

M E M O R I A L

to

EDWARD P. HILTON

(February 12, 1850 - January 28, 1935)

**DISTRICT COURT
HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

Saturday, February 8, 1936

M E M O R I A L

to

Edward P. Hilton

(1850—1935)

of

The Minneapolis, Minn. Bar

February, 8th. 1936

Edward P. Hilton, son of Winthrop E. and Laura Hilton, was born at Bangor, Me., February, 12th, 1850, About 8 years thereafter the family moved to New York City, where his father entered into the printing and publishing business, becoming well known as the pioneer publisher of cheap paper editions of the works of famous English novelists and of cheap reprints of the scores of the operas successfully produced by Gilbert and Sullivan. Edward grew up in New York city when its business limits stopped at 14th street. He attended its schools, until entering Dickinson College, at Carlisle, Pa, where he graduated with honors. For a few years he was associated with his father, but finally turned to the study of law, with which he grew familiar through several years of reading and clerking with a then well known firm of New York city attorneys.

He married shortly after his admission to the bar and with his wife turned to the west, stopping at Granite Falls, this state in 1878, where he engaged in practice for a few years, moving to Topeka, Kan., in the early eighties.

Finding conditions very agreeable there, he settled down to the vigorous practice of his profession, and soon became one of the coterie of noted, stalwart lawyers of the Topeka bar, the best known of which is Charles Curtis, long time Senator from Kansas, and later one of our Vice Presidents.

Ill health compelled him to leave Topeka reluctantly, and we next

find him practicing in Chicago from 1900 to 1905. In search of better health he came to Minneapolis in 1905. Immediately upon his arrival here, he entered into a vigorous and successful practice, that was only terminated by his death on January 28, 1935, lacking a few weeks of reaching the ripe age of 85 years. During all of those years he built up the personage we came to know and admire.

As a man, he commanded and held the respect and confidence of his fellows. He was happily mated and his married life was one of perpetual bliss. The death of his wife some ten years ago came as a shock from which he never fully recovered. But the wealth of affection stored within him was lavished upon a sister in Europe, from whom he had been separated for more than 35 years. Fortunately, they were reunited here a few years before his death and with her he had a supreme joy to brighten his later years. She, too, died in his arms, and thus cut off every living family tie.

Mr. Hilton had a rather distinct personality, not founded upon egotism or eccentricity. He was honest and upright to the very core in all of his dealings. His verbal stipulations did not need to be reduced to writing to render them secure.

He won his spurs as a lawyer at the Topeka bar where he fought his way up and into the ablest bar known there. The late Justice Jaggard, some years ago, inquiring about Hilton, with whom he was a classmate at Dickinson College, said, "Hilton is an honest, persuasive and very able lawyer."

The judges of this court and the brother lawyers who met him in litigation can attest that he always came into court with a well prepared cause, presented it logically, being ready to back his views with citations of discriminating authorities,

He was respectful to the court and courteous to his adversaries. If he induced the court to admit doubtful evidence upon promise to connect it up and make it competent, he never broke the promise. No pressure of circumstances could force him to interpose a false or sham pleading. Without pretense, he lived up to the highest standards of professional ethics. He was a painstaking and diligent searcher for truth and a zealot in the cause of justice. He

accepted worthy causes without regard to the social or business standing of the client or the depth of his purse. To those who needed good counsel he gave without stint earning an enduring gratitude though the fee might be paltry.

Outside of his home and the companionship of friends he had few diversions. He was devoted, to sports, especially baseball; seldom missing a game at Nicollet Park. He was fond of music and a constant attendant at our symphony concerts. He read a great deal, keeping abreast of the news and the important political movements that crowded the years in which he lived. He was a liberal in politics and religion.

All in all, it was a good, helpful life he lived. He had a courageous soul ensconced in a none too strong body, at times. He faced death as he lived, without fear and without courting favor.

(Contributed by A. E. Helmick)

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Posted MLHP: November 29, 2012