

In Memoriam

Arja D. Evans

April 6, 1875 - August 21, 1935

Hennepin County Bar Association
District Court
Fourth Judicial District
Minneapolis, Minnesota
February 3, 1936

Arja D. Evans

1875 – 1935

This Sunday Journal of January 5th in the column of twenty-five years ago had an item to the effect that A. D. Evans had resigned as license inspector of the City of Minneapolis. This item tells of the ending of the political life of our Arja D. Evans, better known to his acquaintances as A. D. Evans, after an exciting and somewhat colorful career in that office.

Evans was born April 6, 1875 on a farm near South Bend, a vanished and now forgotten village about five miles southwest of Mankato. His grandfather, David Evans, was a miner in the mines of Wales. He came to this country in 1826. His father, John D. Evans, sailed around Cape Horn and joined the 49'ers seeking gold in California. Then he came back to New York, and in 1863 came to Minnesota and settled on a farm near South Bend. There A. D. was born. He went to the country school and later to the High School and Normal at Mankato, walking there and back each day, summer and winter, a total distance of ten miles a day. In these daily journeys he acquired the walk of the Indian, a gait which characterized him rest of his life.

He was brought up in a political atmosphere, both his father and his uncle, contrary to the stand the most Welch people, were Democrats. One of his cousins, David H. Evans, brother of M. V. Evans, a member of the Minneapolis Bar, was a power for many years in the Democratic Party of Minnesota and another cousin, W. H. Evans, ran for Governor of California in the last primary election on the Democratic ticket and was snowed under by Upton Sinclair.

It is not strange therefore that when Evans entered the night Law School of the University he also turned to politics. He was elected an officer of the University Democratic Club. Also after a brisk contest he was the elected president of the Board of Athletic Control. Subsequently a disagreement with Prof. James Paige of the Law School resulted in Evans

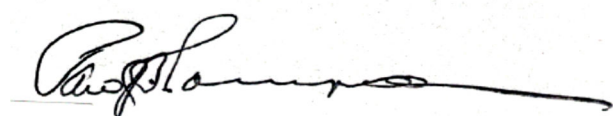
finishing his legal education at the St. Paul College of Law. He was admitted to the Bar in 1906.

Through University politics Evans became acquainted with James C. Haynes, a prominent lawyer and politician in the Second Ward. On January 7, 1907 Mayor Haynes appointed Evans License Inspector for the City of Minneapolis. For a time during his occupancy of this office he was front page news. When he resigned he came to the conclusion that political office had no further charms and he gave his time to the practice of law, first with the late Ira C. Peterson as Evans & Peterson and later alone.

In his later years he gave his attention to building a considerable number of moderate priced residences in south Minneapolis. These he financed in the usual way by a mortgage and then selling on contract. In ordinary times these houses would have been a stable and valuable property but the depression gradually began to take the value out of the equities. Worried by his financial troubles and with failing health but with great determination he tried to save his properties and by strenuous treatments to recover his health. He was unsuccessful and died at Rochester, Minnesota August 21, 1935. His funeral was held in the Presbyterian Church of Mankato, of which he was a member, and he was buried at Mankato.

He remained a faithful but at times a critical Democrat all his life. He had a shrewd and keen sense of political movements and of politicians. He can predict the outcome of elections with the great sagacity and very considerable accuracy.

A. D. was never married. He left surviving him his brother, Elmer, who lives in South Dakota, and a sister, Mrs. Frank Thomas, lives in California.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. D. Evans", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Mankato Free Press

August 22, 1935.

Front Page

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**ARJA D. EVANS, 60,
DIES AT ROCHESTER.**

**Was Once Resident of Mankato;
Funeral Will Be Held Here
Saturday**

Arja D. Evans, a former resident of Mankato, passed away yesterday at Rochester. Mr. Evans was the son of John D. and Jane Evans, pioneer settlers in Blue Earth county, and was born in South Bend April 6, 1875.

Mr. Evans attended the Mankato high school and the Mankato Commercial college and entered the University of Minnesota in 1900. He was admitted to the bar in 1906 and continued his practice in Minneapolis until his death. For four years, under the Haynes administration, he was license inspector in Minneapolis and also served as superintendent of General hospital for two years.

Funeral services will be held at the First Presbyterian church in Mankato Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock with Rev. W. W. Kirby officiating and burial will be in Glenwood cemetery. The body will lie in state at the Landkamer funeral home until 12:30 Saturday noon when it will be taken to the church.

Surviving Mr. Evans are a brother, Elmer W. Evans of Watertown, S. D.; a sister, Mrs. Frank B. Thomas of Terminal Isles, Calif.; and a cousin, John Evans of Minneapolis.