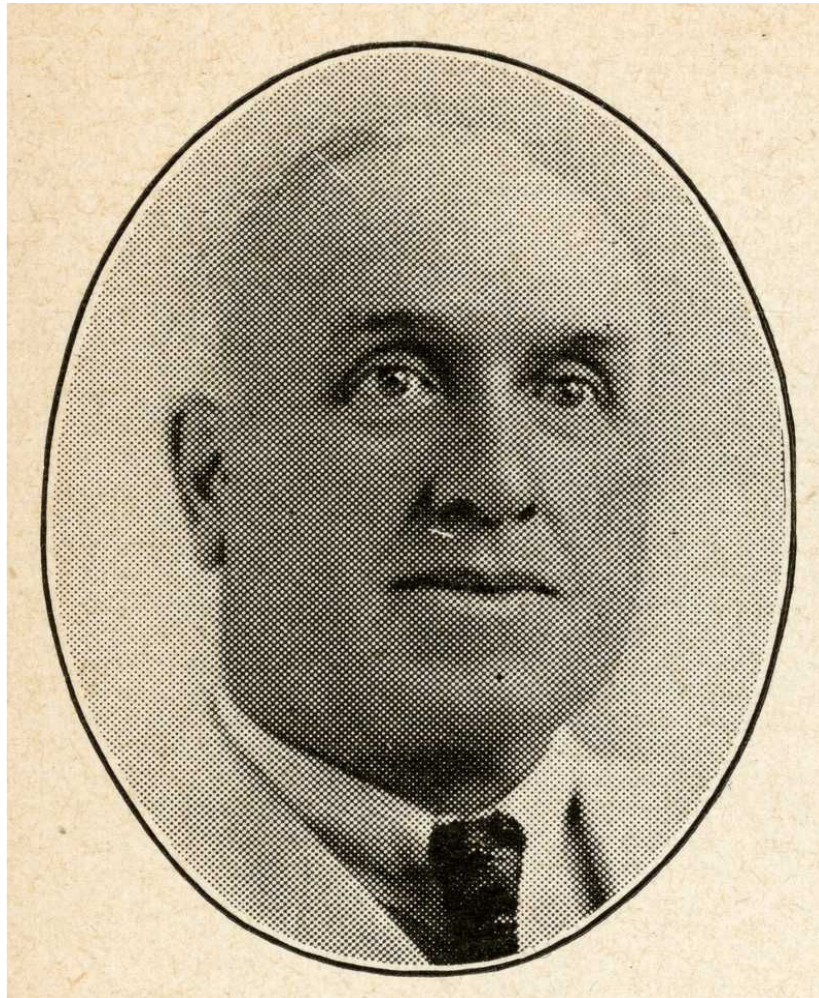


In Memoriam

Frank E. Dougherty

— December 30, 1891 • February 6, 1956 —



Memorial Services
Senate of the State of Minnesota
Senate Chamber
April 5, 1957

Beginnings

A few years after graduating from the St. Paul College of Law in 1913, Frank Edward Dougherty moved to Fairmont, Minnesota, where he entered into a partnership to practice law. But the War intervened. In 1917 he enlisted in the U. S. Army, which assigned him to an artillery unit. The following year, he was transferred to the Eighty-second Division of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. He saw combat. He was gassed.



American troops marching in long columns into Chateau-Thierry, France.

Date of Photograph: November 17, 1918.

Photograph by United States Army Signal Corps,

He was discharged in 1918 and returned to Fairmont eager to resume practicing law. He married, had three children and developed a thriving practice. In 1935 he placed the following sketch of his family background, law practice, military service and membership in local societies in former Governor Theodore Christianson's *Minnesota: The Land of Sky-Tinted Waters*:¹

¹ Theodore Christianson, 3 *Minnesota: The Land of Sky-Tinted Waters* 259-260 (1935).

FRANK E. DOUGHERTY, Fairmont attorney, World War veteran, represents the fighting qualities as well as the sense of fair play of his Irish ancestry, and as a member of the third generation of some of the first Irish families to come to Minnesota.

