

**IN
MEMORIAM**

Frank I. Mason

[January 5, 1862- December 29, 1939]

**HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
DISTRICT COURT
HENNEPIN COUNTY
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

February 17, 1940

Frank I. Mason

(1862- 1939)

Frank I. Mason, who died two months ago at the age of 78, had been a member of the Hennepin County Bar for the past 44 years.

He was born on February 5, 1862, at Portage, Wisconsin, of English parents, who had emigrated sometime before the Civil War. His father, as Frank used to say, was an enterprising fellow with an appreciative sense of arising needs and opportunities. During that war, Mason's father engaged in the business of supplying the Federal Government with army horses.

Coming to Minnesota in his early years, Frank taught country school at West Arlington in the late eighties and the grade school at Arlington 1890 – 91.

Thereupon he studied law and was admitted to practice December 2, 1895. He forthwith opened his offices in the old Minnesota Loan and Trust Building, on Nicollet, and remained there for the next 10–11 years, during which period he was, for several years, counsel and general agent for Six Eagles Mining Company. The next 20 years he maintained his office in the Phoenix Building, pursuing a general law practice. In 1928 he moved to Pine City but after three years he returned, in 1931, to Minneapolis.

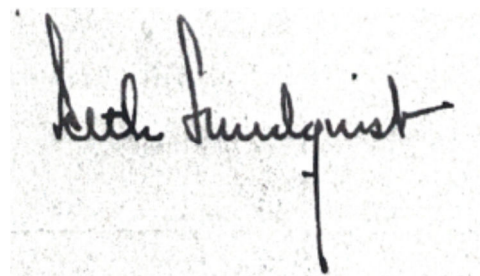
About this time he retired from active work, on account of the growing handicaps of failing eyesight. Cataract operations, and other measures looking towards relief, proved unresultful. So, bereft of the super-essential supportive of the eye, Mr. Mason, though still apparently strong and vigorous, was now forced to spend the last decade of his life reflectively, in virtually complete cessation of professional labor. But he remained mentally active and socially-minded and was able, by the aid of his glasses, somewhat to get about in the neighborhood on small shopping trips and, infrequently, to make a visit down town. He had a

home on Fremont Avenue South and a farm at Brook Park. These places afforded him a measure of comfort and solace.

Physically and temperamentally, the large-built, broad-shouldered, strong-voiced, genially brusque and forthright Mr. Mason resembled the late George Armstrong. My own personal recollections, resting on a number of contacts during the prime of his activities, are supplemented by the opinions of attorneys who had associated with him on special problems. Mr. Dalby, who often co-labored on various matters, says that “he was a good trial lawyer, well prepared, and knew how to dig up the law.” Another tribute comes from a client who entrusted all of his affairs with Frank from 1907 on, until the cited handicaps but a terminus to professional action. This client, speaking of Mr. Mason’s procedure in court, says “You know I have always been outspoken myself on the witness stand and was never afraid. But sometimes I was scared because he used to talk to the court like a bear, tell ‘em what the law was, wind up with the argument to say ‘That’s all.’ then he would pick up his book in books and files. He didn’t kill much time in court.” Incidentally we besought one of the discerning tribe of court reporters for a reminiscent impression. He supplied the human item: “Frank Mason was a connoisseur of chewing tobacco.”

During his last three years Frank suffered also from heart trouble. This brought his once vigorous and robust life to an end, December 29, 1939, within a week of his 78th birthday. He is survived by a son, Frederick F. Mason, and two daughters, Mrs. Mabel Gables and Mrs. Mrs. Bonnie M. Farnsworth, long-time residents of California. His body rests at Oak Hill.

February 17, 1940

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Keith Sundquist". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, vertical tail on the final letter.

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