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Kansas Law Review

ARTHUR L. CORBIN: HIS KANSAS CONNECTION

*Robert H. Jerry, II**

When a farm-born Kansan becomes one of the great teachers, authors, and scholars in the history of Anglo-American law, the story of his Kansas connection is worth noting in a law review published in his native state. This is the story of Arthur L. Corbin's early years and of his life-long fondness for the university where his quest for excellence began.

Corbin's Kansas connection dates to early 1857, when Anna Sumner Corbin, a widow with four sons, moved her family from Woodstock, Connecticut, to Linn County, Kansas. In their new home, the Corbins "were at once a part of the community, doing heroic work in the border warfare."¹ Staunch puritans, they aligned with the free-state settlers and became close friends with the famous abolitionist John Brown, also a native of Connecticut.² Arthur Corbin's father, Myron, was the eldest of Anna Corbin's sons. Myron fought with Brown and was once captured by proslavery raiders and taken to Lawrence, where the town's citizens freed him.³ Throughout the Civil War, Myron Corbin fought with the 12th Kansas Regiment.⁴

Sometime after the Civil War, Myron Corbin married Elizabeth Linton. Myron farmed on their Linn County homestead; Lizzie taught in the county schools.⁵ On October 17, 1874, Arthur Linton Corbin was born to Myron and Lizzie on the Linn County farm. When Arthur was fourteen, the Corbins, motivated by a desire to further the education of their two children⁶ and perhaps by the farm's failure,⁷ moved from Linn County to Lawrence.⁸ Young Arthur

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¹ W. MITCHELL, LINN COUNTY, KANSAS: A HISTORY 28 (1928).

² *Id.*

³ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin to University of Kansas Alumni Association (Jan. 7, 1961).

⁴ Corbin, *Sixty-Eight Years at Law*, 13 KAN. L. REV. 183, 183 (1964).

⁵ *Id.* Corbin's mother later became a leader in the woman's suffrage movement. Alberta Corbin, Suff. in Ks., (circa 1920) (unpublished manuscript; available in Ruth Garver Gagliardo Papers, Kansas Collection, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas).

⁶ Corbin wrote in 1961 that his parents moved to Lawrence in order to provide an education for the children. Letter, *supra* note 3. His sister corroborated this statement in her own writings. See Alberta Corbin, Suff. in Ks., *supra* note 5.

⁷ Professor Friedrich Kessler, a long-time personal friend of Corbin's, indicated in a telephone conversation that Corbin had once described his father as a "dreamer" who was not particularly successful as a farmer. Corbin considered his mother the "energetic one." Telephone interview with Friedrich Kessler (August 5, 1983). In the eulogy at his mother's funeral, which Arthur Corbin wrote and delivered, Corbin spoke of his mother's "unflinching courage" and "magnificent vitality." He described the Linn County farm on which they lived as "sad, undeveloped, unimproved." Arthur Corbin, Unpublished Statement,

walked the entire seventy-five mile journey in his bare feet.⁹

Shortly after they arrived in Lawrence, Alberta, Arthur's older sister, entered the University of Kansas as a "sub-freshman."¹⁰ At that time the university had a Preparatory Department, which administered a two-year curriculum to prepare students at least twelve years of age for college.¹¹ Arthur enrolled at Lawrence High School.¹²

Little is known about Corbin, the high school student. On April 11, 1890, when Francis H. Snow was elected Chancellor of the university, Corbin marched, as a high school boy, with a group of students to Snow's home, chanting "Snow! Snow! F.H. Snow!"¹³ The group's cry elicited a front-porch speech from Snow. Football was not played as an organized team sport at the university until 1890, but as a high-school student Corbin witnessed "a 'game' played in South Park between two mobs of students, each mob merely kicking the ball along the ground."¹⁴ According to Corbin, the leaders of these "two mobs" were R. D. O'Leary, "a very active light-weight (afterwards, a beloved professor of English)," and Champlin, who became "a heavy linebacking half-back [on the KU football team] the following year."¹⁵

