

Memorial

For

Charles John Tryon

(September 8, 1859 – May 12, 1934)



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

February 2, 1935

Charles J. Tryon

To the Honorable Judges of this Court:

Charles J. Tryon died on May 12, 1934, after a brief illness.

Mr. Tryon was born September 8, 1859, at Batavia, Genesee County, New York. As a young man, at home, he worked in his father's drug store. At the same time he studied law with a local lawyer, rising early in the morning and spending a couple of hours in the law office copying cases in longhand, and studying, before opening the drug store and entering upon his duties there. Later he, he was employed for several years as a clerk in United States Treasury Department in Washington. While there he received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the National University Law School, and his Master of Laws degree from Colombian College, now known as George Washington University, both in Washington D.C.

Mr. Tryon came to Minneapolis in 1886, and was connected with the law firm of Kitchel, Cohen, and Shaw. The following year he became examiner of titles and in 1892 counsel for the Minnesota Title Insurance and Trust Company. Three years later he re-entered general practice, specializing in real estate, title, and insurance law.¹ He was in partnership with Judge Wilbur F. Booth for several years, and until Judge Booth's appointment to the bench of this Court. In 1928 he formed a partnership J. R. Everett, which continued until his death. Mr. Philip J. Riordan of this Bar entered Mr. Tryon's office as a young law student in 1896. The friendship and association then commenced continued without interruption for more than 38 years.

Mr. Tryon was my ideal as a lawyer. Nature endowed him with a splendid mind. He had a profound knowledge of the law. His opinions were based on broad, general, legal principles. To him character, honor, and fidelity to the interests of his clients were the first requisites of a lawyer. Mr. Tryon was proud of being a lawyer. He regarded the law as a profession and

¹ The February 1896 issue of the *Minnesota Law Journal* carried this notice:

Mr. Charles J. Tryon. of Minneapolis who for several years was counsel for the Minnesota Title Insurance and Trust Co., has opened up a law office at 704 Oneida Bloc, Minneapolis.

⁴ *Minnesota Law Journal* 26 (February 1896). All five volumes of the *Minnesota Law Journal* can be found in the "Journals" category in the archives of the MLHP.

scrupulously observed the ethics of the profession. He had the greatest respect for law, and believed in observing it because it is law.

Mr. Tryon participated in many important cases in our local courts. He was acknowledged among lawyers and in the community as an authority on the law of real estate and land titles. He enjoyed an active, successful and continuous practice at this bar for almost fifty years.



(1914)

Mr. Tryon was instructor in real estate law and mortgages at the Minnesota College of Law for more than fifteen years. He believed in the opportunity afforded by the evening law school to deserving young people. He took great interest in his students, and had a remarkable faculty for remembering them personally.



Charles J. Tryon was a scholar and a lover of the classics. He read and re-read the books in his personal library, consisting of more than 3000 volumes. He read with joy and delight and often quoted sections of both prose and poetry from his reading.

Although seriously minded Mr. Tryon had an unusual and keen sense of humor. He was an enthusiastic and capable bridge and whist player. He maintained a summer home on Gale Island, Lake Minnetonka, near Excelsior. Although an Eastern man by birth and training, Mr. Tryon

believed in Minnesota institutions, and sent each of his seven children to the University of Minnesota.

He was a member of Plymouth Congregational Church, the American, Minnesota, Hennepin County and Minnesota Bar Association, the Minneapolis Club, the Minneapolis Scottish Rite Bodies, and the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association.

In 1891 he married Isabel Gale, daughter of Harlow A. Gale and Elizabeth Griggs Gale. Mrs. Trout and their seven children, Fred G. Tryon, Elizabeth Tryon Yale, Philip D. Tryon, Richard M. Tryon, Kathleen Tryon Nielsen, Isabel Tryon Thibault, and Margaret Sterns Tryon, and several grandchildren, survive him.

Another member of this bar, for whom a memorial has been read today, shortly before his death said to the writer, "I have known Charles Tryon for many years and always found him the personification of honor." Mr. Tryon was a man not only honor but of sterling character, rugged honesty, unusual learning and ability, simple dignity, and charming personality.

February 2nd, 1935.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. Everett

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Appendix

The following profile of Tryon appeared in "Courts and Lawyers of Minneapolis," a chapter in Horace B. Hudson's *A Half Century of Minneapolis* (1908):²

TRYON, Charles John, a Minneapolis attorney in active practice in the firm of Tryon and Booth, was born September 8, 1859, at Batavia, New York. He is the son of A. D. and Amanda H. Tryon. and both parents were of English colonial ancestry, the New York branch of the family having migrated from Connecticut — the

² The complete chapter is posted separately in the "Hennepin County/Minneapolis" category in the archives of the MLHP. Tryon's profile is on pages 95-6.

original home of the first settlers — and established themselves in New York early, in that state's history The father was a druggist and book seller in prosperous circumstances and the son after an early education in the common schools of Batavia, went to Columbian University, Washington, D. C., for his law course. Soon after graduation, he came to Minneapolis, where he has since lived, and practiced as a lawyer. Mr. Tryon is a republican in politics, and a Congregationalist in church affiliations. He was married June 10, 1901 (sic), to Miss Isabel Gale, the daughter of Harlow A. Gale, one of the early pioneers of Minneapolis.³ He has seven children — three sons and four daughters.

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Charles Tryon was that rarest of lawyers — the law firm he created with John R. Everett in 1928 survived his death. Around 1937, Everett was joined by William F. Thiel to form Everett & Thiel, which lasted until 1952, when Charles W. Root became a partner, and the firm renamed Everett, Thiel & Root. The name of the firm changed over the decades, as partners were added and departed. Today there are few firms in the state older than Thiel, Anderson & Levine, which traces its origins to Charles John Tryon.

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Credits

Tryon's photograph on the first page is from *Men of Minnesota* (1915), that on page 3 from *Men of Minnesota* (1902). The advertisement on page 3 is from 26 *The Commercial West* 5 (July 4, 1914). All added by MLHP.

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³ He was married in 1891 not 1901. The *St. Paul Daily Globe* reported in its September 6, 1891, issue: "Charles J. Tryon and bride will be at home Fridays in September at Eastman avenue Nicollet island."