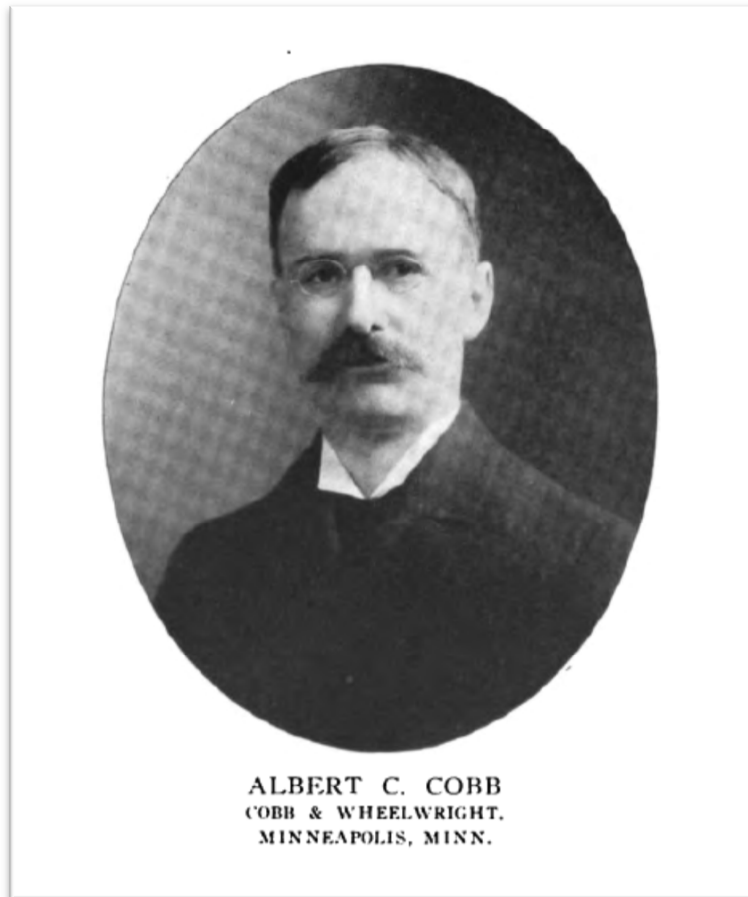


MEMORIAL
TO
ALBERT CLIFFORD COBB

August 27, 1860 • December 5, 1935



(1902)

**Hennepin County Bar Association
Special Term
District Court
Fourth Judicial District
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

February 8, 1936

Albert Clifford Cobb
(1860 – 1935)

It is indeed heartening to observe the splendid spirit of you members of the Bench and Bar demonstrated by your presence here together in reverent contemplation of the memories of our brothers of the profession who have gone before us. To us who know lawyers, this occasions no surprise, for we have all experienced the real worth and helpful fraternal feeling of the men who for the most part comprise our profession and, while there are those who misunderstand, it is a comforting thing to witness the unselfish devotion of you who have assembled here today, laying aside your own affairs to pay homage and respect to the memory of our dead.

As part of this ceremonial of thoughtfulness and remembrance I desire to present to you a memorial to Albert Clifford Cobb, my friend and senior partner of our firm, who answered the summons of his Maker December 5th, 1935.

Mr. Cobb was born in Rockland, Maine, August 27th, 1860, the son of Clifford Cobb and Hannah Hawkes Cobb. He was educated at Westbrook Seminary, Portland, and Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, graduating in 1881. Mr. Cobb secured his legal education by private study during the next three years and came to Minneapolis in 1884, was admitted to the Minnesota bar, and was active in the practice law until his death.

He married Annie Storer Littlefield September 15th, 1886, at Portland Maine, and his children, Frederick Littlefield Cobb, Mrs. Helen C. Martin and Miss Marion Clifford Cobb, together

with Mrs. Cobb, survive him. A daughter, Grace Manson Cobb, died in 1919.