Corbin enrolled at the University of Kansas in September 1890. At that time, a student could be admitted by either being certified by a high-school principal, by passing a written entrance examination approved by the university faculty, or by completing the Preparatory Department curriculum.¹⁶ Principal May of the Lawrence High School certified that Arthur was prepared for college in all subjects except Latin, in which he lacked one of the three required years of study.¹⁷ Accordingly, as was the practice at the time, Corbin was conditionally admitted to the University of Kansas and ordered to take a Latin course consisting of read-

(April 14, 1920) (available in Ruth Garver Gagliando Papers, Kansas Collection, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas).

Corbin referred to his years on the Linn County farm in his multivolume treatise *Corbin on Contracts*. In his discussion of *Frigalment Importing Co. v. B.N.S. Int'l Sales Corp.*, 190 F. Supp. 116 (D.C.N.Y. 1960), in which a dispute arose between the parties to a contract about the meaning of the term "chicken," Corbin wrote:

The 50 or more words of the "integration" itself did not make the interpretation "plain" and "unambiguous" to the judge. It might have seemed otherwise to the present writer if he had been the judge. In his own linguistic experience and education, he had heard of "broilers" and "fryers", and also of "fowl"; but to him the word "chickens" included them all. For 10 years on a Kansas farm it had been a regular job to "feed the chickens," with no suggestion that the old hens and roosters were to be excluded.

3 A. CORBIN, *CORBIN ON CONTRACTS* § 543B, at 97 (Supp. 1971).

⁸ The family probably lived at 1108 Ohio in Lawrence. In correspondence with the University of Kansas Alumni Association, Corbin identified 1108 Ohio as "my old home." Correspondence from Arthur L. Corbin to University of Kansas Alumni Association (May 16, 1963).

⁹ According to Friedrich Kessler, this is what Corbin once told him. Interview, *supra* note 7.

¹⁰ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 3.

¹¹ See C. GRIFFIN, *THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS: A HISTORY* 37 (1974).

¹² Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 3.

¹³ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin to Dick Wintermote, Executive Director of the University of Kansas Alumni Association (Dec. 14, 1964).

¹⁴ *Id.* In subsequent correspondence, Corbin placed this "game" between "two mobs" in Central Park, not South Park. This subsequent letter said the game was played in 1888, but the reference to Champlin becoming the half-back "the following year"—presumably 1890, when the University of Kansas first played organized football—suggests that the game was probably played in the fall of 1889. See Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 3.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ GRIFFIN, *supra* note 11, at 121-26.

¹⁷ This information is contained on the reverse side of Corbin's Official University of Kansas Transcript, which is on file with the Office of Student Records at the University of Kansas.

ings from Virgil and Cicero.¹⁸ Corbin completed this course, the last "sub-freshman" course given at the University of Kansas, under the instruction of Miss Hannah Oliver.¹⁹ One of Corbin's classmates in the sub-freshman Latin course was "young Jimmie Canfield," the son of the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska.²⁰

Corbin was a success in college. His professors probably liked him; he performed well in the classroom and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. But it is certain that he admired his professors. Two years before his death, Corbin wrote: "In all of my subsequent seventy years of experience, including stretches in four of our greatest universities, I have found no abler teachers than Templin, Carruth, Williston, and Snow."²¹ Referring to his University of Kansas education, Corbin wrote: "The start it gave me in 1890-94 was at the basis of my progress later on."²²

Outside the classroom, Corbin was actively involved in campus life. Of the Walking Club, to which he belonged, Corbin later wrote that there was "nothing like it before or since."²³ He also served as the "Guide" for Chancellor Snow, which required that he function as Snow's messenger and provide tours to campus visitors. To summon Corbin, Chancellor Snow sounded three rings on the electric bells found in every building.²⁴ The standard Corbin tour took visitors to see "Comanche," the cavalry horse that survived the massacre of Custer's regiment at Little Big Horn and whose carcass still adorns the fifth floor of the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, the "Gila Monster," and the Ethan Allen skeleton. The skeleton might have been the highlight of Corbin's tours: in correspondence with the University Alumni Club, Corbin asked, "Did you ever see the *tooth* that killed him?"²⁵

