance of the buildings themselves. Careful consideration was given to the detailing and symbolism that decorated them. The present Chief Judge's courtroom in the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse in Detroit is an example of this. The room is rich with carvings, colors and symbolism frequently used in the courtrooms of that time. Because so many of the older courthouses have been torn down, this courtroom is a rare example of the nineteenth century approach to courtroom design.

The 1897 Courthouse

A long history accompanies the present Chief Judge's courtroom. The room was originally part of the Federal Building built in the 1890's which was considered one of the finest structures in the city. (Fig. 1)

In 1880 Detroit citizens initiated a campaign to replace the old structure with a new federal building. On August 7, 1882, the United States Congress passed an act granting \$25,000 for the project and a committee was formed to choose a site that would be worthy of the "finest building in Detroit."^[4] Excavation began on June 29, 1890, at the chosen location; a square formed by Shelby, Lafayette, Fort and Wayne (now Washington Boulevard) streets.

By 1896 there was a Congressional investigation into the cause of delays in construction of the courthouse. The building was completed in late 1897, and the court moved in during the first few months of 1898. The total cost was \$1,500,000.

The architect of the building was James H. Windrim

of Philadelphia, who was in charge of the office of Supervising Architects from 1889 - 1890. This office was responsible for designing and supervising the construction of all federal buildings in the country. Several designs were considered (Fig. 2). Mr. Windrim chose Richardson Romanesque, a popular style in the late nineteenth century for large public buildings.

The Richardson Romanesque style was developed by American architect Henry Hobson Richardson in the mid-nineteenth century as a reaction to buildings which he considered overwrought with details. He said that "distinguishing characteristics for the style are independent of details; especially is the case in

the Romanesque, which in its treatment of masses, affords an inexhaustible source of study quite independent of its merits as a school of sculpture."^[5] After his death in 1886 his variation on the Romanesque style was imitated by other architects.

It is the massive features of Richardson Romanesque that mark its individuality. Some of the distinguishing characteristics of the style are the large broad arches, squat column clusters, rough-faced stone masonry, hipped roofs, round-arched openings, and deeply recessed windows. The interior of a Richardson Romanesque building is full of rich surfaces and colors. He believed in using natural materials imported from all over the world. Using

these diverse materials and colors he achieved a strong sense of order. Simplicity was achieved by using large geometric forms and broad proportions. Even though there are many different colors and materials the interiors do not look chaotic, but instead possess a majestic beauty that offers a sense of serenity.