(1902)

Early in his career he formed a partnership with the late J. O. P. Wheelwright, and this continued until Mr. Wheelwright's death in 1927. In 1923 the firm in which Mr. Cobb was senior partner, Cobb, Wheelwright & Benson, consolidated with the firm of Hoke, Krause and Faegre, becoming Cobb, Wheelwright, Hoke & Benson and upon Mr. Wheelwright's death, Cobb, Hoke, Benson, Krause & Faegre, of which Mr. Cobb was the active senior member until his death.

He was a director of the Northwestern National Bank and Trust Company of Minneapolis, Norwest Bancorporation, Minnesota Tribune Company, Manistique Pulp and Paper

Company, Minneapolis-Moline Power Implement Company, and Russell Miller Milling Company. Mr. Cobb was a member of the Church of the Redeemer and for many years before his death served as President and Trustee of the First Universalist Society. Although never active in politics, he was a lifelong Republican and deeply interested in governmental and public affairs. He was a member of the Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota, and American Bar Associations, of the Minneapolis and Minikahda Club, Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity and of the Minnesota Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

Yet biographical details do not portray the personality of the man. And we must go further to do him justice.

If I were asked to select a man whose life was an example of a good lawyer and kindly gentlemen, I could think of no more fitting exemplar than Mr. Cobb. He embodied the finest elements of the profession, combining honesty and devotion to what was right with wisdom and a saving sense of humor, and while his modesty and gentleness kept him from the focus of publicity, he gained and held the unwavering respect of all who knew him. His high ethical concepts were not simply adjuncts acquired as a code of professional duties but were part of his very being and were natural to him. His kindly wit and winning smile set at ease those who came in their troubles to consult him and who took comfort in the realization that they had found not only a counselor but a friend. His disarming and infectious sense of humor calmed many a headstrong litigant and encouraged the settlement of many a difficult controversy.

In quiet ways, never seeking but in fact forbidding public notice, he accomplished good deeds and charities of so widespread a character that they are known only in the eternal records of his Creator. He had a particular devotion to the cause of aiding lawyers who in their later years, had come upon privatization and want, and give generously to their aid

He was a devoted husband and father and was never happier than when he could share the company of his loved ones and that of his grandsons, who seemed to bring back to him the memories of his boyhood and college days. He took great pleasure in attending a hotly contested baseball game and pointing out to these young men the fine points of the game. He was human and approachable in a thoroughly democratic way, and while he gave counsel he welcomed sincerely the views of younger men.

No greater fame can man achieve than to become enshrined in the affections of those with whom he has labored. The lettered marble and graven plaque, crowded with accomplishments of a lifetime, can not equal the deep-seated writing in our very hearts that records our love and respect for one who so richly merits it, and for one who was loyal though the cost was very great.

Such a man was Albert Clifford Cobb and in his death our profession and this community have lost a true and noble friend.

Raymond A. Scallen

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Appendix

Obituary,
Minneapolis Journal,
December 5, 1935

Albert C. Cobb Dead; Rites Set For Tomorrow

Veteran Lawyer, in City for
Half Century, Active
in Many Circles

Albert C. Cobb, 75 years old, for many years prominent in the legal and business life of Minneapolis, died early today at his home, 1783 Colfax avenue S. after a brief illness. He had been ill only a few days. The members of his family were at his bedside when death came.

Mr. Cobb had been a resident of Minneapolis for more than 50 years coming to the city from the east almost immediately after he had acquired his legal training.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. tomorrow at Lakewood chapel. Burial will be in Lakewood Cemetery.

Mr. Cobb was born at Rockland, Maine, August 27, 1860, the son of John Clifford and Hanna Hawkes Cobb. He received his early education in Westbrook Seminary at Portland, Me., and then entered Bowdoin college at Brunswick, Mr. from which he was graduated in 1881. He

obtained his legal education in private study in the three years following his graduation from college. Immediately after he came to Minneapolis, arriving here in 1884. He was admitted to the practice of law at the Minnesota bar.

