

MEMORIAL

TO

JAMES FLEMING

(June 29, 1895 - February 11, 1935)

HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Hennepin County District Court
Minneapolis, Minnesota
February 8, 1936

MEMORIAL TO JAMES FLEMING

JAMES FLEMING was born June 29, 1895 and died February 11, 1935. On July 30, 1924 he married Miss Margaret McGovern, who survives him. He was born and raised in Minneapolis.

In order that you better understand the life of this man, it is necessary to record that when he was two years of age he was hurt in a fall, leaving him with a permanent injury, and causing him a great deal of suffering throughout his comparatively short life.

During the World War, not being able to join the military forces of his country, Mr. Fleming became Chief Clerk of the Appeal Draft Board for the Third District of Minnesota, where he served from July 1, 1917 to November 12, 1918. In this work he served under James E. O'Brien, of our bar, who informs me that this Board, largely through Mr. Fleming's efforts, was so efficiently handled that the day following the armistice the offices here were closed and the records shipped to Washington.

Immediately after this he entered the law office of Mr. O'Brien law clerk and stenographer. While there, by hard work and study, he prepared himself for the bar, and was admitted in 1922. Thereafter he was associated in practice with John R. Coan, the firm of Nash & Nichols, and at the time of his death with A. S. Dowdall Jr., and Ernest Erickson.

He was always cheerful, made friends easily, and was able to find a humorous part in almost any situation. There are many who can testify of his generosity both as to his time and money.

I had occasion to see James Fleming quite often in the trial of cases in the criminal branch of the Municipal Court. I was impressed with his good judgment. If his clients pleaded Not Guilty, you could expect a real issue. He saw that quite often the strength of his defense lay in the weakness of the State's testimony. He never "made a case" for the State by cross-examination; not did he put the defendant on the stand if it served no useful purpose.

His chief diversion was reading, and he often attended baseball games.

If brief, he was a pleasant, likeable, capable man; and although Tragedy had cast its shadow over all but two years of his life, he never asked more than equal treatment with his fellow men.

February 8, 1936

Paul S. Carroll
Judge, District Court

—•—