

# MEMORIAL SERVICES

FOR DECEASED MEMBERS

RAMSEY COUNTY BAR

HELD AT THE

COURTHOUSE, APRIL 8, 1944



SAINT PAUL LEGAL LEDGER

## *Memorial Services*

On Saturday, April 8, 1944, Memorial Services in honor of those members of the Ramsey County Bar who died during the past year were held in the Court House.

STATE OF MINNESOTA, COUNTY OF RAMSEY,  
District Court, Second Judicial District.

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JUDGE MICHAEL: In keeping with long custom we have met this morning to pay tribute to those members of the Bench and Bar of Ramsey County who have ended their labors during the past year. The exercise will be conducted by the Ramsey County Bar Association. The Court now recognizes Mr. Paul C. Thomas, President of the Association.

MR. THOMAS: May it please your Honors. Your Bar appears this morning to present to this court memorials of those of the Bar who have died during the past year. It is the desire of the Bar that there should be a permanent record of the professional lives and attainments of those who have left our ranks. The members of the Bar of this Court who have died during the past year for whom committees will present memorials to your Honors are:

Justice I. M. Olsen.  
Mr. Willis E. Alexander.  
Mr. Horace E. Bigelow.  
Mr. Charles E. Bowen.  
Mr. Alvin B. Christofferson.  
Mr. John P. J. Dolan  
Mr. Karl Dreher.  
Mr. Harry S. Johnson.  
Mr. Harold C. Kerr.  
Mr. John Richardson.  
Mr. Claire I. Weikert.

## JUSTICE INGerval M OLSEN

On behalf of the Bar, a committee consisting of Mr. Justice Andrew Holt, Mr. Chief Justice Charles Loring and Mr. Justice Julius J. Olson, has prepared a memorial of Justice I. M. Olsen, lately of this Bar, which will be presented by Mr. Justice Andrew Holt.

JUSTICE HOLT: Judge I. M. Olsen was born on the 4th day of January, 1861, in Norway. At the age of four years he came with his parents to Nicollet County and was brought up, attending public schools. In 1887 he graduated from the Academic Department of the University of Minnesota. He thereafter entered the Law School of the University and was admitted to the Bar in 1893. He located for the practice of his profession in Sleepy Eye.

He conducted his business until 1906 when he was elected Judge of the District Court of the Ninth Judicial District. He was elected in 1912 and in 1918 he did not run, but he was not long absent because then a vacancy occurred and he was appointed in 1920: and then in the fall he was elected for a six year term and again in the fall of 1927.

In the year 1927 he was chosen by the Supreme Court to fill the place of Judge Lee who retired on account of ill health and he served as Commissioner until the Constitution was amended and when there were six associate Justices instead of four. He was then given the place of Associate Justice and served until ill health compelled his retirement on the 15th day of December, 1936. [He died on June 26, 1943.]

His work on the Supreme Bench is found in Volumes 172 to 198 and they show the character of his work. His associates always paid high respect to his opinions. He was a great help in the consultation room. He was a gentleman always and always willing to assist. His opinions, I think, justify the tribute that we, in court, pay to him.

He was married in 1906 and is survived by his wife, who was Lyda McBain and two children, one son in New York City and one daughter in Ohio now survive. I think that is all.

## WILLIS EUGENE ALEXANDER

MR. THOMAS: A committee of the Bar consisting of Mr. Clifford W. Gardner, Mr. Howard C. Callender and Mr. John Edmund Burke has prepared a memorial of Mr. Willis E. Alexander, lately of this Bar, which will be presented by Mr. Clifford W. Gardner.

Mr. Gardner then read the memorial to Mr. Willis E. Alexander.

To the Honorable, the Judges of the District Court of Ramsey County, Minnesota, and to the members of the Ramsey County Bar:

Willis Eugene Alexander, the son of Thomas M. and Mary Alexander who survive him, was born June 16, 1911. He attended the public grade schools and the Fergus Falls High School at Fergus Falls, Minnesota. For approximately one year he was a student at the Park Region Luther College at Fergus Falls.

In 1930, together with his parents, he moved to St. Paul and began his studies in law at St. Thomas College where he remained for two years. At the end of this period, he enrolled in the St. Paul College of Law and was graduated from that college with his Bachelor of Law Degree on June 14, 1934. While still a student at this school, he also pursued studies in preparation for the practice of law at the University of Minnesota.

He was admitted to the Bar of this State on March 20, 1935. Shortly after his admission, he began the general practice of law and was associated with various members of the profession in the general practice field.

On October 20, 1937, he married the former Berenice E. Ryan and to them was born one son, Thomas, on August 13, 1939. Both his wife and his son together with one sister Mrs. Harry Costello also survive him. He died on April 19, 1943.

About three years before his death he became associated in the general practice of law with Lt. Joseph P. Johnson, now of the United States Navy, and Howard C. Callender, a member of this Committee.

Shortly after forming this association, he made a startling discovery. He learned something which only he on this earth fully understood. Maintaining silence, he Answered his Summons when it came readily, for he knew that as to him, it had been issued long before. The mission he had undertaken was unfulfilled, but in his death he was a success and a man, for no man who has that look in his eyes of knowing death and facing it willingly can be other.

