

In Memoriam

Lorenzo Allis

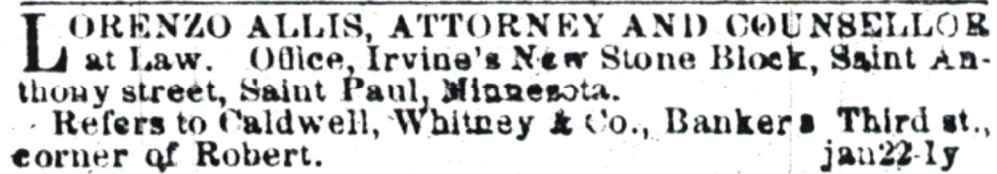
July 8, 1823 • March 26, 1883

**Ramsey County Bar Association
District Court
St. Paul, Minnesota**

May 5, 1883

Preface

In late 1856 Lorenzo Allis, a thirty-three year old journalist and member of the Louisiana bar, arrived with his family in St. Paul, Minnesota Territory, and began practicing law. Following the custom of the day, he placed his business card in *The Daily Pioneer and Democrat*.¹



LORENZO ALLIS, ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR
at Law. Office, Irvine's New Stone Block, Saint Anthony street, Saint Paul, Minnesota.
Refers to Caldwell, Whitney & Co., Bankers Third st., corner of Robert. jan22-ly

He had no experience practicing in a jurisdiction using the Field Code² but his exceptional legal skills were so evident that he soon found a partner, first Wheeler H. Peckham, later Henry Williams. They were joined by James Gilfillan and the firm, Allis, Williams & Gilfillan became a leading firm in the city in the 1860s. After Gilfillan's brief service as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (July 1869 to January 1870), he returned to the firm; in 1875, when he was appointed a second time to the Court, Allis and his son Frederick formed Allis & Allis, the family firm that operated until dissolved by his death in 1883.

It was not unusual for lawyers in the early decades of the state to become journalists and newspaper publishers,³ and so, for a while, in the late 1850s Allis was an editorial writer for the St. Paul *Pioneer*. His writings were admired for their literary quality. But financial success was not elusive. In 1865, he was one of the original investors in the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company, which became one of the state's most famous corporations.⁴ His health

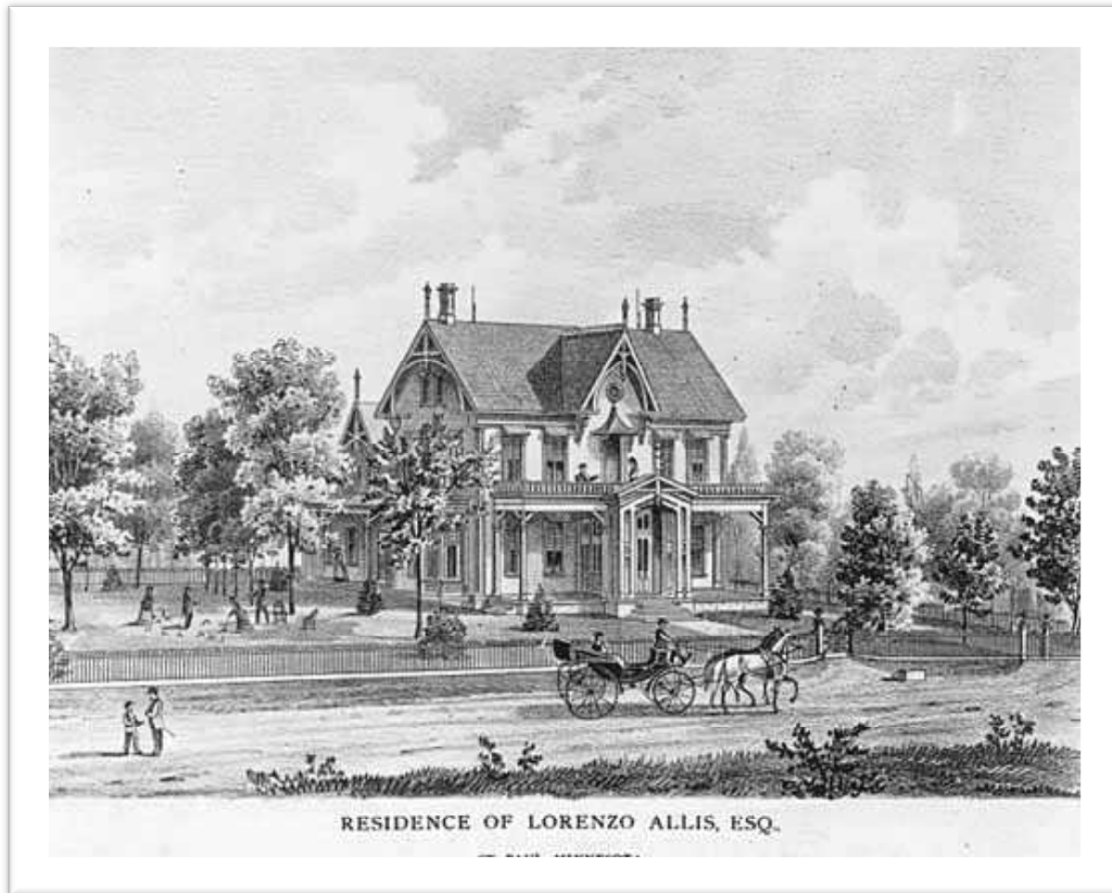
¹ *The Daily Pioneer and Democrat*, September 4, 1857, at 1 (enlarged). The territorial newspapers published lawyers' cards in one vertical column on the left side of the front page.