Shortly after he had started practicing law Mr. Cobb formed a partnership with the late J. O. P. Wheelwright. The firm name was known as Cobb, Wheelwright and Benson, with Mr. Cobb as the senior member.

WAS HEAD OF FIRM

In 1923 this firm was consolidated with that of Hoke, Krause & Faegre, another of the city's well-known law firms, to form the firm of Cobb, Hoke, Benson, Krause & Faegre, which is one of the largest legal organizations in the city. Mr. Cobb was the head of the firm at the time of his death.

Mr. Cobb had been active in the legal practice and in his duties as head of the firm until his last illness.

In addition to his extensive legal work, Mr. Cobb had a large number of business and financial interests. He devoted a considerable portion of his time to these other activities.

DIRECTOR IN SEVERAL GROUPS

He was a director of the Northwestern National Bank & Trust Company, the Northwest Bancorporation, the Minnesota Tribune Company, the Manistique Pulp and Paper Company, the Minneapolis-Moline Power Implement Company and the Russell-Miller Milling Company.

Mr. Cobb was a member of the Church of the Redeemer and for many years had served as a trustee for the First Universalist Society. He was a lifelong republican, although never taking an active part in politics. He was, however, deeply interested in governmental and civic affairs.

MEMBER OF TWO CLUBS

He was a member of the Minneapolis and Minikahda clubs, the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity and the Minnesota Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

Mr. Cobb married Annie Littlefield at Portland, Me., on September 15, 1886. Mrs. Cobb survives him, also one son, Frederick Littlefield Cobb of Green Bay, Wis.; two daughters, Mrs. Helen Martin of Minneapolis and Miss Marion Clifford Cobb of New York, and grandchildren.¹



Editorial,
Minneapolis Tribune,
December 6, 1935

Albert C. Cobb lived a full life which reflected, in all its solidness and substance, his loyalty to fine ideals. For him, compromise with those ideals was impossible. He held to them unswervingly, wherever he turned; nothing which engaged his singular abilities lacked the evidence of his devotion to professional and intellectual honesty. It was his deep conviction that no professional or personal success was

¹ A photograph is omitted. The photograph on the front page is from *Notable Lawyers of the West* (1902), that on page 3 is from *Men of Minnesota* (1902).

worth having, no victory worth winning, which involved the sacrifice of intellectual integrity. This philosophy, this basic honesty, was the foundation of his whole life, and gave a continuous luster to it. It dominated his long career as an attorney and in the field of business and finance, where his responsibilities were great, it was a quickening motivating force.

Mr. Cobb was held in the highest esteem by the legal profession, and with good reason. His word was as good as his opinion. For more than 50 years he generously lived up to the best traditions of his profession and honored it with loyal, conscientious, though anonymous service. He brought to it, in addition to a keen and successful intellect, his unswerving principles of right and wrong. To him wrong was never worth discussion. In the business world, his judgment was nationally respected and his counsels widely sought. As a good citizen, he took an alert and intelligent, but ever a retiring interest in public affairs. He possessed, in generous degree, the qualities which made devoted friends a fine urbanity, a cultured wit, and he inspired warm affection and universal respect.

Mr. Cobb was a director of the Minnesota Tribune Company and the Tribune feels, in his death, a sense of personal loss which it is not easy to express. It was characteristic of his fine honesty that he never in all of his years of directorship, even by hint, attempted to influence the editorial policy of this newspaper. Minneapolis is poorer today because his distinguished career is at an end; but the memories of so fine a gentleman and friend will long continue to enrich it. He was in every respect the beau ideal

of the legal profession, who lived a long and active life without fear and without reproach.



The following profile of Cobb's firm was published in James Clark Fifield, ed., *The American Bar: Contemporary Lawyers of the United States and Canada* 334 (1918):

COBB, WHEELWRIGHT & DILLE

General practice. Firm consists of: A. C. Cobb, J. O. P. Wheelwright, John I. Dille, John C. Benson.