Respectfully submitted,  
CLIFFORD W. GARDNER,  
Chairman.  
HOWARD C. CALLENDER.  
JOHN EDMUND BURKE.



## HORACE E. BIGELOW

MR. THOMAS: A committee consisting of Mr. A. E. Horn, Mr. James C. Otis and Mr. McNeil V. Seymour has prepared a memorial to Mr. Horace E. Bigelow, lately of this Bar, which will be presented by Mr. A. E. Horn.

Mr. Horn then read the memorial to Mr. Horace E. Bigelow.

Horace E. Bigelow, who for more than fifty years was a member of this Bar, died at St. Paul, Minnesota, on November 11, 1942. He was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, May 17, 1857. His father, Horace R. Bigelow, and Judge Charles E. Flandrau came to St. Paul together in 1853 and formed the partnership of Bigelow & Flandrau. Both had practiced law in the East – Judge Flandrau's father Thomas Hunt Flandrau for a short time was a law partner of Aaron Burr.

Mr. Bigelow's father was a distinguished lawyer and outstanding as a wise and dependable counselor.

Judge Flandrau was one of the most distinguished citizens of this State, and his career as a citizen, lawyer, and Judge of the Supreme Court of the territory and State was most unique and colorful.

Our Territorial Supreme Court had its first session in January, 1850, at the American House, a small hotel at Third and Exchange Streets, St. Paul.

Judge Flandrau was an Associate Justice during the last two years of its existence, 1857 and 1858, and one of the first Judges of the Supreme Court of this State.

His opinions are in Volume 1 of our Minnesota Reports. In this volume, it is recorded that the Supreme Court of the Territory, July Term, 1852,

"ORDERED, That the following rules of practice be adopted for the government of the District Courts of this Territory, in equity suits and proceedings not brought upon the federal side of said courts."

Many of these 42 rules have stood the test of over ninety-two years' operation and are still in force, and it is interesting to note that at this time the Bench and Bar of the entire State are earnestly considering whether the Supreme Court of our State be given the authority to prescribe rules of practice for the District Courts as did the Territorial Supreme Court ninety-two years ago.

Horace E. Bigelow was admitted to practice in Minnesota on October 20, 1890. He was well equipped for the practice of his profession—a graduate of Williams College and of the Law School of Columbia University. At that time, his father's law firm, Bigelow, Flandrau & Squires was one of the leading firms of the State—in reputation, volume of business, and clientele—and Judge Flandrau, in trials of questions of fact, was the equal of the ablest lawyers of the State.

It was the privilege and practice of the Chairman of this Committee and the young lawyers of St. Paul as a part of their legal education to attend all the famous trials of fact that Judge Flandrau participated in alone or as Chief Counsel.

It seemed to those who knew Horace E. Bigelow well at that time a rare opportunity to identify himself with his father's firm. He preferred, however, to go on his own.

In 1896, he was elected a member of the Board of Aldermen of the City Council, and the following year chosen as its President. Under the then City Charter, the best legal talent of the City was available and willing to and did serve as Aldermen or in the Assembly. It was a patriotic and most valuable service. The pecuniary reward was \$8.33 per month.

Judge Walter H. Sanborn, afterwards Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, was elected and re-elected as an Alderman of the Seventh Ward, and among the many of our most prominent and successful lawyers who served either as Aldermen or in the Assembly were the following Judges of our own District Court, namely: William D. Cornish, Charles E. Otis, Charles D. Kerr, Olin B. Lewis, Richard D. O'Brien, and Howard Wheeler.

It is regrettable that when the Charter was repealed and the Commission form adopted in 1912 (effective June, 1914) that this valuable service was no longer possible.

In 1899, Mr. Bigelow was elected County Attorney of Ramsey County, appointing Fred W. Zollman his First Assistant, and many important matters, civil and criminal, were disposed of. Mr. Bigelow later was identified with a number of the leading firms of the City, namely: Bigelow & Taylor—Mr. Taylor later became a law partner of Mr. William D. Mitchell, of St. Paul, and later of New York City. In 1925, Mr. Mitchell was appointed Solicitor General, and in 1929 Attorney General of the United States. Mr. Bigelow was also Junior partner of Durment & Bigelow and Lawler, Durment & Bigelow. When this partnership was dissolved, he practiced alone, specializing in insurance law, of which he was an expert.

Mr. Bigelow is survived by his widow, Louise O. Bigelow, and his three sons, Horace Ransom Bigelow, of Fort Washington, New York, Henry Upham Bigelow, of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Dudley Dean Bigelow, of Palm Springs, California.

Respectfully submitted,  
A. E. HORN,  
Chairman.  
McNEIL V. SEYMOUR.  
JAMES C. OTIS.

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## CHARLES E. BOWEN

MR. THOMAS: A committee of the Bar consisting of Mr. Charles Kidder, Mr. James H. L. Kelehan, and Mr. James T. Denery has prepared a memorial of Mr. Charles E. Bowen, lately of this Bar, which will be presented by Mr. Charles Kidder.

Mr. Kidder then read the memorial. to Mr. Charles E. Bowen.

Charles E. Bowen, who practiced law at the Ramsey County Bar for about forty years, was born in 1874 in Waverly, Iowa, and died at St. Paul on December 3, 1943.