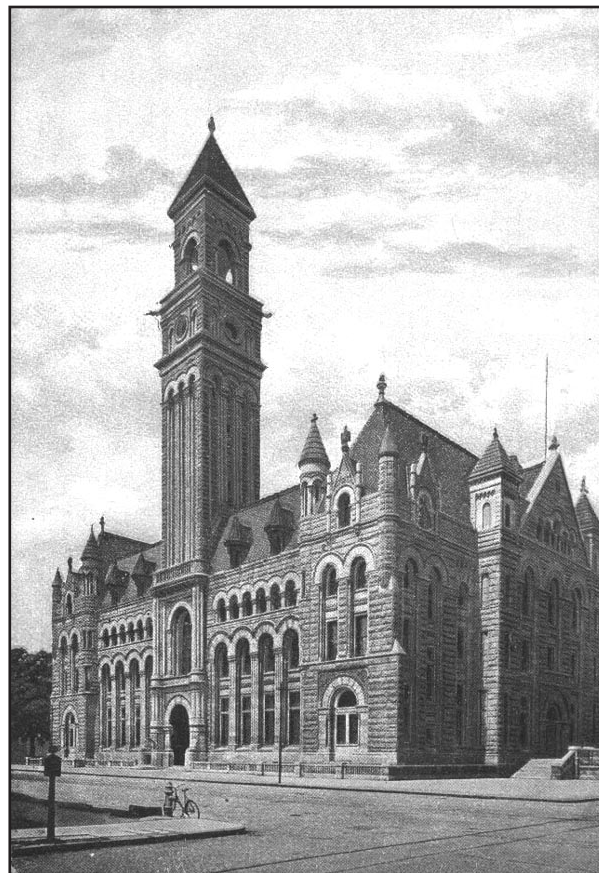


Figure 1
The Courthouse

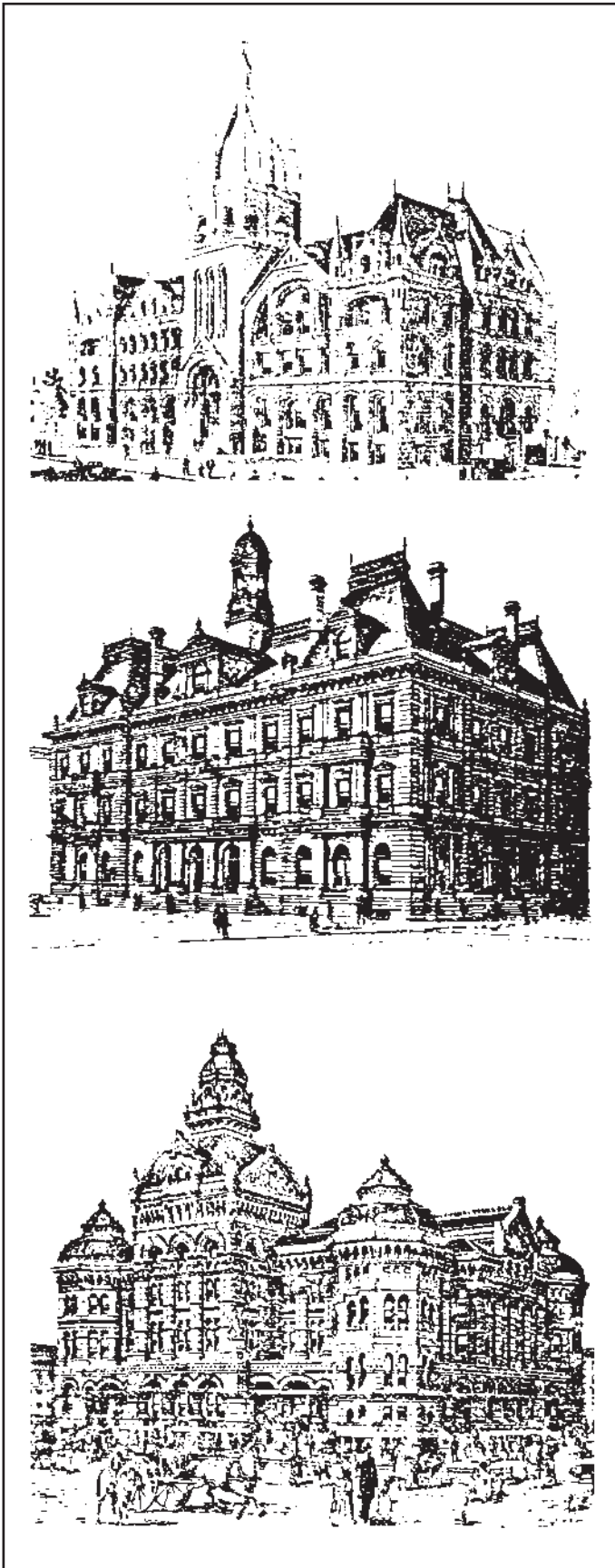


Figure 2
Designs for the Detroit Federal Building,
all rejected for the 1897 design.

Richardson's design for the Allegheny County Courthouse inspired many courthouses across the country. He felt that a courtroom was "a place of public access and collective will demanding a dramatic profile and ornamentive detail."⁶ He achieved this effect with the Allegheny County Courthouse, and with many of his other public buildings such as the New York State Capitol in Albany (*Fig. 3*). With the success of these buildings it is no wonder that other American architects opted to imitate his less cluttered style.