He was born on a farm in Harvey Township, Meeker County, Minnesota, December 30, 1891. His parents were Thomas W. and Mary (Dowling) Dougherty. His grandfather, Thomas Dougherty, a native of Ireland, had lived in Illinois for a number of years, but in 1856, when Minnesota was still a territory, crossed the Mississippi and took up a homestead in Harvey Township, Meeker County. His homestead was on the very frontier of settlement at that time. The family probably saw as many Indians as white neighbors, and only five or six years later occurred the dreadful Sioux outbreak, which included Meeker County settlements in the area of its devastation.

Thomas W. Dougherty was born at Joliet, Illinois, and was ten years old when the family came to Minnesota. He and several of his brothers enlisted in the Union army when the Civil war came on, and he was in a brigade commanded by General Andrews and was wounded. After the war he devoted his life to farming, and was one of the substantial citizens of Meeker County, a man whose influence counted for much in his community, and who had many prominent friends over the state, among them Governor Knute Nelson. Thomas W. Dougherty died in 1901. He was a devout Catholic. His wife, Mary Dowling, was born in Dakota County, Minnesota, and her parents likewise came from Ireland. She is now living at Litchfield.

Frank E. Dougherty was the eighth in a family of ten children. The old farm homestead in Meeker County frames in most of his boyhood recollections and experiences. He attended a

rural school, and tasted all the hard work as well as the delightful features of life in the country. Mr. Dougherty in 1913 graduated LL.B. from the St. Paul College of Law, being admitted to the bar in February of that year. For about a year he was in the law office of E. P. Sanborn at St. Paul, and in 1915 came to Fairmont. Here he became junior associate of E. C. Dean, who later in the same year went on the district bench. Mr. Dougherty and A. R. Allen then formed a partnership.

He abandoned his law practice to join the colors in 1917, attending the Officers Training School at Fort Snelling. He was made a sergeant in Headquarters Company of the Three Hundred and Thirty-eighth Field Artillery, and later was transferred to the Three Hundred and Twentieth Field Artillery. He was in training at Camp Gordon, and after reaching France was in the Eighty-second Division in the American Expeditionary Forces. He saw some of the front line fighting at Chateau-Thierry, at St. Mihiel, and during the Argonne campaign was wounded.

Mr. Dougherty resumed his law practice at Fairmont in September, 1919, and has since practiced alone. He is past president of the Seventeenth Judicial District Bar Association, is a member of the Minnesota State and American Bar associations. He has done some good work to promote the success of the Republican party, but has not been ambitious for any office, preferring to devote his time to his private practice. However, for two terms he was city attorney of Fairmont. He is past commander of Lee C. Prentice Post of the American Legion, member of the B. P. O. Elks, Loyal Order of Moose, Knights of Columbus, Interlaken Golf Club, and he and his family are communicants of St. Paul's Catholic Church.

Mr. Dougherty married in 1922, at Chatfield, Miss Lilah Howard. Their three children are Thomas E., Patricia Ann and Frank E., Jr. Mr. Dougherty in addition to his law practice has some farming interests and is a director in the State Bank at Ceylon. His law office is at 101 North North Street and his home at 806 Albion Street, Fairmont.

Elections.

His lack of political ambition ended a few years later. Perhaps stirred by the crisis in Europe, probably for another reason, he ran to represent District Nine in the Minnesota Senate in 1938, 1942 and 1946. He won each election and served from 1939 to 1951. District Nine included Martin and Watonwan Counties. In 1940 Martin County had a population of 24,656 and Watonwan had 13,902. Together they encompassed 1,170 square miles.

Candidates for the state legislature in the 1930's and 1940's ran "without party designation." Although Dougherty was a staunch Republican, he set that party label aside when he ran for office.

The results of the election on November 8, 1938 were:²

Ninth District—Martin and Watonwan Counties

	Martin	Watonwan	Total
Roy F. Crowley received.....	3,336	2,874	6,210
Frank E. Dougherty.....	5,788	2,091	7,879

His modest biographical sketch in the 1939 *Blue Book* was unchanged in each biennial edition until he ended his political carrer: ³

² 1939 Blue Book, at 395.

³ Id., at 522.