² Minn. Terr. Rev. Stat., ch. 70, at 329 (1851). Further revisions to the Code were made in the 1852 legislative session. Minnesota was the sixth jurisdiction to adopt a variation of the Field Code. Charles M. Hepburn, *The Historical Development of Code Pleading in England and America* 98-99 (1897)(republished, Law Book Exchange, 2004).

³ For a discussion of lawyers who were also journalists in the territorial period, see Douglas A. Hedin, "Lawyers and 'Booster Literature' in the Early Territorial Period" 16-19 (MLHP, 2008).

⁴ *St. Cloud Democrat*, July 27, 1865, at 4 (Advertisement listing original stockholders in the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company).

was never robust and he found some relief from chronic illnesses at home. The family residence in St. Paul was featured in a path-breaking atlas, *An Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota* by Alfred T. Andreas, published in 1874.⁵



He was a leader of the city bar, and just two weeks before death joined other prominent barristers in forming the Ramsey County Bar Association. The *Globe* carried the story:

Articles of incorporation of the Ramsey County Bar association were filed with the secretary of state yesterday. All members of the legal profession in good standing and residing in Ramsey county may become members upon the payment of an admission fee of \$5, and thereafter \$5 annually. The first officers are: H. R. Bige-

⁵ Digitalized by the Minnesota Historical Society through a taxpayers' funded grant from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

low, president; vice president, I. V. D. Heard; secretary, R. B. Galusha; treasurer, H. J. Horn; directors, H. R. Bigelow, I. V. D. Heard, R. B. Galusha, H. J. Horn, G. L. Otis, Lorenzo Allis, H. F. Stevens.⁶

He died on March 26, 1883, while visiting his daughter in Trenton, New Jersey. The family placed this notice in the *Globe*.⁷

DIED.

ALLIS—After many years struggle with disease, on March 26th, 1883, at Trenton, New Jersey, of pneumonia, Lorenzo Allis, Esq., of this city, in the 60th year of his age.

Funeral services in the Church of the Good Shepherd at 2 p. m. Saturday, March 31.

Be the day short or never so long,
At length it ringeth to even-song.

If Allis is remembered today, it is because of his association in private practice with future Chief Justice James Gilfillan. That, however, is not how his contemporaries viewed him. In the obituaries and memorials that follow the Chief Justice is mentioned in passing. Lorenzo Allis is remembered for his knowledge of the law, good judgment and perseverance and equanimity in the face of debilitating illnesses.

⁶ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, March 11, 1883, at 8.

⁷ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, March 31, 1883, at 8 (enlarged).

Obituary
St. Paul Daily Globe
March 27, 1883

LORENZO ALLIS.

