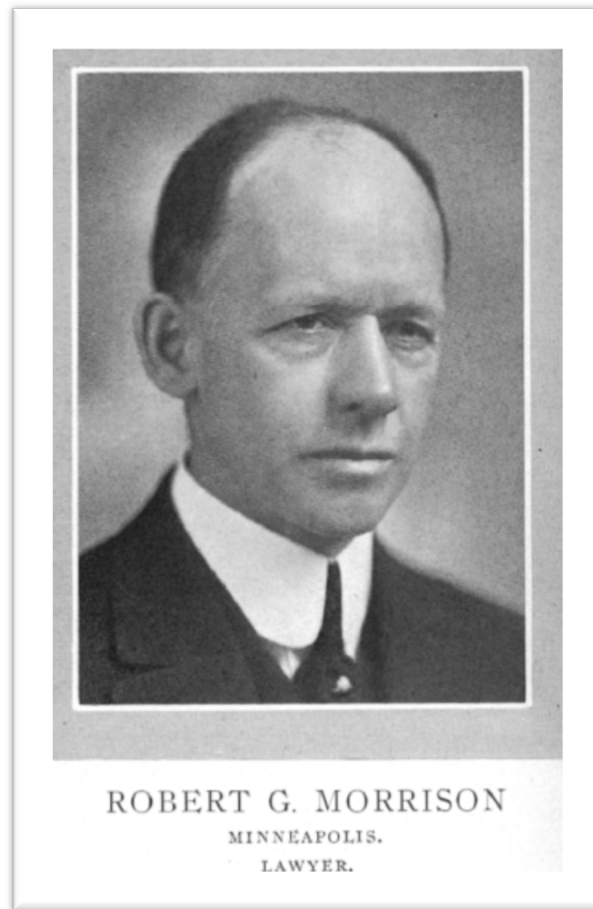


# Memorial

To

**Robert G. Morrison**

July 31, 1860 – October 16, 1942



**Hennepin County Bar Association  
District Court  
Fourth Judicial District  
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

**1943**

Robert G. Morrison was born in Blair's Mills, Pennsylvania, on the 31st day of July, 1860. He was named after a famous missionary. His father was David Morrison, and his mother was Marjorie McConnell Morrison. The family moved from Pennsylvania to Morning Sun, Iowa, about 1868.

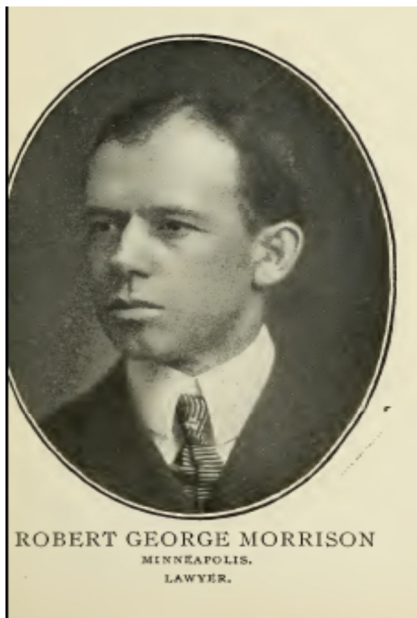
Robert Morrison attended the State University of Iowa, graduating therefrom in 1882. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and maintained an active interest in his fraternity up to a short time before his death. After his graduation from the State University, he took a one-year law course at the Iowa University College of Law, graduating therefrom in 1883.

In the same year, following his graduation from the College of Law, he came to Minneapolis and resided in Minneapolis continuously thereafter until his death last year. It is difficult to estimate the population of Minneapolis when he came here with any degree of accuracy. That was a period of great rivalry between Minneapolis and St. Paul. The last previous United States Census of 1880 had shown a population for Minneapolis of 46,000, but the State Census of 1885 showed a population of 129,000. Just how much of this large increase in the short period of five years was due to over enthusiasm of the Minneapolis Census officials, resulting from this inter-city rivalry, we of course do not know, but certainly Mr. Morrison saw many marked changes in the city of Minneapolis during the years of his residence here.

