

MEMORIAL

FRANK W. BAER
(1854 – 1931)

Ramsey County Bar Association

April 4, 1931

MEMORIAL IN COMMORATION OF
FRANK W. BAER
AS A MEMBER OF THE BAR OF RAMSEY
COUNTY, MINNESOTA, PRESENTED BEFORE
THE JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT
AT SPECIAL TERM, APRIL 4, 1931.

To the Honorable Judges of the District Court of Ramsey County,
Minnesota.

The committee of the Ramsey County Bar appointed to present a memorial in honor of Frank W. Baer, lately deceased, a member of the bar, submits the following in commemoration of his activities as a lawyer and citizen.

Frank W. Baer was born at West Newton, Pennsylvania, October 4, 1854. He passed away at St. Paul, February 27, 1931. He was married to Alice Rolph at Baltimore, Maryland, in the year 1887. Coming to St. Paul in 1888, he resided in the Riverview District of the City continuously up to the date of his death. His first occupation here was as a brakeman on the Chicago Great Western Railway. He was in the service of that road as conductor on the "Short Line," so called, running between St. Paul and Inver Grove, for a term of years. Later he traveled for the firm of Friedman and Lewis, now the American Biscuit Company, and subsequently for Kuhles and Stock, cigar manufacturers, his territory embracing Minnesota and the Dakotas. In the year 1900 he became Chief Deputy City Treasurer under Otto Bremer, Treasurer of the City of St. Paul, a position which he held continuously for ten years. He studied law at the St. Paul College of Law and was admitted to the bar May 22, 1906. He was appointed Chief Deputy Sheriff of Ramsey County in 1910 and served continuously in that capacity until his death, save the years 1918 to 1926, when he was engaged in the fuel business.

Mr. Baer was head of the Commercial Bowling League for twenty years.

He was a member of the Riverview Commercial Club of which he was president for a term. He was also a member of the United Commercial Travelers, The I.O.O.F., Knights of Pythias, Improved Order of Redman and Braden Lodge No. 168, A.F. and A.M. Mr. Baer organized a bowling league consisting of eight teams, in the St. Paul Association of Office Men, of which he was a member.

Mr. Baer at all times during his residence in St. Paul was an outstanding citizen of the community in which he lived. In character and disposition he was aggressive and forceful, but, withal, was genial and companionable. Frequently manifesting his sociability in relating incidents of his life, two such incidents, among others, may be mentioned as worthy of record. One of them is his relation of having seen and shaken hands with Abraham Lincoln. The other is an account of his recollection of the time when, at nine years of age, from a vantage point in a cherry tree, he saw a portion of the field of Gettysburg during that battle.

Mr. Baer's interest in the civic enterprises of the Riverview district in St. Paul, was constant and active. His influence in furthering those enterprises has left a permanent impress on the development of that district. In the acquisition of Cherokee Park for the City of St. Paul he was a moving figure in a degree shared by no one. In his advocacy of the proposed park project, in private conversation, in appearances before public bodies and departments of the City, he was untiring. Among other incidents of his efforts to secure the completion of the project may be noted an occasion, after an appropriation of a considerable sum of money had been made by the City as the public contribution to the acquisition of the ground, certain interests active in promoting the institution of parks in other parts of the City were before the Commissioner of Parks, soliciting the diversion of those funds from the proposed Cherokee Park to another like project. Mr. Baer almost single handed opposed such diversion before the Commissioner, and the appropriation was thus saved to the Cherokee development.

Mr. Baer suffered the loss of his wife, Alice Rolph Baer, in her death, July

8th, 1929. He is survived by his daughters, Mrs. Eva B. Sander and Miss Alice Baer, both living in St. Paul.

It is but human to wish that our friendships may continue throughout our lives. More unselfish is our regret when our city, too, is robbed of the further service of men with Mr. Baer's a experience in public office, men who are trained officers of the law, and capable of more usefulness to mankind. Yet as against our grief for a death, let us put our gratitude for a life lived uprightly, graciously and honorably. This memorial is prepared and presented in commemoration of one who by years of service devoted to the public interest, merits and deserves the tribute we pay him.

He was the head of a family circle whose bitter grief cannot be assuaged by a stranger's pity, yet if the burden of sorrow can be lightened, even in small degree by the knowledge that others, too, are grieving, it is our sincere hope that these ceremonies may help toward that end.

And what are memories? The recollections of a man's life and his relationships to us. Those men are considered blessed who live on only in the love of their families and intimate friends. But the man who lives on in the wider field of civic and political memory is thrice blessed. And such a man was Frank W. Baer.

Let us extend our sincerest sympathies and condolences to his daughters, Mrs. Eva B. Sander and Miss Alice Baer, for the loss they have suffered in the passing of their beloved father, Frank W. Baer.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lloyd Peabody

/s/ Othniel Brandt

/s/ Charles J. Yackel

/s/ Ralph Stacker

