

**In Memoriam**

**Clark R. Fletcher**

**( December 18, 1885 – January 20, 1943 )**

**MEMORIAL TO MR. CLARK R. FLETCHER, DELIVERED AT  
MEMORIAL EXERCISES HELD IN THE HENNEPIN COUNTY  
COURT HOUSE, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, AT A  
SPECIAL TERM OF THE FULL BENCH OF THE HENNEPIN  
COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, SATURDAY MORNING,  
FEBRUARY 27, 1943, AT 10 O'CLOCK A. M.**

**Clark R. Fletcher, 57 years old, member of this Bar for more than thirty years, partner in the Minneapolis law firm of Fletcher, Dorsey, Barker, Colman & Barber, died at 10:30 P. M. Wednesday, January 20, 1943, in St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, Minnesota, of a cerebral malignant tumor, after an illness which began in December, 1942. His funeral services were held in Westminster Church in Minneapolis on Saturday, January 28, and he was interred in Lakewood cemetery in Minneapolis.**

**Mr. Fletcher was born December 15, 1885, on a farm near Seymour, Wisconsin. He went to a nearby country school, then to normal school at Whitewater, Wisconsin, and later taught school and worked as a book salesman, railroad yard car checker and summer resort restaurant operator, in order to earn his way through law school. He graduated from the College of Law, University of Wisconsin, in 1911. He came to Minnesota in 1912 and practiced law in St. Paul for a short time. Within less than a year thereafter he came to Minneapolis and became associated with E. P. Allen, with whom he shortly became a partner and remained in partnership with him for some years under of Allen and Fletcher. Later he became a member of the law firm of Fletcher, Timmerman & Vennum. In 1929 he joined his present associates.**

**He was a member of the Minneapolis Club, Minnekada Club, Minnetonka Yacht Club, Kable Klub, and was also a member of the Hennepin County, Minnesota, and American Bar Associations.**

**He is survived by his widow (formerly Alice Johnson of St. Paul), by his two sons, Clark R. Fletcher, Jr. and Kingston Fletcher, by his daughter, Mrs. C. Hamilton Luther, and by his grandson, Charles Hamilton Luther, all of Minneapolis. He is also survived by his two brothers, Glen O. Fletcher of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Chester Fletcher of Waukesha, Wisconsin, and by his two sisters, Blanche and Iva of Waukesha, Wisconsin. His home was at 2301 Penn Avenue South, Minneapolis, and in the summers at Lake Minnetonka.**

In the hearts of those who knew him he is not dead - he is away. Really to know him was to honor and love him. He had a real talent for attracting and binding friends to him, and he left behind him an unusual number of warm, close friends. He was very human and very fine. Quite unselfishly he liked to serve those things he believed in. At his death he was a trustee of Westminster Church, Macalester College, Abbott Hospital, and the Minneapolis Y. M. C. A. Perhaps his greatest joy was to give of himself to such service.

He would play too, happy in the human contacts of games at his club or on the golf course, and perhaps happiest of all to don old clothes with his family at his home at the lake where he loved to spend his summers, and to go sailing with one or more of his children and perhaps his wife, to putter with his recalcitrant outboard motor, to dig in his garden, to coax some beauty from his flowers, or perhaps, best of all, to ramp with his little grandson on the lawn.

With all this, he was a really great lawyer. If he had a fault, it was that he worked too hard. But he loved it, just as he loved to play hard. Half-way measures were not in him. For more than thirty years as a member of this bar he was very busy, and indefatigably industrious. At the time of the outset of his last illness, he was engrossed in the preparation for [an] early trial of a complicated anti-trust suit pending in Federal court in Chicago. The records of this and other courts are replete with complicated accounting or trust suits which he handled with rare competence, and which were perhaps his specialty. The Hanke case, the Queal case, the Shevlin case, the Aberdeen Bank case are just a few that stand as memorials to him, and some of which some here may remember. It is doubtful if many lawyers could have handled any of them as well as he did, because only to a few has been given his almost genius for handling complicated accounts, records, facts and law, and the tireless industry with which he marshalled and prepared them.

Yes, now he is away. But in our hearts his memory will linger for us to honor and to cherish, — linger to inspire us as we strive to be all that a lawyer ought to be, not only as a lawyer, but as a man.

Leavitt R. Barker

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MLHP: Clark Robinson Fletcher was admitted to the Minnesota bar on March 23, 1912. See *1 Roll of Attorneys: Supreme Court, State of Minnesota, 1858-1970* 144 (State Law Library, 2011).

This is the business card of Allen & Fletcher that appeared in *Lawyers and Bankers Directory for 1915*:

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EDMUND P. ALLEN. CLARK R. FLETCHER.

**Allen & Fletcher,**  
Attorneys and Counselors,  
936-942 Andrus Bldg., MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

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REFERENCES —Metropolitan National Bank, Minneapolis State Bank, Scandinavian-American National Bank.

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