During his college summers, Corbin's interests were agrarian. In 1891 and 1892, he worked on a threshing crew in Kansas wheat fields. The summer of 1893 found Corbin assisting Chancellor Snow in receiving packages of "chinch bugs" from Kansas wheat farmers and in shipping out "small boxes of his famous 'fungus' infested 'chinch bugs.'"²⁶

Corbin's senior year at the University of Kansas was very busy. He and his friends "worked many evenings on Advanced Eng. Comp. under Hopkins."²⁷ In February 1894, he assumed the position of "Literary Editor" of *The Students Jour-*

¹⁸ GRIFFIN, *supra* note 11, at 125. Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 3.

¹⁹ *Id.* The Preparatory Department was dismantled in 1891. GRIFFIN, *supra* note 11, at 125.

²⁰ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 3. James Canfield, the father of "young Jimmie Canfield," was Professor of History at the University of Kansas from 1877 to 1891, Chancellor at the University of Nebraska from 1891 to 1895, President of Ohio State University from 1895 to 1899, and Librarian at Columbia University for the remainder of his career. *WHO WAS WHO IN AMERICA* (1897-1942), at 190 (1966).

²¹ Corbin, *supra* note 4, at 183.

²² Letter from Arthur L. Corbin to Dean James K. Logan (December 3, 1966) (on file in the Office of the Dean, University of Kansas School of Law).

²³ Correspondence from Arthur L. Corbin to University of Kansas Alumni Association (April 29, 1960). Exactly what purpose the twenty-member club served is uncertain, but it may have been social: Corbin mentioned that one of the club's members, Ruth Whitman, nearly drowned on a club picnic at the Bosworth Ranch near Wellsville, Kansas.

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 13.

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.*

nal, a short-lived weekly newspaper.²⁸ He also helped write the senior class play, *A College Comedy*,²⁹ a spoof on college life. The play was performed in the Bowersock Opera House in May 1894; Corbin played the role of "Chancellor White." Of *A College Comedy*, Corbin said: "We had no coaching as either actors or playwrights, but the show was a success."³⁰ Corbin later recalled the evening *A College Comedy* was performed: "I wrote the farewell Class Song. At the end of the play, in the 'Bowersock Opera House,' the entire class (all 41 of us, including the engineers) stood on the stage and sang that 'farewell' song."³¹

A copy of *A College Comedy* is preserved today in the Archives at the Spencer Library on the University of Kansas campus. Despite the play's inability to survive ninety years with grace, *A College Comedy* was a financial success in 1894. Upon his graduation, class treasurer Corbin turned over play receipts of "some \$250" to Chancellor Snow. This sum, along with \$200 donated by the class, constituted the first Student Loan Fund at the university. Corbin kept Snow's receipt until it was lost in a 1959 fire that destroyed Corbin's house in Connecticut.³²

Corbin's life-long affinity for University of Kansas athletics, particularly football, began when Corbin enrolled at the university. In fact, he enjoyed sports immensely: he played baseball as a Yale Law School student, became an accomplished tennis player, and enjoyed golf later in life. "In all of them," Corbin wrote, "the joy of the sport was nothing but beneficial to my work as a teacher, writer, and lawyer."³³ While he did not play football at the University of Kansas, he was an avid fan and attended all of the games.³⁴

In 1890 Corbin witnessed the first organized football game played in Lawrence by the University of Kansas, only the third ever played by a KU team. The 1893 yearbook states that the score of the game played on December 8, 1890, was "Kansas 14, Baker 12.*"³⁵ The footnote at the bottom of the page beside the asterisk states, "Game awarded to Baker on a technicality." With respect to what must be this particular contest, Corbin wrote:

The game [of football] had been brought [to Kansas] from Harvard by Professor W. H. Carruth, who had just received his Ph.D. there. The game was played on the old baseball grounds at the *then* South end of Massachusetts Street. It was between K.U. and Baker University. Baker's team had a half-back named Goodale, who had played at Amherst. The referee (and sole official) was Mr. Carruth. At sometime during the game, our center, W. J. Coleman, 1894, picked up a loose ball and ran half the field for a touchdown. Unfortunately, the referee's whistle had blown and the ball was called back. The student crowd along the sidelines would have none of that; and play was not resumed. Green school boys! Carruth was in bad repute with the athletic supporters for a few years. For some years, also, the games with Baker were savage and at

²⁸ *Id.* See The Students Journal, Feb. 2, 1894, at 2 col. 1.

²⁹ C. Bosworth, E. Palmer, A. Corbin, & J. Mustard, *A College Comedy* (1894).

³⁰ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 13.

³¹ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin to Dick Wintermote (May 20, 1965).

³² *Id.*

³³ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 3.

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ University of Kansas Class of 1893, *Quivira '93*, at 149 (1893).

times bloody.³⁶

In later correspondence, Corbin explained that the infamous Baker-KU game was primitive football at best: "Neither team knew much about the rules of the game. The KU team had little coaching; they had been told something by Car-ruth (who had watched games at Harvard) and Prof. E. M. Hopkins (who was a graduate of Princeton)."³⁷

Corbin's "beloved chum" from his college days was Archibald Hogg, captain of both the football and baseball teams in his sophomore year. Corbin recalled fondly a Thanksgiving day game against Missouri, in which Hogg "caught a punt on our two-yard line and ran 108 yards for a touchdown."³⁸ Hogg graduated with Corbin in 1894 and then attended the University of Kansas School of Law, where, according to Corbin, "he was Uncle Jimmie Green's favorite law student."³⁹ Hogg was on the faculty and the Athletic Board in 1899 when Fielding H. Yost, of later fame at the University of Michigan, was the football coach. Corbin's friendship with Hogg and his love of football brought him in touch with the following unsavory bit of KU football lore:

During Yost's years, the following episode occurred. In September a young man named "Krebs" enrolled as a Freshman. He attended classes regularly and did well. He went out for football, and soon made the team as a tackle. After the Missouri game, he resigned from the school and disappeared. Shortly thereafter (and not before) it was discovered that "Krebs" was a false name, that he was a graduate of the University of West Virginia, and that he had played football there with Fielding H. Yost. . . . [T]hese facts were written to me by my chum, Archie Hogg, then on the faculty and on the Athletic Board. He was in a position to know the facts; and there is not the slightest doubt that his account of them to me was true in every respect. I suppose that the facts were publicly known when Archie wrote to me, but in those days there was no League Organization to hand out penalties. Archie never knew what became of "Krebs" or who was responsible for his enrollment at K.U.⁴⁰

After Corbin graduated from the University of Kansas in 1894, he taught for two years at Augusta High School near Wichita. In 1896 he accepted an offer to teach mathematics at Lawrence High School.⁴¹ During that year, he decided to study law and made plans to enroll in the University of Kansas School of Law the following year. Corbin consulted with the School of Law's dean, "Uncle Jimmie" Green, and upon Green's advice purchased and read all of the textbooks used in the first year class.⁴² To Corbin, Green "was not a legal scholar, but he had a big heart."⁴³ Corbin later said of Green: "Although I never attended a

³⁶ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 3.

³⁷ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 13.

³⁸ Until 1912, football fields were 110 yards in length.

³⁹ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 3.

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ See 58 THE NATIONAL CYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY 342 (1979). The teaching position in the Lawrence High School, which Corbin accepted in 1896, paid \$50 per month. Minutes of June 8, 1896, Board of Education Meeting, in Record of Meetings, Board of Education, Lawrence, Kansas, Jan. 6, 1879, to July 5, 1897, at 605 (preserved in the Kansas Collection, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas).