**Sudden Death of One of the Eminent
Members of the St. Paul Bar.**

Readers of the *Globe* will be greatly surprised at the sad announcement we are called upon to make this morning of the death of Lorenzo Allis, one of the pioneer lawyers as well as one of the oldest and most respected residents of the city. The sad and unexpected event occurred at Trenton, New Jersey, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Frank DeCou, to visit whom he left St. Paul Sunday the 18th. At the time he left, and for some time before Mr. Allis had been in the enjoyment of better health than usual, and his family have had no intimation that he was ill until the reception of a telegram yesterday morning that he was very sick, which was followed by another telegram received about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, announcing that he was dead. His disease was acute pneumonia, resulting, it is supposed, from a cold contracted on the journey.

Lorenzo Allis was a native of Vermont, and at the time of his death was in the sixtieth year of his age. He was a graduate of the Vermont university, going out of that institution with high honors. Soon after his graduation he married and went to New Orleans, La., for the practice of his profession, where he remained until October, 1856, when he returned to St. Paul where he has ever since resided. While residing in New Orleans his daughter, Mrs.

DeCou, whom he was visiting at the time of his death, and his eldest son, Frederick Allis, his law partner, were born.

Mr. Allis, immediately upon his arrival in St. Paul, took a commanding position in his profession, which he held to the time of his death. During his long and honorable practice here he has also been associated with the brightest lights of the St. Paul bar. His first partner was Wheeler H. Peckham, who was associated with Charles O'Connor in his great reform movement in New York city. Another partner was Mr. Henry Williams, now of the firm of Williams & Goodenew. Still later he was associated with Hon. James Gilfillan, present chief justice of the state supreme court, the partnership ending with Mr. Gilfillan's elevation to the position named. In 1874 he formed a partnership with his son, Mr. Frederick Allis, which has ever since continued.

Mr. Allis' wife survives him, and he also leaves in addition to the two children named—Frederick and Mrs. DeCou—two sons. Harold L. and Edward, two young men just verging upon men's estate, to whom his unexpected death is a terribly blow.

Mr. Allis was a most exemplary citizen, a devoted husband and a kind, indulgent and thoughtful father. His remains will be interred here, instructions having been tele-graphed last evening to have them embalmed and sent forward as quickly as possible. Upon its arrival the funeral will be announced.

Of Mr. Allis' legal ability and standing among his associates of the St. Paul and state bar, a friend who knew him long and well, writes:

“By the death of Mr. Allis the bar of the state loses one of its brightest ornaments. Of every branch of the learning within the profession he was a master, and to him, as much as to any one man do we owe the admirable and

conservative interpretation which our courts have to practice under the code system.”

Coming to the bar at New Orleans, among men who have attained a worldwide reputation as jurists, his training was such, that he at once took a leading place in equity and admiralty practice, in the United States courts and in our state courts always aiming to preserve the symmetry of the two systems of law and equity, while acting under statute, which in terms abolished all distinction between the two.

His arguments carried conviction of his complete command of the matter under discussion, his absorption in the case and full belief in the propositions laid down. In person, character of mind, and mode of presenting legal questions at the bar, he resembled Mr. Wm. M. Evarts more than any other of the leading lawyers of the day.

We will not fully know, perhaps, until more are gone, the really great lawyers of the early Ramsey county bar, men who would rank among the best at any bar, and among them will forever stand, as a leader among leaders, he of whom these lines are written.⁸

Editorial
St. Paul Daily Globe
March 27, 1883

The death of Lorenzo Allis Esq., came with a suddenness which made the shock unexpectedly severe. Mr. Allis was a cultured gentleman, an able attorney and an upright citizen. He was conservative in politics and of a retiring disposition, which in this era where it is every man for himself, did not give him prominence in public affairs. He

⁸ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, March 27, 1883, at 5.

occupied the station of an honorable private citizen, which is far more royal than begged or purchased political honors. His death breaks the ranks of the St. Paul bar and inflicts a severe loss upon the profession, the church in which he was active and the community.⁹

Obituary
St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press
March 27, 1883

Death of Lorenzo Allis

**Decease Occurs in the Residence of His
Daughter in Trenton, N. J., from Pneumonia —
Sketch of a Cheerful and Valuable Life.**

