

Robert G. Evans

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ROBERT G. EVANS.

1901

Minneapolis Journal

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Pages 1-2

HON. ROBT. G. EVANS TAKEN BY DEATH

**Insidious Heart Disease Claims Him as Its Vic-
Tim—The Stroke Was Unexpected
and Speedily Fatal.**

**His Death Removes a Prominent Figure From
Public Life—Recent Bereavement
Had Broken His Spirit.**

Robert G. Evans is dead. The strong true man, known and loved by many thousands, in the prime of manhood and at the very zenith of his public career, was taken from the land of the living yesterday morning. The hand of death came so swiftly and terribly that he had not even a chance for a parting word.

Heart disease was the cause of death. It occurred at the family residence 2036 Queen avenue S, about 7:45 o'clock Sunday morning.

Mr. Evans had dined at the Minneapolis club late Saturday evening with his friend, C. J. Bartleson. He left for home about 11 o'clock, and appeared to be in his usual health, which has not been of the best, however, for several months.

Yesterday morning his daughter, Miss Margaret Evans, was awakened by her father, who had grasped the footboard of the bed and was shaking it to arouse her. As she awoke he tried to speak to her, throwing his head back and struggling to utter a word, but unable to get breath, he turned and staggered out of the room. He went back through his own room and through the door to the

balcony over the front porch. He seized the railing for support and stood gasping a moment, then fell to the floor dead.

The fall was witnessed by Mrs. Edward S. Pattee, who was sitting on her veranda across the street and saw Mr. Evans come out on the balcony. She hurried across and into the house, reaching the balcony soon after the daughter, who had hurried after her father.



W. H. Levings, who lives next door, was aroused, and summoned Dr. J. E. Moore. The doctor arrived in a very few minutes, but there was nothing for him to do but help carry the body into the room where he had been sleeping.

Dr. Moore says that Mr. Evans had been suffering from heart disease for a year and a half. His asthmatic trouble was doubtless connected with the heart trouble, and on several occasions within the last year Mr. Evans has had suffocating spells. He was unable to sleep until late at night.

The death of Mrs. Evans last April broke down his spirit, and since then he has not been the same man. He has frequently remarked that only for the children, he would be ready to go any time. News of the death spread rapidly. It was announced from the churches yesterday morning, and many friends and public men were notified by wire. Friends of the family took charge of the funeral arrangements.

Bishop Isaac W. Joyce of the Methodist church will conduct the services, which will be held Wednesday. Bishop Joyce is in Kansas, where he has been holding conference. In reply to a telegram sent yesterday he replied to-day that he would come to conduct the service.

Mr. Evans' two sons, Stanley and Graham, have been on the Soo extension work in the Dakotas, but have been notified and are on the way home.

IN HIS LIFE'S PRIME.

Mr. Evans Seemed to Have Many Useful Years Ahead.

Robert Grenap Evans was born at Troy, Indiana, March 18, 1854. His father was Joseph S. Evans, a Kentuckian of Welsh and English ancestry, who removed to Indiana in the early fifties. The father married Mary C. Cotton, daughter of a prominent physician, who was a member of the constitutional convention of 1852.

In 1856 the Evans family removed to Rockport, Indiana, where Mr. Evans engaged in the mercantile business. Young Robert worked on a farm and helped his father, and attended the village schools until his eighteenth year, when he began attending the state university at Bloomington. He entered as a sophomore, and spent two years, completing his junior year.

In 1875 he began to read law in the office of Charles L. Wedding, of Rockport, and while studying practiced in the justice courts of Spencer county. He was admitted to the bar in 1876 and went to Vincennes, forming a partnership with Judge F. W. Viehe.

In 1877 occurred his marriage to Miss Mary Graham, of Evansville. Their married life of twenty-four years was unusually happy, and the death of Mrs. Evans last April was a severe blow, from which the husband never recovered.

Mr. Evans removed to Minneapolis in April, 1884, and in July entered a partnership with Judge Daniel Fish. Mr. Evans was then 30 years old, in the full glow of health, and his splendid abilities speedily won for him a leading place at the bar. From the first he was in demand as a campaigner, and took a leading part in politics, though never until last winter as a candidate for office. He was local attorney for the Omaha road until 1895. The partnership with Judge Fish was dissolved in 1887, on the latter's retirement from general practice. The firm of Keith, Evans, Thompson and Fairchild was then formed by the association of A. M. Keith, Robert G. Evans, Charles T. Thompson and Edwin K. Fairchild, and the firm has remained intact for fourteen years.

For the past four years Mr. Evans had filled the post of United States district attorney for Minnesota with signal ability. Mrs. Evans died April 13 of the present year. Three children survive them: Margaret, aged 22; Stanley, aged 20, and Graham, aged 17. Of the large family of brothers and sisters, nine are still living. They are: C. C. Evans, Minneapolis; Charles Evans, Duluth; McKendry B. Evans, now in South Africa; Milton Evans, New Orleans; William H. Evans, Texarkana, Texas; Curtis D. Evans, Alaska; Edward H. Evans, Minneapolis; Mrs. Blake, Evansville, Indiana, and Mrs. Josephine

Fisher, Rockport, Ind. Their aged mother lives with Mrs. Fisher at Rockport.

Mr. Evans was a member of Minneapolis Mounted Commandery and of Zuhrah Temple of the Mystic Shrine. His blue lodge and chapter membership were still at Indianapolis. He was also a member of Minneapolis Lodge, No. 44, B. P. O. E. of the Minneapolis Club, and of the Minnetonka Ice Yacht Club.