⁴² Corbin, *supra* note 4, at 183.

⁴³ *Yale Prof Remembers KU*, University Daily Kansan, Nov. 6, 1964, at 4 (quoting letter from Arthur L. Corbin to John Johntz. The original Corbin letter to Johntz has not survived two decades of changes in this law review's editorial board. Parts of the letter, however, are quoted in the University Daily Kansan

class and never discussed a legal problem with him, Uncle Jimmy always treated me as one of 'his boys.'⁴⁴

Corbin decided not to attend law school in Lawrence "for purely personal reasons."⁴⁵ Actually, his sister Alberta, an 1893 University graduate and a Ph.D. candidate at Yale University, encouraged him to come to Yale, and he entered the Yale Law School in 1897.⁴⁶ Alberta returned to Lawrence in 1903 to teach German and later became the adviser, or dean, of women. Corbin Hall on the Lawrence campus is named in her honor.⁴⁷

Following his matriculation at Yale, Corbin did not spend much time in Kansas. He finished his LL.B. at Yale in 1899. For the next four years, he practiced law in Cripple Creek, Colorado, serving partly as an assistant prosecutor.⁴⁸ He claimed that he tried a case there only twenty minutes after his arrival.⁴⁹ While in Cripple Creek, he met Bernice Lockhead, a University of Colorado student, and married her in 1901. During that summer, Corbin and his bride returned to Lawrence to visit friends: Kate Riggs, a daughter of a prominent Lawrence judge and one of Corbin's long-standing favorite classmates, had a breakfast reception for the newlyweds.⁵⁰

Corbin must have kept in touch with his Lawrence friends, however. In 1903 "Uncle Jimmy" Green offered Corbin a position on the University of Kansas School of Law faculty, but he rejected the offer and joined the Yale Law School faculty "at a much lower salary."⁵¹ Three years later, he returned to Lawrence to deliver the Annual Alumni Address at University Hall. The address, "The Alumnus and the Law," was printed in the June 1906 edition of *The Graduate Magazine*.⁵² This was one of Corbin's earliest publications: a "definitive bibliography"⁵³ of his life's works in the December 1964 *Yale Law Journal*⁵⁴ makes no mention of "The Alumnus and the Law." Only one of Corbin's works bears an

article and also in an article in the Kansas City Times. *A Fond Recall of Early K.U. Days*, Kansas City Times, Nov. 12, 1964 (clipping on file with University of Kansas Alumni Association).

⁴⁴ Corbin, *supra* note 4, at 183.

⁴⁵ *Id.* at 184.

⁴⁶ Telephone interview with Friedrich Kessler, *supra* note 7.

⁴⁷ GRIFFIN, *supra* note 11, at 323, 425.

⁴⁸ Today, Cripple Creek is a small town approximately twenty miles west of Colorado Springs, Colorado, with only a few hundred permanent residents. At the turn of the century, Cripple Creek was a booming gold mining town. In 1900, the population of the mining district exceeded 50,000, and mine production generated revenues of \$18 million. B. GRIMSTAD & R. DRAKE, *THE LAST GOLD RUSH: A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE CRIPPLE CREEK & VICTOR GOLD MINING DISTRICT* 130 (1983). This commercial activity supported 66 lawyers in 1900. CRIPPLE CREEK DISTRICT DIRECTORY CO., *DIRECTORY OF THE CRIPPLE CREEK MINING DISTRICT FOR 1900*, at 557-59 (1900). It also supported 150 saloons and made Cripple Creek perhaps "the uproarigest Sin City west of the Mississippi." GRIMSTAD & DRAKE, *supra*, at 67-68. In short, there was money to be made in Cripple Creek at the turn of the century.

