

IN MEMORIAM

Simon Meyers

(May 14, 1862 - August 12, 1952)

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

April 18, 1953

Simon Meyers
(May 14, 1862 - August 12, 1952)

Simon Meyers, a member of the Hennepin County Bar for almost seventy years, died in Minneapolis on the 11th day of August, 1952 at the age of ninety years.

Mr. Meyers, the son of Henry and Fanny Meyers, was born in Syracuse New York, May 14, 1862. He received his public education in the schools of Syracuse and Albany. In 1883, upon completing his studies in the office of Newcomb & Bailey at Binghamton, New York, he was admitted to the New York State Bar at the age of 21.

Lured by the exhortations of Horace Greeley to the younger generation of his day to "Go west, young man", he started out almost immediately for Bismarck, North Dakota and on the way found himself in a growing city right here in Minneapolis, where he remained to begin the practice of his profession. On motion, he was admitted to the Minnesota Bar also in 1883.

There was much less than one -fifth of the present population. There were no large law offices as you see them today. Like the old family physician, a member the Bar had to be an all-around lawyer, being able to match his wits in combat with an adversary on the field of battle right here in the court room. In this field, Simon Meyers won his laurels. He was able, ambitious and industrious. For many years in the 90's and through the first decade of this century, he was associated with William H. Donahue who later became Judge of the District Court, after which he continued to practice by himself.

A staunch Republican he was elected to the Legislature and served as a member of the House for the 30th Session, 1897 - 98, with men like Stephan Lovejoy, John F. Dahl and S. A. Stockwell. Just as he was a rockribbed Republican, so his associate, Judge Donahue, was also a staunch Democrat. It was not unusual in those days for the law firms to contain representatives of both parties. One needs to recall the illustrious names of former Judges of the Court, Democrats and Republicans and who associated together in small firms. It was probably more so then than now.

One can recall the names of Lancaster and McGee, Brooks and Jamison, Tryon and Booth, Brown Fuller and Buffington, and a number of others.

Mr. Meyers gave up his office in the Metropolitan Life Building one year before he passed away but, even during the last year of his life, he was completing his work and finished a brief in his last case when he laid down his pencil and said that now his work was done. Two days later he died.

Those of us who remember Judge Andrew Holt may be interested in knowing that before the city spread out, the way to the Court House was by foot. Mr. Meyers was a neighbor of Judge Holt on Chicago Avenue and for years they walked together, often being joined by other members of the Bar along the way. Those were the years before Judge Holt went to the Supreme Court Bench.

Simon Meyers was an able, persevering and conscious advocate. He leaves behind him an honorable name. Besides serving in the Legislature, Mr. Meyers also served as a member of the Charter Commission to which he was appointed in 1913. He was heading the Building Committee of the Temple Israel of which he was a member.

Surviving are his wife, Minnie Dittenhofer Meyers, a son, Henry L. Meyers, and a daughter, Mrs. Leonard Heller, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

April 18, 1953.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George B. Leonard".

George B. Leonard

Related Article

“Judge William H. Donahue (1858-1909)” (MLHP, 2016).

<M>