He was graduated by the College of Law of Iowa State University and admitted to the Bar of Iowa in 1901. After practicing law for two years at Dows, Iowa, he moved to St. Paul and was admitted to the Minnesota Bar in 1903.

During the early years of his practice here he devoted much of his time to the affairs of one client, a prominent merchant and owner of the St. Paul Baseball Club. Continued and diligent work for this client enabled Mr. Bowen to develop a very considerable proficiency in mercantile or commercial law, and in that field he practiced with ability and success throughout the remaining years of his life.

He also achieved a very good grasp of bankruptcy law and had a considerable practice in that line. He was particularly effective in cases requiring hard detailed and persistent work to uncover fraudulent concealment of assets in bankruptcy. In some of these cases his success might fairly be termed remarkable and even sensational.

Outside of his practice in these special fields of law, Mr. Bowen handled with fair success and unfailing interest the wide variety of matters customary in a general practice.

He practiced alone throughout his life but was agreeably associated with a number of lawyers in the use of an office. Among these were W. R. Duxbury and Harry Goodman. Later he was an office associate of Mr. Frank Ewing and handled considerable litigation for him.

Mr. Bowen was a member of Masonic Orders, the Odd Fellows, and the Holman Methodist Church. He leaves a widow and two sons.

In conclusion, it should be said that while he was not intimate with many of his brother lawyers, those who knew him well regarded him highly for his modesty, his diligence, his interest in legal problems, and his unswerving faithfulness to the interests of his clients.

Respectfully submitted,  
JAMES H. L. KELEHAN,  
Chairman.  
JAMES T. DENERY.  
CHARLES S. KIDDER.

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## ALVIN B. CHRISTOFFERSON

MR. THOMAS: A committee of the Bar consisting of Mr. John A. Burns, Judge Albin S. Pearson and Judge John L. Rounds has prepared a memorial of Mr. Alvin B. Christofferson, lately of this Bar, which will be presented by Mr. John A. Burns.

Mr. Burns then read the memorial to Mr. Alvin B. Christofferson.

Alvin B. Christofferson, the youngest of seven children of Hans and Bertha Christofferson, was born at Hudson, Wis., April 14, 1891. His father died while he was still quite young and all of his education was acquired through the efforts of his mother, his older brothers, sisters and himself. He finished public grade, and high schools at Hudson, graduating in 1909; he entered the St. Paul College of Law in 1910 from which institution he was graduated with the degree of LLB in June, 1913. While attending law school he held an important and responsible position with G. Sommers & Company of St. Paul. Upon being admitted to the Bar he engaged in the general practice of law and continued uninterruptedly therein until his death December 19, 1943.

He was married November 10, 1915, to Anne Johnson of Hudson, Wisconsin, who had been his schoolmate throughout high school. Mrs. Christofferson and three daughters, Elizabeth Anne, now Mrs. H. Robert Diercks of St. Louis, Missouri, Janet Carolyn, now Mrs. Stuart MacPhail of Alameda, California, and Ruth Ann, survive him.

Throughout his school years and professional life, he was an untiring student; he possessed rare qualities of easy and quick perception combined with careful and complete analysis and apt expression. His success as a lawyer was due in large measure to these characteristics combined with the ability to come to a prompt and final decision after adequate preparation; his fine character and personality were most engaging and charmed and fascinated his clients, his friends and associates.

While he was primarily devoted to the practice of his profession, he was also active in other fields of endeavor. He was a 32nd degree member of the Masonic Order and a Past Master of St. Paul Lodge No. 3 and active in the Scottische Rite. He was a member of the House of Hope Presbyterian Church of St. Paul of which he was a deacon. While in law school he was a member of the Delta Theta Phi, law fraternity. Early in his adult life he became a devotee of golf in which game he became most proficient and was among the better known non-professional golfers in this vicinity. He was also an ardent fisherman. He was an active member of the Town and Country Club and St. Paul Athletic Club.

He had long been a member of the American Bar, Minnesota State Bar and Ramsey County Bar Associations and had been active in each of these associations. Just prior to his last illness he had devoted a great deal of time to the preparation of a program of public relations for the State Bar Association which had been concurred in by other members of his committee and favorably discussed throughout the state.

During 30 years of practice at the Bar of Ramsey County he was associated at different times with his brother, Arthur Christofferson, the Hon. Joseph A. A. Burnquist, former Governor and now Attorney General, the Hon. John B. Sanborn, Judge of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the late Hon. Richard A. Walsh, the Hon. Kenneth C. Brill, and Albin S. Pearson, Judges of the District Court of Ramsey County, the late George W. Markham, Earl F. Jackson, Charles J. Yackel, Melvin J. Silver and John A. Burns, with all of whom his relationship continued to be most intimate and cordial. His integrity, ability, tact and happy disposition made him a lawyer with whom it was pleasant to negotiate, regardless of whether he was an associate or an antagonistic.

He was clean in thought and speech and, at all times, refrained from innuendo and affront; even during the heat of combat he never so far forgot himself as to leave the scars of unpleasant memories; he never spoke ill of another. While he was primarily a counselor in the fields of contract, corporation, taxation and business law, he was also well grounded by study and experience in practically all fields; it may be truthfully said that he was an unusually able office and trial lawyer with a large, successful and productive practice. He has appeared in litigation of importance in State and Federal Courts in Minnesota and in the Court of other State and Federal jurisdictions.