James Windrim also used the Allegheny County Courthouse as inspiration for his design of the Federal Building in Detroit. He decided on four stories with a loft and basement. The design was symmetrical with corner pavilions and a tower that extended 243 feet above the pavement at the main entrance. The basement was granite, the superstructure was constructed of Bedford limestone and the building was roofed with Spanish tile.

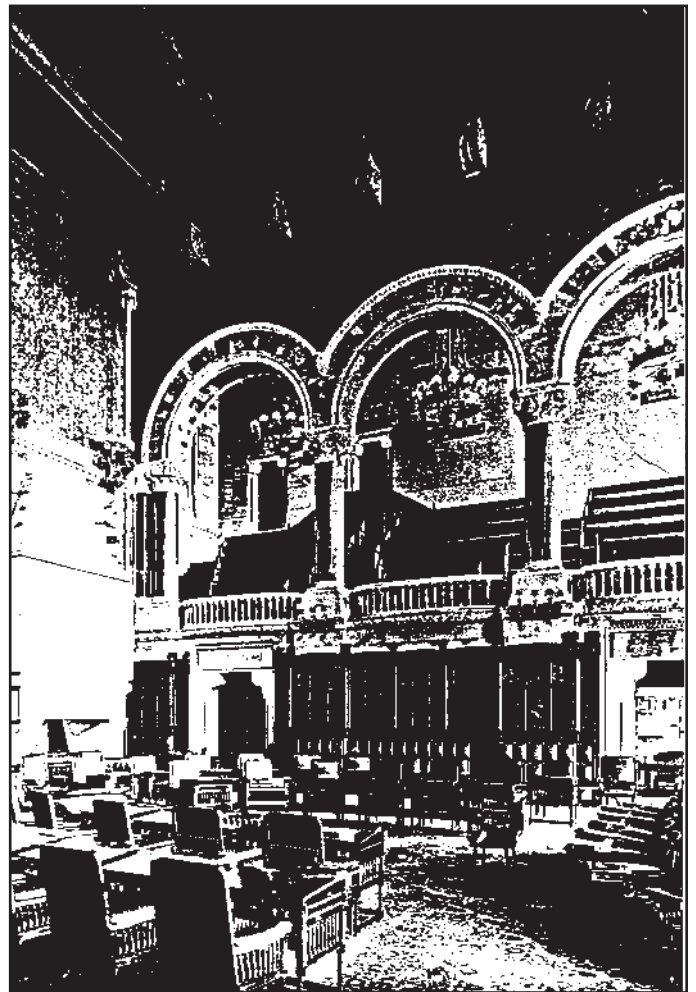


Figure 3
Senate Chamber, New York State Capitol, Albany.
Designed by Henry Hobson Richardson.

The New Courthouse

The interior featured corridors and promenades with tessellated floors, polished wood and many colors of marble gathered from around the world. Walls were made of marble from America, Italy and France. Mosaics created by a Detroit firm appeared throughout the building. The main entrance on Fort Street was a vestibule of elaborate arches and columns again made from imported marble. The courthouse featured walls made of twenty different kinds of marble and barrel, vault-domed plastered ceilings that were hand tinted and painted (*Fig. 4*). The two third-floor courtrooms were equally elaborate. Because of the craftsmanship displayed in all facets of its construction the old Federal Building deserved its title of being the most splendid structure in Detroit.

By 1920 the building was no longer large enough. Offices and courtrooms were cramped and people became convinced that a larger building was needed. In February, 1923 conditions had become so crowded that the grand jury had to hold its deliberations in a hallway because the Jury Room had been given to a judge for an office.^[7] By 1931 a final decision was reached and the “finest building in Detroit,” once a great source of pride for the city, was now slated for destruction.