For a while after his arrival, Mr. Morrison, presumably to enable him to meet his living expenses, clerked at the store of Joy and Mulholland at 1227-1229 Nicollet Avenue and resided at the Old Pacific House at 217 Washington Avenue North. Then, for approximately one year, he was employed as bookkeeper by the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Mr. Kingman states that back in those early days there was no law school anywhere in the State of Minnesota and that when both he and Robert Morrison were studying to take the State bar examinations in order to be admitted to practice, they belonged to the same quiz class which met frequently to assist its members in preparing for their coming examinations. Other members of this class, in addition to Mr. Morrison and Mr. Kingman, were John T. Baxter and David W Knowlton.

Mr. Morrison opened his first office for the active practice of law in



1887 at No. 745 Temple Court, that building being at that time the leading office building in the City of Minneapolis. Then, for several years, he had an office at No. 438 Boston Block. For approximately two years in 1895 and 1896, he was a partner of Trafford N. Jayne under the firm name of Jayne & Morrison, with offices at 656 Temple Court, and later at 305-321 Phoenix Building. About 1897 this partnership was dissolved and ever since that time Mr. Morrison practiced by himself and maintained a law office continuously in the Phoenix Building, from 1897

until he retired from active practice in March, 1941.

Mr. Morrison was married on November 4, 1903 to Alice Gilmore. He died October 16, 1942 at age 82, leaving surviving his wife, Alice Gilmore Morrison, and two daughters, Elizabeth M. Cranston, wife of Dr. Robert W Cranston, and Nancy M. Robertson, wife of Donald L. Robertson, a member of the law firm of Faegre & Benson, and five grandchildren

He and his wife are members of the Westminster Presbyterian Church and Mr. Morrison was an elder of that church from 1922 to

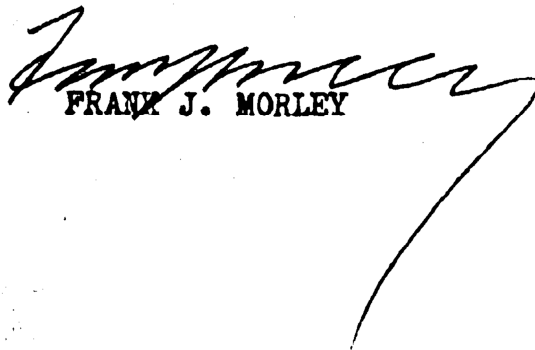
1928. He was an assistant superintendent of the Riverside Farrington Memorial Chapel for over 25 years.

He was a member of the American Bar Association, the Minnesota State Bar Association, and Hennepin County Bar Association, and for many years had been in member of the Minneapolis Club and of the Minneapolis Automobile Club.

