

# **"Courts and Counsel During Twenty-Five Years"**

**The Minneapolis Journal - Silver Anniversary Edition  
November 26, 1903**

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## **Foreword**

**By**

**Douglas A. Hedin**  
Editor, MLHP

**In 1891 the *Minneapolis Journal* published *Illustrated Minneapolis: A Souvenir of the Minneapolis Journal*, a hard-bound, oversized book. The chapter on "The Courts and Bar of Hennepin County" consisted of sketches of 38 lawyers. Twelve years later, the *Journal* published a "silver anniversary edition" as a supplement to its regular edition on Thursday evening November 26, 1903. The "silver edition" had sections devoted to professions, industries and resources of the city, but unlike its predecessor its section on the legal community did not have profiles of lawyers. Instead it consisted of three full pages: first a page of photographs of "Representative Members of the Bench and Bar of Hennepin County" (reduced in the following article); next a page of business cards of sixty "Representative Law Firms of Hennepin County" in a uniform design (enlarged); and finally a page of history headlined "History of the Bench and Bar." The subtitle —"Courts and Counsel During Twenty-Five Years"— is more accurate and is preferred here. It follows. It has been reformatted; the drawing of a courtroom scene and photographs of supreme court and district court judges have been rearranged.**



REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS  
*of the*  
**BENCH AND BAR**  
*of*  
**HENNEPIN COUNTY.**

1—Julius Charles B. Elliott.  
 2—John Charles B. Ford.  
 3—John Charles B. Ford.  
 4—John Charles B. Ford.

5—John B. Brown.  
 6—John B. Brown.  
 7—John B. Brown.  
 8—John B. Brown.

9—Harry J. Givens.  
 10—Harry J. Givens.  
 11—Harry J. Givens.  
 12—Harry J. Givens.

13—Edward M. Johnson.  
 14—Edward M. Johnson.  
 15—Edward M. Johnson.  
 16—Edward M. Johnson.

17—Charles L. Smith.  
 18—Charles L. Smith.  
 19—Charles L. Smith.  
 20—Charles L. Smith.

21—Frank M. Wye.  
 22—Frank M. Wye.  
 23—Frank M. Wye.  
 24—Frank M. Wye.

25—Wood H. Moore.  
 26—Wood H. Moore.  
 27—Wood H. Moore.  
 28—Wood H. Moore.

29—F. G. Harper.  
 30—F. G. Harper.  
 31—F. G. Harper.  
 32—F. G. Harper.

33—Charles A. Fiske.  
 34—Charles A. Fiske.  
 35—Charles A. Fiske.  
 36—Charles A. Fiske.



# *Representative Law Firms of Hennepin County.*

<p><b>LARS M. RAND,</b> Attorney and Counselor at Law, 712 New York Life Building, Minneapolis, Minn.</p>	<p><b>FRED B. SNYDER,</b> Attorney, Minneapolis, Minn.</p>
<p><b>HARLAN P. ROBERTS,</b> Attorney at Law, 506 Bank of Commerce Building. Minneapolis - - - - - Minn.</p>	<p><b>CHARLES D. GOULD,</b> Attorney and Counselor, 522-523 Boston Block. Minneapolis, Minn.</p>
<p><b>JAMES D. SHEARER,</b> Attorney at Law, 517 First Avenue S, Guaranty Savings Building, Minneapolis, Minn.</p>	<p>Amasa C. Paul. Richard Paul. <b>PAUL &amp; PAUL,</b> Attorneys at Law. Patent and Trademark Causes. Solicitors of U. S. and Foreign Patents. Temple Court, Minneapolis. Norris Building, Washington. Cable Address: - - - - Trademark.</p>
<p>Telephone 3183-L-2 Main. <b>WILLIAM R. MORRIS,</b> Attorney at Law, 1020 Guaranty Loan Building. Residence, 8017 Second Avenue S. Minneapolis, Minn.</p>	<p><b>WEEB MUNRO,</b> Attorney and Counselor, Loan and Trust Building. Minneapolis, Minn.</p>
<p><b>WRIGHT &amp; MATCHAN,</b> Attorneys at Law, 810-11-12-13 Globe Building. N. W. 2145-J-2 Main. Minneapolis.</p>	<p><b>THOMAS A. GARRITY,</b> Lawyer. 300-301 The Phoenix, Minneapolis.</p>
<p>N. W. Main 1177. Twin City 48. <b>L. C. STEVENSON,</b> Attorney at Law, Suite 9 to 14 Loan and Trust Building. Minneapolis, Minn.</p>	<p>H. C. Belden. N. F. Hawley. <b>BELDEN &amp; HAWLEY,</b> Attorneys and Counselors at Law, 813 Nicollet Avenue. Minneapolis.</p>