HIS POLITICAL CAREER

It Was Marked by Clear and Unselfish Methods.

By Mr. Evans' untimely death the republican party loses its most magnetic personality in this state. Others have attained higher rank and position, and perhaps figure in the public eye as of greater prominence, but no man in the state could have counted "more personal friends or devoted followers than he. The great heartedness and whole-souledness of the man drew to him all who had the privilege of knowing him. The purity of his character was remarkable in one engaged almost constantly in political work and his innate courtesy, which made him the same to the humble as to the great, added to his undeniable intellectual attainments, made him one of the truly strong figures in politics in the great northwest. Although he mingled actively in the politics of the state for seventeen years it is believed that he left behind him not a single enemy.

This is truly remarkable and was due absolutely to his perfect fairness and his ability to forgive and forget, no matter how great the wrong against him might have been. It can truly be said of him, as it can of few men in political life, that whether dealing with friend or foe, he was always just and honorable. From the moment Mr. Evans arrived in Minnesota and announced his determination to make this state his home he was a leading figure in the public life of the commonwealth. Gifted with a winning personality, a pleasing presence, and with every substantial quality which leads man to admire man, he was received with open arms by the leaders of the republican party and sprung almost immediately to the front.

Trained in the strenuous political life of a close state like Indiana where he had been very active, he could hardly have resisted, even had he so wished, the inclination to take part in shaping the destinies of the great state which he had adopted as his home. He had no more than arrived in July, 1884, than he took the stump, and as he was an orator of great force and eloquence, his influence for James G. Blaine in that campaign was felt and appreciated and he soon won the esteem and confidence of those who were counted at that time as the leaders of the party in the state.

Mr. Evans sought office but once in his busy life, and that time he was defeated. In all his life he held just one political office, that of United States district attorney, and that was forced upon him by friends against his protests.

Early Prominence In Indiana.

When he left his native state of Indiana he had obtained some renown, though but about 30 years of age at the time. He had always taken a great interest in politics and was a stalwart republican who boasted that he had always voted the ticket straight, a trait which is more common in Indiana and other closely contested states than it is here in the middle west. Always ready to place his talents at the disposition of the party managers, his ability was soon recognized, and he was elected national committeeman by the republicans of the hoosier state in 1880. He refused re-election and also declined the proposition made to him at that time by the party managers to become a candidate for attorney general. To his friends he explained this action by saying that he had reached a time in life when he must lay his plans for the future, and to have been a candidate for office then would have meant that he retain his home in Indiana. Instead, he chose to remove to Minnesota, and Lewis Michener was nominated in his stead.

His Friendship With C. K. DAVIS.

Before leaving Indiana he secured from Walter Q. Gresham, then one of the great men of that state, a letter introducing him to Cushman K. Davis, and that letter led to the close friendship which ever after existed between the late senator and Mr. Evans. Mr. Evans himself

told the writer at the funeral of his old friend of the manner in which Senator Davis received him. Said Mr. Evans:

"I can never forget that interview. I was then a young man, without reputation and practically without means. I handed the letter of introduction to Mr. Davis, and after he had read it he gave me a very cordial welcome, telling me that if there was anything he could do for me, to let him know. But he did not stop with that. He discussed with me my future prospects and advised me what to do. I followed that advice and was substantially aided by him many times afterward. He was a good friend."

Three years after Mr. Evans' arrival in the state, Mr. Davis was elected United States senator and was compelled to resign as national committeeman from Minnesota. The senator-elect asked that Mr. Evans be named as his successor, and managed to have his way, though there was a strong opponent in the person of Stanford Newell, now United States minister at The Hague. Mr. Evans retained his position upon the national committee nine years, being succeeded by L. P. Hubbard of Red Wing, who was elected at the St. Louis convention in 1896 after a fierce contest between Mr. Evans and W. R. Merriam. The two leaders found that the fight had grown so bitter that the sensible thing to do was to agree upon a compromise, and Hubbard was chosen.

In 1888 two of Indiana's sons were leading candidates for the presidency, Benjamin Harrison and Walter Q. Gresham, and the contest in this state was managed for Harrison by Eugene Hay, while Mr. Evans was the leader of the Gresham forces. At the national convention, at Chicago, Mr. Evans was one of Mr. Gresham's most confidential advisers. Mr. Evans was also a delegate to many other republican national conventions and always fought openly for the cause or candidate of his choice.

Made U. S. District Attorney.

Three years ago the late Senator Davis had it in his power to name a United States district attorney. There were several active candidates for the place and Mr. Evans had given his indorsement to the candidacy of George Edgerton, of St. Paul. While at the national

capital at about that time he was called in by Senator Davis and informed that he could have the position if he would take it. Mr. Evans refused to consider the offer. Senator Davis argued with him and told him that under no circumstances would the place go to Mr. Edgerton, or to any of the other men then candidates. Mr. Evans was told to take his time to consult with his friends and several months after agreed to accept the place if Senator Nelson would consent to his appointment. The approval of the latter was obtained and thus Mr. Evans secured the only public office which he ever held.

The Senatorial Fight.

