

In Memoriam

Amasa Copp Paul

September 12, 1857 • November 13, 1936



Hennepin County Bar Association  
District Court  
Fourth Judicial District  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
January 30, 1937

Amasa C. Paul  
1857 - 1938

Amasa Copp Paul died at his residence in Minneapolis on November 13, 1936. Mr. Paul was born in Wakefield, New Hampshire, September 12, 1857. Mr. Paul was active in the practice of his profession up to a very short time before his death. Only a fortnight before that time he had participated in an important lawsuit in the United States District Court at Milwaukee. His strength after that trial failed rapidly and he soon became conscious of the fact that the end of his earthly career was approaching. He remained conscious and alert until the last. He realized that he had lived a long and useful life. He was reconciled to death and passing away,

“Like one who wraps the drapery of his coach  
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.”

Mr. Paul was educated in the public schools of New Hampshire and at Dartmouth College, where he was a member of the class of 1878. He removed to Washington, D. C. and taught in the public schools of that city for several years. He entered the National University Law School where he was graduated with a degree of LL.B. in 1880 and was thereafter admitted to the bar. He took a postgraduate course at Columbian University, now George Washington University, and received the degree of LL.M. in 1882. During a portion of the time while he was attending college in Washington he served as an Assistant Examiner in the United States Patent Office. After his graduation he continued in that position until May 1884. He was perfecting himself for the practice of patent law. When he satisfied himself that he was well grounded in the branch of the law which he had selected for his career he came to Minneapolis and began active practice here in May, 1884, and continuously since that time his main office had been at Minneapolis.

He was first associated with R. H. Sanford, a brother of Maria Sanford, under the name of Paul & Sanford. J. D. Merwin became a member of that firm at a later date and the name was changed to Paul, Sanford and Merwin. The firm was dissolved and Mr. Paul became associated with Charles Gilbert Hawley under the firm name of Paul and Hawley. After several years Mr. Hawley removed from the city and Mr.

Paul's brother, Richard became associated with him under the firm name of Paul and Paul. This firm has continued with the addition of Mr. Maurice M. Moore under the name of Paul, Paul and Moore.

Mr. Paul was married in May, 1881 to Ella Mortimer Williams at Carlyle Pennsylvania. The union was a most happy and fortunate one as Mrs. Paul was very sympathetic with his work and congenial in the cordial and pleasant social relations which they established wherever they were. Mrs. Paul died in 1908. Mr. Paul remained a widower until November 25th, 1930, when he married Martha Ann Turner of Minneapolis, who survives him.



Mrs. Amasa C. Paul  
November 25, 1935

Mr. Paul was an outstanding citizen of Minneapolis and one of the noted lawyers of the United States. He had the reserve and conservatism of his New England forbearers but they were tempered with the tolerance that lured him to the West — the West of the Eighties, when Minneapolis did not know whether it was an outpost or a city.



1915

The span of his life was coincident with great events and a great development of this country. At the time of the Civil War he was not old enough to participate as a combatant but he was not so young but that he was much influenced by the stirring events of that momentous period. Later he spent much time in Washington, D. C. during the reconstruction period. He was spurred to come to the West by the great opportunities which it afforded and was attracted to Minneapolis by the rapid growth of this community and the impress which Minneapolis had made and was making upon New England.

In Minneapolis the active life of Mr. Paul in the practice of his profession covered the great growth and development of this city. He was one of the participants in all of the important movements and activities which characterized that development and growth. He was not a politician who sought political office but he was active in political affairs and took a keen interest in the selection of a competent and trustworthy officials. He was a Republican. He was particularly diligent in aiding in the selection, and supporting the candidacy, of men were properly fitted for judicial office. As his professional duties became more engrossing and exacting he somewhat relaxed his political activities but as late as 1927 he served as Chairman of the committee of the American Bar Association to advocate by Acts of Congress increases and adjustments in the salaries of federal judges. He worked unceasingly on this matter until he saw his labors crowned with success. He also interested himself very actively in bringing about the separation of the Eighth Circuit and the creation of the new Tenth Circuit. His work in this behalf brought him the gratitude and

friendship of many of the Federal judges, notably the late Chief Justice Taft, who in 1927 sent him an autographed photograph bearing the following inscription: "For my friend, Amasa C. Paul, with high appreciation for the effective and self-sacrificing work he has done for the betterment of Federal judicial legislation".

Mr. Paul as always keenly active and are interested in civic affairs. For many years he was a director of the Minneapolis Commercial Club, which for more than twenty years, beginning in 1892, in addition to being a social organization, was the mainspring in the associated commercial and industrial life of the city, until it was succeeded by the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association. He was President of the Commercial Club in 1901 and 1902. He was active in the organization of the Minneapolis Athletic Club, which succeeded the old Commercial Club. He was a member for many years of the Six O'clock Club and actively participated in its proceedings.

