

In Memoriam

Charles Herbert Hubbell

[May 27, 1863 – December 25, 1937]

HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Hennepin County District Court
Fourth Judicial District
Minneapolis, Minnesota

February 11, 1939

Charles Herbert Hubbell (1863 - 1937)

Let us not eulogize, or tint with color, when we present the salient facts in the life of Charles Herbert Hubbell. Let us rather record for the future that which will be of interest to those who follow.

During his seventy-five 75 years of probation, what did he do? To what extent was his influence felt in the community?

Volumes written of the ancestry on both sides of his family have been placed in my hands. Their contents were gripping in the extreme. The temptation to browse was overwhelming. My resistance was low.

We shall tarry with his genealogy but for a moment.

The first Hubbell, or "Hubba", came with the Goths from Asia and settled in Wales in 867 A.D. The direct ancestry of Richard Hubbell, born in England in 1627, is traced back to the Goth Hubba. Richard emigrated to the New Haven colony in 1647. He was the direct ancestor of Truman Mallory Hubbell, born in 1788 in Hamden County, Mass.

Truman Hubbell was a pioneer in the wilderness of Otsego County, New York, became a marksman unrivaled in his day and generation and an inseparable friend of James Fenimore Cooper. We have it on the same authority as the other facts here and related that he was the original "Deerslayer" in the novel of that name. It was he who shot the last brave of the Mohican tribe, and was the owner of the rifle "Killdeer". Since that time this has been a cherished tradition in the Hubbell family.

The descent is traced directly from Truman to Charles Herbert Hubbell, the subject of this sketch.

While attending a teachers' institute, in Excelsior, Wisconsin, in 1860, Sarah Elizabeth DuBois met, and later married, William Hubbell. To this union, Charles Herbert Hubbell was born.

The DuBois were Huguenots. The first of record that moved to England was the Knight Geoffroi, who came with the Normans under William the Conqueror.

Shortly after the Norman Conquest, the family moved to Holland, where they were known as "Walloons", or strangers. Four years after the coming of the Mayflower, they emigrated to the American colonies, where later, Major Lewis DuBois, Lieutenants James and Henry DuBois rendered service in Washington's army.

Bishop DuBois, a member of the family, was taught English by Patrick Henry.

Peter DuBois, Mrs. Hubbell's grandfather, was a member of this family.

It was in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, in May 27, 1863, the Charles Herbert Hubbell made his entry into this world, from the union of a man and a woman who trace their ancestries back through the centuries. On the mother's side, we discover possibly a trace of intolerance, that which comes with a chauvinistic pride in heredity. But who are we to offer words of censure? Might we not do the same?

The eldest of eight children, Charles Herbert Hubbell passed his first eighteen years with his parents in Union County, Illinois, where the family plowed, sold, reaped and raised fruit. Here he received his early education and was graduated from Carbondale Normal School.

After teaching school for a time in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, he joined the family in the great adventure into the territory of Dakota, where he staked a claim adjoining that of his father, near Tappen, in what is now North Dakota.

In 1885 he married Mary Lacey, of Reedsburg, Wisconsin, and devoted the following twelve years to farming and teaching school. Those were years of arid Summers and Winters that were long and bitterly cold, where blizzards, in unbridled frenzy, howled across the plains from Canada. They were years that tried one's mettle and sifted out many of the settlers. Here he had need of constant application of the dual mottoes of the families' Coats of Arms: the DuBois', "Tiens Ta Foy" – Keep thy faith, and the Hubbell's – "Ne Cede malis, sed contra", Yield not to misfortune, but surmount them.

In 1895 Mr. Hubbell moved with his family back to Reedsburg, Wisconsin, where he entered the law office of James A. Stone, and commenced the study of law, which he continued in addition to his regular occupation. Three years later, in Madison, Wisconsin, he was admitted to practice law.

The family moved to Madison in 1900, where Mr. Hubbell was employed in the office of the State Insurance Commissioner, and later he was assistant to the Clerk of the Supreme Court for three years. During most of this time he was also engaged in the fuel business.

Death came to the family in 1905. Mrs. Hubbell was laid away, leaving their three children, Paul, James and Florence, who were born on the farm in North Dakota, and John, born in Reedsburg, Wisconsin.

During the same year, he took his three children and moved back to North Dakota, locating in Oakes, where he practiced law and was the State Claim Adjuster for a fire insurance company

On December 28, 1907, he married Catherine Daley of Madison, Wisconsin, and moved to Minneapolis, where he [was admitted to practice on July 12, 1909, and] practiced law up to a short time before his death.

On successive occasions since 1907, Mr. Hubbell accumulated sizeable bank accounts, but lost it each time through unwise investments, losing

in 1908, the home he had built for his bride. But toughened in the school of hard knocks and mellowed by the influence of a devoted wife, on each occasion he commenced to rebuild.

In 1910 he purchased a home with five acres of ground in Robbinsdale, Minnesota; and there the family has since made its home. In this home two children were born, Katherine Elizabeth, born in 1914, and Charles Herbert, in 1916.

Mr. Hubbell devoted much of his time to civic affairs, having served for ten years in the Robbinsdale Board of Education, serving also on the Boy Scout Committee, and the Robbinsdale Charter Commission and on the Hennepin County Fair Board. For a time he was editor and owner of the Hennepin County Review, a weekly newspaper printed in Robbinsdale.

Charles Hubbell was an inveterate student, even up to the date of his death. He was proficient in languages and history.

Gifted with a well trained tenor voice and a rare knack of story-telling, he was universally recognized as the life of the party. During his stay in Southern Illinois he mastered the Negro dialect and became possessed of an almost endless repertoire of anecdotes of those care-free people, which made him popular at every fireside. His hobby was musical programs, private theatricals and minstrel shows. His power of mimicry and his deep sense of humor contributed richly to the community's social life.

He was interested in church music and served many years as Sunday School teacher and superintendent. He was first a member of the Congregational Church, but later joined the Presbyterian; then later went back to the Congregational.

Charles Herbert Hubbell was not a great lawyer, or a successful one – as success is commonly measured. He would not have us say he was. He served the client, not the lawyer; and gave freely of his time and

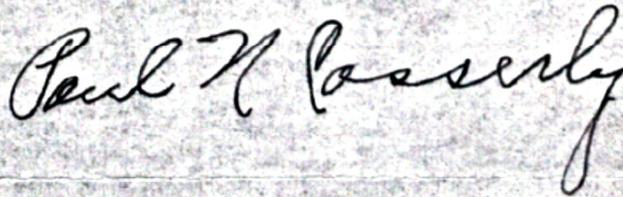
services to needy clients where there was no talk of fees. If he fails to be remembered generally by the bar, his name will long be cherished in the hearts of the boys and girls of the neighborhood. The local community was his world. His fireplace its center. The bar was not in need of his services. The boys and girls were.

He was not the perfect man, and not without his faults and shortcomings. I knew Charles Hubbell well enough to say he would want no credit unearned, no laurel-wreath undeserved.

So let us leave them as we knew him – honest to a fault, generous, modest, humble. He carried forward his hereditary ideals to the best visibility. He blazed his own trail. He lived his life in his own way. He served the community and served it well.

His was a religious life; and who knows but there is significance in the fact that he was called home on Christmas day – 1937.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul H. Casserly". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background.

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