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<p><del>JOHN G. BROWN &amp; CHARLES S. ALBERT,</del> 1004 Guaranty Loan Building, Minneapolis - - - - - Minn.</p>	<p>Frederick V. Brown, William A. Kerr, Edward F. Waite. <b>BROWN &amp; KERR,</b> Law Offices, Suite 708 Andrus Building. Minneapolis - - - - - Minn.</p>
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<p><b>F. A. GILMAN,</b> Attorney, 819-21 New York Life Building, Phone, N. W. 3303-J-1. Minneapolis, Minn.</p>	<p><b>CHARLES R. FOWLER,</b> Attorney and Counselor at Law, 23-28 Minnesota Loan &amp; Trust Co. Building. Minneapolis, Minn.</p>



## Representative Law Firms of Hennepin County.

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<p><b>M. F. HANLEY,</b> Attorney at Law, 305-7 Oneida Building. Minneapolis.</p>	<p><b>CHELSEA J. ROCKWOOD,</b> Lawyer, 1114 Lumber Exchange, Minneapolis - - - Minn.</p>	<p><b>F. W. BOOTH,</b> Lawyer, 243 Fourth Avenue S.</p>
<p><b>MR. HENRY J. GJERTSEN,</b> Attorney at Law, Minneapolis - - - - - Minn.</p>	<p><b>WILSON &amp; MEROER,</b> Lawyers, 333, 335, 337 Lumber Exchange, N. W. Telephone Main 1151.</p>	<p><b>EDWARD M. JOHNSON,</b> Lawyer, 236 Guaranty Building.</p>
<p>Law of Common Carriers a Specialty.</p> <p><b>GEORGE C. STILES,</b> Attorney at Law, 543-4 Andrus Building. Minneapolis, Minn.</p>	<p>Twin City Tel. 719. N. W. Main 2675-L.</p> <p><b>CHARLES B. HOLMES,</b> Attorney at Law, 1022 Guaranty Building, Minneapolis - - - - - Minn.</p>	<p><b>JOHN OROSBY,</b> Lawyer, 211 New York Life Building.</p>
<p>Tel., Twin City 157L.</p> <p><b>M. C. BRADY,</b> Attorney at Law, 219-220 Bank of Commerce. Minneapolis.</p>	<p>Albert H. Hall. Robert S. Kolliner.</p> <p><b>HALL &amp; KOLLINER,</b> Attorneys and Counselors, 723-726 New York Life Building, Minneapolis - - - - - Minn.</p>	<p><b>D. B. SEARLE,</b> Lawyer, St. Cloud, Minn.</p>
<p><b>CHAS. G. LAYBOURN,</b> Lawyer. Offices: 324 New York Life Building, Minneapolis, Minn. Telephones: N. W. 2297-L Main; T. C. 231.</p>	<p>Victor J. Welch. Frank R. Hubachek.</p> <p><b>WELCH, HAYNE &amp; HUBACHEK,</b> Attorneys and Counselors, Telephone 788. Phoenix Building. Minneapolis.</p>	<p><b>EDSON S. GAYLORD,</b> Lawyer, 550 Temple Court.</p>