Lorenzo Allis, for the past twenty-five years a prominent member of the St. Paul bar, died rather suddenly yesterday, while visiting his daughter, Mrs. Franklin DeCou, in Trenton, N. J. Mr. Allis left here Sunday week and though apparently in as good health, the trip was made at the earnest request of Dr. Hand, the family physician. Though Mr. Allis made no complaints whatever, his close application to business during the past two years rendered the trip imperative. Death was occasioned by a severe attack of pneumonia, supposed to have been contracted during his late journey, augmented by dyspepsia, from which Mr. Allis had been a sufferer for a number of years. Intelligence of his demise was a great shock to his family and friends in St. Paul, as the first intimation of his illness was only received yesterday morning. Frederick Allis, the dead lawyer's son and

⁹ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, March 27, 1883, at 4 (editorial).

associate in business, received a letter yesterday morning from his brother-in-law, Franklin DeCou, notifying him of his father's illness. The letter was followed by a night telegraphic message saying that Mr. Allis was dangerously ill, and at 2 o'clock a second telegram came, stating that death had occurred. Mr. Allis, in 1878, was obliged to give up the practice of his profession, owing to severe dyspepsia. After that year he resumed his practice and continued in his profession until he last left St. Paul.

The deceased was a born in Colchester, Chittenden County, VT., in 1824, and came from an old Puritanical stock of Vermont farmers. Mr. Allis' father, Orep Allis, was also born in Vermont, as was his father before him. The family originally came from Kent, in England, William Allis, the progenitor of the American branch of the family emigrating to America in the third voyage of the Mayflower, and landing in Salem, Mass. After receiving such education as was obtainable from the schools about his native place, the deceased was sent to the University of Vermont, where he several years later was graduated with honors. He then spent several years at home devoting his time to study. During this time he married Miss Mary Castle, and in the year 1845, removed to New Orleans and became associate editor of the Picayune. While practicing journalism he also read law and attended lectures at the University of Louisiana. After his graduation he gave up journalism and adopted the law as his profession. He continued a member of the New Orleans bar until the fall of 1856, when he left that city and came to St. Paul. Here he resumed his profession and continued his practice, with the exception of the year 1878, until the time of his death.

Mr. Allis was first associated as a lawyer with Wheeler H. Peckham, now a resident of New York, and then with Henry Williams. Chief Justice Gilfillan shortly after entered the firm and it continued Allis, Williams & Gilfillan, and until Mr. Gilfillan was called to the supreme bench. Mr.

Williamson then also withdrew, and shortly afterward Mr. Allis associated with him his son, Frederick Allis, the firm being known as Allis & Allis. Their offices were in room 39, Gilfillan's block.

Mrs. Allis and four children, Frederick, Mary, Edmund and Harold, survive and are now living in St. Paul. The deceased's mother, Mrs. Lucinda Allis, and three of her children, Edmund, Catherine and Pauline, are also living. They resided in Erie, Pa. No one went on to accompany the remains to St. Paul, and Mrs. DeCou will come with them from Trenton. The funeral will take place a day or two after their arrival from the residence of the widow, 529 Holly Ave. For several years past Mr. Allis has been a member of Mr. Pope's Church of the Good Shepherd, where in all probability the funeral services will be read. The interment will be made in the family's private lot in Oakland cemetery.

At the time of his death Mr. Allis was attorney for plaintiff in the O'Gorman – Richter contest. He was also consulting counsel for E. H. (sic) Julien Cox during impeachment trial, and has been connected with many important suits in St. Paul and elsewhere.

Gov. C. K. Davis, writing of Mr. Allis to the *Pioneer Press*, after recapitulating some of the facts above given, says of his personal character and professional standing:

“He was a cultivated gentleman, a polished scholar, and a good citizen; equal to any fortune, and bearing adversity with equanimity so philosophical that his cheerfulness in his last years of ill health was a most engaging trait of his character. His standing in the profession was well assured and defined. His learning was great, especially in equity and commercial law. What he knew (and he knew much), he knew how to use. Few lawyers had a readier control of the resources of their learning and experience, whether in the forecast of bringing or preparing suits or in

the sudden emergencies of a trial. He was, therefore, a formidable antagonist, and his efforts were always of assistance to the court. His death is a loss to the profession and community.”¹⁰

Funeral
St. Paul Daily Globe
April 1, 1883

Funeral of the Late Lorenzo Allis.

The funeral of Lorenzo Allis took place at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon from the Church of Good Shepherd, Rev. Wm. C. Pope, B. D., rector officiating, assisted by Rev. Dr. Knickerbocker, of Minneapolis, and Rev. Mahlon N. Gilbert and James St. Lawrence, of St. Paul.

