

Paul Dansingberg

{ September 17, 1883 • July 30, 1945 }

For two decades Paul Dansingberg was Minnesota State Law Librarian. He was appointed to that office in 1925 by Governor Theodore Christianson. Ten years later, he placed the following sketch in Christianson's multi-volume history *Minnesota: The Land of Sky-Tinted Waters*:

PAUL DANSINGBERG, state law librarian at the Minnesota State Library at St. Paul, is head of one of the oldest institutions of the state. In fact the nucleus of the law library had been recognized as a special function and service of the state government at the beginning of statehood.

Mr. Dansingberg came to this position after an interesting experience and service as a minister and newspaper worker. He was born at Claremont, Minnesota, September 17, 1883, son of Theron J. and Florence (Durand) Dansingberg. Reared and educated at Minneapolis, after the public schools he entered the University of Minnesota, was in the College of Arts and Sciences until 1906, and in 1909 was graduated from the Harvard Divinity School. Then followed eight years of active work in the Unitarian ministry, part of the time at St. Cloud, Minnesota, and also at Kansas City, Missouri. For six years Mr. Dansingberg was an editorial writer with the Minneapolis Journal.

He was appointed state law librarian June 1, 1925, by Governor Christianson. Mr. Dansingberg married in 1911 Carrie L. Monroe.¹

He served through the depression and the war years. On the morning of Monday, July 30, 1945, on his way to work, he died of a heart attack. He was

¹ Theodore Christianson, *3 Minnesota: The Land of Sky-Tinted Waters* 21 (1935).

sixty-one years old. The *St. Paul Dispatch* carried the story:

Paul Dansingberg, 61, Dies Suddenly

Paul D. Dansingberg, 61 years old, state librarian since 1925, died at 8:30 a.m. today on a Como-Harriet streetcar while on his way to his office in the Capitol. Coronor Carl A. Ingerson said he suffered a heart attack.

Mr. Dansingberg, who lived at 1420 Hythe st., became state librarian June 1, 1925. He was born Sept. 7, 1883 (sic), at



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Claremont, Minn. He attended public schools in Min-neapolis and was graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1906. He was graduated from the Harvard Divinity school in 1909 and served eight years as a Unitarian minister in St. Cloud and Kansas City.

He later served two years in the Minneapolis public library system. Before becoming state librarian, Mr. Dansingberg was an editorial writer on the Minneapolis Journal six years.

Surviving are his wife and one brother, Hayes Dansingberg of Rochester, former county attorney of Olmsted county and assistant attorney general for Minnesota.²



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² *St. Paul Dispatch*, July 30, 1945, at 4. His death certificate at the Historical Society has no middle initial and lists his birth date as September 17, 1883.