Last winter, after the death of his old friend and patron, Senator Davis, had left a vacancy in the upper house of the national congress, Mr. Evans yielded to the entreaties of his friends and became a candidate for the position. This contest is so recent that it is yet fresh in the public mind and can be passed over briefly. From the outset it was evident that he was the most popular candidate in the field, but it is a well known fact in politics that there are times when a man's popularity turns out to be an element of weakness and thus it proved in this instance. After the fight had been progressing for some time it became clear that while Mr. Evans would receive a larger vote and command a larger following than any other candidate for the place, he yet lacked considerable of an election, and then followed the usual combination of the weaker candidates. The field won out in this instance.

Though many of Mr. Evans friends held the opinion that unfair means were used in the efforts made to defeat him, they were never able to get him to admit much a possibility and his speech congratulating the victor was both hearty and sincere. He never sulked and never sought revenge. He came out of this great struggle a defeated man, but such was the power of his personality and his example, that when the fight ended he had conquered the entire opposition and every man who voted against him did so secretly hoping that the time would come that he might "do something" for Evans.

He was a leading member of the Union League club for many years during the troublous times when that organization cut a great deal

of figure in Hennepin county politics and he was its president in 1885 and 1886.

Speaking in a general way Mr. Evans was a leader of that element of the republican party of the state which has always sought to bring about better political conditions. His influence was all for better and purer politics, and the manner in which he conducted his senatorial contest was an object lesson in itself. He was actively interested in the famous Washburn-Nelson senatorial fight as a friend to Senator Washburn, and was one of the famous committee of 100 which sought to take this county from the clutches of the state machine.

Recently there has been more or less talk of making him a candidate for the republican gubernatorial nomination, but it will never be known whether or not he would have consented to make the race, even had the way been carefully paved for his acceptance.

SORROW IS UNIVERSAL

**The Press and Public Men Express
Their Sense of Loss.**

The death of Robert G. Evans has called forth universal expressions of sorrow from the press and public men of the state. The Pioneer Press says editorially this morning:

“His death will be widely and deeply mourned. For he was one of nature's noblemen. Few men in Minnesota had more or warmer personal friends—for his warmhearted, genuine and generous nature, endowed with all the qualities of a sterling manhood, was of the sort that converts even casual acquaintances into friends and attaches them to the man by the bonds of affection and admiration. Mr. Evans was not one thing in public and another in private life. He was politically popular by reason of the qualities which endeared him to his friends in the narrower relations of the domestic circle and of the social life of the neighborhood and community in which he lived. He was a good citizen, because he was a good man. His death

will leave a void, in political and social circles not easily filled, and his loss will be deeply felt throughout the state."

The Tribune says:

"Mr. Evans was a genial, whole-souled gentleman, whom it was always a pleasure to meet. He had the talent for popularity in a high degree, and this, coupled with his unquestioned ability and his sterling honesty of character, gave him a strong hold upon the affections and respect of the people.

"Our city and state have lost some strongmen during the past few years, but none who will be more generally and sincerely mourned, or whose presence will we more profoundly miss, than Robert G. Evans."

An editorial in the Times says:

We can ill spare Robert G. Evans, if for no other reason, because he was a lustrous example of the good politician. The ranks of those to whom this appellation can be justly given are, alas, thin enough now. It was only the beginning of this year when Mr. Evans said to the writer, "If I cannot attain the object of my ambition without descending to the illegitimate use of money I never will attain it—I will cease trying." His life was a sermon upon that text and his death points the moral which those who come after him should heed well and wisely. Mr. Evans was a working man all his life. He came of ancestors in the sight of whom idleness was akin to crime and during the forty-seven years of his life it is not recorded that he ever neglected or evaded a duty or failed to use his best endeavor in the accomplishment of whatever task he had set out to complete.

Gifted with the power of public speaking it was natural and seemly that, early in his life and through the riper years thereof, he should take, as he did, a deep interest in politics. Of him no man can say that he was bigoted, nor can he be charged by any opponent with intolerance. He had convictions—what man worth while is without them—and they were deep enough to give to his utterances force, and to his logic power.

Tributes From Associates.

The following tributes from public men who have been associated with the deceased statesmen indicate the universal love and esteem in which he was held:

Governor S. R. Van Sant—I can scarcely realize that Mr. Evans has passed away. Only Thursday last I met him at a dinner party and he seemed in good health and informed me that he was feeling better than for sometime past. His death is not only a loss to the state but to the nation. He possessed ability of the highest order. Mr. Evans had in a marked degree the elements of the true gentleman, and his promise was as good as the best bond ever drawn. We shall miss him but he has left us an example.

Senator Moses E. Clapp—Mr. Evans and I have been the warmest of friends for years, holding each other in high esteem. It was only last week, at his invitation, I met some of his friends at his camp at Alexandria. Mr. Evans was a noble, generous, whole-souled man whom one could love as a friend and admire as an opponent. During our senatorial struggle last winter nothing but the kindest feelings marked the relations between us. His untimely death will be mourned universally. The death of such a man is not only a grief to his friends but a loss to the public.

Chief Justice C. M. Start—Mr. Evans was a man whom I esteemed highly. Of unquestioned integrity, public-spirited and well balanced, his death in the prime of life is an irreparable loss to the state. He was a remarkable man in many respects. An excellent lawyer of splendid judgment he won the respect of everyone who came in contact with him. He was far more than a good fellow, possessing attributes which placed him beyond that term. His popularity throughout the state which I can testify to was due to the fact that people who knew him admired and respected him.

