

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN T. ROHWEDDER, SR.

(February 6, 1896 - January 11, 1957)

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Hennepin County Bar Association
Minneapolis, Minnesota
1957

JOHN T. ROHWEDDER

John Theodore Rohwedder was born on a farm in Ramsey County, North Dakota, just outside Devils Lake. He died Friday, January 11, 1957 at Minneapolis. He lived at 410 Clifton Avenue. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, a daughter Virginia; two sons, John T. Jr., and Richard H. The three children all attend West High School this city.

John was of German extraction. Both his parents were born in Germany and entered this country at the port of New York. John's father was attracted west by the prospect of land but before going west he worked several years in New York as a reporter for the old New York World.

John was called on to make his own way at an early age. His mother and father both passed away before he was 12 years old. The farm was given up and he went to live in Minot, North Dakota with an older married sister. John earned his own way through high school at Minot. He had a strong desire for further education and he proceeded to the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks. Necessity again made himself reliant and for six years he earned his own way to a B. A. degree from the Arts College and an L.L.B degree from the University law school. He became a member of Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity.

Following his graduation he practiced law in Grand Forks and in Fargo, North Dakota. The attraction of a larger city drew him to Minneapolis in 1927.* For thirty years until his death he actively practiced law in Minneapolis and was well known to the judges and lawyers and court rooms of this city.

John always retained his interest in the University of North Dakota and was president of the University of North Dakota Club several terms. He was interested in civic affairs and was president of the Parents and Teachers Association of the school in his neighborhood. He was attorney for Loring Heights Property Owners Association.

John Rohwedder, like his father before him, had an interest and talent for writing. While at the University of North Dakota he was editor of the University paper, the

* He was admitted to the Minnesota bar on October 1, 1921.

Dakota Student. The editor portion of his nature lead him to write a number of poems both during his University career and in later life.

John was also a fine athlete and all his life he believed in physical fitness and he was interested in many sports both as player and spectator. His athletic career began in high school at Minot, North Dakota where he was a four letter man winning school emblems in football, basketball, baseball and track. He was conference champion of the hammer throw and was a member of the State High School championship basketball team. At the University of North Dakota he was an outstanding football star and his record is well known among the alumni. His position was fullback. In addition he also took an important part in basketball, baseball and track. During many of the years he practiced law he played handball regularly. He enjoyed golf, fishing, each fall for many years and he and Jim Carnegie would join forces in pheasant hunting.

However, without doubt, John Rohwedder's greatest interest outside his family, was in Masonry. He was a high Masonic official. In 1952 and 1953 he was Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights of Templar of Minnesota. He was also past commander of Zion commandery of Knights Templar. His interest in Masonry began in Fargo, North Dakota where he was a member of Linton Lodge No. 98 and Keystone Chapter No. 5. In this city he was a long time member of Zuhrah Shrine Patrol and an active member of the New York Rite Crusaders and a member of the Minneapolis Scottish Rite Bodies.

John Rohwedder, together with Mrs. Rohwedder, took an active part in his church and was a member of Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church.

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ADDENDUM

The date this bar memorial was delivered is missing. It likely was in 1957. The author of the memorial is also not known.

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Posted MLHP: August 13, 2015.