He was ever a conspicuous exemplar of the best traditions of the Bar and contributed much to the high esteem in which the public holds the Bar of Ramsey County. Those who were close to him will always miss the wholesomeness which his friendship supplied. To borrow the words of Hallock:

*"None knew thee but to love thee,  
Nor named thee but to praise."*

Respectfully submitted,  
ALBIN S. PEARSON,  
Chairman.  
JOHN L. ROUNDS.  
JOHN A. BURNS.

## JOHN P. J. DOLAN

MR. THOMAS: A committee of the Bar consisting of Mr. John W. McConneloug, Mr. Frank J. Danz and Mr. Louis P. Sheahan has prepared a memorial of Mr. John P. J. Dolan, lately of this Bar, which will be presented by Mr. John W. McConneloug.

Mr. McConnleoug then read the memorial to Mr. John P. J. Dolan.

John P. J. Dolan was born at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on May thirteenth, eighteen hundred eighty-four, the son of Patrick Dolan and Ann Dolan of that City, and he died in Saint Paul, Minnesota, on June sixth, nineteen hundred forty-three, in the fifty-ninth year of his life.

He was survived by his brother Leonard R. Dolan of Cranford, New Jersey, and by his sister, Sister Mary Carlos, a member of the Dominican Order of Preachers, who has been engaged in missionary work in China for several years.

Mr. Dolan attended the Boys' Catholic High School of West Philadelphia, and the St. Paul College of Law, graduating from the latter institution in the year nineteen hundred seventeen and was admitted to practice in the State of Minnesota by the Supreme Court on September fourth, nineteen hundred seventeen. From the time of his admission to the date of his death, he was engaged in the general practice of law.

Is is rather difficult for anyone to estimate the real values emanating from an individual personality. Every life is many-sided, and in attempting to evaluate the contributions, one may fail to take all the influences into consideration. As lawyers, we think in terms of law, but on an occasion such as this, there are other factors to be considered.

During the many years that Mr. Dolan resided in this community, he made innumerable friends. His greatest pleasure was obtained by performing friendly acts without ostentation and without any thought of reward. This side of his life was attested to by the scores of his friends from every walk of life who were present at his funeral.

THEREFORE, may it please the Court that this feeble, ineffectual tribute to the life, character and career of our fellow lawyer and associate be entered upon the records of this Court before which he practiced, as a final tribute to his friends and associates of the Bar.

Respectfully submitted,  
FRANK J. DANZ,  
Chairman.  
LOUIS P. SHEAHAN,  
JOHN W. McCONNELLOUG.



## KARL F. DREHER

MR. THOMAS: A Committee of the Bar consisting of Mr. James C. Otis, Mr. A. E. Horn and Mr. Frank C. Hodson has prepared a memorial of Mr. Karl Dreher, lately of this Bar, which will be presented by Mr. James C. Otis.

Mr. Otis then read the memorial to Mr. Karl Dreher.

Karl F. Dreher was native-born. He received his education, carried on his business activities, maintained his home within and died a resident of St. Paul. His entire life was spent in this city.

He was born on the 29th day of May, 1877, on lower Ramsey Street, not far from the present site of St. Luke's Hospital.

He was the son of Otto Dreher and Marie Leitner Dreher and was one of a family of nine children, His father died when he was twelve years old and he assumed many of the responsibilities of assisting his family in financial and other ways at an early age.

He received his education in the St. Paul schools, attending the Jefferson Grade School and the Central High School, from the latter of which he graduated in the year 1893 at the age of sixteen years.

Mr. Dreher's early ambition had been to follow the medical profession and while attending high school and for several years thereafter he was employed in a drug store near Seven Corners, believing that this experience would be helpful in connection with the work he expected to take in medical school.

In 1896 he secured employment in the treasurer's office of the Chicago Great Western Railway Company and finally was appointed general paymaster and cashier of that company.

When the general offices of the Railway Company were moved to Chicago, Mr. Dreher resigned his position since he did not care to leave the City of St. Paul and thereupon became associated with Rank and Godell, a firm engaged in the railway supply business.

On June 30, 1908, he married Florence Ryan, who also was born and had always resided in the City of St. Paul.

In 1912 he was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Education for the City of St. Paul.

In the meantime he had become interested in the law and entered the St. Paul College of Law in 1911 from which he graduated in the year 1914. He was admitted to the Bar of this State on June 19th of that year.

In the year 1920 he was tendered a position on the staff of the Northwestern Trust Company, then affiliated with the First National Bank of St. Paul. He accepted this position and was assigned the duties of handling mortgages and supervising trust accounts.

On January 5, 1922, he was made assistant secretary of the Trust Company which position he held until 1930 when the Northwestern Trust Company and the Merchants Trust Company consolidated and merged as the First Trust Company of Saint Paul. In November, 1930, he was made a Trust Officer and Assistant Secretary of the consolidated corporation, which position he held until his death.

During the years 1929 and 1930 he held the position of Secretary and Treasurer of Corporate Fiduciaries Association of Minnesota. He became Chairman of the Executive Committee of that Association in 1931 and was elected its President in 1933.