Associate Justice John A. Lovely — I knew Mr. Evans for many years and am deeply shocked to hear of his untimely death. He was an able man and an able lawyer, and I respected him greatly. He was a dear friend of Senator Davis, who recognized his splendid qualities, and was thoroughly respected by all who knew him.

Judge Charles B. Flandrau — In the long line of United States district attorneys of Minnesota, I do not know of any who was superior to Mr. Evans. In the senatorial campaign of last winter I gained a good insight into his nature and it won my greatest respect. He was a generous, whole souled, public-spirited citizen and his death will be a severe loss to this state.

Congressman J. A. Tawney—The news of Robert G. Evans' death is sudden and so unexpected that it is impossible to fittingly express the feeling of personal loss I and his host of friends have thereby sustained. Since the death of Senator Davis no man in our state was more universally admired. He possessed in a large measure those qualities of heart and mind that always inspire confidence in the people and lead ultimately to distinction. His death is not alone a great loss to his friends but also to his party and his state, in whose service he won distinction and where he would have achieved still greater honor had he been permitted to live the years allotted to man.

Congressman J. P. Heatwole—Robert G. Evans stood for all that is pure and elevating. The state has lost a noble, courageous and generous citizen. His daily life was worthy of emulation.

Senator J. C. Quarles—"Bob" Evans was one of God's noblemen. His sudden death is a shock to one who saw him a few days since, so full of life and hope. I join the people of Minnesota in mourning the loss of such a noble citizen.

United States Marshal W. H. Grimshaw—In the death of Robert G. Evans Minnesota loses an excellent citizen. His chief characteristic was kindness. He was thoroughly good and his companionship was a benefit to all who knew him. In his political speeches and in the practice of criminal law he was never known to say anything harsh. He was the only public man of my acquaintance who did not possess one single enemy—for the reason that he had a soul overflowing with love and charity for all. He was an able lawyer, a sincere friend and, what is still more rare, an honest politician. The death of Senator Davis, coupled with his own defeat for the senate and lastly the death of his wife, were afflictions that aggravated the physical troubles which culminated in the death that many of his close

friends predicted. In his death every citizen of the state has suffered an irreparable loss.

Former Governor A. R. McGill—Mr. Evans was one of the ablest men of his age in the state. Not only Minneapolis but the state of Minnesota has sustained a great loss in his death. No man I knew had more personal friends and admirers in the state than he.

Former Governor John Lind—In every relation of life that I had opportunity to observe Mr. Evans, and I have known him well and intimately for years, he was always a man. He was strong in his convictions, a loyal friend, an intense partisan, but his partisanship never tempted him to an act unworthy his manhood or his citizenship. Professionally, he enjoyed the confidence and standing to which his integrity and ability entitled him. He was a growing man, but politically I hardly think that he would ever have attained greatness. In a state with an overwhelming majority, men like Evans rarely attain political success. The party machine is relentless. Men like Evans are too conscientious to do its bidding but too loyal to party to smash the machine, or expose its corruption. Politically, he would have been doomed to disappointment had he lived. His death will cause sorrow in thousands of hearts. Bob Evans' friends loved him.

Congressman F. C. Stevens—He was always ready to yield himself for others. His only fault was that he did not look out for himself. No man had a higher ideal of morality, and lived up to it, personally, professionally and politically.

Eugene G. Hay—For twenty years Mr. Evans and I have been close friends. We have sometimes been on different sides in our own party but our friendship has never suffered a jot. He was always active in politics but was never an office seeker, as his career shows.

Judge William Lochren—Mr. Evans' death was so sudden that I hardly can realize that it is true. To say that I am grieved and shocked but mildly expresses my feelings. I have known Mr. Evans intimately for a long time and held him in the highest regard and esteem, as did everyone who was associated with him. He was an able attorney, a thoroughly honest and upright man and a most

efficient district attorney. The state, the city and his host of friends, who were as numerous as his acquaintances, have all sustained a great loss in his death.

Thomas H. Shevlin—Mr. Evans was one of the very best citizens that the city and state possessed. No better men are made anywhere than "Bob" Evans. He was a clean, honest, pure and capable man in every thought and action. I can find no words to express my grief at his sudden demise.

Congressman Loren Fletcher—It is all so sudden that I am at a loss to find words to express the shock and grief that Mr. Evans' death has caused me. The city and state have sustained a loss that it is impossible to estimate in his death. I can hardly believe that it is true. I only returned Thursday night from spending three or four days at his summer home in company with a party of gentlemen, and he was in the best of health and spirits apparently.

Judge A. M. Harrison—I am so shocked, that I hardly can realize that it is true. Only Saturday afternoon I had a long talk with him, the first since my accident last spring. It is impossible to express in words the loss that the city and state have sustained by his death. He was an honest, able man and the truest and kindest of friends. I have had the privilege of his friendship for a long time and know him to have been an honest, upright gentleman in the truest sense of the word.

Senator George P. Wilson—I doubt if there is any one in the state more widely known or more highly respected than was Robert G. Evans. His cheerful disposition, general good fellowship and absolute integrity won for him many friends who will sincerely mourn his untimely death. He was an all round good citizen—a politician as well as lawyer—but his politics were clean and wholesome. He would never consent to profit by anything dishonorable. He prized his manhood more highly than success. His friends loved him because they knew that he was true. Coming so soon after the death of his wife, the sympathy of people will go out to this sadly bereaved family.