Frank E. Dougherty (Ninth District). Born in Harvey Township, Meeker County, Minnesota, December 30, 1891. Graduate of St. Paul College of Law, 1913. Soon after graduating went to Fairmont, Minnesota, where he has continuously practiced his profession.

The results of the election on November 3, 1942, were:⁴

Ninth District (Martin and Watonwan Counties)			
	Martin	Watonwan	
Frank E. Dougherty.....	4,210	1,688	5,898
Einar B. Nelson.....	2,995	1,354	4,349



⁴ 1943 Blue Book at 456.

He was unopposed in 1946. The results of the election on November 5, 1946, were: ⁵

Ninth District (Martin and Watonwan Counties)			
	Martin	Watonwan	Total
Frank E. Dougherty	5,774	2,847	8,621

Death of the Senator

Frank Dougherty's death on February 5, 1956, at age 65, was reported in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel*.⁶

Noted Fairmont Attorney Dies Suddenly in Phoenix

Frank E. Doherty, 65, senior member of the law firm of Dougherty & Flynn, Fairmont, died yesterday at Phoenix, Arz.

"He became ill sometime Sunday afternoon," his partner John Flynn told The Sentinel. "A doctor was called, but death, as I understand it, followed almost immediately."

Mr. Dougherty had been in poor health for several years, following a heart attack. He had been in Arizona since the first of the year to escape the cold winter weather here.

Mr. Dougherty was born at Litchfield, Minn., Dec. 30, 1891, the son of Thomas W. Dougherty and Mary Dowling. He was educated in the Litchfield schools and the St. Paul College of Law, receiving his LL.B. degree in 1913. He was married to Lilah

⁵ 1947 Blue Book at 362.

⁶ *Fairmont Daily Sentinel*, February 6, 1956, at 1 (List of survivors and funeral arrangements omitted).

Howard, June 3, 1922, at Chatfield.

He served as senator in the Minnesota legislature representing Martin and Watonwan counties from 1939 until 1951, was city attorney in Fairmont for 12 years, and was a veteran of War 1. He was engaged in Chateau Thierry, St. Mihiel, and the Argonne Forest, where he was gassed in October 1918.

Mr. Dougherty came to Fairmont in 1914 after practicing a year in Foley. He was associated with the late Judge E. C. Dean until entering service.

Upon his discharge he studied for six months at the Inns of Court at Oxford College in England.

On his return to Fairmont he was associated with Albert R. Allen until setting up his own office in the early 1920's. In 1934 John Flynn became an associate and later partner in the Dougherty firm.

An honorary state pallbearer group is being arranged by state senators Archie Miller and Gerald T. Mullins of Minneapolis

Dougherty was a member of the American Legion, served as its commander, the Knights of Columbus, the 17th Judicial District Bar association, the Minnesota State Bar association, The Elks and for many years was a director of the Sentinel Publishing Company until it was sold to Fairmont Newspapers Inc. in 1938. He was also president of the Ceylon State bank.

Memorial Services for 15 Senators were held in the Minnesota Senate a year

later. The eulogy of Senator Dougherty was delivered by Senator Erickson.⁷

State of Minnesota

Senate Chamber

Friday, April 5th, 1957

2:00 O'Clock P.M.

SENATE CHAMBER
MEMORIAL SERVICES

—for—

FORMER SENATORS

ERNEST P. ANDERSON	ROBERT G. MARSHALL
HARRY A. BRIDGEMAN	FRED NEWTON
FRANK E. DOUGHERTY	CONRAD OLSON
SEVERT B. DUEA	ALEXANDER SEIFERT
PAUL GUILFORD	HERMAN SPRUNG
JAMES H. HALL	HENRY G. YOUNG
ALBERT LODIN	L. P. LUND
	L. P. JOHNSON

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5.

INTRODUCED BY MR. MILLER ON MARCH 5, 1957
A SENATE RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR MEMORIAL
SERVICES FOR DECEASED SENATORS

...

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Redwood and Brown, Mr. Zwach, Chairman, Special Committee on Memorials, who addressed the Senate on behalf of the Memorial Committee as follows:

Mr. President, Members of the Senate and Honored Guests:

It is the fitting custom of long standing in this Senate to set

⁷ Journal of the Minnesota Senate, April 5, 1957, at 1322-1323.

apart a day and time to pause in our deliberations to honor those of this body who, since the last session, have entered the portals of the Great Beyond.