By the 1930's America was in a depression and the grand designs and elaborate craftsmanship of the nineteenth century were giving way to the spirit

of fiscal conservation. The need to keep building costs low was a contributing factor in the change of architectural expression. The new building was designed in the Art Deco style by Derrick and Wetmore, an architectural firm from Detroit. Art Deco contrasts with Richardson Romanesque, the former featuring smooth-walled surfaces and a vertical emphasis. The ornamentation is two-dimensional, using hard-edged geometric motifs that are mechanistic and linear in quality. Detailing is often in the same material as the building; gone were the twenty different kinds of marble, replaced by colored and glazed brick, or various metals.

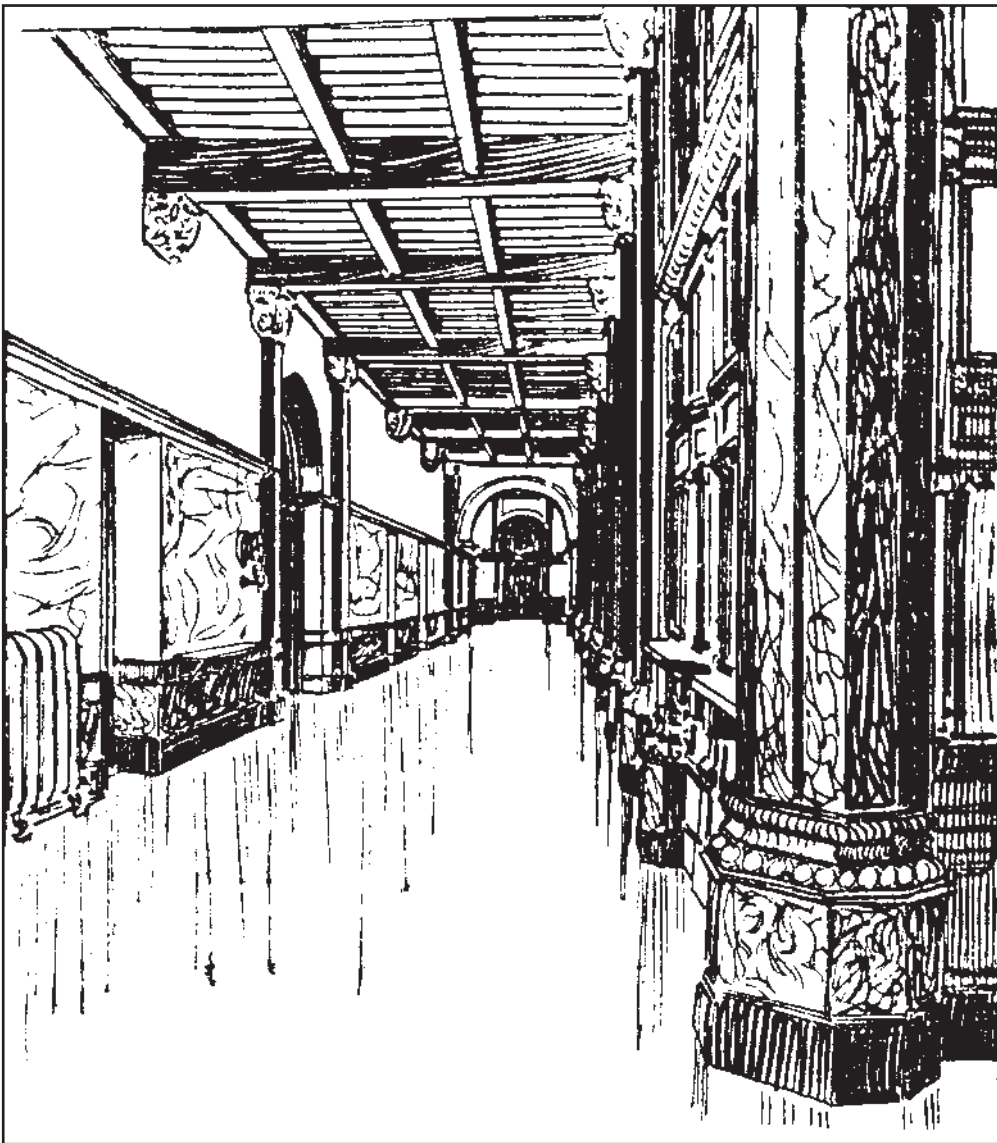


Figure 4
The Main Corridor, the Federal Building, Detroit.

