

MEMORIAL

John A. Nordin

(September 27, 1871 - December 12, 1939)

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

February 17, 1940

John A. Nordin (1871-1939)

John A. Nordin was born on September 27, 1871 and grew up on his parent's farm in Elm Holt, Sweden. He lived and worked on this farm during his formative years, getting time enough therefrom to acquire his education at its public schools.

Lured by the opportunities offered by this country, he joined the large Swede immigration, landing here in 1890, coming directly to Minneapolis.

During the next three years he did all manner of odd jobs, gained good use of our tongue, then took up the stone cutters trade, and while pursuing it, gratified his long-standing ambition to become a lawyer. He enrolled in the law department of the University of Minnesota, where he pursued a full course of instruction, supporting himself by working at his trade.

He graduated with the class in 1898, and being admitted to practice shortly thereafter, plunged at once into the active practice of law, being continuously engaged thereat in this city until his death.

The foundation of his success at the bar is largely due to his endless capacity for hard work. He never spared himself. The days were not long enough to dull his energy for work.

He was at home in both court and office. Very resourceful in practice, ambitious to win, he kept a zealous regard for the interests of his clients, whose cases he prepared with endless investigation of fact and law.

He was of the advocate type, the delight of his clients. Wherever possible he carried the battle foray into the quarters of his adversary, always trying to gain his point, returning attack for attack. Even after defeat he persistently sought some expedient to turn it into a victory for his client.

He acquired and maintained to the last a large general practice.

The human side of Nordin, though not so well known, was ideal in most respects. He was jovial and warm hearted, had a cheery greeting and ready quip for his friends, and keen and constant desire to help the underdog, and would make unusual sacrifices to aid a friend. He was frank and outspoken.

His inner life centered largely in his family, where he was loving, indulgent and proud, giving without stint, and received from his wife and son an everlasting devotion.

He gave generously to worthy causes and supported all worthwhile civic reforms.

He ventured into politics several times and emerged therefrom in a happy way, without scars or ill-feeling.

He was a devoted and constant church-goer.

In the midst of his professional activities, and on December 12th, last, while deeply exercised about a vital pressing legal matter, he was, without warning, suddenly removed from us.

To cherish his memory, he leaves a devoted and admiring wife and son, and the deep affection of two brothers. He leaves a host of well-wishing clients whom he honorably served, many warm friends, and members of the bar.

February 17, 1940

A. E. Helmick

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