Congressman Page Morris—I am shocked and grieved to hear of the death of "Bob" Evans. He was one of the real noblemen made by nature, talented, frank, generous, high-minded, pure. In politics and his profession his aims were high and his methods upright and in spite of his recent failure to be elected United States senator, he had a brilliant career before him. Many men will be sad to know he is gone.

Harry S. New (Indianapolis)— The news of the sudden death of Robert G. Evans was received here with profound regret. Indiana people had never ceased to regret his removal from the state. He was an exceedingly popular man in Indiana and he relinquished the certainty of honors at home when he removed to Minnesota. He was a loyal friend and a capable man in every respect and his untimely death will be sincerely regretted here among the friends of his earlier years.

Judge Robert Jamison—I learned of Mr. Evens' death at home yesterday morning and all day long two figures kept coming before my eyes—Robert G. Evans and Judge R. D. Russell. They were alike in many ways splendid examples of pure manhood. Such men as R. G. Evans are an ennobling influence in politics. He never descended to anything low or mean, or indulged in trickery or double dealing. We need more men like him in public life.

J. Adam Beede—Mr. Evans was a noble character. He was the type of the best class of men in public life, and one of the strong men of Minnesota.

Samuel G. Iverson (deputy state auditor)—The death of R. G. Evans is a distinct loss to the state of Minnesota. He was one of our grandest public men.

A Memorial Committee.

John E. Stryker, vice president of the St. Paul Bar association, acting in the absence of C. D. O'Brien, its president, appeared before Judge

Lochren this morning in the federal court and requested the appointment of a committee to prepare a memorial.

Judge Lochren appointed H. J. Stevens, Moses E. Clapp, E. C. Stringer, C. D. O'Brien and Frank B. Kellogg. They will confer with a similar committee from the Minneapolis bar to draft a memorial, which will be presented to the court when its sessions open next week in Minneapolis.

The executive committee of the St. Paul Bar association met this afternoon to arrange for an appropriate action of the association.

LIKED IN WASHINGTON

**Department of Justice Officials
Appreciate Their Loss.**

From The Journal Bureau. Room 45, Post Building, Washington.

Washington, Aug. 26.—The report of the death of District Attorney Evans came as a shock to the officials of the department of justice. To none was this so pronounced as to Colonel Cecil Clay, chief clerk of the department, who knew Mr. Evans personally. Colonel Clay said:

"I was shocked and grieved beyond measure when I read of Mr. Evans' death, and his untimely taking off was accentuated when, in opening official mail, almost the first letter that came to hand was one signed by him dated Saturday. Signing that letter probably was his last official act. Mr. Evans' death is a distinct loss to the department. I knew him personally and officially, and there was none in the service who was so worthy of respect and esteem. In every official and personal act of which I have any knowledge he was up right and honest, a gentleman whom any one could be proud to call friend."

Assistant Attorney General Beck, who is acting attorney general in the absence of Mr. Knox, said he was not personally acquainted with Mr. Evans, but that from all information he could gather in the

department, he felt sure that the government had suffered great loss in the death of Mr. Evans. Other officials of the department of justice who knew the Minneapolis district attorney by reputation, expressed similar sentiments.

Up to a late hour to-day no official notice of Mr. Evans' death had been received at the department. All information at hand was gathered from the morning papers.

Place Must Be Filled Soon.

The question of filling the vacancy, pending the appointment of a new district attorney was taken up by Acting Attorney General Beck and it was decided that First Assistant M. D. Purdy could act in the interim. The coming session of the U. S. court, however, makes it almost absolutely necessary that Mr. Evans' successor should be appointed soon and it is believed here that Senators Nelson and Clapp will file their recommendation shortly, appreciating the necessity for filling the office. Mr. Evans was probably as well known among congressmen and other public men in Washington as any official of the government, outside of those whose service is here. Originally from Indiana, he was known to all public men in that state.

Throughout the northwest he was widely known and liked. During the senatorial contest last winter all the Washington papers had special dispatches from St. Paul giving all the gossip in connection with the contest and results of ballots in the caucus when it was decided to choose a senator in that way. Many persons here hoped that Mr. Evans would be chosen to that high office. Expressions of regret at his untimely demise were general among officials who knew him personally and by reputation. —W. W. Jermane,

Minneapolis Journal

Editorial

August 26, 1901, at page 4.

Robert G. Evans

**"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches,
and loving favor rather than silver and gold."**

So wrote the wise man. And when we hear the words of esteem and loving favor which are spoken to-day of Robert G. Evans we feel that it is so. Robert Evans might never have been a rich man if he had chosen riches and at the sacrifice of his good name, but he was successful in life; he was successful in his profession, and provided generously for those dependent upon him. He had ambitions for advancement of a worthy kind, and he had attained a position of eminence among his fellow-citizens. But in all his aspirations he never lost sight of the fact that a good name is the richest reward of human effort, and while he does not leave his family a large fortune, he leaves to them what is infinitely more valuable —an honored name.

It is doubtful if the death of any other man in the state of Minnesota would bring to the hearts of as many people a feeling of personal bereavement as has come to thousands through the death of Mr. Evans. His kindly nature, his gentle consideration for the interests and the feelings of others, his eminent fairness at all times in his personal and business relations, his winning and genial personality, his large-hearted and sympathetic nature, and his absolute fidelity—these were traits possessed by this man in a remarkable degree and bound men to him in ties of strongest friendship and regard. Men often speak of each other, when the facts justify it, in terms of great respect and consideration. All men who came much in touch with Mr. Evans do more; they speak of him with love and mourn his loss with sincere sorrow. Nor was this lovable man, with all his gentleness and kindness, lacking in rugged strength of character. He was a man of convictions, and he possessed the courage as well as the ability to defend them. His influence in the politics of Minnesota will be felt for many years to come. While active and influential in that

sphere, his methods were ever those of honor and scrupulous honesty. His example in this respect is one worthy of all emulation and will continue to exert an influence for good upon the political history of his state.