Mr. Dreher was a Mason, a member of Summit Masonic Lodge and of the Minnesota Consistory of the Scottish Rite. In Masonry, as in his business activities, he was conscientious, thorough and methodical.

Mr. Dreher was deeply religious and was a member of Clement's Episcopal Church and for many years was one of the vestrymen of that church. At the early age of eight years he first became a member of Christ Church Choir, and thereafter was successively a member of the Choir of Christ Church, of St. John's Episcopal Church and of St. Clement's. At the time of his death he was and for some time prior thereto he had been a trustee and treasurer of the Diocese of Minnesota Incorporated of the Episcopal Church of America.

He was interested in educational matters and demonstrated his sincere interest and ability in such matters while serving as Deputy Commissioner of Education. At the time of his death he was one of the trustees of Breck School, a boys' day school of St. Paul, which position he had held for several years.

He kept his contacts with Central High School and in 1939 was elected Treasurer of the Student Loan Fund of that school.

Mr. Dreher was a member of the Ramsey County Bar Association, of the Minnesota State Bar Association and of the St. Paul Athletic Club.

Mr. Dreher was not interested in athletics and had no particular hobby unless his interest in amateur theatricals might be designated as a hobby. In former years he had been a member of the Little Theater and took part in several plays given by that group and in others given at St. Clement's Church.

One of Mr. Dreher's rare gifts, little known to any save his own family, was a native literary ability and a poetic turn of mind. A brochure of original philosophies in prose and verse, presented by him to his sister Clara, disclose his deep religious convictions, his respect and love for his fellow man and his high ideals. He particularly enjoyed Shakespeare, which he read assiduously and from whose works he frequently quoted passages which particularly pleased him.

If we were to summarize the outstanding characteristics of Mr. Dreher, we would say that he had in the highest degree the qualities of thoroughness, simplicity, sincerity, loyalty and integrity. He was careful and painstaking in his work. However insignificant the task, however small the amount involved, he gave his best. His first thought was of the person whose affairs had been assigned to him for attention and of that person's best interest, and in protecting those interests, no detail was overlooked.

Being himself modest, reserved and sincere, he disliked ostentation and affectation in others. He felt that true merit would disclose itself and needed no trumpets or fanfare.

He had a keen sense of humor and delighted in the recital of an experience or the telling of an anecdote which illustrated the point then under discussion.

He had an even temperament and was not subject to periods of great elation or depression. He carried on to the best of his ability under the circumstances then existing, satisfied and contented in the knowledge that

he was giving his very best.

He was cheerful and brave during the long illness which preceded his death although he may have known and in all probability did know that his recovery was impossible.

Perhaps his philosophy of life, if to be stated in a few words, might best be expressed in the following excerpt from Polonius' advice to his son in Hamlet:

*"This above all; to thine own self be true;  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man."*

Mr. Dreher died on January 13, 1944, at the age of 66 years. Of his immediate family he is survived by his wife, Mrs. Florence Ryan Dreher; a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Dreher Moses of St. Paul; and two grandchildren, Candace Ann Moses and Mary Elizabeth Moses.

In his death the city has lost a loyal patriotic citizen, the Bar a conscientious member, and his family a devoted husband and father.

Respectfully submitted,  
FRANK C. HODGSON,  
Chairman.  
ALEXANDER E. HORN,  
JAMES C. OTIS.

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HARRY STICKNEY JOHNSON

MR. THOMAS: A committee of the Bar consisting of Mr. Rex de Lambert, Mr. Bruce W. Sanborn and Mr. Worth K. Rice, has prepared a memorial to Mr. Harry S. Johnson, lately of this Bar, which will be presented by Mr. Rex de Lambert.

Mr. de Lambert then read the memorial to Mr. Harry S. Johnson.

Harry Stickney Johnson was born February 2, 1874, at Stillwater, Minnesota. He came of a hardy pioneer family. Alfred Johnson and Maria

Almore Johnson, his father and mother, came from the State of Maine in 1867 to Stillwater, where his father was a lumberman.

Harry attended the public schools at Stillwater, Minnesota, and the University of Minnesota. He was admitted to practice on June 3, 1898, and immediately identified himself with patent law. He became junior partner in the patent law firm of Merwin, Lothrop & Johnson. Upon the retirement from practice of these partners, he practiced by himself.

In April, 1904, he was married to Deva Barker, of Minneapolis. Of their two sons, Gordon Lee died in 1920, and Robert now attends Central High School in Saint Paul.

In his practice Harry handled many important patents and conducted much hard-fought patent litigation. He was a hard worker and an able practitioner. He became known for his fighting qualities.

He had a great love of adventure. While in Europe on business some years ago, he became interested in liquid gas, which then was in an early stage of development. He concluded to bring back to this country, if possible, a tube of this gas, and surmounted many difficulties in order to do so. Liquid gas became known here as blaugas. Harry was one of those first interested in promoting its use in this country.

Harry's love of adventure was again illustrated during the Diaz regime in Mexico, in the northern section of which country he had purchased a citrus fruit ranch. When the Villa Revolution came, he was at his ranch. It took much effort and ingenuity by himself and his foremen to return him to this country alive, a feat which was accomplished by smuggling him, covered with tomatoes and onions, in a vegetable train. Thus his life was saved, but his appetite for onions and tomatoes was forever lost.