Mr. Paul was socially disposed and was at the time of his death a member of the Minneapolis, Minikahda and Automobile Clubs of Minneapolis and the Union League Club of Chicago. He was a life member of this Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts and of the Minnesota Historical Society. He was a Thirty-second Degree Mason, Shriner and an Elk.

Mr. Paul's non-professional activities covered are wide range and while mien was serious he did not neglect the pleasures the recreations life. He was an unusually good wing shot, an ardent fisherman and before the horseless days always owned and both rode and drove as good horses as he could afford to buy. He was a lover of flowers and cultivated them with his own hands. He was domestic in his tastes and during the long period of his widowerhood he maintained his own domestic establishment.

The engrossing pursuit of life to Mr. Paul, however, was the practice of his profession. Having acquired the education and experience which fitted him to practice he enthusiastically and seriously entered upon his life work. He made a reputation as a patent lawyer second to none in the United States. He was a specialist in the law of trademarks as well as patent and was the author of "Paul on Trademarks" in 1903, which was

and is a standard textbook on that subject and has been and still is repeatedly cited by the Federal Courts.



Gathered at a meeting of the American Bar Association in August 23, 1923:  
L to R: Senator Lewis of Illinois, Chief Justice Taft of the US Supreme Court, Paul, Lewis of Philadelphia is the managing director of the American Law Institute, Sheldon of Norfolk, VA is a member of the executive committee of the American Bar association and Brown of Chicago.

But while he was engrossed in the practice of his profession he was not negligent of the duty which he believed every member of the bar should assume—to do everything within his power to improve the standards of his profession and to use the influence of the profession for the betterment of the city, state and country. Mr. Paul was for many years a member of the American Bar Association, the Minnesota State Bar Association and the Hennepin County Bar Association. He was president of the latter in 1926-27. For three years, from 1924 to 1927, Mr. Paul was a member of the Executive Committee of the American Bar Association and was Chairman of the Patent Section—1921-1922, and for many years was

Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Patent Section. He collaborated in bringing about numerous revisions of the patent and trademark statutes.

He was active in bringing to Minneapolis the meeting of the American Bar Association in 1923 and headed the Committee on Arrangements. At that convention he made the acquaintance of the Earl of Birkenhead and other notables which placed him in a position to be active in promoting the meeting of the Association the following year in London. He attended the London meeting and was selected by the officers of the American Bar Association as the Minnesota representative for presentation to King George and Queen Mary at Buckingham palace. Mr. Paul was duly presented to the King and Queen and participated in the numerous meetings and entertainments which the British Bar accorded the American delegates on that occasion. He renewed his acquaintance with the Earl of Birkenhead, which developed into a friendship that lasted until the Earl died.

He was a member of the American Section of the International Chamber of Commerce and was at delegate to the meetings of the International Chamber held at Brussels in 1925, at Stockholm in 1927 and at Amsterdam in 1929.

Mr. Paul took great pride in his profession and was scrupulous in observing its ethics, earnest in improving its standards and tireless in maintaining and increasing its honorable prestige. He merited and enjoyed the confidence of the courts. One incident will illustrate his punctiliousness in presenting his cases fairly and honorably. A few years ago, after a case had been argued and submitted to the Eighth Circuit Appellate Court, Mr. Paul noticed that the United States Supreme Court had, since the argument, handed down a decision which showed that the Court of Appeals did not have the jurisdiction to entertain a cross appeal which he was contending it had. As soon as he made this discovery, he promptly wrote to the three judges who had heard the cause and called their attention to the decision. Circuit Judge Stone, in writing decision for the court, referred to the case to which Mr. Paul had called their attention, and said "The very recent case . . . to which our attention has been, with commendable consideration, called since the argument by

counsel for the cross appellant, seems to definitely settle this decree is not final”.

Mr. Paul lived a long and honorable life. He entered the spirit of the West — he became a part of it. He, and others like him, were Minneapolis. No task was too onerous for him to undertake for his city and state. He loved his native New England, and in later life acquired his ancestral homestead and made it his summer home, but he never divorced himself from the West or his adopted city.

His outstanding characteristics were earnestness, loyalty, equanimity and sympathy. He was charitable to the frailties of his friends, and constant in his friendships. He was quick to hasten to a friend in sorrow or distress, and generous in his aid to the needy. Ostentation and false pride did not enter into his scheme of life. He was a man of principle, but not opinionated or intolerant. He serenely passed into the realm of old age working to the capacity of the strength, but not exceeding it. One of his oft-expressed rules of his later life was — “Don’t hurry, don’t worry, don’t carry”. He might have added another one, which he himself did not express, but it was known to his friends — “Don’t sidestep or shirk a responsibility”.

