

Henry Parker Goodenow

(July 14, 1857 – December 9, 1898)



Henry Parker Goodenow practiced law in St. Paul for about twenty years.¹ For most of that time he was associated with his uncle, Henry L. Williams, and later Benjamin I. Stanton, as Williams, Goodenow & Stanton.² After Williams retired, he and Stanton practiced together, but eventually they split, and he continued alone. He died on December 9, 1898, aged forty-one. The *St. Paul Daily Globe* carried his obituary:

MADE LAW HIS IDEAL.

Henry Parker Goodenow,
Who Died at His Home Friday.

Henry Parker Goodenow, the attorney, died at his residence, 611 Holly avenue, at 6 o'clock Friday evening, Dec. 9, 1898. The funeral of deceased will be from his late residence at 2 p. m., Monday, Dec. 12.

The late Henry Parker Goodenow was one of the most prominent attorneys in St. Paul. He was the son of Nathan C. Goodenow and Mary A. Williams, early settlers in Minnesota, and the deceased was born in St. Paul, July 14, 1857. He came of a distinguished family, being a great grandson of Samuel Prescott, a prominent veteran of the Revolutionary war, while his father, Nathan C. Goodenow, won laurels as an officer in the War of the Rebellion. The deceased was educated in the schools of St. Paul, and was admitted to the bar of Minnesota from the same city, where he practiced his profession until his death.

Mr. Goodenow was for many years associated with his uncle, Henry L. Williams, an eminent member of the legal

¹ There is some conjecture here because little is known about Goodenow's education, date of admission to the bar and nature of his practice.

² For a sketch of Williams, see "The Bar and Bench of Ramsey County" 38 (MLHP, 2015) (published first, 1892).

profession, the firm name being Williams & Goodenow, and afterwards Williams, Goodenow & Stanton. Upon the retirement of Mr. Williams from the active practice of his profession, the firm continued as Goodenow & Stanton until the death of Mr. Stanton in September last.³ Mr. Goodenow was a man of vigorous constitution, and his death was unexpected to his many friends. For about a week he had been suffering from slight ailments, but neither he nor his family deemed his condition serious. Friday morning, however, about 6:45 o'clock he was suddenly stricken with apoplexy, and died about 6 o'clock in the evening of the same day, without regaining consciousness.

In 1885 Mr. Goodenow was married to Miss Lilian C. Cooley, who with a daughter, Ray Goodenow, now 12 years of age, survives him. Mr. Goodenow at the time of his death was a member of the St. Paul Bar association, the Loyal Legion and the Sons of the American Revolution.

The death of the late Henry Parker Goodenow comes with a great shock to all who knew him. Perhaps no man of his age in the city had more friends or was more generally beloved. He was a man genial to every one on the street, most hospitable in his home, of refined and intellectual tastes, and of the highest moral character. His professional career was marked by intelligent attention to his clients' interests and by a strict observance of duty. He scorned trickery of all kinds, and his associates at the bar and his clients knew him to be a man whose words and actions were absolutely reliable. His devotion to his profession was devotion to an ideal, an ideal which demanded the highest qualities of intellect and of character.

Whether in his office advising his clients, or in the courts defending their rights, or in his home surrounded by his family and friends, or among his books, he was always the same genial, refined, bright gentleman, and both his intimate friends and his casual acquaintances will remember him with love and respect, and deplore the sudden death.

³ Their firm was dissolved before Stanton's death on September 13, 1898. See "Benjamin I. Stanton (1853-1898)." (MLHP, 2015).

The funeral of Mr. Goodenow, late a member of the St. Paul bar, will be held at the family residence, No. 611 Holly avenue, at 2 p. m., Monday, Dec. 12.

**The members of the bench and bar are requested to meet in court room No. 1, at the court house, at 1:30 p. m. sharp to attend the funeral. — T. R. Palmer,
President Ramsey County Bar Association. ⁴**

On January 21, 1899, a memorial service was held for Goodenow in Ramsey County District Court. It was given abbreviated coverage in the *Globe*:

IN MEMORY OF GOODENOW.

