

Memorial

to

Albert Preston Reed

[September 22, 1893 • October 12, 1955]

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

1956

Albert Preston Reed

Albert Preston Reed was born in Minneapolis in September 22, 1883, and died in Minneapolis in October 12, 1955, in his 73rd year.

His father, Louis Albert Reed, native of Pennsylvania and his mother, Isabella Trent Reed, native to Kentucky, intermarried in Illinois in 1880 and moved to Shakopee, Minnesota, shortly thereafter, where Mr. Reid commenced his career by teaching school. The Reeds and the Trents go back to Colonial times. The Trents were neighbors and friends to Abraham Lincoln. Little is known of the activities of the families in Pennsylvania and Kentucky, we have more modern records of our late lamented friend in Minnesota.

After the father, Louis Reed, kept school for a spell in Shakopee, he and his bride moved to Minneapolis, where he read law, as was then the custom, in the office of John G. Woolley, at that time a prominent member of the Bar in this State. He was admitted to practice in due course of time and became a member of the law firm of Woolley and Reed and later Russell, Emery and Reed. Two members of letter firm, Mr. Russell and Mr. Emery were later members of the District Bench. Mr. Reed was elected County attorney in 1900. In 1910 he discontinued his practice here and went to Hood River, Oregon, where he took up the practice of law until 1913 and engaged there in many other activities, among them the culture of apples.

Albert Preston Reed attended Douglas School in this City and later Central High School. He entered the University of Minnesota and graduated from the law school in 1906 and was admitted the bar to practice. With his father, Louis Reed, they had offices in the Temple Court Building from 1906 until 1909 or 1910, when the father and son went to Hood River, Oregon. While at the University of Minnesota, Bert Reed, as he was familiarly known to his friends, was active and busy in school matters and other activities. He was a member of Kappa Sigma and Delta Chi Fraternities, continuing the Secretary of Kappa Sigma for a period of thirty-eight years consecutively.

During the First World War, Mr. Reed attempted to enter the armed service, but because of defective eyesight, was not accepted. The American Protective League was organized during that war to function as an auxiliary to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Charles Davis was Chief of the Organization, and Mr. Reed was Assistant Chief. After the termination of hostilities, he returned to Minneapolis and again engaged in the practice of his profession. From that time until his death, he continued to practice law and engage in Civic and Social activities. He was attorney for the towns of Bloomington and Eden Prairie. He was a member of the planning and zoning commission and charter commission of Bloomington. He was active in the Minneapolis Athletic Club, the Automobile Club, Optimists International, Bloomington Lion's Club and the Boy Scout Organization, and was a member of the Episcopal Church. He was actively interested in the growth and culture of apples.

In 1909, Mr. Reed and Florence Amble intermarried. A son, Preston Albert Reed, now of Akron, Ohio, and a daughter, Mrs. George Amadon, of Weston, Massachusetts, five grandchildren and his widow, Florence A. Reed, as well as a brother, Russell C. Reed, survive him.

These few statistics of his life are but sign posts on the way. They in no way indicate his broad influence, his kind personality and personal charm. He was not particularly noted as a trial lawyer, although on occasions he showed high qualities along that line. He preferred counseling. His principal characteristics were his capacity for fast, close and abiding friendships, a thorough knowledge of the law, integrity of the highest character, and an ability for sound planning and straight forwardness. With these ample qualities he made a host of friends. His name was synonymous for integrity of purpose and entire honesty with friends and opponents alike.

Wherever he went, whatever his engagements, he made friends who respected him for what he was. They were not mere acquaintances. They were loyal friends who respected his character, his influence and the general warmth of his personality.

It was my good fortune to have known Mr. Reed for more than forty years. In that time I never heard him speak an unkindly word. And more than forty years I never heard him criticize a friend or an enemy. If something went amiss, he accused himself for lack of diligence or industry, when indeed, those who knew him best well knew that it was never a lack of industry or diligence.

Mr. Reed's family may look on his record as one to be followed and his friends as true and loyal. No lawyer called upon him for assistance who did not receive his kindest counsel and his best thought. In social life he had a glorious character. He was an ornament to the bar.

"To live in the heart is never to die".

He will ever live in the hearts of those who knew him. His kindly manner, his quiet humor made him welcome in every circle. In his death the State has lost a valuable citizen and the Bar has lost an ornament.

Daniel F. Foley

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