

IN MEMORIAM

HORACE HUBBARD GLENN

(March 10, 1879 • October 17, 1944)

**Ramsey County Bar Association
District Court
St. Paul, Minnesota**

March 31, 1945

**Referee Horace H. Glenn
(1879-1944)**

Horace Hubbard Glenn spent his early years in South Dakota, where he was educated and held a variety of jobs, including surveying, lumberjacking, clerking for a railroad executive and, finally, being the chief stenographer for the General Superintendent of the Northern Pacific Railroad. At that time, having relocated with his family to St. Paul, he decided to make one last career change: become a lawyer. And so in 1908 he began taking night courses at the St. Paul College of Law.

While a law student he clerked with Stiles W. Burr, a prominent St. Paul lawyer who was president of the State Bar Association in 1915. Graduating with honors in 1911, he was admitted to the Minnesota bar on June 16th of that year,¹ and continued his association with Burr until the later's removal in 1923 to Washington, D. C., to practice tax law.²

He continued to practice law in St. Paul, and soon formed his own firm, Glenn, Frankel & Christopherson. On April 11, 1933, at the height of the Great Depression, he moved from the bar to the bench, by accepting an appointment by District Court Judge Joseph W. Molyneaux as Referee in Bankruptcy, succeeding John P. Galbraith.³ St. Paul newspapers reported the story. This from the *St. Paul Dispatch* :

¹ Roll of Attorneys, Supreme Court, State of Minnesota, 1858-1970, at 115 (Minnesota Digital Library).

² In 1937 Glenn was a member of the Committee of the Ramsey County Bar Association that prepared a Memorial for Burr. It included the following:

Mr. Glenn, one of the members of the committee preparing this memorial, had the inestimable privilege of receiving his early legal training in Mr. Burr's office, while attending night law school; and it is his belief that no student of the law could have had a more fortunate situation or association. The thorough industry, the meticulous accuracy, and the fine sense of fiduciary responsibility for the interests of clients, with which that office was conducted, provided the finest possible training school for a law student or a young lawyer; and Mr. Burr's friendly and generous appreciation of services rendered him by subordinates, and his interest in their advancement were something never to be forgotten.

"Stiles W. Burr (1868-1937)" in "Ramsey County Bar Memorials—1937" 12-15 (MLHP, 2016) (delivered first, March 27, 1937).

³ For Referee Galbraith's bar memorial by the Ramsey County Bar Association, see "John P. Galbraith (1866-1933)" (MLHP, 2012) (delivered first, April 15, 1933).

Attorney Here Given U. S. Job

**Horace H. Glenn, Appointed
Federal Referee in
Bankruptcy.**

Horace H. Glenn, St. Paul attorney, has been appointed Federal referee in bankruptcy by Federal Judge Joseph W. Molyneaux, who filed an order today to that effect with the clerk of Federal District Court.

Mr. Glenn is appointed to succeed John P. Galbraith who died last week. He is a member of the firm Glenn, Frankel & Christopherson with offices in the Endicott building. He lives at 1647 Stillwater Road.⁴

During the next decade he was reassigned from the third division of the Bankruptcy Court encompassing St. Paul and adjacent counties to the fourth division covering Minneapolis. But he remained a resident of St. Paul. He was active in the National Association of Bankruptcy Referees, and developed a reputation in the bar for being an outstanding bankruptcy jurist.

On October 17, 1944, tragedy struck. Under circumstances that remain unknown, he drowned in the Mississippi River. His body was not found for two weeks. The *St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press* carried the story:⁵

Body Of Glenn, Missing 2 Weeks, Found In River

The body of Horace H. Glenn, St. Paul man missing for nearly two weeks, was found at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the Mississippi river at the east end of Nicolet island in Minneapolis.

Deputy coroner H. J. Wells identified the body as Glenn's, and found no marks or bruises to indicate foul play. Glenn's watch, wallet and other belongings were in his clothes.

⁴ *St. Paul Dispatch*, April 11, 1933, at 1. The story in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* the next day was accompanied by a photograph. April 12, 1933, at 6.

⁵ *St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press*, October 29, 1944, at 1.

Coroner Russell R. Heim said Saturday he will investigate the circumstances surrounding Glenn's death.

Glenn disappeared about midnight Oct. 16, and Minneapolis police have been unable to locate anyone who saw him after he left the 5 O'Clock club, 34 S. Fifth st. Employees of the club offered to call a taxi for him, they said, but he replied that he preferred to walk to the nearest taxi stand.

Deputy coroner Wells said Saturday that Glenn's watch stopped to 2:45.

A St. Paul attorney, Glenn served as federal referee in bankruptcy since April 1933.

The *Journal of the National Association of Referees in Bankruptcy* carried his obituary in its October issue:

HORACE H. GLENN

The death by drowning of Referee Horace H. Glenn, Minneapolis, Minn., occurred October 17th, his body being found several days later.

Mr. Glenn was born in Minneapolis March 10, 1879. After a few years spent in railroad work, ranching and lumberjacking, he entered the St. Paul College of Law for night study and was graduated in 1911, when he commenced the practice of law in St. Paul, where he made his home.