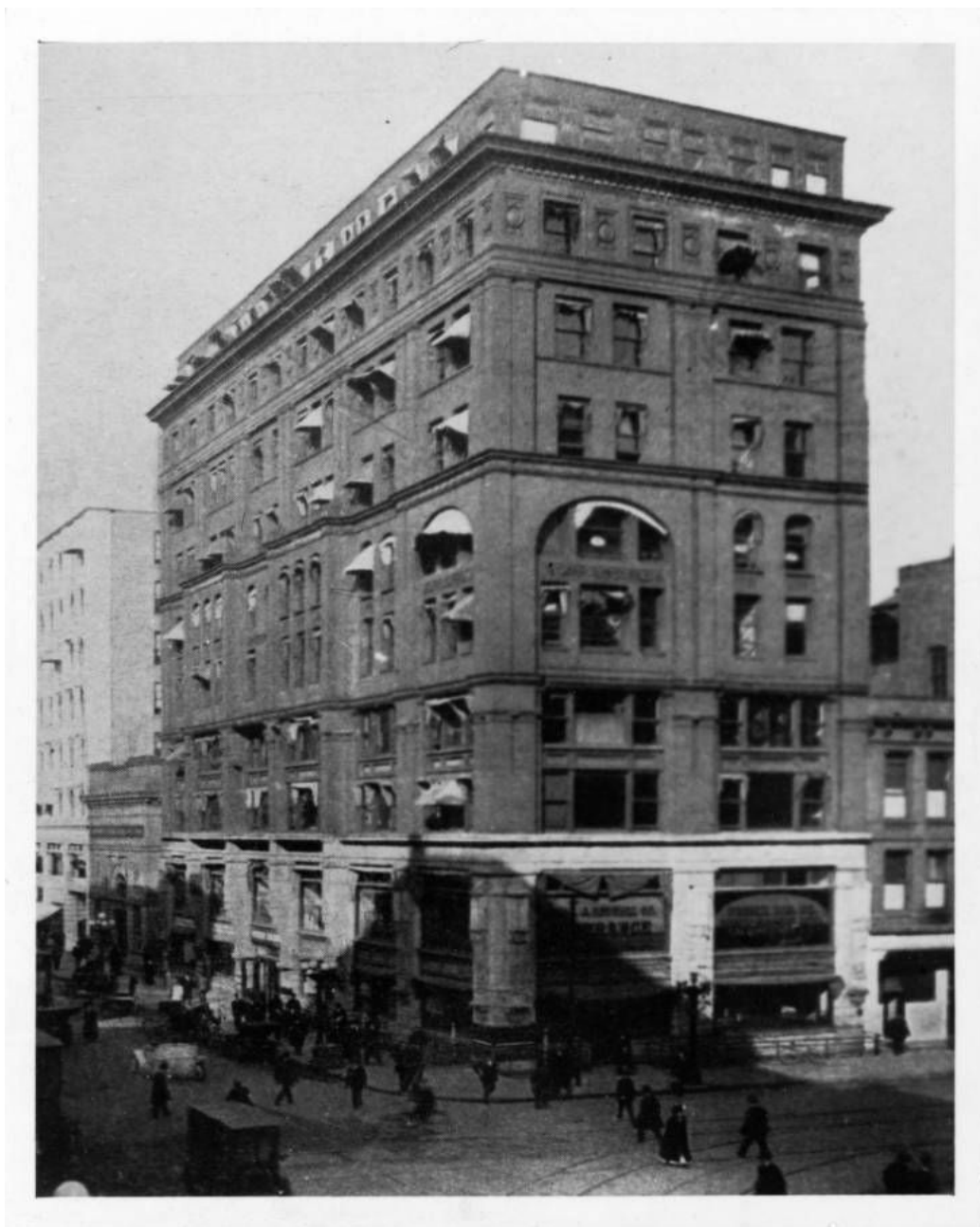
He was unpretentious, unassuming, modest, quiet, and in the highest meaning of the word, a gentlemen. He was a fine type of lawyer. He considered his clients' problems, and even the identity of his clients, to be confidential, and that to him meant confidential. He never discussed his clients' problems outside of his office. He had a fine clientage and retained his clients over long periods of time; and one of them, learning of his serious illness in the fall of 1942, wrote his wife as follows:

“After a correspondence with him for the past 50 years as attorney for a company . . . I cannot suppress our expression of admiration for his long and useful life of professional loyalty to all who knew him.”

I consider it a personal privilege to tender this memorial to his memory.

  
FRANK J. MORLEY

## Appendix



The Phoenix Building at First Avenue South and Fourth Street, Minneapolis, where Morrison had his office from 1897 to 1941. It was demolished in 1961. This photo was taken in 1909. Source: Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection, Hennepin County Library.

The photograph of Morrison on the first page is from *Men of Minnesota* (1915), that on page three from *Men of Minnesota* (1902).

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