He came to Minnesota seventeen years ago, a young man just fairly entered upon the practice of his profession. The early years were years of struggle not unmixed with hardship, but his ability, his industry, and his integrity were unfailing and won for him a high place in the legal profession of his state and of the country. Possessing unusual talents as a public speaker, and disposed to take a practical interest in public affairs he naturally became a factor in the politics of the state. For nine years he held the position of Minnesota member of the National Republican Committee, a fact which of itself testifies abundantly to the confidence which was reposed in him by the leaders of the republican party, both in state and nation.

During all this time, while giving of his time and ability and energy to the advancement of those political principles in which he thoroughly believed, his services were disinterested and unselfish. It was his hope that in good time he might round out his legal career in the dignified and honored position of a member of the federal bench, a place for which he was eminently qualified; but circumstances did not favor the satisfying of his most laudable ambition. The only political office which he ever held—if it may be described as a political office—was that of United States district attorney, which came to him unsolicited. The only office for which he ever strove was that of senator of the United States. Standing in a closer and more intimate relation to the late Senator Davis than any other man, and possessed of the ability to justify the ambition, it was peculiarly appropriate that he should aspire to the place made vacant by the death of his eminent friend. The events of that campaign are recent and the memory of them fresh in the minds of the public. How near he came to success, how narrowly and how sadly he missed the honor, are well remembered. And yet, in this undoubtedly bitter disappointment, the true character of the man revealed itself and made a lasting impression on those who heard his remarkable speech made in the hour of his defeat. The grace with which he

accepted the verdict and the dignified yet magnanimous manner in which he acquiesced in the decision of the party, left him at the end of the campaign with many more admiring friends than he possessed at the beginning. Then followed the supreme trial of his life—the loss of his devoted wife. Again the spirit was brave and the heart uncomplaining, and he bore his great grief in such a manly fashion as to elicit renewed expressions of admiration and sympathy. But impaired health and physical deterioration were factors in the strife with which he was not able to contend.

So the end came suddenly. And to-day, while loving friends and sorrowing neighbors pay the last office of service and tender attention to the dead, and seek to sooth the grief of the orphaned children, all over the state and all over the country men and women, of high degree and low, are speaking tributes of honor and respect, for the name and the influence of Robert G. Evans was confined to no narrow sphere. Thus is exemplified in the life and in the death of a good man the wisdom of the wisest, that "a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold."

St. Paul Globe

Sept. 22, 1901, at page 3.

IN MEMORY OF EVANS

**BAR ASSOCIATIONS OF TWO COUNTIES MEET
TO DO HIM HONOR**

MANY WORDS OF EULOGY

**Distinguished Lawyers Review the
Life and Character of Late District Attorney
and Adopt Resolutions.**

The Ramsey and Hennepin County Bar associations held memorial services for the late Robert G. Evans yesterday afternoon, and distinguished lawyers who had known Mr. Evans long and intimately, paid loving tribute to his memory. The meeting was held at the federal building in Minneapolis, and was presided over by Judge William Lochren.

At the time of Mr. Evans' death Judge Lochren appointed committees from both bar associations to arrange a joint memorial service and to draw up flitting resolutions. When Judge Lochren called the meeting to order Judge Henry C. Belden read the following memorial prepared by the committee:

To the Honorable the Judges of the Circuit Court of the United States for District of Minnesota: The committee of the bar, appointed to present to the court a memorial touching the life and character of Robert G. Evans, the attorney for the United States for the district of Minnesota, who died on Aug., 25, 1901, beg leave to submit the following minute, and move that it be spread on the records of the court:

"Mr. Evans began his professional career in Indiana, and soon took a prominent place among the young members of the bar. Desiring to enter a wider field, he removed to Minneapolis in 1884, where his ability and industry won him speedy recognition. From his early boyhood he was attracted to public affairs, and gave much time and thought to the study of political questions, particularly those involving the general government. His work and capacity were such that for a time he was a member of the national committee of the party with which he was affiliated.

His ideals in politics were marked by the sterling quality of honesty. He yielded no principle for gain, and neither sought nor obtained advancement for himself or his party except by merit. He was appointed United States attorney for this district by President McKinley in 1899 without solicitation, and continued to hold the office until his death, executing its duties with signal ability and judgment. Early this year he was a candidate for senator from this state. He was defeated, but his manly and upright in test was a

model, of political partisanship, and won the respect and admiration both of friend and opponent.

“As a lawyer, Mr. Evans belonged distinctly to the class whose dealings are founded solely on loyalty and honor. He adopted the most exacting standard of professional ethics, and no consideration of personal loss or gain could induce him to depart from the high path he had marked for himself. His professional work was characterized by careful preparation and sound practical sense his counsel favored equitable adjustment rather than litigious victory. His courage, vigor and learning made him a formidable adversary in the court room, yet this zeal for his cause never led him to overstep the limits of courtesy to his brethren or fidelity to the court.