The funeral cortege was received at the entrance to the church grounds by the officiating clergy, preceded by a choir of six boys in white surplices, headed by an acolyte bearing a cross and escorting within the sacred edifice, the choristers and clergy chanting the service as the sad procession moved along. They were followed by the casket containing the remains, borne by Judge James Gilfillan, H. L. Williams. James B. Beals, H. J. Horn, John E. Brisbin and H. E. Mann, the bereaved family following directly after.....¹¹

¹⁰ *St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press*, Tuesday, March 27, 1883 at 7.

¹¹ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, April 1, 1883, at 8 (funeral services omitted). Some readers may wonder why detailed accounts of funerals are posted in biographical sketches of lawyers and judges on this website. These accounts tell us the reactions of the bar, the bench and the public—who from the bar and bench turned out, the identities of the pallbearers, etcetera. In small towns and villages in the Nineteenth Century, the funeral notice sometimes stated that stores and courts were closed for the day or a few hours for the funeral.

Bar Memorial
St. Paul Daily Globe
May 6, 1883

Bar Memorial

On May 5, 1883, the Ramsey County Bar Association held a memorial service for three members who died recently: Lorenzo Allis, George L. Otis and Edmund R. Hollinshead. The following is the Bar Association's tribute to Allis that was printed in the *Globe* in its Sunday edition, May 6th:

DISTINGUISHED DEAD.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE RAMSEY
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION.**

**A Feeling Tribute to the Memory of Messrs.
Lorenzo Allis, Geo. L. Otis, and E. R. Hollinshead—
Resolutions and Biographical Memoirs.**

Pursuant to adjournment a meeting of the Ramsey County Bar association was held at the new district court room at 10 a. m. yesterday — the opening of the court in special term having been delayed for that purpose to hear the report of the committee named at a previous meeting to draft and present for consideration resolutions in memoriam of the late Lorenzo Allis, Geo. L. Otis and Edmund Hollinshead, members of the bar, deceased in the past few months. The association was called to order by its president, H. R. Bigelow, Esq., and in the absence of the secretary, Mr. Wm. H. Lightner was elected secretary pro tem. In calling the meeting to order, Mr. Bigelow simply stated its purpose, to hear the report of the

committee as above stated, when Mr. J. B. Brisbin of the committee, to whom had been assigned the duty of preparing a paper upon the life and services of

LORENZO ALLIS, ESQ.,

reported the following with the resolution attached.

Lorenzo Allis, Esq., was born in Colchester, Vt., in the year 1823. He was of English origin. The progenitors of the American branch of the family emigrating from Kent in England by the third voyage of the *Mayflower*, settled at Salem, Mass. Having received such preparatory education as the local schools of his native village afforded, he entered the University of Vermont in 1841, from which he was graduated with distinction in 1845. In the October following his graduation he removed to New Orleans. In 1846, returning to Vermont, he was married to Mary Castle, of Jericho, and at once returned to the city of his adoption. Immediately upon his arrival at New Orleans he was engaged as principal of the leading public school of the city, in addition to which he soon became associate editor of the *Picayune*, then as now, one of the leading and domineering journals of the South.

Besides the onerous and responsible duties imposed by his double occupation as teacher and editor, he commenced and pursued during the same period a course of legal studies, attending lectures at the university of Louisiana, from which he graduated in 1849, being at that time admitted to practice in the federal and state courts.

It is worthy of remark how soon this man of work began to overload a body fragile and prematurely infirm, and *to infer* what those who have been intimate with his career in Minnesota will avouch, that his life was only prolonged to three score years by an almost supernatural force of will, invigorating and stimulating a clean intellect, cheery

temperament and humanly speaking a pure life, which found its supreme pleasure in home and the congenial application to those pursuits which made that home a place "where home born joys did gather round his heart like swallows round his roof."

From this time forward Mr. Allis commenced the practice of law in connection with his duties upon the editorial staff of the *Picayune* until late in the summer of 1856—when nerved by the climate and debilitated by overwork, his health entirely failing, he was forced from a chosen and congenial home at a time when his labors had flowered to adequate and established success, to renew his battle and repeat his struggles in Minnesota.

