

State of Maryland vs. Michael A. Manion

Michael Manion was the third son of William and Mary Manion. He grew up on Mount Royal "Grasshopper" Hill and moved to Cedar (Keswick) Ave. when he married Birdie Kone in 1894. Mike became interested in politics. He was a registered Democrat and acted as an election judge for the City of Baltimore, beginning in the year 1901, and for every election year until 1922. In the year 1913, Michael A. Manion's name was on the ballot for Delegate to State Convention in the 2nd District.

In 1903 with Mike was one of 77 election judges charged with "violating election law" and was ordered to appear in Criminal Court. Even though he was one of 77 charged, Mike Manion's name was the only one used to describe the case. The **STATE OF MARYLAND vs. Michael A. MANION** received coverage in the press and Mike Manion's name was in the news for over a month. The following excerpt from the **Baltimore Sun, June 25, 1903**, summarizes the events:

ALL 77 MAY GO FREE

Decision In **Manion Election Case** Indicates It - **BAD INTENT MUST BE SHOWN**

Judge Stockbridge Interprets "Willful" In That Way - **Manion Declared Not Guilty.**

The 77 indictments found by the grand jury against the three Supervisors of Elections and other election officials on the charge of having violated the law in connection with the municipal election last may will probably, it is thought, be settled in favor of the accused by a decision rendered yesterday morning by Judge Stockbridge in the Criminal Court. The decision of Judge Stockbridge was a verdict of **not guilty** in the case of **Michael A. Manion**, one of the indicted election officials. **Mr. Manion** was a Democratic judge of election in the Eleventh precinct of the Thirteenth ward, one of the four precincts in which the ballots were not counted. He was indicted, with the other judges in the precinct, for an alleged unlawful and willful neglect of duty in failing to count the ballots and in failing to make duplicate returns of the vote.

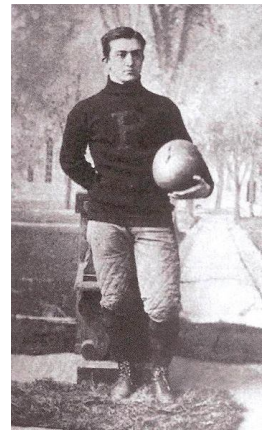
As stated in The Sun yesterday, the case turned upon the interpretation to be put upon the word "willful" in the election law. Judge Stockbridge decided that it must be interpreted to mean that the duty required by the law to be performed was neglected because of some bad or evil motive. No such motive having been shown by the testimony in the case, **Mr. Manion** was acquitted.

Mr. Poe To Examine Testimony

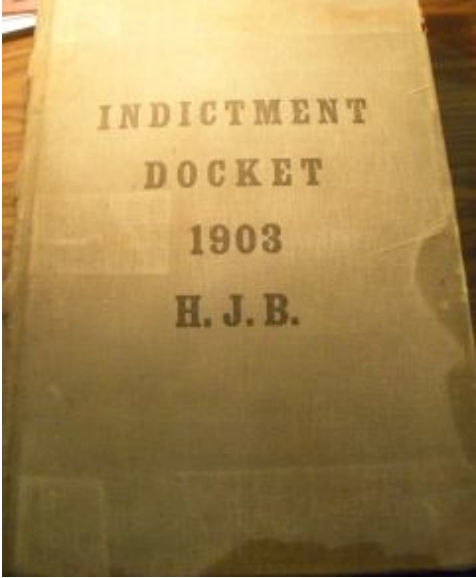
State's Attorney, **Edgar Allan Poe** said after the verdict had been rendered that he will confess not guilty in all the other cases unless there is some difference between the testimony in them and that in **Mr. Manion's** case. For this purpose Mr. Poe will examine the testimony in the other cases. Counsel for the defense said that all the cases are on the same footing, and that the decision in **Mr. Manion's** case will control all the others, as none of the accused acted from any bad motive.

From Wikipedia:

Edgar Allan Poe (September 15, 1871 to November 29, 1961) was **Attorney General of the State of Maryland** from 1911 to 1915. He was born in Baltimore, the son of former Maryland Attorney General John Prentiss Poe. He was named after his **granduncle**, the celebrated poet **Edgar Allan Poe**, who died in 1849.



The Maryland Hall of Records in Annapolis has the original Baltimore City Criminal Court records from 1903



Notice how Mike's name was spelled MANNION and then written as MANION in parenthesis underneath.