Harry was an ardent hunter and fisherman. He was very active in club work. He helped organize the Automobile Club. He was an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Saint Paul, and was its President in the year 1929. He took a lively interest in the camp activities of that organization and was largely instrumental in selecting the site therefor, along the St. Croix River, near Marine. He built on these grounds, at his own expense, a recreation hall for boys, which was named Gordon Hall in memory of his older son. He founded the Community Club of Mahtomedi, where he lived for forty years.

None of his hobbies nor his love of adventure were permitted to interfere with his professional work. He practiced with honor, and though not in the best of health in the last years, practiced actively until his last illness. He died September 18, 1943, and left surviving him his wife, Deva N. Johnson,



his son, Robert Johnson, and three sisters, Mrs. Theresa Murray of Portland, Oregon, Mrs. Ada French of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and Mrs. Augustine Tyner of Salem, Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,  
BRUCE W. SANBORN,  
Chairman.  
WORTH K. RICE.  
REX H. deLAMBERT.



## HAROLD C. KERR

MR. THOMAS: A committee of the Bar consisting of Mr. Walter T. Ryan, Mr. Alfred R. Sundberg and Mr. Chas. E. Elmquist has prepared a memorial of Mr. Harold C. Kerr, lately of this Bar, which will be presented by Mr. Walter T. Ryan.

Mr. Ryan then read the memorial to Mr. Harold C. Kerr.

Harold C. Kerr was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, September 15, 1881, the son of the Honorable Charles D. Kerr and Mary Bennet Kerr.

His father, a Colonel in the Civil War and a native of Illinois, preceded him in the practice of the law, first practicing in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and later at St. Paul in an association with the late Harris Richardson, under the firm name of "Kerr and Richardson." He afterwards was elevated to the Ramsey County District Bench where he rounded out his legal career.

Harold, the eldest of three children, attended the elementary schools in St. Paul and high school in Little Falls. He graduated from high school in June, 1901, and that fall was enrolled in the University of Minnesota, graduating therefrom in June, 1904, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws.

His father, then having withdrawn from the firm of Kerr and Richardson to assume judicial duties on the bench, was succeeded by Harold and the firm was continued under the name of "Richardson and Kerr." He afterwards was associated with various lawyers until shortly prior to 1918, when he

and the late Walter Richardson became associated under the old firm name of "Kerr and Richardson."

On November 6, 1907, he married Clytie S. Stuart, the daughter of Fred B. and Isabel Stuart, then of Little Falls, Minnesota, and to this union one child, Stuart C. Kerr, was born.

In 1918, although then beyond draft age, he offered his services to his Country in World War I, was accepted for military duty June 4, 1918, and shortly thereafter was sent France for service in the Medical Corps. After one year and two days of service, he was honorably discharged with the rating of Sergeant First Class, and thereafter resumed his practice in the firm of Kerr and Richardson. This firm was later dissolved and he was thereafter associated with various St. Paul lawyers, among whom are John A. Burns, Roy J. Mohan, Arthur E. Nelson, the late Eugene M. O'Neill and at the time of retirement was associated with two members of this committee, Walter T. Ryan and Alfred R. Sundberg.

Harold, or Harry as he was quite commonly known, was singularly gifted with so many of the rare qualities that go to make up a real lawyer, that for over thirty years he was recognized as one of the leading and outstanding members of the Ramsey County Bar.

He was one of the few lawyers who possessed the unusual ability to determine, in the first instance, in his own mind what the law should be, as applied to any given set of facts, and then produce the law to substantiate his determination.

He early earned the reputation of being a keen, tireless and exacting lawyer, who enjoyed the fullest trust and confidence of his clients, and whose trust and confidence was never betrayed.

His brother lawyers enjoyed his association and respected him for his ability, well knowing that when he entered into a legal controversy, he was assured of his position and would seek no undue favors.

During the earlier years of his practice, he tried many lawsuits, not only for himself but also for other lawyers. The Courts before whom he appeared, and opposing counsel, always found him able, resourceful, courteous, well prepared and fully advised as to the law and facts on all issues involved

While he engaged in what might be termed a general practice, he was recognized as an authority in the fields of Fire Insurance and Real Estate Law. He left behind several long term leases, wholly of his own creation, which are models of perfection.

Although devoted to his profession, he loved the Great Out of Doors, and particularly enjoyed golf and hunting. He was an enthusiastic member of a hunting club, and during the hunting season could often be found behind a blind waiting for the ducks to come in.

For many years he maintained membership in the Athletic Club, the Minnesota Club, the Town and Country Club, the Shriners, Elks, Macca-bees and the American Legion.

He was a devoted husband and father. Giving little thought to his own health and well being, he spared no effort that his family might live in security and have and enjoy all the good things of life.

In December, 1935, while in the prime of life and about to enjoy the fruits of a successful and prosperous practice, he first suffered an impairment of his health. For several years thereafter he continued active, refusing to admit ill health, fighting against it with the same determination that had characterized his life.

In January, 1942, he retired from active practice and being unable to regain his health, passed away at St. Luke's Hospital in St. Paul on February 15, 1944, survived by his wife of St. Paul and his son of St. Louis Park.