By 1902, the number of attorneys in Cripple Creek had declined to 35. *Id.* at 570. This probably reflected the declining prosperity of the region after 1900. GRIMSTAD & DRAKE, *supra*, at 130 (1900 was peak year for gold production below \$10 million). Corbin's departure from Cripple Creek occurred at approximately the same time that a year-long labor strike commenced. The violent strike closed many of the mines, a large number of which never reopened after the strike was settled. *Id.* at 108-12, 130.

⁴⁹ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin to University of Kansas Alumni Association (July 23, 1959).

⁵⁰ Correspondence from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 25. Bernice died in 1931, and Corbin never remarried.

⁵¹ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin to Dean Fred J. Moreau (Dec. 6, 1952) (on file with University Archives, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas).

⁵² Corbin, *The Alumnus and the Law*, 4 *THE GRADUATE MAGAZINE* 331 (June 1906).

⁵³ Pollak, *Arthur L. Corbin*, 76 *YALE L.J.* 876, 877 n.3 (1967).

⁵⁴ 74 *YALE L.J.* 311 (1964).

earlier publication date.⁵⁵

“Uncle Jimmy” Green served as Dean of the University of Kansas School of Law until his death in 1919. At that time, Corbin was offered but declined the deanship. Corbin did recommend, however, a young assistant professor at Yale named Hershel Arant for the position. Arant became the next law school dean and later served as circuit judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.⁵⁶

Corbin’s career at Yale blossomed, as any lawyer—indeed, as any law student who has completed a first-year course in contracts—knows. He was promoted to full professor in 1909. In 1927 he was named Townsend Professor of Law and was chosen as the first Sterling Research Professor. But his greatest accomplishment did not occur until 1950, seven years after his retirement from the law school faculty, when he published his multivolume treatise *Corbin on Contracts*. The treatise is one of the greatest scholarly works in the history of Anglo-American law. Corbin continued to supplement the treatise almost until his death: as a result of this work and the help of others, the treatise now has over seven thousand pages of text in its twelve volumes. To prepare his treatise, Corbin personally read every contract case decided in the United States, an effort that is simply staggering. In addition to his monumental treatise, Corbin wrote over eighty articles, published three casebooks, edited five other books, and wrote at least twenty-six book reviews and essays. He was one of the organizers of the American Law Institute and served as Co-Reporter for the Institute’s first *Restatement of Contracts*, published in 1932. At the age of eighty-five he prepared a massive revision of the Restatement for the ALI’s consideration. Much of this work influenced the recently published *Restatement (Second) of the Law of Contracts*.

His contributions to legal scholarship were widely recognized during his lifetime. In 1920 he was selected president of the American Association of Law Schools, and he served as the Honorary President of the Yale Law School Association for many years. For his multivolume treatise, Harvard honored him with its infrequently awarded James Barr Ames Fund Prize. The University of Kansas awarded him the Distinguished Service Award in 1951. That same year, he received an honorary LL.D. degree from Yale. In 1953 the University of Chicago also presented him with an honorary LL.D. In 1959 he was cited by the Yale Law School Association as a “teacher, scholar and author, who more than any other person, has shaped the destiny of the Yale Law School.”

In the twilight of his life, Corbin maintained an active interest in events at the University of Kansas. In 1961 he donated a set of *Corbin on Contracts* to the University of Kansas School of Law. That set, autographed by the author, is in the Rice Room of Green Hall today. Apparently, he regularly perused the *KU Alum-*

⁵⁵ Corbin, *Ratification in Agency Without Knowledge of Material Fact*, 15 YALE L.J. 331 (May 1906), cited in 74 YALE L.J. 311, 317 (1964).

