Noted jurist, trial lawyer dies

From staff reports

Retired Danville trial lawyer Edwin Baylies Meade died Friday. He was 97.

Except for his service in the U.S. Navy during World War I, Meade spent his entire life in Danville.

Meade died in Roman Eagle Memorial Home. A graveside funeral will be held at 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

Meade received his law degree from



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the University of Virginia and began practicing law with his father, Julian Meade, in 1920.

While attending the University of Virginia, Meade was an associate editor of the Virginia Law Review, was a member of the Raven Society, the Order of Coif and Sigma Nu fraternity. Meade was on the basketball team from 1917 to 1919.

Meade sat on the executive committee of the university's alumni assocation and served as its president in 1956-57.

During his professional career, Meade participated in many law-related ventures, including service as a member of the 1945 Virginia Constitutional Convention.

Meade was a member of the Virginia Bar Association and was president of the association from 1956-57. He also was a member of the Danville Bar Association, the Virginia State Bar and the American Bar Association.

Meade was a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

For a number of years, he served on the Virginia State Board of Law Examiners, which administers the bar exam to law school graduates prior to their admission to the Virginia bar.

Meade was a guest lecturer at the University of Virginia law school for four years, teaching equity pleading and practice. During this time he revised the Virginia equity textbook, "Lile's Equity Pleading and Practice."

He served as director and president during the early days of the Danville YMCA and helped established its health club. He was a member of the YMCA's volleyball team in the 1920s, which won the state championship, and was a fisherman, bird hunter and golfer.

Meade was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, where in past years he taught Sunday school, was treasurer, vestryman and senior warden.

Survivors include two sons, Edwin B. Meade Jr. of Richmond, Frank O. Meade of Danville; a daughter, Elizabeth M. Hastings of Woodstock, Ga.; and seven grandchildren.