“He had an amiable and attractive personality. His temperament was genial, his manner open and sympathetic. These qualities brought many friends, to whom he gave an unfaltering loyalty, and who in turn were bound to him by the strongest ties. In his death the bar has lost an exemplary member, and the public service has been deprived of a tried and faithful officer.”

The memorial was signed by the members of the committee: Henry C. Belden, Victor J. Welch, John Day Smith, J. O. P. Wheelwright, Eugene Hay, A. B. Jackson and Emanuel Cohen, of Minneapolis, and Hiram F. Stevens, Edward C. Stringer, Frank B. Kellogg, Moses E. Clapp and C. D. O'Brien, of St. Paul.

Eugene G. Hay, former United States district attorney and lifelong friend of Mr. Evans, delivered the first address in eloquent eulogy of the dead lawyer as a man and a citizen. He spoke of his long and honorable career at the bar. His public activities were narrated, and the speaker held him up as an example of the citizen in politics for the good of the state.

Senator H. F. Stevens, of St. Paul, delivered a stirring address, paying high tribute to the honesty and ability of Mr. Evans, and declaring that such men redeemed politics from disrepute. Judge A. H. Young, Gen. H. W. Childs, John Day Smith, Victor J. Welch, James Best and John B. Atwater spoke briefly in recommending the passage of the memorial resolutions.

Among the federal officials present were: E. A. Purdy, district attorney; Henry D. Lang, clerk of the circuit court; Charles L. Spencer, clerk of the district court; George F. Hitchcock, deputy clerk; Robert C. Mabey, deputy clerk; Richard F. Mabey, reporter; Hector (sic) H. Horn, reporter; James Conway, crier; William H. Grimshaw, marshal; N. Nelson, assistant custodian; C. S. Crane, special agent of the treasury department; Judge Harrison, of the district court; Congressman Fletcher and former Gov. Lind attended the exercises, also L. S. Perm, of West Superior, and Gen. W. J. Hahn.

From St. Paul were Hiram F. Stevens, Frank B. Kellogg, C. A. Severance, John E. Stryker, former Attorney General Childs and Judge John R. Willis. •

Evans subscribed to a collection of biographies and a regional history before his death. As a subscriber he was entitled to have his own biographical sketch included in the books. They follow.

APPENDIX

Profile	Pages
Progressive Men of Minnesota (1897).....	25-27
History of the Great Northwest (1901).....	27-30

Progressive Men of Minnesota (1897)

ROBERT GRENAP EVANS.

Robert Grenap Evans is a lawyer and leading member of the Minneapolis bar. His ancestry is Welsh and English, but both his parents were born in this country, in Kentucky. His father, Joseph S. Evans, in the early '50's, while yet a young man, went from Kentucky to Indiana, and located at Troy. He was first employed on a farm, but afterwards engaged in mercantile business, having removed to Rockport, Indiana, in 1856. He continued in the mercantile business until 1874, except for a few years, when he was engaged in farming. More recently he has been in the insurance business at Rockport.

At Troy he married Mary C. Cotton, a daughter of a physician practicing his profession in Indiana, and a member of the constitutional convention which revised the constitution of that state in 1852.



ROBERT GRENAP EVANS.

Robert Grenap was born while his parents resided at Troy, March 18, 1854. He attended the village schools of Rockport until his eighteenth year, when he entered the sophomore class of the state university at Bloomington, and completed the junior year in that institution. His inclinations were toward the law as a profession, and in 1875 he entered the law office of Charles L. Wedding, of Rockport, and began his legal education, at the same time practicing before the justice courts of Spencer County. In 1876 he was admitted to the bar.

He left Rockport soon after and settled in Vincennes, where he formed a law partnership with Judge F. W. Viehe, which continued

until April, 1884, when Mr. Evans came to Minneapolis. In July of that year he formed a partnership with Judge Daniel Fish, which continued until November, 1887, when it was dissolved on account of the retirement of Judge Fish from general practice to become the attorney of the Minnesota Title Insurance Company. Mr. Evans then formed his present business connection with Messrs. A. M. Keith, Charles T. Thompson and Edwin K. Fairchild, under the firm name of Keith, Evans, Thompson & Fairchild. This firm is regarded as one of the strongest in the state, and enjoys an extensive and lucrative practice of a general business character and largely an office practice. Mr. Evans was also the local attorney for the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha road from the time he came to Minneapolis in 1884 until January 1, 1895.

He is a Republican and has always taken an active interest in politics, both in Indiana and in Minnesota. He has never sought an office and has never held one, but has done a great deal of valuable and effective work for his party. He served on the state central committee in Indiana for two years including the campaign of 1880, but declined reappointment at the end of the second year. He was in Minnesota when the vigorous campaign of 1884 opened, and, although a new arrival, he threw himself into the work of the campaign with the same enthusiasm and devotion to the cause which he has always manifested. He made a number of speeches in that campaign and has stumped the state at every general election since.

Mr. Evans is a man of rare geniality, courteous in his treatment of every one, generous and sincere, and he is the trusted friend of probably more public men than any other man of the state. These qualities of good fellowship, kindness and square dealing in politics, are responsible for the friendly familiarity which has caused him to be known everywhere as "Rob" Evans. Never asking for political preferment for himself, he is always ready to sacrifice his time and private interests to the good of his party and the advantage of his political friends. He had been in the state scarcely two years before he was selected as a member of the Republican state central committee, assisting in the conduct of the McGill campaign in 1886. In December, 1887, Senator Davis resigned from the National

Republican committee and Mr. Evans was selected to fill the vacancy. He was elected for the period of four years again in 1888, and re-elected in 1892. He has always been an active member of the Union League, and was president of that organization in 1885 and 1886. He is a member of the Commercial Club and the Minneapolis Club, and an attendant of the Methodist Church.