If It Please Your Honors: Will you accept this humble tribute in memory of our departed brother.

Respectfully submitted,  
ALFRED R. SUNDBERG,  
Chairman.  
CHARLES E. ELMQUIST.  
WALTER T. RYAN.

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## JOHN HAROLD RICHARDSON

MR. THOMAS: A committee of the Bar consisting of Mr. Charles W. Briggs, Mr. Ira C. Oehler and Mr. Alex Janes, has prepared a memorial of Mr. John Richardson, lately of this Bar, which will be presented by Mr. Charles W. Briggs.

Mr. Briggs then read the memorial to Mr. John Richardson.

John Harold Richardson was born at St. Paul, Minnesota, on June 5, 1915, the son of Harold James and Anna Reimers Richardson. He came into the legal tradition, his father being a member of this association, and a long and successful practitioner at this bar.

He received his early education at the St. Paul Academy Phillips Academy, Andover. He graduated from Yale University in 1936. In 1938 he entered Harvard Law School, and graduated there in the honor group in June, 1941. Because of his honor standing he was elected a member of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. He was the leader of the court team of two students representing the Scott Club, that won Ames competition before a bench of distinguished Eastern jurists. This is considered the highest competitive achievement at the school.

He was admitted to the Minnesota Bar in September 1, 1941, and was a member of this and of the Minnesota State Bar Associations.

He had calls from some of the leading law firms of the country.

He possessed a brilliant mind, great energy and initiative, and was ever eager to explore new fields. In him was a fine and gladsome spirit of daring, His academic analysis and insight were unusual and sound. He had a loveable personality and a rare ability for making friends. His admiration for President Lincoln and Justice Holmes grew out of his humane interest in people and his desire to help wherever he could. To be of service was so natural to him as hardly to be a virtue. In this light he viewed the law, and in it he entered the army.

He gave promise of an outstanding career at the bar.

He enlisted in the army at Fort Snelling on January 5, 1942. He trained at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Officer Candidate School. On July 17, 1942, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, and immediately began active service in the army of the United States. He volunteered for training in the First Special Service Force, and

trained at Fort William Henry Harrison, Montana, Camp Bradford, Virginia, and Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont. The work of this Force was extremely hazardous, including paratrooping and mountain service. He was promoted to a First Lieutenancy in June, 1943, and in July and August of that year saw action in the Aleutians Islands. He went to Italy with his unit and was killed in action at LaDifensa, Italy, on December 3, 1943, while giving first aid to one of the men of his platoon, under shell fire. The Purple Heart and Silver Star medals were awarded posthumously to him for military merit and gallantry in action.

He is survived by his parents and by two sisters, Mrs. Charles C. Cook, of St. Paul, and Mrs. Locke L. Murray, of Winnetka.

We should not end here with this chronicle. There is in the events that have come upon us, something which bids us fit his example into our human selves.

The gift of his life will endure, not because he fought for a cause that the mind can define today or tomorrow. His monument will not be reared in plans nor by Parliaments.

What John's life and death mean will live in the hearts of men. Face to face with the brave who gave their "last full measure of devotion," the mind falters and reason is dumb. We see only a young man of sterling worth in the full tide of bright hope and ambition step forth to do his part in the hour of his country's need. We see him in the long months of rigorous training prepare to meet manfully whatever may come. Something of duty and honor made him a soldier, then an officer, beloved by his men, and he counted not the cost.

Life to youth is so valuable! The poet has said "Youth is very Heaven." Yet he pawns his life in the high adventure of war as a thing expendable. The pride of a generation rides with danger as the pilot, and courage spurns the constant clutch of death.

We see him under fire go to the help of a wounded soldier in his command. Nothing else matters then. In that supreme moment he knows what it means to be an officer and a soldier, even to meet the grim enemy which all gallantry fails. A brother officer says to him: "He went the way he would have liked to go. He will always be part of the spirit of this force, and an heroic example to us all." We are reminded of the passing of Sir Philip Sidney. Mortally wounded in battle he refused a cup of water in favor of a dying soldier with these words: "Thy need is greater than mine."

Somehow, with great humility and simplicity we may state the cause for which he and other gallant America have died on the battlefield—duty to his country, your country, and mine. Keen and inquiring of mind as he was, he would have left it so. Here we come very close to home and all that it means.

There is something in the roll of drums and the waving symbol of what a nation stands for that arouses men and women to meet the foe. It called John's grandfather, Henry M. Richardson, to the defense of the Union. The scales of considered right and wrong for a patriot's country are locked by the stroke of peril. This the mind cannot fathom nor put into words. Here the heart beats faster than the brain can function. Thus it has ever been, and thus it will ever be. No reasoned loyalty called John to the colors. His was "not to reason why" as finally he "rode into the Valley of Death."

Heroes of other days have died for a simple faith they could (sic) understand.

Leonidas perished with his warriors at Thermopylae to delay the enemy from an attack upon his beloved Sparta. There for years a marker stood, reading: "Go, stranger, and to Lacedaemon tell that here, obeying her behests, we fell."

Lord Nelson at Trafalgar flew this signal from his flagship: "England expects every man will do his duty." Mortally wounded in that action, he died with this bright but humble claim on his lips: "I have done my duty, thank God for that."