So here in these Chambers where once their personalities and voices were vibrant, we pay our respect to them; we express our sympathy to their loved ones, and offer the final tribute to:

. . .

Senator Frank E. Dougherty of District 9 by Senator Chris Erickson:

"Mr. President, Members of the Senate and Honored Guests:

February 6, 1956 dawned not greatly different from any other ordinary day at Fairmont, in southern Minnesota. Businessmen went to work as usual, housewives were busy with their housework, the radios were going with their usual programs of music and commercials when these words were heard, 'We interrupt this program for the purpose of making an announcement. Former Senator Frank E. Dougherty passed away at Phoenix, Arizona. The remains will be returned to Fairmont for interment. No definite plans have been made as to the date of the funeral.'

Telephones began to ring and the questions were asked, 'Have you heard that Frank Dougherty passed away?' Some had and others had not, and everyone in Fairmont and surrounding community was shocked upon learning the news.

Mr. Dougherty was born at Litchfield, Minnesota, December 30, 1891, being the son of Thomas W. Dougherty and Mary Dowling Dougherty. He spent his boyhood days on a farm in

Meeker County. He was educated in the Litchfield schools and St. Paul College of Law, receiving his LL.B. degree in 1913. He also studied for six months at the Inns of Court at Oxford College in England. He married Lilah Howard.

Senator Dougherty was a lawyer by profession and represented Martin and Watonwan counties in the Senate of our Legislature from the year 1939 to 1951. He was City Attorney in Fairmont for 12 years and a veteran of World War 1. He was engaged in Chateau Thierry, St. Mihiel, and the Argonne Forest, where he was gassed in October 1918.

Mr. Dougherty came to Fairmont in 1914 after having practiced law for one year in Foley, Minnesota. He was associated with the late Judge E. C. Dean until entering service. He practiced law since and until his death in Fairmont.

Mr. Dougherty was a member of the American Legion, served as its Commander at Fairmont for one year. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, the 17th Judicial District Bar Association, State Bar Association, the Elks, and for many years was a director of the Sentinel Publishing Company until it was sold in 1954. He was also the president of the Ceylon State Bank of Ceylon, Minnesota.

He was loved and highly respected in Fairmont and community. He tried his law suits hard. I have tried law suits with him and against him. He always placed the importance and interest of his clients first, and no person ever approached Mr. Dougherty with a cause and was denied his assistance because he had no money with which to pay attorneys' fees. If he had no money but did

have a just cause, he would be ably represented by Mr. Dougherty. There was never a cause so large nor a cause so small but that he would undertake to properly represent his client.

He was buried at Fairmont, Minnesota on February 10, 1956. The following Senators served as honorary pallbearers Archie H. Miller, Donald O. Wright, Ernest J. Anderson, Walter I. Franz, Val Imm, Franklin P. Kroehler, Martin H. Malone, John A. Metcalf, John M. Zwach, and Chris L. Erickson.

Mr. Dougherty left surviving him his wife, Lilah Dougherty now residing at Fairmont, Minnesota; two sons and a daughter, namely Thomas A. Dougherty, Frank Dougherty, and Mrs. Michael (Patricia) Keefe, the latter now living at St. Louis, Missouri; two sisters, Mrs. Ray W. (Grace) Kenyon and Marion Dougherty and five grandchildren.

I wish to dedicate to the late Frank E. Dougherty the poem 'Sweet Is The Thought' by John Moore.

'Sweet is the thought that some day
I shall rest

Some day the good, glad sun will rise
Above the crest

Of the billowed hill in ocean skies,
The world to bless

But it will greet my tired eyes
At rest—sweet rest

Sweet is the thought that some night
I shall sleep.

Some night the sorrowing stars shall rise
And peep

From out the mother skirt of nightly skies
But I shall weep

Not back within their answering eyes
For I shall sleep'.

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Credits

The photographs on the first and sixth pages are from the 1939
Blue Book. That on page two is from the Library of Congress.

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