

In Memoriam

Levi E. Thompson

May 5, 1829 - November 8, 1887

Washington County Bar Association
District Court
First Judicial District
Stillwater, Minnesota

November 10, 1887

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Section I

Biographical sketch from Rev. Edward D. Neill, *History of Washington County and the St. Croix Valley* at page 603 (1881):

Levi E. Thompson, a native of Gouverneur, St. Lawrence county, New York, born May, 5th, 1829. When twelve years of age he entered the Troy Wesleyan Seminary. At the age of fourteen he commenced the study of law with his brother, and was admitted to practice by the supreme court in 1849. After practicing two years in partnership with his brother he came to Stillwater in 1852 and formed a partnership with Theodore E. Parker. In 1855 Allen Dawson of Hudson was admitted to the firm; in 1858 Mr. Thompson withdrew and one year later formed a partnership with John Vandenburg. Mr. Thompson married Miss Martha G. Harris, daughter of Albert Harris of this city, October, 1856. They have three children all of whom are living.

Section 2

Obituary from the *St. Paul Daily Globe*, November 9, 1887, at page 8:

Death of Levi E. Thompson,
a Pioneer of the City.

DOINGS IN DISTRICT COURT.

Levi E. Thompson, one of the pioneers of this city, died of consumption at his residence, East Mulberry street, at 5:30 last evening. He had been in failing health for nearly a year past, but his death, coming unexpectedly at last created a sensation here.

Mr. Thompson was born in St. Lawrence county, N. Y. in 1829, and at fourteen years of age began the study of law, being admitted in 1849 to the supreme court of that state. He came to Stillwater in 1852, where he entered into the practice of law, in which he has actively continued until a few months since. He was regarded as a good lawyer, and has served a number of years as county attorney. Politically he was a staunch Democrat, and has been more or less prominently identified with the history of that party in this state. He was of a kindly disposition, had many warm friends, and as few enemies as a man who leads an active business life usually has.

Mr. Thompson leaves a wife, one son and two daughters, all grown, one of the latter being Mrs. John Conrad. The funeral will be announced later.

Section 3

From the *St. Paul Daily Globe*, November 11, 1887, at page 5:

In Memory of Thompson.

Special to the Globe.

Red Wing, Nov. 10. - Judge McCluer adjourned the district court to-day, in honor of the memory of the late L. M. (sic) Thompson, of Stillwater, an old and highly respected

member of the Minnesota bar. The following criminal business has been transacted: Samuel Edwards and Samuel Roberts plead guilty of petty larceny, and given ten days in the county jail; John P. Johnson plead guilty of simple assault; no sentence pronounced; William Brecht found guilty of unlawful cohabitation and stay of proceedings granted; Lydia and Christina Nessen plead not guilty of assault with intent to do great bodily harm.

Section 4

Bar memorial from the *Stillwater Messenger*, November 12, 1887, at page 4:

After court had re-assembled Thursday afternoon Judge Murdock presented the following resolutions, which had been adopted at a meeting of the Washington county bar the previous evening:

Whereas, After along and brave struggle with a painful disease Levi E. Thompson, the oldest member of the association, has now passed from our midst; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the death of our brother Thompson the bar of Washington county has lost not only the oldest, but one of its most prominent and valued members; one who as a lawyer and a citizen has been closely identified with the history of the St. Croix valley, the county of Washington and the city of Stillwater for thirty-five years, and one who has ably held his place in the front rank of his profession, practicing in the various courts of Minnesota, territory and state, almost from the organization of the territory down to the present, time.

Resolved, That during all his professional career our deceased brother has held the admiration and esteem of his associates at the bar by his legal acumen and industry, his

firm grasps of the elementary principles of law, his accurate and careful preparation of cases, his fidelity to his clients, his tenacity and fearlessness, and his fair and dignified treatment of opposing counsel in the trial of cases in court, as well as in his general intercourse with the members of the bar and that the news of his death, though not unexpected, affects us with a sorrow and a sense of loss that will be long felt.

Resolved, That we tender our sincere and profound sympathy to the bereaved wife and family of our deceased associate in this time of their deep distress and,

Resolved, That these resolutions be presented to the district court of Washington county now in session, and a copy thereof forwarded to the widow of the deceased.

After reading, the minutes were ordered spread upon the records of the court. Remarks were made by Messrs. Castle, Searles, Nethaway, Sabin, Manwaring and Judge McCluer, each speaking of the ability, integrity and kindness of heart of Mr. Thompson. Judge McCluer said in brief:

I first became acquainted with Mr. Thompson in 1856, when he had a lucrative practice and was considered the ablest lawyer in the territory, and was possessed of considerable wealth. But with the war his practice, like that of other attorneys in the northwest, went to pieces, while his fortune had been wrecked in the great panic of 1857.

Since that time he had endeavored in a highly commendable manner to recover his losses. As a pleader, or drawer of pleadings, he had few equals and no superior in the state. Socially he was of the most kindly, genial impulses. I never was associated with him in the trial of a cause, but he was often my opponent, in which position I learned to appreciate and admire his ability.