# Representative Law Firms of Hennepin County.

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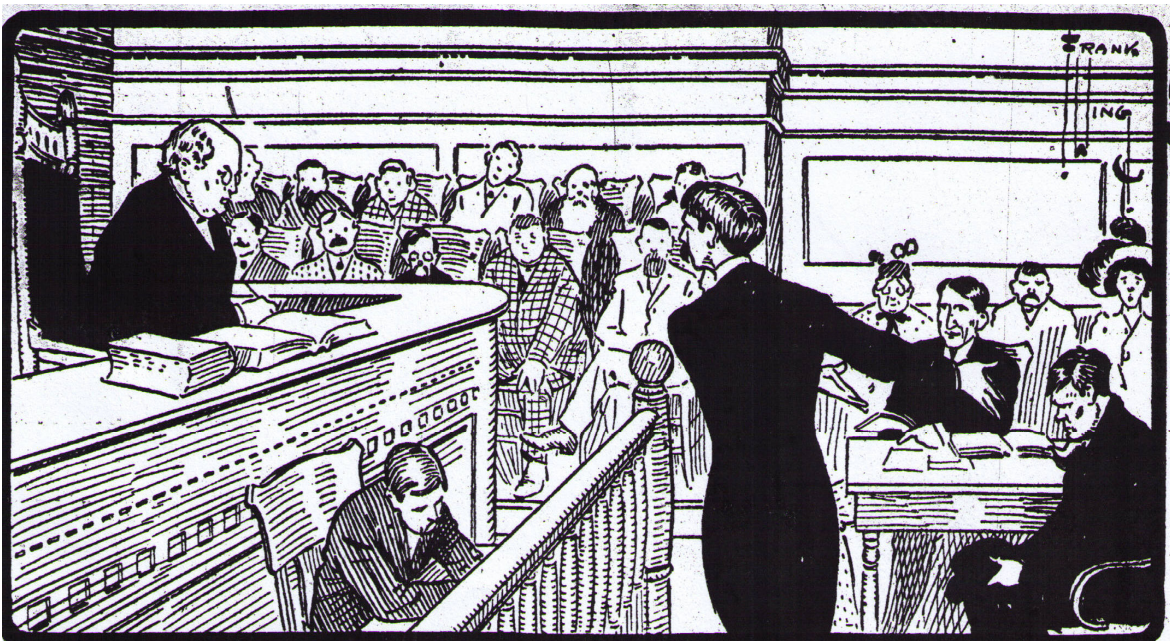
# HISTORY OF THE BENCH AND BAR



## COURTS AND COUNSEL —DURING— TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Early Events in the History of the Bench of  
Minnesota and Hennepin County.

Developments of the Quarter Century Now Ended —  
Interesting Story of the Legal Profession.



Until the organization of the late territory of Minnesota, in 1849, courts lying west of the St. Croix and lawyers played but an unimportant part in the history of the region now comprised within the state boundaries. It is true that for some seventy-five years what is now Minnesota had been under some sort of government and judicial authority. It had passed successively thru the administration of the British government and (after the Louisiana purchase) of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin territories but during the greater part of this period there had been no white population whatever to engage in legal proceedings or pleadings. The law of the land among the original redskins and the scattered white trappers and traders was that of might the strongest party to a dispute won his case by force of arms without reference to justice or equity.

Even when settlers began to arrive about 1820, and for some years thereafter, the people of Minnesota felt no particular need of judicial authority or legal counsel. Not until 1842 was any attempt to hold a term of court within the present confines of the state and this attempt proved a lamentable failure thru the entire absence of causes of issue or lawyers to plead. At this period the region lying between the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers was a part of St. Croix county, Wisconsin territory, and Judge Irwin of the territorial supreme bench, who was assigned to this session of court, traveled by steamer and on horseback to Stillwater, only to find that the frontier community had no need for his services. But, if the infant Minnesota was oblivious to the advantages of the legal system, it may at least be regarded as significant that one of the first arrivals in the state was a lawyer. Some of the members of the legal profession may also regard it as prophetic that this pioneer attorney, General H. H. Sibley, found little or no legal business to occupy his time and promptly turned his attention to more lucrative employment. General Sibley hung out his shingle in Mendota in 1835. Mendota was then the metropolis of the northwest a tiny village, but with promise of becoming a great city. It is now no larger than it was eighty years ago and has much less importance.

For a time General Sibley was a representative of legal authority thru a commission as justice of the peace—an office which was largely concerned in that day with the criminal business which might arise on the frontier. General Sibley always claimed, however, that the early days of Minnesota



were singularly free from that lawlessness which has characterized the settlement of some other western communities. This he attributed in part to the fact that California and other parts of the Pacific slope were being settled at the same time and that the gold fever attracted the rougher characters, who always seek the place of greatest excitement.

With the progress of years, the desirability of regular and complete judicial machinery was recognized, and in 1847 the first actual term of court was held. This was at Stillwater, and Judge Dunn, then chief justice of Wisconsin territory, presided. The courtroom was the store of one John McCusick. Here the first jury ever sworn in Minnesota deliberated after the manner of juries. The most important case was (appropriately enough in a country where the red men were vastly in the majority) one in which an Indian was defendant.

