

M E M O R I A L

LARS O. HAUG

(June 26, 1864 – January 27, 1938)

Minneapolis Bar Association Session

February, 5th, 1938

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LARS O. HAUG

(1864-1938)

Lars O. Haug, son of Ole Johnson Svorkmo and Guru Arntsdatter Svorkmo, was born on June, 26th, 1864, at Simondhaugen, about five Norwegian miles from Trondheim, Norway.

He went through the local public schools, acquitting himself as a good student. Eager to enter High school, he was overruled by his father who thought the lad had sufficient [education] and needed him badly at home. So at the age of 9 Lars was put to sheep herding. From that time until 15 he helped his father, managing to work in some night schooling. When 16 he hired out as a farm hand with a neighbor, receiving the amazing yearly salary of \$4.00 and keeps. He made good and was hired for the next year at an increase of \$2.00 with keeps. The next two years he worked for his father, building roads and bridges and driving logs, often at great personal peril.

Accumulating a little savings, he sailed for America landing in New York City, August, 8th, 1886. Four days later he stepped from the train at Grand Forks, N. D., a perfect stranger, knowing not a word of our language. Within a week he was at work on a near by farm stacking grain, pitching bundles and helping the threshing crew. In December of that year he came to Minneapolis, hired out to go into the woods, and at the lumber camps picked up enough English to get along in ordinary conversation.

In September, 1889, he married Gurina Formoe and with his bride, departed for Seattle, Wash., which he found devastated by fire and its inhabitants living in tents. Going to Tacoma, he worked for a logging contractor. In the late Summer of 1890 his wife died in child birth as soon the son was born. Returning to Minneapolis late in that year he resumed work in the lumber yards until the great fire therein in 1893. Thereafter, at intervals, as his finances permitted, he attended Wraaman's Academy, one of the early racial melting pots. In 1897 and on he

attended the old Minneapolis Academy, where his general education was rounded out.

Entering the law department of the University of Minnesota, on a catch as catch can basis, he remained in school from time to time, as his money permitted, supporting himself by sorting and scaling lumber.

In December, 1903, he married Josephine H. Brathall, and set up housekeeping at once. After years of persistent endeavor he graduated from the law department and was admitted to the bar of this state in 1907.¹ Beginning practice at once, he has been constantly so engaged until incapacitated in the Summer of 1937, thus covering more than 30 years of active professional work in our midst.

A daughter, Goldie L. Haug, the apple of his eye, born December, 29th, 1907, to this second marriage, is his sole heir. Mrs. Haug died in the Fall of 1937.

And Haug, after a painless, protracted illness, died on the 27th day of January, 1938.

One cannot stop with the simple recital of the factual incidents of such a life. One wishes to know what kind of man we are talking about.

His activities were numerous and all of them beneficial to our social structure. He was a member of the Masonic and the I. O. O. F. orders. His racial activities were many and widely spread. He was an organizer, a life member and office holder in The Minneapolis Trønderlag, held high offices and was prominently identified with the Sons of Norway. He was an incorporator of the Head Lodge of the Daughters of Norway and until his death its counsel and legal adviser. He held many and various high offices in several national Norwegian societies and organizations. For more than 40 years he was an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, of this city, serving in its offices and chairman of the Board of

¹ He was admitted to the bar on July 8, 1907. See 1 *Roll of Attorneys: Supreme Court, State of Minnesota, 1858-1970* 93 (State Law Library, 2011).

Trustees for 15 years. His devotion to this church and its interests was continuous and outstanding.

As perhaps his strongest personal trait, one must mention that of gentleness, a quiet, but none the less effective demeanor; possessing a temper that never became ruffled.

Duty was part of his social creed. He gave his best to matters at hand, whether in shepherding, bridge and road building, timber cutting, sorting and scaling lumber, and in the practice of his profession. His determined quest for education, interrupted by the hard necessities of his life, gave him a practical, tolerant view of life, making him a safe and dependable professional counselor. His religious convictions were deep and serene without cant or hypocrisy and the measure of his actions. His family adored him, his clients sought him, because of his earnest consideration of their affairs and trusted him for his wholesome advice. Genial and friendly at all times he found no trouble in getting along in the world. He leaves behind him a legion of friends and not an enemy.

His 30 years of practice here were crowned with success—the kind of success that follows upon the careful and conscientious consideration of the client's best interests, the recognition of other's rights, and the disposal of controversies, in the quietude of the office, by compromise of differences, where advisable or necessary, rather than in the tumult of legal forums.

His passing, as that of others of our profession, fills us with sincere regret. We cherish the belief that his life, and professional deeds entitle him to a high place in the records of our social worth. His death marks a distinct loss to the morale of the bar.

Minneapolis, Minn.

February, 5th, 1938

A. E. Helmick

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With the endorsement of the National Party, Haug ran for attorney general in 1918. He came in last in a field of four:

**GENERAL ELECTION
(November 5, 1918)**

**Clifford L. Hilton (inc. & Republican).....180,877
Thomas Davis (Framer-Labor).....99,933
B. B. Gislason (Democrat).....56,029
Lars O. Haug (National).....15,047**

On April 1, 1918, Clifford L. Hilton (1866-1946) was appointed attorney general by Governor Burnquist to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Lyndon Smith. He served to January 1, 1928, when he was appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court by Governor Christianson. Elected to a full term in November 1928, and re-elected in 1934 and 1940, he retired from the court on May 1, 1943.

Thomas V. Sullivan was an associate of St. Paul lawyer, James Manahan. He also ran for attorney general in 1920 as an Independent, and in 1924 as the Farmer Labor Party candidate for attorney general.

Davis was nominated by petition.

Source: 1919 Blue Book, at 250-53 & abstract.

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