Saving the Courtroom

In 1931 Chief District Judge Arthur J. Tuttle set out to save his courtroom in the old building from certain destruction. Appointed by President Taft as district judge in 1912, he had used the courtroom for nearly twenty years and had developed a special affection for it. As workmen were preparing to destroy the old building Chief Judge Tuttle objected to the destruction, protesting to William J. Rush of the Treasury Department. Rush agreed with the Judge that the room was too valuable to destroy or sell piecemeal.

In 1931 the marble walls of the room were estimated to be worth, \$1,000,000, nearly the cost of the original 1897 building. Publicity escalated and newspapers began to refer to it as the “Million Dollar Courtroom.” Official permission to dismantle and store the room was finally given, and blueprints were drawn up for the reconstruction. The room was taken apart in sections which were photographed, lettered, numbered and stored in over 150 barrels that were kept in the temporary quarters of the post office. The rest of the old building was razed in November, 1931.

The cornerstone for the new courthouse was laid on October 12, 1932. Within the cornerstone are the Detroit newspapers of the day and other records of the time. Reconstruction of the “Million Dollar Courtroom” took place in the fall of 1933. Reassembling the room took three months and \$3,500 in labor costs. The reassembly was supervised by construction engineer Carl Soderlund. Judge Tuttle was back in his beloved courtroom by the spring of 1934. The courtroom stands today with few changes from its original appearance in the old Federal Building. Visitors to the courtroom can easily see why it so captivated Chief Judge Arthur J. Tuttle. ■

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2. Craig, Lois. *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Buildings*. (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1978), p. 165
3. National Trust For Historical Preservation. *A Courthouse Conservation Handbook*. (Preservation Press: Washington, D.C., 1976), p. 9.
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6. Hitchcock, p. 51.
7. “Federal Grand Jury To Sit In Corridor.” *Detroit Free Press*. February, 16, 1923, p. 5, col. 3.

Author’s Note

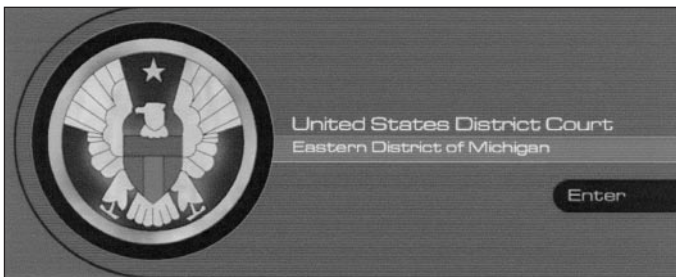
Alison Dawe originally wrote this article as part of her work for a graduate course at Eastern Michigan University in 1991. It was re-written by Judy Christie, Administrative Manager of the Eastern District Clerk’s office, for publication here.

ANNUAL MEETING

Do not forget to mark your calendar for November 15, 2001 at 11:30 a.m. That is the date and time for our Annual Meeting in conjunction with the FBA Edward H. Rakow Awards Luncheon. The program includes a discussion by a panel of prosecution, defense and media representatives on the historically significant U.S. v Narcisso case.