During the following year Wisconsin was admitted to the union, and for a time that part of the later territory lying west of the St. Croix was left without government of any kind, but the people adopted the theory that the admission of a part of a territory does not disorganize the remainder. They secured a proclamation of territorial government and sent General Sibley to congress as their representative, where after a brilliant fight he secured recognition and the speedy organization of a new territory. Thus Minnesota's first lawyer became her first representative at the national capital, her first champion for governmental rights, and undoubtedly her first citizen for the time being. No man was more influential in shaping the destinies of the embryo commonwealth.

### **Pioneer Lawyers.**

General Sibley enjoyed the distinction of being the only lawyer living west of the St. Croix until 1847, when Morton S. Wilkinson settled in Stillwater. He subsequently became a distinguished citizen and a lawyer of prominence and during the war represented the state as senator at Washington. The third lawyer to arrive in the state was Henry L. Moss, who came to Stillwater in 1848 and who was for many years a practicing attorney in St. Paul. David Lambert was the pioneer lawyer in St. Paul. He, with William D. Phillips and B. W. Lott, were the only lawyers to settle in St. Paul or the territory previous to organization in 1849.

## **Courts in Territorial Days.**

The act organizing the territory of Minnesota, which was approved March 3, 1849, provided that the judicial power of the territory should be vested in a supreme court, district courts, probate courts and justices of the peace. The first of these tribunals was constituted in the appointment by President Taylor of Aaron Goodrich of Tennessee as chief justice and David Cooper of Pennsylvania and B. B. Meeker of Kentucky as associate justices. Upon the arrival of Governor Ramsey he issued a proclamation dividing the state into three judicial districts, the first lying between the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, and the third composed of the remainder of the territory, or that part south of the Minnesota river. Judge Goodrich was assigned the first district, Judge Meeker to the second, and Judge Cooper to the third. Under these appointments and assignments the first term of court in the territory of Minnesota was held at Stillwater on the second Monday of August, 1849. Morton S. Wilkinson appeared as prosecuting attorney and Henry L. Moss was present as United States district attorney, to which office he had been appointed upon the territorial organization. At this time the first grand jury of Minnesota, was impaneled, and ten indictments were found. In all thirty-five cases were brought before the court.

But it would appear that the litigation and criminality of the young territory did not extend to the present Minneapolis at that time, for when the second district court was convened in the following week in the old government mill at the Falls of St. Anthony it was discovered that absolutely no cases were to be tried, while the first grand jury in this district could find nothing worth indictment. That was before the days of municipal graft. Franklin Steele, the St. Anthony pioneer, was foreman of this first grand jury.

General Sibley was foreman of the grand jury which convened in the third district but little work for judge or jury could be found in that part of the territory.

## **More Lawyers Arrive.**

The paucity of business before the courts, however, did not deter the legal fraternity from flocking to Minnesota. Michael E. Ames, Fred K. Bartlett, H. F. Masterson, Orlando Simons,



**George L. Becker and William Pitt Murray were among the earliest arrivals in the territorial days. Messrs. Masterson and Simons went into partnership in St. Paul, founding the first law firm in the state. Edmund Rice and Ellis G. Whitall soon afterwards formed another law firm, which became later Rice, Whitall & Becker.**

**In 1851 a distinguished group of men settled in the territory. Isaac Atwater came to Minneapolis, S. J. R. McMillan to Stillwater and Lafayette Emmett, R. R. Nelson and William H. Welch to St. Paul. All of these gentlemen afterwards became judges of the supreme court. Another famous character of the early days was Major Jacob J. Noah, who arrived in 1850 and took a prominent part in the affairs of the territory. Upon the organization of the state he became clerk of the supreme court.**

**In the early days most of the law business at St. Anthony was done by lawyers residing at St. Paul. Ellis G. Whitall was the first attorney to establish himself here. He came in 1849 and was followed in the next year by John W. North. Judge Isaac Atwater was the third lawyer to come here and the first to become a permanent resident and is, of course, the oldest lawyer in the city. For some years he has withdrawn from active practice, but still maintains an office which he visits daily. Soon after Judge Atwater came D. A. Secombe, who was a leading member of the bar until his death in 1892. In 1852 William H. Welch arrived in St. Anthony. As an instance of the opportunities for rapid advancement in the pioneer days it may be cited that Judge Welch was chosen justice of the peace and while in office was appointed to the supreme bench of the state. During the early fifties such well-known names as William Lochren, J. B. Gilfillan, F. R. E. Cornell, C. E. Vanderburgh, E. S. Jones, W. D. Washburn, R. J. Baldwin, W. W. McNair, L. M. Stewart and Eugene M. Wilson were added to the roll of the local bar. From this time on the rapid growth of the city and the numerous accessions to the bar make enumeration in detail impossible.**