The hills of Virginia drew the sword of General Lee and overwhelmed his thinking. Virginia was his country. He became the hero of a lost cause, but the years have not dimmed his valor.

Nathan Hale said: "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country."

Another great American general, thinking only of his men, in delirium from his wounds at the last said: "Let's us cross the river and rest in the shade of the trees."

John and his comrades who have crossed the river left in our hearts something that mind and time cannot efface, come what may. They nobly did their duty to their country. Obeying her behests they fell. As they rest in the shade of the trees, they would ask this tribute in the form of a pledge, simple of statement but weighted with tremendous responsibility: "We will keep America."

Respectfully submitted,  
CHAS. W. BRIGGS,  
Chairman.

A. L. JANES,  
IRA C. OEHLER.



## CLAIRE I. WEIKERT

MR. THOMAS: A committee of the Bar consisting of Mr. Otis H. Godfrey, Mr. Richard Felhaber and Mr. Clifton Parks has prepared a memorial of Mr. Claire I. Weikert, lately of this Bar, which will be presented by Mr. Otis H. Godfrey.

Mr. Godfrey then read the memorial to Mr. Claire I. Weikert.

Claire I. Weikert practiced law in Saint Paul and Ramsey County, from June, 1920, until his death at Veterans Hospital on May 4, 1943, at age 48. He was born in St. Paul [on October 26, 1895]; attended Mechanic Arts High School and was president of his class at graduation in 1913. He attended the University of Minnesota where he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts, June 14, 1917. He started in the Law School, and left the Class of 1918 to enter, military service. After World War I, he returned to the Law School, and received his degree of Bachelor of Laws on June 17, 1920.

At the University, Mr Weikert was a member of the Delta Chi fraternity, Forum Literary Society, President of Intersociety Debaters, and was captain in the University cadet corps. In the Law School, he was a member of the Minnesota Law Review Student Editorial Board, on Volumes 1 and 4, years 1917 and 1919-20, and Recent Case Editor, Volume 4, year 1919-20, and received the Order of the Coif, for high attainments in the study of law.

During the war, he was a Captain in Military Intelligence of the United States Army, and was cited for bravery. He was an expert instructor in the bayonet. While at Dierdorf of the Westervald, Germany, with the Army of Occupation, he was editor in chief of the 9th Infantry newspaper. He stayed

in the Army Reserve Corps, and became a Lieut. Colonel in Military Intelligence. He was a past president of the St. Paul Reserve Officers, and past Secretary of the Minnesota Reserve Officers Association.

Mr. Weikert came by his interest in military affairs naturally. The map of Gettysburg Battlefield shows the farm home of E. Weikert, Claire's grandfather, just east of Round Top Hill, 785, on the Gettysburg-Taneytown road. His father, Henry Weikert, was born at Gettysburg, and lived there the first two years of his life. The grandfather was a soldier in the Union Army and on the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg moved his family from their homestead, and sent them to Ohio, where they settled.

Mr. Weikert and his brother, Conway, were interested in the tent and awning business, founded in St. Paul by their father. Claire was active in the National Tent & Awning Association. Speaking before its convention at San Francisco, October, 1920, it was so impressed with his ideas and eloquence that he was thereupon elected chairman of its National Board of Directors. He was active in other trade associations, including the Laundrymen's, the Enamel Brick Association, and Venetian Blind & Window Shade Association, and did organization work and speaking for other associations.

Mr. Weikert was a member of the St. Paul Business and Professional Men's Association, and its president in 1921; also of the St. Paul Athletic Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, 40 & 8, and St. Paul Post 8, of which he was commander in 1928, and organized the Post 8-er, which is still its official newspaper.

He is survived by his wife, Leanida Schilling Weikert; and his son, Keith Corwin Weikert, who now lives in Texas; and three sisters, Mrs. Frank Wilson and Mrs. Clarence Johnson, of Minneapolis, and Mrs. Forrest Richter, of Morris, Minnesota, and his brother, Conway Weikert, a Major, U. S. Army, stationed at Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Mr. Weikert, soon after admission to practice, gained an excellent reputation in the trial of cases, as well as outstanding preparation of briefs, and able and convincing oral arguments on appeals. It is regrettable that his passing was untimely; a termination in middle age of a promising career, of a man with varied and exceptional talents, in the fields of law, 'business and military defense of his country.

Respectfully submitted,  
OTIS H. GODFREY,  
Chairman.  
CLIFTON PARKS.  
RICHARD S. FELHABER.



MR. THOMAS: At this time we move that the Clerk of this Court be instructed to spread these memorials on the minutes of your Honor's Court in perpetual memory of these departed members of the Bar and to send copies of the memorials to their families.

JUDGE MICHAEL: It will be so ordered.

MR. THOMAS: We wish to call to the Court's attention the fact that we have with us Mr. W. W. Gibson, President of the State Bar Association, who is in attendance here this morning.

JUDGE MICHAEL: We are very glad to have you with us Mr. Gibson. We appreciate having you with us.

MR. THOMAS: That concludes the memorial service prepared by this Bar.

JUDGE MICHAEL: Court will adjourn without day.

The Court adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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