

# Court Spotlight:

## Special Visitor to Logan County Court of Common Pleas

The Logan County Court of Common Pleas was honored with a visit from John C. Hover II, grandson of John Calvin Hover, the first resident judge to the court.

Judge Hover was commemorated in the court's annual report, compiled by Judge Mark S. O'Connor.

"John Calvin Hover was born on a farm in Logan County on December 1, 1866. Judge Hover became the first resident Common Pleas Court Judge of Logan County after the Constitution was amended doing away with circuit courts and creating a judgeship in each county. During his eighty-six years of life he was a teacher, a judge presiding over three courts, and a civic leader in the community.

"Judge Hover's early education was in the country schools, and he attended Northwood College, the 'pioneer institution of higher education' in Logan County. He also attended Ohio Northern

University and became a teacher in the rural and village schools. He taught for eleven years and during this time he studied and privately read law in the law office of A.J. Miller in Bellefontaine, Ohio. On June 10, 1898, he graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a LL.B. and from that date was an active member of the Logan County Bar.

"In 1908, Judge Hover was elected to the Office of Probate/Juvenile Judge. His focus was on the youths' development, rather than their sentences, and several returned as adults to thank him for his influence and keen insight which contributed to their success in life.

"Judge Hover was elected as the first resident common Pleas Court judge in 1912. While serving as judge he presided over the trial in which the first mixed gender jury served in Logan County. He left the bench in 1926,

---

**Judge Hover was elected as the first resident common Pleas Court judge in 1912. While serving as judge he presided over the trial in which the first mixed gender jury served in Logan County.**

---

returning to private practice.

“Judge Hover was of a benevolent nature. During World War I Judge Hover was chairman of the County War Chest Drive, and also chairman of the Thousand Dollar Club, which raised the largest per capita subscription of any county in Ohio—a fact especially conspicuous because the county was one of the lowest in aggregate bank deposit totals of any county in the state. During the Depression he often loaned or gave people money and invested in local businesses (most of which failed) because he felt it was the right thing to do as a citizen. He was deeply interested in the work of the local Presbyterian Church, teaching a boys’ class in Sunday School, and being an Elder and Clerk of Session. He spent his entire adult life on crutches.



**Logan County Courthouse**



**Logan County Courthouse**

“Judge Hover was married on December 21, 1898, to Carrie L. Simms of Huntsville, daughter of Payton S. Simms, A Logan county farmer. She died on November 23, 1935. On May 4, 1937, he married Elsie McCleary Hover. His only son, John Curry Hover, who attended high school in Bellefontaine, received an A.B. degree from Harvard University, studied law at the University of Michigan and took his law degree at Yale University.

“The Court is indebted to the Judge’s grandson, John C. Hover II, of Buckingham, Pennsylvania, who furnished this information and a picture of the aforementioned jury.”



**The first mixed gender jury in the court of Common Pleas of Logan County, Ohio. Judge John C. Hover presiding, October 4, 1921.**



**Logan County's modern courtroom.**