The writer of this brief and wholly inadequate memoir remembers well his arrival at the Winslow house in St. Paul, with his wife, now his grieving widow, and his two oldest children, now Frederick Allis, Esq., and Mrs. Franklin DeCou, and also vividly recalls the predictions of his new found friends that his enfeebled constitution would soon break under the vigors of a northern climate. Not so thought Mr. Allis. The power of will was pre-eminently his, and the future led him "like a heavenly star."

Having been educated in the jurisdiction of the civil, preparation was needed to equip him for entering into the domain of the common law. This preparation was at once begun. He however, had the advantage of the comparative poverty which compelled him to other activities. Making the acquaintance of Earle S. Goodrich, then editor of the St. Paul *Pioneer*, he was employed as an editorial writer upon that journal, which was then, as now, a distinguished newspaper. The articles contributed by Mr. Allis during the autumn and winter of 1856-7 will compare most favorably with any which have adorned that journal or its successor, the *Pioneer Press*. His style was terse, chaste and classic, and his matter larger in its discourse,

and more philosophical in its insight than usually characterizes newspaper articles. They were also trenchant, pungent and attractive to the general reader.

In the spring of 1857, he went to the active practice of his profession "*teres atque rotundus*,"¹² fully organized and took his rank among the leaders at the threshold of his career in Minnesota. Although not what is called a man of genius, his wonderful popularly, acuteness usually command of all his resources, his various information and scholarship, his thorough knowledge of the science of trials and dialectics, added to his profound comprehension of principles, released him from the prolonged drudgery of preparation for his labor, on what was at that time to him an untraveled road of jurisprudence and made him a dangerous adversary from his first entrance into the arena of forensic trial and debate. It may perhaps, not inaptly be said of him as was said of a greater than he: "He did not invoke the keepers of knowledge to let him into their secrets but marched straight into their wide domains, as if to the possession of his native rights."¹³

Mr. Allis' career at the bar of this district is two (sic) familiar to need recapitulation. It is our common heritage and property, an inseparable part of the brief but not immemorable history of the Minnesota bar. The youth of our jurisprudence and the comparatively local character of our litigation make it difficult to cite conspicuous cases and it might be invidious to do so.

For many years Mr. Allis was alone in business. He has successively been a member of the firm of Allis & Peckham, Allis & Williams, Allis, Gilfillan & Williams, and ultimately of Allis & Allis, the latter, his son, who survives him. He acquired a fortune by his practice, but in the disastrous year of 1874 it took wings and left him comparatively poor. Such adversity, however, had no

¹² Translation: "polished and round."

¹³ Calvin Colton, 1 *The Life and Times of Henry Clay* 23 (New York, 1846).

intimidation for him. His buoyant will forever lifted him above the reach of "clouds and storms." Most of us with his broken health and waning years would have deserted the field, but his signals went up for "closer battle." In 1878 his health completely failed. To adopt the language of Mrs. Allis, who kindly furnished me data for this memoir, "it was only his indomitable will and unyielding energy that brought him through the awful year of 1878."

He partially regained his health and resumed his work. After a winter of unusual activity he sought relaxation and rest at the home of his daughter, Mrs. DeCou of Trenton, N. J., in whose arms and near whose heart he died. The man of work, the man of duty, died as he had lived "with an unflinching trust," the calmness of a philosopher and the faith of a Christian.

Resolved, That in the death of the late Lorenzo Allis, Esq., the public and the bar of Minnesota have suffered a great bereavement.

Resolved, That uncommon intellectual gifts, a thoughtful and studious temperament, unusual industry, with the furniture of general scholarship, a large and severe legal training, strengthened and rounded by an extensive practice in the courts of first and last resort—surmounted by the coronal of a virtuous character, carried him to the summit of his profession in the state, and equipped our deceased brother with the graces which compel the preservation of his memory as a conspicuous example of social, civic and professional excellence.

Resolved, That his heroic battle with an inferior constitution, throughout his entire career among us, and his apparent recovery of health within the past few years, giving promise of continued activity and usefulness to a ripe old age, his sudden death gave a shock of sorrow and surprise at once to the public and his brethren of the profession, among whom he had so long moved and acted as a pattern gentleman and lawyer.

Resolved, That we sorrow with his bereaved family, and while commending each member to the care of him who "gave and hath taken away," we offer them the assurance of our sincere sympathy.

