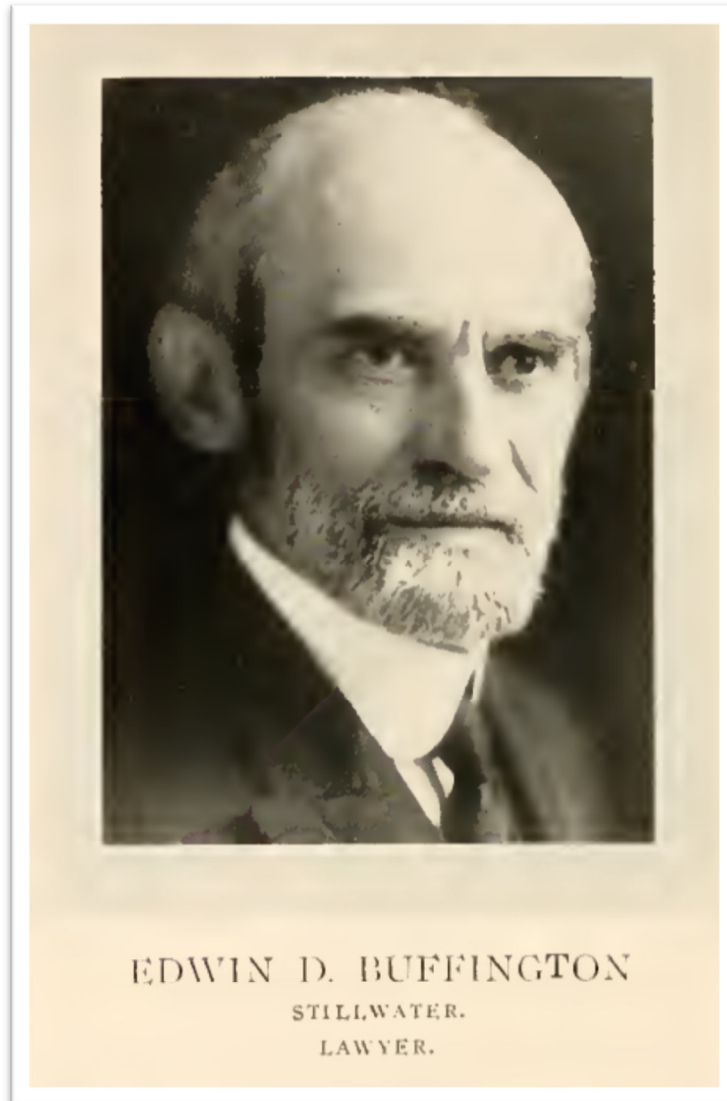


In Memoriam

Edwin D. Buffington

October 6, 1858 - January 26, 1931



**Washington County Bar Association
District Court
Nineteenth Judicial District
Stillwater, Minnesota
February 23, 1931**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON**

**DISTRICT COURT
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**IN THE MATTER OF A MEMORIAL
BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
OF THE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
TO THE LATE EDWIN D. BUFFINGTON**

**TO THE HONORABLE ALFRED P. STOLBERG
JUDGE OF THE ABOVE NAMED COURT:**



The Bar of this County on Monday evening, January 26, 1931, suddenly lost, by death, one of its long-time, dear and highly respected members — Edwin D. Buffington. His unexpected, quick departure from this world startlingly emphasized to those of us who remain and practice before this Court that we serve, not only this Court and clients and litigants who seek our services, but that all of us are daily serving a Higher Master to whom we must eventually make a final accounting and ever be prepared and ready so as to do without any or with very little notice.

**“To die is landing on some silent shore
Where billows never break nor tempests roar;
Ere well we feel the friendly stroke, ‘tis o’er.”**

We mourn the sudden passing of our former associate in the profession but we rejoice in the knowledge that he always so practiced before this

Court and always so conducted himself in his relation and business with others that he stood prepared without notice to render to his Master a splendid account of his stewardship among his fellow man on earth.

Edwin D. Buffington was born on October 6th, 1858, at Warren, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. Shortly, thereafter, his family moved to Towanda, the county seat of Bradford county, where young Buffington attended the public schools. Later he graduated from the Susquehanna, Collegiate Institute and then studied law with Messrs. Williams & Angle at Towanda and was duly admitted to the practice of law in Pennsylvania in 1880

After practicing a short time he was married on March 16, 1880 to Sarah K. Kinney in New York City. That same year, the young married couple moved West to Stillwater, Minnesota where Mr. Buffington became identified with the legal department of the Northwestern Manufacturing & Car Company and thereafter its successor companies, the Minnesota Thresher Manufacturing Company and the Northwest Thresher Company.

