

**MEMORIAL**  
**FOR**  
**ROBERT EMMETT LOOBY**

( July 29, 1880 – October 14, 1937 )



**DISTRICT COURT**  
**WINONA COUNTY**  
**WINONA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**FEBRUARY 4, 1938**

## MEMORIAL

### **ROBERT EMMETT LOOBY**

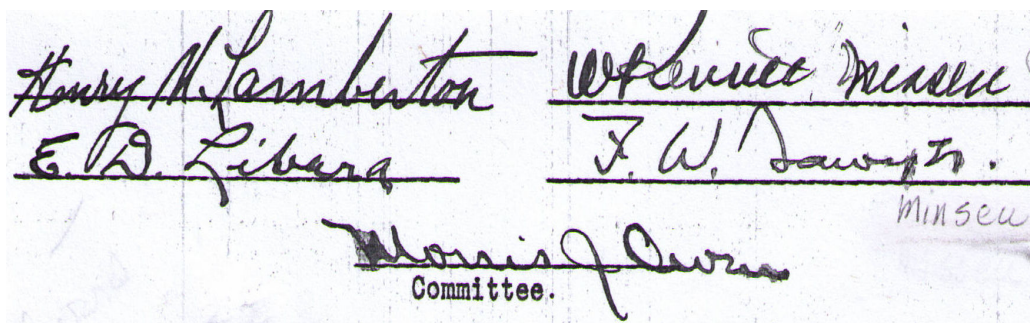
**Robert Emmett Looby was born in the City of Winona, Minnesota, July 29th, 1880, the son of John A. and Bridget (Cane) Looby. His parents resided in the City of Winona from 1870. His father was a drummer boy with Company D, 31st Wisconsin infantry and was with General Sherman on his historic march to the sea. Judge Looby received, his education in the parochial schools and the High School of the City of Winona, and studied law in the office of H. M. Lamberton in the same city. He passed his Minnesota law examination on July 20, 1910 and was admitted to the Minnesota Bar in 1911. In the same year, he became a member of the firm of Lamberton & Looby and continued to practice law in the City of Winona until 1915, when he was appointed Probate Judge of Winona County, by Governor Hammond, to succeed Judge D. E. Vance, who died during his term of office. Judge Looby held that office continuously from the time of his appointment until his death, October 14, 1937. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery in this city. He is survived by his sister, Miss Gertrude Looby of Winona, and his brother, James A. Looby of Chicago, Illinois. Judge Looby never married.**

**Judge Looby was a past president of the State Probate Judges Association and was active in that body for many years. He was also a past president of the Third Judicial Bar Association and was Secretary of that body for a long period. Among his other activities, he was actively interested in lodge work and politics; he headed several lodges and took an active part in politics as a life long Democrat. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Winona.**

Although, by comparison with many of the counties of this state, the duties of his office as Probate Judge were arduous, yet he found time to successfully continue the active practice of law until shortly before his death.

In administering the affairs of the Probate Court Judge Looby brought to bear a wealth of good hard common sense; his work was done expeditiously and yet in a kindly manner. Both as judge and man, he was friendly and approachable; he had ample patience with those in distress but little for those seeking by underhanded or unfair tactics to obtain an advantage. He had an alert mind, an excellent memory for names and faces and a wealth of information regarding the history of this community and its people with whom he had come in contact. His courage and impartiality were unquestioned.

Outwardly, at least, an illness with which he suffered for more than a year before his death, cast no shadow upon his usual sunny disposition, and he will be remembered beyond the allotted time for the enviable record which he established as Probate Judge, lawyer, citizen and friend. The Bar of this district is distinctly the poorer for his passing.



Henry M. Lamberton      W. L. Minseu  
E. R. Rivera      J. W. Sawyer  
Morris J. Owen  
Committee.

## APPENDIX

The following profile of Judge Lobby was published in Volume 4 of Joseph A. A. Burnquist's *Minnesota and Its People* 210-211 (1924).

### ROBERT E. LOOBY

One of the most highly esteemed members of the city and county bar is Judge Robert E. Looby of Winona. He was born here on the 29th of July, 1880, a son of John A. and Bridget (Cain) Looby, the former a native of Milwaukee and the latter of New York state. The father came to Winona in 1868 and Mrs. Looby arrived here with her parents at about the same time. They were married here in 1871, being the first couple to be married in St. Thomas Catholic church. Mr. Looby has always engaged in construction work and for many years was superintendent of a brick construction company. He superintended the erection of many buildings in Winona, including the postoffice, the Winona Hotel, the water tower and many others. He has always been active in civic affairs and is a staunch supporter of the democratic party. He has held several city offices, being one of the town's early chief of police officials, a municipal court officer and for three terms he served as street commissioner. He served with Company I, Thirty-first Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, throughout the Civil war and is a member of the John Ball Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Looby is living in Winona, at the advanced age of

**seventy-eight years. His wife died on the 25th of April, 1911. To, their union five sons and two daughters were born.**

**Robert E. Looby, the fourth child in order of birth, received his early education in the public schools of Winona and then took up the study of law with H. M. Lambertson. He was admitted to the bar on the 20th of July, 1910, and then became associated with Mr. Lambertson in the practice of his chosen profession. He was thus engaged until September of the year 1915, when he was appointed by Governor Hammond to fill an unexpired term as probate judge. He discharged his duties so satisfactorily that he was elected to the office in 1916 and reelected in 1918 and 1920, in the latter year being elected for a four-year term. His rise in the profession has been rapid and he is one of the most brilliant and capable attorneys in the county.**

**Judge Looby is a democrat and is active in party affairs. He is County chairman of the democratic committee and secretary of the county organization of state delegates. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church and he is a communicant of St. Mary's. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Columbus and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is past worthy president of the Eagles, a member of the Red Men and past dictator of the Loyal Order of Moose. He also belongs to the Kiwanis Club and the Winona Country Club. Along strictly professional lines he is affiliated with the American, State and County Bar Associations**

**and he is secretary of the latter association. He is also a member of the State Probate Judges Association. The Judge is one of the most substantial citizens of Winona and this community is proud to number him among her native sons. He is unmarried.**

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**Posted MLHP: March 11, 2012;  
Expanded on July 14, 2015, with Appendix  
and photograph from *Men of Minnesota* 230 (1915).**