Albert Clifford Cobb, b. Rockford, Me., Aug. 27, 1860; a. to bar, 1884, Me.; ed. pub. schs., Portland, Me.; grad. Bowdoin College, A.B., 1881; legal ed. private study. Mem. Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity; Minneapolis, Minn. State, and American Bar Ass'ns.

John Oliver Patten Wheelwright, b. Bethel, Maine, April 24, 1861; a. to bar, 1883, Maine; ed. pub. schs., Waterville and Brunswick, Me.; grad. Bowdoin College, A.B., A.M., 1881; legal ed. private study. Mem. Psi Upsilon fraternity; Minneapolis, Minn. State, and American Bar Ass'ns.

John Ichabod Dille, b. Huntington, Ind., Nov. 18, 1857; a. to bar, 1882, Ind.; legal ed. Ind. Univ., LL.B., Univ. of Oklahoma, LL.D. Mem. Minneapolis, Minn. State, and American Bar Ass'ns.

John Cabot Benson, b. Heron Lake, Minn., Feb. 27, 1890; a. to bar, 1912, Minn.; ed. Hamline Univ.; legal ed. Univ. of Wis., Univ. of Minn., LL.B., 1912. Mem. Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Phi Delta Phi fraternities; Minneapolis, Minn. State, and American Bar Ass'ns.

Firm is counsel for: Minnesota Loan & Trust Co., Minneapolis Gas Light Co., Northwestern Telephone Exchange Co., Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Co., Great Northern Ry. Co.



This profile of the firm appeared in James Clark Fifield, ed., *The American Bar: Contemporary Lawyers of the United States and Canada* 503-504 (1922):

COBB, WHEELWRIGHT & BENSON

General practice. Firm consists of: Albert C. Cobb, J. O. P. Wheelwright, John C. Benson. Associates: Raymond A. Scallen, Cecil E. Warner.

Albert Clifford Cobb, b. Rockland, Me., Aug. 27, 1860; a. to bar, 1884, Me.; ed. pub. schs., Portland, Me.; grad. Bowdoin College, A.B., 1881; legal ed. priv. study. Mem. Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity; Minneapolis, Minn. State, and American Bar Ass'ns.

John Oliver Patten Wheelwright, b. Bethel, Me., April 24, 1861; a. to bar, 1883, Me.; ed. pub. schs., Waterville and Brunswick, Me.; grad. Bowdoin College, A.B., A.M., 1881; legal ed. priv. study. Mem. Psi Upsilon fraternity; Minneapolis, Minn. State, and American Bar Ass'ns.

John Cabot Benson, b. Heron Lake, Minn., Feb. 27, 1890; a. to bar, 1912, Minn.; ed. Hamline Univ.; legal ed. Univ. of Wis., Univ. of Minn., LL.B., 1912. Mem. Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Phi Delta Phi fraternities; Minneapolis, Minn. State, and American Bar Ass'ns.

Raymond A. Scallen, b. Minneapolis, Minn., May 13, 1892; a. to bar, 1915, Minn.; ed. parochial schs., Minneapolis; grad. College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn., 1912; legal ed. special course for American Army students, Law College, Univ. of Paris, 1919, St. Paul College of Law, St. Paul, Minn., LL.B. Captain, U. S. Army, 1917-1919. Mem. Delta Theta Phi fraternity; Hennepin Co., and Minn. State Bar Ass'ns.

Cecil Elisha Warner, b. Circleville, O., Nov. 28, 1881; a. to bar, 1907, Ohio, 1911, Minn.; ed. pub. schs., Ohio; grad. Ohio State Univ., A.M., 1908; legal ed. Univ. of Minn., LL.M., 1911. Mem. Hennepin Co. Bar Ass'n.

Firm is counsel for: Minn. Loan & Trust Co.; Minneapolis Gas Light Co.; Northwestern Tel. Exchange Co.; Minneapolis Steel & Mach. Co.

Office: 812 Andrus Bldg.

Related Article

“John Oliver Patten Wheelwright (1861-1927)” (MLHP, 2019).

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Posted MLHP: July 1, 2019.