

# University of Pennsylvania Law Review

FOUNDED 1852

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Formerly  
American Law Register

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VOL. 111

JUNE, 1963

No. 8

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## W. FOSTER REEVE, III

With the close of the current academic year, W. Foster Reeve, III concludes a grand tour of teaching which has extended over more than forty years. No man in the history of the School has been known to more alumni; few will be so long remembered. So vivid and unforgettable is his personality that he can be said to be one of the few men who became legends in their lifetimes.

Foster Reeve was born in Camden, New Jersey, on July 25, 1892. He attended Episcopal Academy and Gunnery School and was graduated from Princeton University with the Litt. B. degree in 1914. That same year he entered the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania to sit in the first year classroom over which he was to preside for so many years. He joined Sharswood Law Club, earned First Year Honors and was elected to the Board of Editors of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review. He was graduated *cum laude* on June 20, 1917, and elected to the Order of the Coif. His degree was awarded *in absentia* because he was already in France with the American Expeditionary Force. After what he always referred to as the "Kaiser's War," young Foster Reeve was admitted to the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Bars. From 1919 to 1922, he practiced in Philadelphia with the firm of Bell, Kendrick, Trinkle and Deeter.

In 1920, he became a part-time lecturer at the Law School, teaching the first year course in Contracts. Two years later he accepted a full-time appointment as Assistant Professor and he became a full Professor in 1924. He was an adviser to The American Law Institute

on the Restatement of the Law of Trusts and he was the author of the Pennsylvania Annotations to the Trusts Restatement.

Foster Reeve's tenure as chairman of the Law School Admissions Committee is almost as long as his membership on the faculty. Countless hours have been devoted to this demanding and important work. Thousands of alumni first became familiar with his name when it was signed to the letter informing them that they had been admitted to the Law School.

For Foster Reeve the classroom is a stage. He performs there with vigor, zest, and dramatic flair, in complete control of his audience from the moment that his powerful booming voice first calls out "Settle down, please, gentlemen . . ." or, for variety, "Further in regard to . . . ." He teaches by anecdote as well as by cases and his exposition of the law is daily interspersed with scintillating humor and wit. His conduct of a class is marked by directness, practicality, and spice. He frequently introduces material far removed from the subjects of contracts or trusts, because he thinks the fledgling lawyers will have need of it and he fears it is not being taught any place else in the curriculum.

In 1919, shortly after his return from overseas duty, Foster Reeve was married to the former Kathleen Wilson. They raised two sons, William and Mark. The Reeves make their home at Coolure in Newtown Square, Chester County. He has served his community as a director of the Newtown Township School District for fourteen years (its President from 1945 to 1948); as a member of the Marple-Newtown Joint School Authority; and, currently, as a member of the Newtown Township School Board.

Foster Reeve is an avid horseman. If he had one home at Coolure and a second at the Law School, he had a third at the Rose Tree Fox Hunting Club. He played polo, he rode to hounds, and he just plain rode. One wag has said of him that when he was not riding students he was riding horses. In earlier years it was hard to tell which he was about to do because he frequently appeared in the classroom in boots and riding breeches. In later years, the effect of a "horsey look" was achieved only by the black derby, the leather gloves and, more often than not, the tweed suit.

Generations of students developed a deep affection for the man despite his gruff and crusty manner or, perhaps, because of it. Perhaps they sensed that his big voice is matched by his big heart, his rugged personality by a rugged honesty, his unique classroom manner by a genuine conviction as to the law teacher's proper role. His is a colorful and striking personality. His voice will no longer resound through the

classrooms and corridors but the legends will live on. Alumni will continue to inquire of him with genuine affection, and I hope that for many years to come I will be able to report that he continues to enjoy good health and to live every day to the utmost.

*Theodore H. Husted, Jr.†*

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More than thirty years ago, when I was hard at work preparing a Restatement of the Law of Trusts for The American Law Institute, it became clear that I needed the help of experts in that field to keep me on the right track. Accordingly, with my advice and consent, the Council of the Institute selected Advisers, and among them a younger man who was then and ever since has been a teacher of the law of Trusts at the University of Pennsylvania. This was Foster Reeve. For several years he was active in the work of preparing the Restatement, and his knowledge and wisdom were of great assistance to me and to the Institute. He sometimes disagreed with me and sometimes I disagreed with him. But on the whole we agreed very well. He is not responsible for all that is said in the Restatement, but he is responsible for making it a better Restatement than it would have been without him.

I could never compete with him on horseback or afoot, but I could and did collaborate with him in the somewhat less exacting field of legal scholarship.

Of late years I have not seen him, but I recall with pleasure our old association. I have already retired from the teaching of law, as he is about to do. I wish to add my congratulations to those of his many friends, colleagues, and students on his completion of his long career as a teacher of law.

*Austin W. Scott ‡*

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