### **Statehood Changes.**

**With the admission of Minnesota to statehood, in 1858, came many changes in the courts. The judicial office was made elective in every case. District courts were entirely separated from the supreme court — that is, supreme judges ceased to**

serve on the district bench. A more complete system was established in all departments of the judicial framework of the state. During the first year of statehood eighty-nine lawyers were enrolled in the office of the clerk of the supreme court as recognized members of the bar of the state. This number increased very rapidly with the constant growth of population. Six judicial districts were created by the state constitution. Provision was also made for the establishment of other courts at the pleasure of the legislature. This power led later to the establishment of courts of common pleas and municipal courts.





## **The Supreme Court.**

**The first chief justice of the Minnesota supreme court under the state constitution was Lafayette Emmett and associated with him on the bench were Charles E. Flandrau and Isaac Atwater. The latter two were succeeded in 1864 by Thomas Wilson and S. J. R. McMillan, and during the same year, when Judge Wilson was advanced to the chief justiceship, John M. Berry was made, associate. After this, distinguished names are found one after another in the roll of the supreme bench. The state was ably served by James Gilfillan, Christopher G. Ripley, F. R. E. Cornell and others of repute in these early days.**

## **Hennepin County Courts.**

**As has been stated, the first term of court ever convened in what is now Hennepin county was the territorial district court of 1849. Possibly the lack of business discouraged the bench, for the old records show little attention to district court matters for some years thereafter. But the people had a justice of the peace, and to him they carried their local litigation, evidently to their own satisfaction. The justice best loved in the pioneer days was the renowned Lardner Bostwick, who, without legal knowledge, but with honesty and love of justice, meted out equity after his own fashion for many years. Many important questions involving matters quite beyond the jurisdiction of a justice court were taken up, unquestioned, in those days, and the decisions of the justices' were allowed to stand as final in most cases. Judge Bostwick's court was held in a small frame building at the corner of Main street and Second avenue NE.**

**In 1853 the territorial legislature passed an act directing that two terms of court be held each year in Hennepin county. The first term held pursuant to this law convened on April 4, 1853. There was, of course, no courthouse, and the commissioners secured the use of a parlor and two bedrooms in the house of Anson Northrup, on First street, near Fourth avenue S. At this term the lawyers present were Isaac Atwater, D. A. Secombe, E. L. Hall, James H. Fridley and George W. Prescott. The county attorney was Warren Bristol, who was the only lawyer present who resided in Hennepin county. The clerk of the court was Sweet W. Case, and the foreman of the grand jury impaneled was Dr. A. E. Ames. The subsequent terms of the district court,**

until the erection of the courthouse at Eighth avenue S. and Fourth street, were held in a frame building on Bridge Square.

The building of the first courthouse caused great commotion in the village, owing to the rival claims of the upper and lower town for preference. The choice of the site at Eighth avenue S. indicated that people in 1857 believed that the business center would ultimately be far south of its present location.

The first term of the district court held in the new courthouse of 1857 was presided over by the date Judge Flandrau. Upon the organization of the state next year, James Hall of Little Falls became the first judge of this, the fourth judicial district, which then included thirteen counties beside Hennepin.

As the constitution provided for only one judge to a district, the growing needs of the fourth district were met by the gradual lopping off of outside counties. But in 1872 it became necessary to provide for larger business, and a court of common pleas was created, with Austin H. Young as judge. After a few years this extra court was found cumbersome, and it was merged in the district court.

### **Conditions in 1878.**

It seems almost incredible that only twenty-five years ago — the year The Journal was founded — only two judges sat upon the district court bench in Minneapolis. Judge Charles E. Vanderburgh and Judge Young at that time handled all the business of the district and the district still included several counties besides Hennepin. In 1878 there were seventy lawyers in Minneapolis now there are over 400. The business of the courts is shown by the number of cases filed.

