

In Memoriam

Alice L. Kercher

October 17, 1879 – September 10, 1935



Hennepin County Bar Association
Memorial Services
Minneapolis, Minnesota
February 8, 1936

Alice L. Kercher

Alice Kercher was born in Zürich, Ontario, [on October 17, 1879], and came to Minnesota with her family while still a small child.

Her early youth was spent near St. Cloud, where she graduated from the High School and the St. Cloud Teacher's College. She then entered the University of Minnesota Law School graduating in 1904, and obtaining her Master's Degree in 1905.

She practiced law and then engaged in government servers that time Dillard death on September 10, 1935 [at age 55].

During the world war, she acted as an assistant to Roger Bobson, and after the armistice was employed for several years in the Federal Inheritance Tax Division in Washington, D.C.

She then returned to Minnesota and was one of the staff of the attorneys for the Federal Land Bank in St. Paul for about five years.

The last ten years she spent in private practice in Minneapolis, with her main attention given to the title and conveyancing field.

To fail to call attention to the unselfish service to the causes with which Miss Kercher identified herself outside of her professional activities, would be to present an unfinished tribute.

She was an active, alive, member of her community, fully conscious of her responsibility as a citizen; always lending her

strength, support, and guidance to the cause of progressive social and industrial legislation. She was advanced, sincere, and liberal in her thoughts and attitude toward social, economic and political problems.

She rendered effective service to her state thru activities in the League of Women Voters, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and other similar organizations with which she had identified herself. Those who are in a position to know, have long realized that her's was often the final, decisive effort which accomplished the measure sought.

She had high professional ideals, a large capacity for friendship, and was an incurable optimist. She admitted that she was very much like Dicken's Micawber – that no matter what disappointments today brought, the possibilities of tomorrow were still to be considered.

To me she often repeated her creed. It is from Sanskrit, and I found it in her notebook after she passed away:

“LOOK to this Day, for it is Life – the very Life of Life. In its brief course lie all the varieties and realities of your existence; the bliss of Growth, the glory of Action, the splendor of Beauty. Yesterday was already a dream and tomorrow is only a vision; but today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this Day. Such is the salutation of the Dawn.”

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hilda Blair Ray". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered below the main text.

Acknowledgments

Date of Photograph on first page: August 24, 1930
Photographer: Gene Garrett Studio
Minneapolis Tribune
Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection
Hennepin County Library

The caption of this of portrait reads:
“Kercher of Brookside is a local attorney.
She is a leader in the movement to advance legislation
regulating working hours and wages for women in industry.”

