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Introduction

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Introduction

Just over thirty years ago, in the early 1980's, a clean-up project in a dusty and moldy old attic of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, College of Law Library brought to the surface a small collection of worn and tattered "Record Books." With some recognition that these diaries could be immensely interesting, if not of historical value, they were rounded up and tucked into a bottom shelf in the technical services department, amongst other special collections. Over the years, there never seemed to be enough time to peruse and appreciate the volumes or even discover exactly what they were. But then in 1997, the College of Law and its library moved into a new facility; and, during that process, the journals were unearthed yet again and I recognized them for both their professional and historical values. As a newly hired Acquisitions Librarian, I began transcribing the work logs and, with the help of student assistants over the years, created files that allowed one to read the records without the sometimes tedious need for scrutiny and interpretation of handwriting. Some of the penmanship was exquisite and forthright, but some was sprawling and indistinct and simply could not be made out or interpreted.

As I first seriously read the "Record Books," I began to realize that these journals or work logs were kept daily by the earliest of the University of Tennessee law librarians. In the beginning there was little or no overlap of the work hours of the women keeping the library, so the Record was a way of noting the attendance, order, and activities of the day and a way of passing such information of note from person to person as they arrived to supervise the Law Library. It also was a convenient basis for an annual report that was reportedly given to Lucy E. Fay, UT Librarian and sister-in-law of Harcourt Morgan, President of the University, (Townsend, 2) and later to Mary E. Baker, Librarian. (Townsend, 3) The records began in September, 1921 and concluded in June, 1945, with occasional gaps created by the fact that a few of the record books were never found. So far as I have been able to tell, September 1921 was the first time the Law Library was kept open for law students and faculty during regular hours by regular librarians and treated as a branch of the main University Carnegie Library. The record books relate the ups and downs of the Law School, the advent of new faculty and students, and the changing face of legal education.

When the first Record began, the Law Department had been in existence for a little more than thirty years (Morse, 345) and had just moved to two classrooms and a room for the library in the basement of the newly built Ayres Hall. (Wicker, 566) Malcolm McDermott, teaching in the Department since 1916, had just replaced Charles Turner as Dean upon Turner's retirement. (Hardin, 145) While the Law Department had become a charter member of the American Association of Law Schools at the turn of the century (and the only member south of the Ohio River at that time), the Law course of study was reorganized in 1920 and increased to three full years of study and its standards raised to conform to the then current American Association of Law Schools standards. Admission to the course of study demanded 15 units of high school credit and one year of college work. (Hoskins, 679) At this time the Bachelor of Laws degree was conferred by the Board of Trustees on those students who completed the course. (Morse, 349) In 1925, again to comply with AALS standards, a second year of college course work was required to enroll in the Law course. (Hardin, 157)

During the years of World War I, students left the University in large numbers and the College of Law student body dwindled to a few men. (Wicker, 1950, 12) But by the end of 1919, the College of Law's enrollment was back up to 89. (Montgomery, 149) By July of 1920, the Faculty of the College of Law, whose name changed from the Law Department in 1911, (Hardin, 154) consisted of two full-time faculty members and four part-time instructors. (Hoskins, 681) According to the Historical Edition of the *University of Tennessee Magazine* published in 1920, twelve hours of classroom work was required of law students, as well as Moot Court. The same source tells that the Law Library held 4500 volumes and was "in charge" of a special librarian and open at all convenient hours for the benefit of the students. The University also was reported to have arrangements with the Knoxville Bar Association for the law students to use its "large law library" where many thousand more works were available (Morse, 351) in the downtown Federal Building. (Wicker and Overton, 24)

According to the first entry in the work logs, work in the Law Library began on September 21, 1921, although no records were kept of daily work until September 26th. E. L. Ogden was in charge and on duty from 1:45-5:45 each afternoon, including Saturdays. Laura Luttrell covered the hours of 7-10 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and Nellie Wiley from 7-10 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These hours and personnel change as the logs progress, as does the type of information included in them. The librarian in charge of the Law Library in 1921 was one of the first two women to graduate from the University of Tennessee, Eliza Lucy Ogden. (Gaither, 25) A native Knox Countian and born in 1870, Miss Ogden had worked as an histologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. (*UT Record*, 169) She graduated from UT in 1895, along with Elma Eliza Rachel Ellis, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. (Gaither, 25) Miss Helen Turner, who was hired in 1922 to assist Miss Ogden, also attended classes during these early years, but failed to graduate. (Pulliam) She, however, remained a fixture in the Law Library until 1948, her father having taught in the Law School from 1892, and being Dean from 1915 to 1920. (Hardin, 155) With these two women as our main journalists for many years, we are able to follow the growth and development of both the University of Tennessee College of Law and the growth and development of Law Libraries in general.

It is my hope to annotate these work logs in a future research project. The larger story of the times and the people is just hinted at in the diaries and they deserve much more attention. Wouldn't you like to know that the Dr. Neal whose comings and goings were noted in the logs and who was one of the two full time faculty members at the College of Law in 1921, was the eccentric John R. Neal who was soon to be dismissed from the University along with six other faculty for flouting UT authority, and who later assisted Clarence Darrow in his representation of John T. Scopes in the now-famous 1925 "Monkey Trial." (Hardin, 155) Wouldn't you also like to know that the Edward T. Sanford, who taught part time for the College of Law from 1897-1916 and donated a collection of law books to the library, was a founding member of the Harvard Law Review and later a Supreme Court Justice. (Hardin, 150) The diaries are full of notable people and noteworthy events. The librarians set the tone in the work logs, though, as one of everyday, ordinary incidents and encounters that provided a certain continuity and stability in the lives of the students and faculty of the evolving College of Law.

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