Later he devoted his entire time to the private practice of law in Stillwater, Minnesota and was in active practice in the city at the time of his death. In fact, he appeared before this Court at a special term thereof on the very morning of the day of his death. For the past twenty years he rendered meritorious service as a city attorney of Stillwater and held that office through change after change of administration. That demonstrated well his acknowledged capacity of being able to cooperate and work with men of different types and character.

This Court is familiar with the splendid services rendered by Mr. Buffington as a public official of the city of Stillwater and as a lawyer

before this Court representing private clients. Above all this Court doubtless appreciated that he was at all times perfectly frank and never misrepresented or attempted to conceal facts to gain any mean advantage for a client. He advocated and supported only an honest cause and strove to prevail through diligence and hard work. His integrity reflected credit to the Bar of this community and he was everywhere respected as an honorable counsel. He held high the ethics of his profession and the profession honored him for it.

He was a member of the American Bar Association; of the Minnesota State Bar Association of which he was for some time a member of the Board of Governors; of the Nineteenth Judicial Bar Association of which he was president in 1928 and of the Washington County Bar Association.

Mr. Buffington was a true, cultured, Christian gentleman. He enjoyed music, art and the better things of life. He loved his friends and his friends loved him. He was broad-minded and tolerant of other thoughts and creeds. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church of this City but also frequently attended other churches to obtain different viewpoints and beliefs.

He was a man who loved his family life and while his dear wife lived, he was a most devoted husband and always his first thoughts for her pleasure, comfort and welfare. He was not separated long however from her whom he loved so well, for it was but one short year ago this very day, that he suffered so in having lost, by death, temporarily his life companion.

Mr. Buffington was survived by his son, Gilbert Buffington of Duluth and by two grandchildren, Edwin C. Buffington and Virginia C. Buffington and by his brother, the Honorable George Buffington,

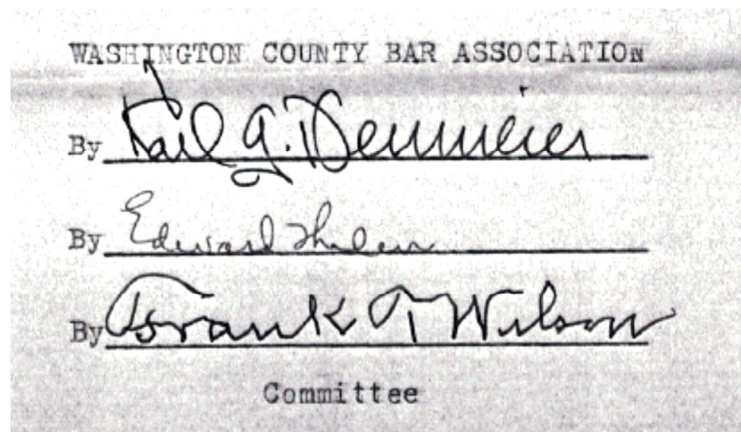
former judge of the District Court, County of Hennepin, State of Minnesota.

The members of this association have lost a man who added prestige to this Bar not only as a lawyer but as a gentleman. He was an adversary who fought hard but when the controversy was over, he was our friend and we loved him. In victory he was magnanimous and charitable; in defeat he was gracious and held no grudge. He was the kind of adversary that Shakespeare had in mind when he said:

“And do as adversaries do in law
Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends”.

NOW THEREFORE, we the undersigned committee appointed to this Court to present, on behalf of the Washington County Bar Association, a memorial in honor of the said Edwin D. Buffington respectfully present the foregoing to this Court for its consideration and pray that the same may be adopted and spread upon the records of this Court in loving memory of our departed friend and a copy hereof be sent by the clerk to Gilbert Buffington of Duluth and to the Honorable George Buffington of Minneapolis Minnesota.

Dated at Stillwater,
Minnesota, this 23rd day
of February, 1931.



WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
By Carl G. Demmeier
By Edward Johnson
By Frank A. Wilson
Committee

~~~~~

Credit

The photograph on the first page is from *Men of Minnesota* (1915).

Posted MLHP: July 5, 2020.