Charles R. Fowler  
January 30, 1937

#### Related Article

Amasa C. Paul, *The Law of Trade-Marks* (MLHP, 2021)(first published 1903).



## Appendix

Hiram F. Stevens, | *History of the Bench and Bar of Minnesota* 190 (1904).

### AMASA C. PAUL.

Amasa C. Paul, of the firm of Paul & Paul, Minneapolis, Minnesota, was born in Wakefield, New Hampshire, September 12, 1857, was educated at Dartmouth College and became a teacher in the Franklin public school, Washington, D. C., in February, 1877, and continued teaching until January 1, 1881, at which date he was appointed an assistant examiner in the United States patent office. While teaching he attended the law schools of the National university, and the Colombian university, graduating from the former in 1880 and from the postgraduate course of the latter in 1882. He was admitted to the bar in 1880 and in 1884 came to Minneapolis, and has since that time been in constant practice. He has made a specialty of the law of patents and trade marks, and is the author of a work on trade marks issued in 1903 by the Keefe-Davidson Co., of St. Paul. He was for two years president of the Minneapolis Commercial Club.

Albert N. Marquis, ed., *The Book of Minnesotans: A Biographical Dictionary of Leading Men of the State of Minnesota* 396 (1907).

PAUL, Amasa Copp, lawyer; born at Wakefield, and. H., September 12, 1857; son of Hiram and Mary Porter (Copp) Paul; educated at Dartmouth College, National University Law School, Washington, D. C., Graduating, 1880, and Colombian University (post-graduate course, 1887); married Ed Carlisle, PA., May 11, 1881, to Miss Ella M Williams. After leaving Dartmouth College was teacher and D. C., from Feb., 1887 two Jan., 1881, when appointed assistant examiner U.S. patent office. Admitted to the bar, 1880, and came to Minneapolis, 1884; member of the firm of Paul & Paul; has made a specialty of the law of patents and trade marks and is

the author of a work on trade marks, issued, 1903. Club: Commercial (president for two years). Recreations: automobiling, hunting, fishing and gardening. Office: security bank building. Residence: 504 Ridgewood, Av., Minneapolis;

Joseph A. A. Burnquist, ed., *3 Minnesota and Its People* 274 (1924). (The photograph and most of this profile were reprinted in Shutter's *History of Minneapolis* in 1923).

### AMASA COPP PAUL

Amasa Copp Paul, a member of the Minneapolis bar for nearly four decades, has specialized in the law of patents and trade-marks and is recognized all over the United States as a leading authority thereon. He was born in Wakefield, Carroll county, New Hampshire, September 12, 1857, a son of Hiram and Mary Porter (Copp) Paul, and is a descendant of Daniel Paul, who settled at Kittery, Maine, prior to 1640. Another ancestor, William Copp, in whose honor Copp's Hill, Boston, was named, emigrated to America in 1635. Captain David Copp, great-great grandfather of Amasa C. Paul, was a Revolutionary soldier and one of the original settlers • of Wakefield.

The public schools of his native state afforded A. C. Paul his early educational opportunities and later he spent two years in Dartmouth College as a member of the class of 1878. He next devoted four years to teaching in the public schools of Washington, D. C., where he also attended the National University Law School, from which he received the degree of LL.B. in 1880. Two years later the degree of LL.M. was conferred upon him by Columbian, now George Washington, University. On the 1st of January, 1881, he was appointed assistant examiner in the United States patent office, where he remained until 1884, and acquired such familiarity with patent law as to cause his subsequent devotion to that special

line of practice. In June, 1884., he removed to Minneapolis, where he has since specialized in the law of patents and trade-marks, now practicing as senior member of the firm of Paul, Paul & Moore. He is the author of "Paul on Trade-Marks," which was published in 1903 and has had a wide circulation.



AMASA C. PAUL

On the 11th of May, 1881, Mr. Paul was united in marriage to Miss Ella Mortimer Williams, a daughter of Dr. Mortimer Williams of Moorefield, West Virginia. She passed away December 20, 1908. Politically Mr. Paul is a republican, while

his religious faith is that of the Congregational church. He has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite in the Masonic fraternity and is also a member of the Mystic Shrine. He holds a life membership in the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts and the Minnesota Historical Society, belongs to the Minneapolis Athletic, Minikanda and Automobile clubs and to the Union League Club of Chicago.

From Marion Daniel Shutter, ed. 2 *History of Minneapolis: Gateway to the Great Northwest* 252-253 (1923).

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### Credits

The photograph on the first page was taken by Lee Brothers Studio on July 14, 1932. The photo of Mrs. Paul on page 3 was taken by Lee Brothers on November 25, 1935. The group photograph on page 6 was taken on August 29, 1923, by Pacific & Atlantic Photos, Inc. These photographs are from the Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection, Hennepin County Library. The photo on page 4 is from *Men of Minnesota* (1915).

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