

In Memoriam

**Sheril D. Klapp**

April 1, 1879 – September 23, 1937

Hennepin County Bar Association  
Memorial Services  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
February 5, 1938

## Sheril D. Klapp

( 1879 – 1937 )

S. D. Klapp of the Hennepin County Library from 1919 to 1937, was born in Peignton, Devonshire, England, April 1, 1879. He was the son of a Frederic and Edith Leslie Klapp. His father of old American stock, had received his education in the United States Naval Academy, and served on the U. S. S. Constitution during the Civil War. His mother, English born, came from musical and theatrical people and was a graduate of the London Conservatory of Music.

When Mr. Klapp was four years of age the family came to the United States and followed the trend of the time into the northwest, making their first home at Johnstown in Dakota Territory. Entirely unfitted for life of pioneers, a brief period of living on the claim was terminated abruptly by a near tragic experience of a Dakota blizzard.

The family lived for seventeen years in Johnstown, prominent in the business, church and musical of the growing little city. They came to Minneapolis in 1900. In that year Mr. Klapp was twenty years old, returned to England where he remained for five years in London and studied at the London Institute Technology. Following his return to Minnesota he was for some years engaged in the Railway Mail Service and lived for a time in Saint Paul.

In 1900 he succeeded his father Frederic Klapp as librarian of the Minneapolis Bar Association and when it became the Law Library

of Hennepin County he continued in that capacity until his death September 23rd, 1937. While well educated in the law and well equipped to practice, he never applied for admission to the Bar. During his services as a librarian he gave freely of his knowledge of the law and its extensive literature and many of many the younger lawyers will remember him gratefully for the assistance he gave so generously.

Mr. Klapp lectured on legal biography for some years at the Minnesota College of Law, the Y.M.C.A. Law School and the Law School of Saint Thomas College. He was an active member of the American Association of Law Libraries, serving as Vice President from 1929 to 1931 and as President during 1932 and 1933. He also edited the Law Library News from 1932 until June 1937.

Mr. Klapp was a man of discriminating tastes in literature, art and music. He had a very retentive memory, read widely and was especially well versed in world affairs. He had also a keen sense of humor and a great capacity for friendship. He will be long remembered by the many members the Bar with whom he came in contact, as a courteous gentleman and a sincere friend.

Mr. Klapp married Miss Suzanne McCauley in 1906, who with a daughter Shirley and son William survive him.



July 5th 1938. Edward C. Hale

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