In the fall of 1878 — Oct 1 — the total number of civil cases filed in this district had reached 8,742, or an average of less than 350 per annum since the slate was organized. On Oct. 1 of this year the file number was 91,346, showing that 82,604 cases had been filed in the twenty-five years, or an average of 3,300 a year. The comparison of criminal cases is also interesting. The total of these cases on Oct 1, 1878, was 604, while twenty five years later it had reached 7,501, a showing of 6,900 criminal cases in the quarter century.



## **Lawyers of 1878.**

**The lawyers practicing In Minneapolis in 1878, according to the city directory of that year, were these:**

**W. S. M. Abbott, 101 Washington Avenue S.  
Charles Allen, 101 Central avenue.  
John B. Atwater, Pence opera-house.  
Atwater & Webster, Pence opera-house.  
F. B. Bailey, 110 Hennepin avenue.  
C. J. Bartleson, over Northwestern bank.  
Baxter & Reed, Pence opera-house.  
Beebe & Biddle, 112 Hennepin avenue.  
Benton & Benton, 21 Second street S.  
W. S. Best, 14 Hennepin avenue.  
Boardman & Boardman, 10 Washington avenue N.  
Bradish & Dunn, 34 Washington avenue S.  
Bradley & Morrison, 111 Washington avenue S.  
A. G. Chapin, room 1, Academy of Music  
E. C Chatfield, 112 Hennepin avenue.  
Cilley & Bloom, 125 Nicollet avenue.  
P. O. Chilstrom, 32 Washington avenue S.  
O. H. Comfort, 222 Hennepin avenue.  
Jacob H. Cook, 219 Washington avenue S.  
C. A. Couillard, 32 Washington avenue S.  
W. R. Cary, 245 Nicollet avenue.  
Cross & Hicks, 220 Nicollet avenue  
E. J. Davenport, room 10, Brackett's block.  
C. M. Ferguson, 11 Washington avenue S.  
S. C. Gale, Washington avenue, corner of Nicollet avenue.  
Giddings & Lane, room 2, Wagner's block.  
F. A. Gove, room 10, Harrison block.  
Anton Grethen, Pence opera-house.  
J. W. Griffin, Northwestern Bank building.  
Guilford & Herring, 100 Central avenue.  
George W. Hael, 125 Nicollet avenue.  
H. B. Hancock, 301 Hennepin avenue.  
N. H. Hemiup, 32 Washington avenue S.  
Edwin P. Hughes, Brackett's block.  
Edward M. Johnson, Security Bank building.  
S. R. Kitchel, room 7, Johnston's block.  
Koon & Merrill, 27 Washington avenue S.  
Lochren, McNair & Gilfillan, 110 Hennepin avenue.  
Thomas Lowry, room 1, Academy of Music.**

Joseph Mackey, 120 Hennepin avenue.  
Albert B. Ovitt, rooms 1 and 2, Brackett's block.  
J. L. Parker, room 6, Harrison's block.  
H. A. Partridge, room 1, Harrison block.  
C. M. Pond, 36 Washington avenue S.  
H. E. Rawson, 219 Hennepin avenue.  
Rea & Hooker, Brackett's block.  
Budd Reeve, 213 Hennepin avenue.  
J. D. Reynolds, 112 Hennepin avenue.  
Reuben Reynolds, Brackett's block.  
Robinson & Parke, 38 Washington avenue S.  
H. W. Rogers, room 1, city hall.  
Rogers & Smith, 201 Nicollet avenue.  
E. W. Rossman, Academy of Music.  
C. F. Sawyer, 26 Washington avenue S.  
A. F. Scott, 110 Hennepin avenue.  
D. A. Secombe, over City bank.  
Shaw & Levi, 245 Nicollet avenue.  
D. G. Shillock, 208 Hennepin avenue.  
Albee Smith, room 2, Academy of Music.  
Smith & Hale, over Northwestern bank.  
George H. Spry, 222 Hennepin avenue.  
L. M. Stewart, room 7, Harrison's block.  
Byron Sutherland, 201 Nicollet avenue.  
Samuel R. Thayer, 120 Hennepin avenue.  
E. F. Thompson, room 1, Harrison's block.  
Andreas Ueland, room 1, Brackett's block.  
John Wytock, 36 Washington avenue S.  
Wilson & Lawrence, city hall.  
F. C. Wolcott, opera-house.  
Woods & Babcock, Johnston's block.