He was married in 1877 to Mary Graham, at Evansville, Indiana, and has three children living, Margaret, Stanley and Graham. His home is in the suburb of Kenwood. ¹

History of the Great Northwest and Its Men of Progress

(1901)

EVANS, Robert Grenap.—One of the most popular public men in the state of Minnesota is Robert G. Evans, the present United States district attorney. He is a man of rare geniality, courteous in his treatment of every one, and generous and sincere in his friendships. Such excellent qualities of good fellowship, when combined with his open-handed and square dealing in politics, have won for "Bob" Evans, as he is familiarly known, the friendship of every man with whom he has come in contact.

Mr. Evans' parents were born in Kentucky, and were of Welsh and English descent. In the early 50's, Joseph S. Evans, his father, while yet a young man, moved from Kentucky and located at Troy, Ind. Here he was engaged in farm work for a short time, later entering

¹ Marion D. Shutter & J. S. McLain eds., *Progressive Men of Minnesota* 40-41 (Minneapolis Journal, 1897). It is subtitled "Biographical sketches and portraits of the leaders in business, politics and the professions; together with an historical and descriptive sketch of the state."

the mercantile business at Rockport, Ind., in 1856. With the exception of a few years devoted to agricultural pursuits, he continued in the mercantile business until 1874. More recently he has been in the insurance business at Rockport. He was married while at Troy to Mary C. Cotton. Her father was a prominent physician in the Hoosier state, and was a member of the constitutional convention which revised the constitution of that state in 1852.

Robert G. was born at Troy, Ind., March 15, 1854. His early educational training was received in the schools of Rockport. In his eighteenth year he entered the sophomore class of the state university at Bloomington, but only completed his junior year in that institution.

When 21 years of age he entered the law office of Charles L. Wedding, of Rockport. At the time he was acquiring his legal education, he also practiced before the justice courts of Spencer county. He was admitted to the bar in 1876. He located at Vincennes shortly afterwards, forming a law partnership with Judge F. W. Viehe, which was continued until April, 1884, when he moved to Minnesota, making his home in Minneapolis, where he has since resided. His first partnership was formed with Judge Daniel Fish, which was continued until November, 1887, at which time Judge Fish retired from general practice to accept the attorneyship of the Minnesota Title Insurance Company. Mr. Evans then formed his present connection with Messrs. A. M. Keith, Charles T. Thompson and Edwin K. Fairchild, under the firm name of Keith, Evans, Thompson & Fairchild. This firm enjoys an extensive and lucrative practice of a general business character and is regarded as one of the most prominent law firms in the state. From 1884 to 1890 he held the position of local attorney for the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha railroad.

Mr. Evans' political affiliations are with the Republican party, for which he has done a great deal of valuable and effective work. He was a member of the Indiana state central committee for two years, but declined reappointment. Though a new arrival to the state of Minnesota, he threw himself into the vigorous campaign of 1884

with all the enthusiasm of which he is capable, and with the devotion he has always evinced in the cause of the party. He stumped the state, making a number of effective speeches, and this he has done at every general election since. He is a forcible speaker, convincing in his logic, and, as such, has contributed invaluable service to his party. He has never sought political preferment for himself, but has always been willing to sacrifice his time and private interests to the good of the party.



ROBERT G. EVANS.

Two years after becoming a resident of Minnesota, he was elected as a member of the state central committee, and in December, 1887, was chosen as a member of the Republican National Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Davis. In 1888 he was elected for the next ensuing term of four years, re-elected in 1892, and declined a re-election in 1896. He has always been an active member of the Union League, and was president of that organization in 1885 and 1886. In recognition of his eminent services to the party he was appointed, in 1898, without seeking the

office, United States district attorney for the state of Minnesota by President McKinley.

On the death of Senator C. K. Davis, with whom he had closely affiliated ever since 1884, he has also so far followed in the footsteps of the distinguished senator as to be his successor as national committeeman and to fill likewise the same office of United States district attorney. It was therefore only natural that very many should regard Mr. Evans as a logical successor of Mr. Davis in the senatorship, for which eminent legal and forensic abilities fully qualified Mr. Evans. Having received the almost unanimous support of the state senators and members of the House from his own district he entered the canvass, and secured the largest vote of any single candidate. The "field," however, was against him, and by combining brought about his defeat. But Mr. Evans increased the public esteem which brought him so near the goal by pledging anew his loyalty to the principles of his party, and by his sincere acquiescence in the result.

Mr. Evans is a member of the Commercial Club and the Minneapolis Club. His church connections are with the Methodist Episcopal body. In 1877 he was married to Miss Mary Graham, at Evansville, Ind., and has three children living—Margaret, Stanley and Graham. Mrs. Evans passed away April 15, 1901.²



² Hugh J. McGrath and William Stoddard, eds., *History of the Great Northwest and Its Men of Progress* 496-498 (1901). Evans' photograph on the first page of this article is from this book.

Sketches of the four members of Keith, Evans, Thompson & Fairchild law firm are included in "The Courts and Bar of Hennepin County" 21-22 (MLHP, 2015) (published first, 1891).