**Ramsey County Bar Mourn a De-
parted Member.**

On behalf of the Ramsey County Bar association, C. J. Berryhill yesterday presented to the full bench of the district court in Judge Kelly's court room resolutions adopted by the association in memory of the late Henry Parker Goodenow. The resolutions were ordered spread on the minutes, and Judge Jaggard and Judge Brill delivered brief eulogies of the deceased.⁵

Goodenow was a member, via his father, of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Minnesota Commandery, which adopted the following memorial to him in St. Paul on January 10, 1899:

⁴ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, December 11, 1898, at 8. The courts of Ramsey County closed on the afternoon of Goodenow's funeral, as reported in the *Globe*:

The courts were closed yesterday afternoon out of respect for the memory of Henry Parker Goodenow, whose funeral was held at 2 o'clock. The members of the Bar association of which the deceased was a member, attended in a body.

St. Paul Daily Globe, December 13, at 8. Members of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion were requested to attend the funeral. *Globe*, December 11, 1894, at 10; and December 12, 1898, at 2.

⁵ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, January 22 1899, at 3. The tributes were not published in the *Globe* or other dailies.

MILITARY ORDER
OF THE
LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY, STATE OF MINNESOTA.

ST. PAUL, February 1, 1899.

At a stated meeting of this Commandery held January 10, 1899, the following report, made by the committee appointed to prepare a tribute of respect to the memory of our late Companion Henry Parker Goodenow, First Class by Inheritance, Insignia 7255, was read and adopted.

By order of

CAPTAIN WILLIAM B. LEACH,
Senior Vice Commander.

LIEUTENANT DAVID L. KINGSBURY,
Recorder.

In Memoriam.

Henry Parker Goodenow.

Henry Parker Goodenow, member by inheritance, was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, July 14, 1857, and died at the same place December 9th, 1898. His father, Nathan Cutler Goodenow, entered the Volunteer service of the United States as a 2d Lieutenant, Battery A, 2d Illinois Artillery, on the 5th day of December, 1862, and was afterwards promoted to Captain of the 16th Illinois Cavalry, and to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of the same regiment on the 21st day of July, A. D. 1865, and was mustered out with his regiment on the 19th day of August, 1865, and died February 6, 1886. Of the battles and campaigns in which his father was engaged, there is no member of the committee that has any record. That he was a most reliable and valuable officer is demonstrated by his constantly rising in rank from the beginning to the end of his military service. The family from which our deceased brother descended has been distinguished for patriotism and prowess from the days of the Revolutionary war to the present time. Our companion, although the period of his life on earth was comparatively short, was a most worthy descendant of such an ancestry. For more than forty-one years he continued to reside in the city of his birth, and was an attendant of its schools, and a member of nearly all those organizations which have for their object the improvement of the condition of its people by the development and growth of all industries and interests tending to promote their prosperity and happiness. He was one of the best of citizens, one of the brightest and ablest of lawyers, and a true, manly man in all respects. He has been cut down in the meridian of his days, and while possessed of all those faculties and powers that enable a man to make his life so useful to his fellowmen and to his country. In the termination of such a life we recognize a great loss to all, and deeply deplore the death of such a man at such a period of his life.

Resolved, That in the death of Henry Parker Goodenow, we recognize the loss of a learned, agreeable, genial companion, a reliable and trustworthy friend, of a faithful and upright citizen, of an able and distinguished lawyer, cut down in the meridian of his days, and sincerely mourn our loss, even though it may be gain to him.

Resolved, That we express to the widow and family of the deceased our sympathy and condolence in their great loss and affliction, and commend them to Him who is the widow's God, and the Father of the fatherless.

JOHN B. SANBORN,
WILLIAM B. DIXON,
CHARLES F. JEWETT,

Committee.



Related Article

"Benjamin I. Stanton (1853-1898)" (MLHP, 2015).



Posted MLHP: September 25, 2015.