Of these probably not more than fifty were in actual law practice.

### **Judge Young's Reminiscences.**

Judge A. H. Young is one of the veteran judges of the Hennepin district bench. He remained on the district bench for nineteen years, and is to-day as well preserved as many men ten and fifteen years his junior. In 1878 court was held in the old courthouse, at Fourth avenue S. and Eighth street, and the building was so small — this was before the time of the numerous additions which made it such an unsightly affair in



the first place—that there was no place for the judges' chambers, and Judge Young finally was compelled to build for himself a small office at Sixth street and Nicollet avenue, for chambers.

"A good deal of business came before the courts for the size of the bench," said Judge Young recently, when reviewing the old days with a Journal reporter. "The two judges had all they could do, and more, and after the boom times came their number was quickly increased. The litigation of those days was general in character. Some of it arose over the acquisition of property by condemnation for railroad purposes. There were a good many personal injury suits against the railroads, and I recall that there were a number of cases arising over conflicting claims to water rights at the falls.

"The number of lawyers was not large. Among the leading individuals and firms in practice in 1878 were Shaw & Levi, R. C. and C. H. Benton, David A. Secomb, Eugene M. Wilson, W. W. McNair, Judge Lochren, Judge Gilfillan, J. W. Lawrence and Cornell & Bradley. Probably the leading firm in the city was that composed of Judge Lochren, Judge Gilfillan and W. W. McNair."

### **Events of Twenty-five Years.**

During the life of The Journal the history of the bench and bar of Hennepin county has been a story of constant expansion in legal business and consequent growth of courts and court facilities. The increase in the business of the district court has already been mentioned. Six judges now sit where two occupied the bench twenty-five years since. The business of the municipal and probate courts has developed in equal proportion.

Perhaps most notable of all the events of the quarter century has been the erection of the new courthouse. For several years prior to 1887 the condition of the old courthouse had become almost intolerable, and in that year the legislature intrusted a commission with the duty of purchasing a site and erecting a building to be used jointly by the city and county as a courthouse and city hall. The members of this commission were William D. Washburn, Charles M. Loring, John C. Oswald, John Swift, Oliver T. Erickson, W. S. Chowen, David M. Clough,

Lars Swenson and Titus Mareck. To these were subsequently added George A. Brackett, E. F. Comstock and E. M. Johnson. Upon the resignation of Mr. Loring, John DeLaittre was appointed. After some negotiation, the block bounded by Fourth and Fifth streets and Third and Fourth avenues S. was secured and the, work of construction was commenced in 1889. The county side of the building was practically completed and opened for use in November, 1895. It is one of the finest courthouses in the country.



## The Bar Association.

In 1883 the Minneapolis Bar association was organized with the purpose of building up a substantial and permanent law library. Its first president was the late E. M. Wilson, and it

had a membership of forty-six leading lawyers. It has since grown in strength, and its library long housed in Temple Court has now found a permanent home in the courthouse.

The Hennepin County Bar association was formed in 1896, in recognition of a demand for an organization which should include all reputable members of the profession in Hennepin county, and with the avowed objects of advancing the science of jurisprudence, promoting the administration of justice and upholding the honor of the law. Under the latter heading occasional investigations of unprofessional conduct are made. The body has no regular meetings, but is called together from time to time as needs arise.

### **College of Law.**

An event of much importance was the establishment of the college of law of the University of Minnesota. On Sept. 11, 1888, the college of law was formally opened with an address by Dean W. S. Pattee, delivered to the regents, the general faculty of the university and many of the students of the academic department, as well as those who entered as the first matriculates in the new college.

The Hermean room in the basement of the main building was set aside for the use of the legal department. During the winter of 1888-9 the legislature appropriated \$25,000 for the erection and furnishing of a building that should be exclusively devoted to the school, and during the autumn of 1889 the building was completed and in October of that year the faculty and students of law took possession of the new quarters.

During the first month of the department's history a night school was organized, which has continued until the present time, proving a most helpful institution for hundreds of young men whose circumstances have been such that they could not take advantage of the day school. This section of the student body has increased in numbers proportionately with the day section, and the course of study prescribed for the classes covers a period of three years. At the end of the first year sixty seven students had enrolled in the college, and during the second year the number had doubled, 134 being in actual attendance.