Historical Society on the Web

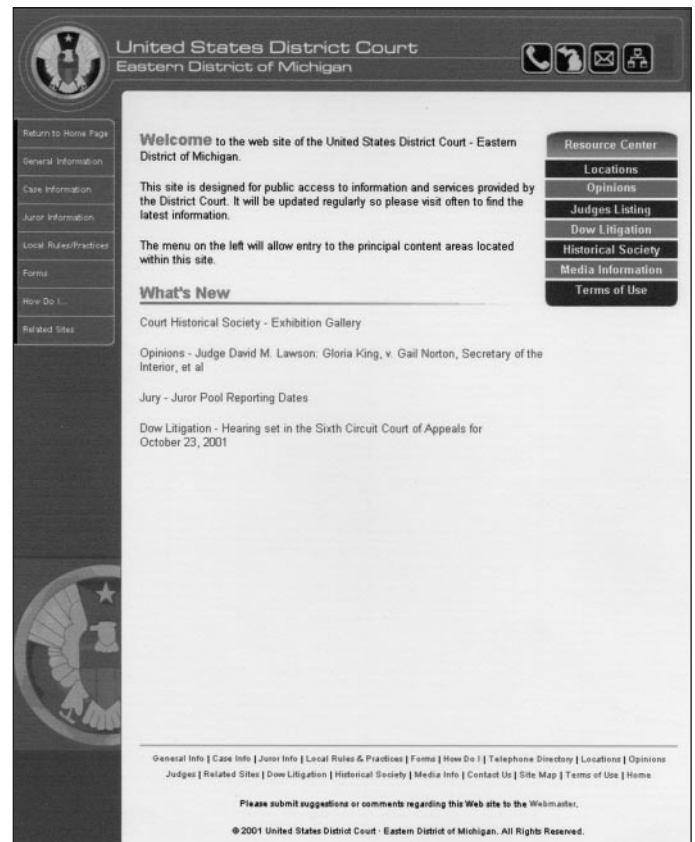
By the time you read this article the re-created Eastern District website (www.mied.uscourts.gov) will include more than just a limited number of judges' opinions, practice notes and Dow litigation information. The site has been expanded to include not only case information and opinions, but juror information, local rules and practices, forms and media information. Most importantly, however, the home page also contains a link to the Historical Society. When you first access the site, you will see the following page depicting an Art Deco eagle which was taken from the ceiling of the lobby in the courthouse in Detroit.



When you click on “enter,” you will be taken to the home page which is displayed to the right. Note that you can access the Historical Society home page by clicking on the link in the upper, right-hand corner or by clicking on the name at the bottom of the page. Initially, under “What’s New,” there will be a reference to the “Court Historical Society-Exhibition Gallery.” Clicking on that reference will take you to a description of the gallery which is the same text as what appears on page four of this newsletter. When you click on either link to the Historical Society you will be taken to the Historical Society home page. It presently contains our Mission Statement, Activities and all copies of The Court Legacy. Soon a history of the court and biographical information on the judges will be added. Ultimately, the site will also contain summaries of important Eastern District cases and a section on the architectural history of the court buildings.

Although not depicted below, the Eastern District home page will also contain a question relating to the history of the court. The questions will be changed monthly. The question for October will be: *How many Eastern District judges have been appointed to the United States Supreme Court?*

When you click on the word “Answer” below the question, you will be taken to a highlighted portion of the newsletter where the answer is found.



Please take some time to visit our site. Your suggestions and comments are of great interest to us. They can be easily offered by clicking on the link entitled “Webmaster” at the bottom of the Eastern District home page. ■

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual membership fees:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FBA Member | \$ 10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member | \$ 15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100.00
<i>or more</i> |

Please make checks payable to:

Historical Society – U.S. District Court – E.D. Michigan

Membership contributions to the Society are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____
DAY EVENING

This is a gift membership from:

QUESTIONNAIRE

We would like to know about your interests and skills. Please fill in this questionnaire and mail it with your membership fee.

Name: _____

Special interests in the field of legal history:

Suggestions for programs or projects:

Indicate interest in Society's activities:

- Writing articles for the Society newsletter
- Conference planning
- Oral history
- Research in special topics in legal history
- Fund development for the Society
- Membership recruitment
- Archival preservation
- Exhibit preparation
- Educational programs
- Other (*please describe*): _____

THIS FORM MAY BE DUPLICATED AND SUBMITTED WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE

*The Historical Society
U.S. District Court
Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse
Detroit, Michigan 48226*