⁵⁶ Letter from the Hon. James K. Logan to Robert H. Jerry, II (November 28, 1983) (on file with the University of Kansas Law Review). While Judge Logan was dean of the University of Kansas School of Law, Corbin initiated a two- or three-year correspondence with him that lasted until Corbin’s death in 1967. Although a substantial file of Corbin-Logan correspondence exists at the School of Law, at least two letters from Corbin are missing, probably misfiled or lost in the move to the new School of Law building in 1977. Generous efforts of past and present law school deans (Logan, Dickinson, and Davis) and the University Archives have failed to locate the letters. In his November 28, 1983, letter, Judge Logan reconstructed to the best of his recollection the information contained in the missing Corbin letters.

mus. In the November 1964 issue, a picture of a football team from the 1890s appeared. Corbin wrote the director of the alumni association to give him "some positive information concerning the football picture."⁵⁷ That same year, he wrote his last law review article, published in the *Kansas Law Review*.⁵⁸ He told the *Review*'s editor-in-chief: "You probably did not know the depth of my feelings toward my native state and my Alma Mater. They are in fact such that, in spite of age and impaired eyesight, I was not able to refuse your request [for an article]."⁵⁹ As his ninety-first birthday approached, he wrote to the alumni association, commenting on the planned razing of Old Fraser Hall. In his letter, he explained why he could not join a petition favoring a "moratorium" on the plans to demolish Old Fraser:

I have never felt that Fraser Hall was a building that deserved immortality. This is *not* because I have no sentimental memories regarding it. Most of my classes in 1890-94 were held in it. The entire library was on the first floor at the north end. I read German historical novels with Caruth in a room on the third floor north. I discussed Logis and Psychology with Templin in a first floor middle room facing west. The engineers had the third floor south. The Chancellor's (Snow) office was at the right of the main entrance. I was Snow's messenger boy. When we graduated 71 years ago, Fraser already seemed to us an "old building." Although less than 30 years old, it had been built before any of us had been born. The steps on its wide stairs already showed spots worn down by hundreds of hurrying feet. The ivies, planted by graduating classes, already threatened the window light on both east and west. . . . In some ways, it is unfortunate to live so long and observe so many successive generations, each with its own "Master Plan." I am too nearly blind to see clearly the picture of the proposed new Fraser in the *Journal World*. It seems to be of the square-block variety, more or less in fashion now. . . .

I can offer no suggestion of my own. The new Fraser should at least have what we call "dignity" and not be totally different from the conglomerate covering Oread. No plan is a "Master Plan," unless it includes most of Mt. Oread. But this letter is written only to indicate that "Master Plans" rapidly come and go, and that no one is competent to draft one that will satisfy the future.

Yours sincerely,
Arthur L. Corbin, 1894⁶⁰

In late 1966 Corbin lent his assistance in the accelerating efforts to improve the University of Kansas School of Law. In a letter to then-Dean Logan, he expressed regret about his inability to participate to a greater extent in these efforts:

I am sorry that I cannot take *active* part in your discussions of the prospective Law Building, Library, Faculty, and Student Body. I might have some useful suggestions, based on Yale's Sterling Law Building, 30 years experience in our former Hendric Hall, and on my general experience of

⁵⁷ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 13.

⁵⁸ Corbin, *supra* note 4. One article bears a later publication date, but an asterisk to its title indicates that the article was "substantially adapted, with the consent of the author and the West Publishing Co., from new sections 543AA, 543B, 543C, and 543D, recently published in the 1964 pocket supplement to 3 Corbin, *Contracts* (2d ed. 1960)." Corbin, *The Interpretation of Words and the Parol Evidence Rule*, 50 CORNELL L.Q. 161 (Winter 1965). The pocket supplement predated the *Kansas Law Review* article.

⁵⁹ University Daily Kansan, *supra* note 46.

⁶⁰ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 33.

70 years. But I become more decrepit and incapable of sight and hearing, month by month. I shall not attempt to go to Maine next summer, even if I am still alive. Good luck with your campaign!

Yours sincerely,
Arthur L. Corbin⁶¹

On May 4, 1967, Arthur Corbin died in Hamden, Connecticut, at the age of ninety-two. Kansans can justifiably be proud of this Linn County farmboy whose name is now permanently etched in the history of American law.

⁶¹ Letter from Arthur L. Corbin, *supra* note 22.

