

In Memoriam

Augustus S. Dowdall, Jr.

(October 9, 1883 – July 25, 1949)



Hennepin County Bar Association
District Court
Fourth Judicial District
Minneapolis, Minnesota
1950

**MEMORIAL FOR
AUGUSTUS SYLVESTER DOWDALL, JR.**

Augustus S. Dowdall was born in Morehead, Minnesota, October 9, 1883 and died a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota, [July 25,] 1949. He was a son of Augustus B. and Katherine (Nee: Atkinson) Dowdall, who came to the United States from Ottawa, Canada. The family moved to Minneapolis when Augustus was three years of age.

His father was a lawyer and he developed a successful practice in the law. He became prominent as one of the local leaders of the Democratic Party.

Augustus Dowdall, Jr. was admitted to the bar in a 1908. Prior to his admission he completed a four-year course in the College of Science, Literature and the Arts at the University of Minnesota and received a B. A. degree. Following this he completed a three-year course at the Law School of the University and after securing his degree, he took post-graduate work at the Law School.

The studious and thorough disposition thus manifested, characterized his entire intellectual life. Many of his interests and activities were outside the field of law. Gradually he acquired a large general library and he became known to his friends as one who burned the midnight oil in a wide range of his original reading. His tastes ran to literary classics, history, politics, and the law. These interests coincided with and inspired a passionate interest in political justice and government order. When his time permitted he could be easily detained on the street by a friend for a discussion of some of governmental issue or problem, and his conversation reflected the wide range of his reading, careful thinking, and spirited idealism.

In his earlier years he took an interest in music. He personally was possessed of fine tenor voice of extra-ordinary range and quality.

For some years he gave of his spare time to the advocacy of temperance in drink. In support of the temperance movement, he delivered many lectures in its behalf.

His death occurred while he was attending Probate Court in a contested matter wherein he represented one of the litigants. In obedience to his sense of duty, he had left the sick room in a hospital and walked several blocks to attend court. He became faint and ill. Acting on a friend's suggestion he went to an open window to seek refreshment from the cooler air. Apparently losing consciousness he fell out of the window. The curtain was thus drawn on an able mind and a spirited and ardent nature.

The members of Mr. Dowdall's family who survive him, are his wife, Blanche Dowdall; two brothers, Lester A. of Los Angeles, California; Dr. Robert C. of Williamsburg, Virginia; three sisters, Mrs. Rome Hopkins, old Oak Park, Illinois, Mrs. Russell McCain of Dradenton, Florida, and Mrs. James E. Lee of 4400 Wayzata Boulevard, Minneapolis; a stepson, Rex Standish, and a stepdaughter, Mrs. Lawrence Olson of Minneapolis.

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

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