**The dean's private law library was devoted to the uses of the school, and no other provision for books was made for some two or three years later.**

**From this humble beginning, the college of law began a most rapid development in the number of students, the number of active members constituting the faculty and in the general equipment of the institution. The growth in these respects has been continuous and rapid.**

**In 1895 the course of study was lengthened from two to three years. There was some fear lest this change should prove too radical, as this was the first western school to propose such a forward movement but other schools soon followed the example. In the same year of 1895 a graduate department was organized leading to the degree of LL.M. This course of study included the subjects of general jurisprudence, political science, constitutional history and jurisprudence, and some others which vary from year to year as necessity requires. Those students only are admitted to this course who have received their degree of B. L. In 1898 a third course consisting of advanced work in comparative jurisprudence, Roman law, the philosophy of Jurisprudence and political science was organized. No definite time was prescribed within which the work required for graduation should be performed, but students are permitted a reasonable time to prepare and present their final thesis, the acceptance of which by the faculty entitles the candidate to the degree of D. C. L.**

**Thus organized, the school has steadily and rapidly increased in numbers, until it is now fifth in size in the United States; it has enlarged its faculty until now four professors devote their entire time to the work of the department, and their work is supplemented by ten lecturers, who devote annually from three to ten weeks each to instruction upon different legal subjects; the library has grown to about fifteen thousand volumes of books and legal pamphlets; its methods of instruction have been harmonized in accordance with those principles approved by the oldest and best legal institutions in the country; it has organized a system of moot courts more extensive than exists in any other law school in America, and a large portion of the senior year is devoted to the practical side of the profession of law and the requirements for the admission and graduation of its students have been increased to as high a standard as is**

adopted by the oldest and best law schools of the land, except two or three schools whose circumstances and whose purposes in providing a legal education warrant them in requiring a bachelor's degree for admission.

This is the sixteenth year of the school's history. Several years ago it had outgrown its accommodations, and in the spring of 1903 the legislature generously appropriated \$30,000 for an addition to the present building and for its equipment. That addition is now in process of erection and will be ready for occupancy at the beginning of 1904. When the addition is completed and equipped the accommodations will be ample for many years to come.

The growth of this law school is simply in keeping with the growth of legal education thruout the entire country. Law schools do not now confine their instruction to gentlemen who are to become practitioners at the bar. Professional education is but one branch, tho a most important one, of legal education. Young men in all lines of business find a legal education so helpful that thousands of them are flocking to the law schools thruout the United States to gain what is proving to be a most helpful education preparatory to a business career.

## **THE COLLEGE OF LAW.**

### **Faculty.**

**Cyrus Northrop, LL. D., president**

**William S. Pattee, LL. P., dean and professor of law.**

**Equity and International Law.**

**A. C. Hickman, A. M., LL. B., professor of law.**

**Pleading and practice.**

**James Paige, A. M., LL M, professor of law.**

**Torts and criminal law.**

**Henry J. Fletcher, professor of law.**

**Contracts and real property.**

**Edwin A. Jaggard, A. M., LL. B., of the Ramsey county bench.**

**Taxation.**

**Howard S. Abbott, B. L., of the Hennepin county bar.**

**Corporations.**

**Robert S. Kolliner, LL. B., of the Hennepin county bar.**

**Personal property.**

## **Lecturers.**

**George B. Young, LL. B., St. Paul, Minn. (associate Justice of the state of Minnesota).**

**Conflict of laws.**

**C. W. Bunn, St. Paul, Minn. (general counsel of the Northern Pacific Railway company).**

**James O. Pierce, Minneapolis, Minn. (ex-Judge of the circuit court of Memphis, Tenn.)**

**Constitutional Jurisprudence and history.**

**C. D. O'Brien, St. Paul, Minn.**

**Criminal-procedure.**

**John Day Smith, LL. M. Minneapolis, Minn.**

**American constitutional law.**

**Herbert R. Spencer, Duluth, Minn.**

**Admiralty law.**

**John Cochrane Sweet, LL. M., Minneapolis, Minn.**

**Mortgage foreclosure.**

**Jared How, LL. B., St Paul, Minn.**

**Landlord and tenant.**

**Fred H. Hobbs. B. S., LL. B.**

**Instructor in moot court practice**

**Hugh E. Willis, A. M., LL. M.**

**Librarian and quiz master.**



## **Related Article**

**"The Courts and Bar of Hennepin County" (MLHP, 2015) (published first, 1891).**

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