He was first appointed as a referee in bankruptcy in 1933 serving the third division of Minnesota, consisting, of seven counties. Following the death of the late Walter H. Newton, Minneapolis, he took over the work of the fourth division of thirteen counties, dividing his time between the two cities until the appointment of Referee Richard N. Gardner a year ago, when Mr. Glenn retained the Minneapolis territory. He became a member of this Association immediately after his appointment and attended with Mrs. Glenn, at times with other members of his family, all

conferences since then, serving on various standing and special committees and as a circuit director for two years. He was a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association.

He is survived by his widow and seven children. Two sons, Andrew and William, are lieutenants in the U. S. Navy. His home was at 1647 Ames ave., St. Paul.

In attendance at the funeral services were U. S. Circuit Judge John B. Sanborn and U. S. District Judges Gunnar H. Nordbye, Matthew M. Joyce and Robert C. Bell. Referee and Mrs. Charles A. Wilson, Superior, Wisc., Referee and Mrs. Herbert M. Bierce, Winona, Minn., and Referee Horace W. Robets, Mankato, Minn., also attended.⁶

On March 31, 1945, the following tribute to Glenn was delivered at the annual memorial services of the Ramsey County Bar Association in district court:⁷

Mr. Anderson [the president of the county bar association]: Your Honors, on behalf of the Bar, a committee consisting of Pierce Butler, Lewis E. Solomon and Joseph F. Cowern, has prepared a memorial to Horace Hubbard Glenn which will be presented by Mr. Solomon.

Mr. Solomon read the memorial to Horace Hubbard Glenn.

Horace Hubbard Glenn was born at Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 10, 1879, the son of Andrew W. and Frances M. Glenn. He died at Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 17, 1944.

⁶ 19 *Journal of the National Association of Referees in Bankruptcy* 35-36 (October 1944).

⁷ It is part of the memorial proceedings delivered that day and posted in "Ramsey County Bar Memorials—1945" 15-17 (MLHP, 2018) (delivered first, March 31, 1945).

He received his early education in the public schools at Aberdeen, South Dakota. After graduating from the Aberdeen High School he spent a year with the Government Geological Survey crew surveying the Black Hills, and two years as a lumberjack in the forests east and north of Duluth, Minnesota. He then took a course at the Granger School of Business at Aberdeen, South Dakota. Following that he became Chief Clerk to the Superintendent of the James River Division of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad with offices at Aberdeen, South Dakota. In the spring of 1907 he left Aberdeen and moved to St. Paul, continuing in the same line of work as Chief Stenographer for the General Superintendent of the Northern Pacific Railway.

On June 19, 1906 he married Luella Boub of Aberdeen, South Dakota. His widow, seven children, and eleven grandchildren survive him.

In September, 1908 he entered the St. Paul College of Law, from which he graduated cum laude in 1911 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws.

In 1914 he bought the four acres then known as the "Hill" home at 1647 Stillwater (now Ames) Avenue, in the Hazel Park section of Daytons Bluff, St. Paul, Minnesota. This was his home up to the time of his death, and is now occupied by his widow and unmarried daughter, Sara.

He took pride in his family and in his Scotch ancestry. He was active in communal life and was one of the founders of the Hazel Park Commercial Club. He attended the Hazel Park Congregational Church of St. Paul, Minnesota, served it as Treasurer and Sunday School Superintendent, and sang in its choir for many years.

After graduation from law school he entered the practice of law at St. Paul, Minnesota, in association with the late Stiles W. Burr. He was appointed Referee in Bankruptcy for St. Paul on April 10, 1933. Upon the

death of the Hon. Walter Newton, he was appointed Referee in Bankruptcy for Minneapolis, and filled both posts until October 1, 1943, when a new Referee for St. Paul was appointed. He retained the refereeship in Minneapolis up to the time of his death.

He was a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association, the Ramsey County Bar Association, the Hennepin County Bar Association, and the National Association of Referees in Bankruptcy.

For over thirty years he was recognized as one of the outstanding lawyers of this State. During his term of office as Referee in Bankruptcy his conscientious work, devotion to duty, and native ability earned for him such national recognition from both bench and bar that it was justly said of him, by those best qualified to speak with authority, that he was without question the outstanding Referee in Bankruptcy in this Country.

He had a brilliant mind and a wonderful power of analysis that made difficult tasks appear easy. He loved good literature and was particularly fond of the poems of Robert Burns, many of which he could repeat from memory. His address on Burns, delivered at many gatherings, was a literary gem. His commandng ability was shadowed and tempered by a genuine love for humanity that put others at ease, and his modesty, sincerity, ready wit, keen sense of humor, and skill as a raconteur made him a delightful companion in any group.

Horace had his failings, as do we all. His were not of the soul-shriveling type. His work here is his best monument, and he is now within the jurisdiction of Him who renderest to every man according to his work. The epitaph that his beloved poet, Bobby Burns, wrote for a friend, may justly be appropriated for Horace:

**Know thou, O stranger to the fame,
Of this much-loved, much-honored name,
(For none that knew him need be told)
A warmer heart Death ne'er made cold.**

**PIERCE BUTLER.
JOSEPH F. COWERN.
LEWIS E. SOLOMON.**



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