Tears for the sorrowful, freely be shed,
Tears for the sorrowful, tears for the dead.¹⁴

Resolved, That these resolutions be engrossed and a copy presented to the family of the deceased and that they be reported to the district court of Ramsey county, and the supreme court of the state, with a request that they be made records of these courts.

John B. Brisbin, Chairman.
James B. Beals,
C. K. Davis,
Greenleaf Clark,
James Smith, Jr.,
Committee.

HON. WESTCOTT WILKIN, senior judge, spoke substantially as follows:

The court will direct the resolution of the bar and the accompanying memorials to be entered upon its minutes, In so doing, we desire to express our profound sympathy with the members of the bar in the grief which they feel for the loss of our distinguished brethren, and our full concurrence in the sentiments of respect for their memory expressed in those resolutions and memorials.

Messrs. Allis and Otis had long and honorable careers as practitioners at this bar. Both were men of eminent ability. They were also men of varied attainments and profoundly learned in the profession to which they belonged. They were men of research, laboriously and conscientiously discharge-ing their duties to the clients whose interests

¹⁴ Charles Whittlesey Camp, "A Vision of Life" (1844).

were entrusted to their care. The court has been often instructed by their arguments, and greatly aided in the discharge of its duties by their professional efforts. They were men too whose influence was largely felt, and whose loss will long be deplored in the community with which their interests were so long identified.¹⁵

Appendix

The Will of Lorenzo Allis was published in the *Globe* after it was filed with the Probate Court.

Mr. Allis' Will¹⁶

The will of the late Lorenzo Allis was filed for safe keeping in the office of the judge of probate yesterday and steps will be taken to-day probably to have it probated. It was executed in 1868, in St. Paul, in the presence of Henry L. Williams, Mark J. Leaming and Greenleaf Clark, and reads as follows:

In the name of God, amen. I, Lorenzo Allis, of the city of St. Paul, in the county of Ramsey, and state of Minnesota, of the age of forty-three years, and being of sound mind and memory, do make, publish and declare this my last will and testament in manner following, that is to say:

I give, bequeath and devise to my wife, Mary Castle Allis, her heirs and assigns, all my property, real and personal, of every name and nature and wheresoever situated; and I hereby appoint my said wife, Mary Castle Allis, sole executrix of this my last will and testament, and I hereby request that no bond be required of her the

¹⁵ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, May 6, 1883, at 6.

¹⁶ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, April 11, 1883, at 2.

faithful discharge of her duties as executrix as aforesaid, and I hereby revoke all former wills by me made.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25th day of August, A. D., eighteen hundred and sixty-eight.

Lorenzo Allis.

Thomas Newson painted the following sketch of Allis in *Pen Pictures*, a collection of brief biographies of early residents of St. Paul, published in 1886:¹⁷

LORENZO ALLIS.

Among the leading lawyers in his day in the city of St. Paul, was Lorenzo Allis, a delicate, light-complexioned gentleman, who came to this city from the South for his health and who immediately took rank as one of the bright lights in the legal fraternity.

He was born in Vermont in 1823, his ancestors having landed at Salem in the third voyage of the Mayflower in 1640; graduated from the university in 1845; married Miss Castle the same year; went to New Orleans where he practiced his profession and became one of the editors of the *Picayune*, at that time the leading and most powerful paper in the South, and from thence he came to St. Paul in 1856, where he practiced law for over a quarter of a century, being engaged in some of the greatest cases ever brought before our courts.

He was what I would call "a clean-cut lawyer," that is, he was analytic in his dissection of a case and moved

¹⁷ Thomas McLean Newson, *Pen Pictures of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Biographical Sketches of Old Settlers: From the Earliest Settlement of the City, Up to and Including the Year, 1857* 599-600 (1886)

forward in his argument with ideas rather than words. He was always in earnest, and I scarcely ever knew him to indulge in anything frivolous when before the jury or the judge. He was an industrious man and prepared his cases with great care. Withal he was a pure, good man. He was earnest, sometimes a little nervous over delays, and yet he has left an excellent record as a citizen and a lawyer.

His two sons, Frederick and Edmund Castle Allis, succeeded him in his law business and keep up the name of their father. The third son, Harold, is in the Quartermaster's Department. Mr. Allis died March, 1883, aged sixty years.



Posted MLHP: September 30, 2018.