

# In Memoriam

**John E. Utley**

[ May 4, 1890 — January 1, 1956 ]

Hennepin County Bar Association  
District Court  
Fourth Judicial District  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
1956

## MEMORIAL

### JOHN E. UTLEY

John E. Utley was born in Montevideo, Minnesota, on May 4, 1890; the son of Lucian and Isadore Utley. He attended Montevideo High School and Windom College at Montevideo, Minnesota, graduated therefrom in June 1910. He was a graduate of the St. Paul College of Law and was admitted to practice law in the State of Minnesota on December 1, 1914, and was active in the practice of law, with offices at 301 LaSalle Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota, until his demise on January 1, 1956.

Shortly after his admission to the bar, John E. Utley became collection manager for the L. S. Donaldson Company. He served in that capacity for a period of 24 years and was very proud of his cordial friendship and relationship with Mr. L. S. Donaldson, the owner of the company. Because of his long association in the collection field, it was only natural that his practice would tend toward commercial law, although in later years his work was also in the field of titles, probates and such other legal work as his association with the State Bank of Mound demanded.

John E. Utley was known as a just and conscientious practitioner of the law, eminently fair in his dealings with both his client and his adversary, and enjoyed the confidence and respect not only of his client but was held in high esteem by the lawyers and judges of his district and state.

John E. Utley was a member of the Hennepin County and Minnesota State Bar Associations, and was active in their affairs; having served on its committees, and, for several years, was a member of the Executive Committee of the Hennepin County Bar Association.

John E. Utley was married to Ruth N. Carlson on October 10, 1917, and his widow survives him. Mr. Utley was always a

devoted husband and a constant companion to and with his wife. They enjoyed many happy years together, in sickness and in health. He was ever mindful of her comfort and well-being. In order that joy and happiness be more complete, Mr. and Mrs. Utley decided to sell their home in South Minneapolis and journey westward in search of more ideal climatic conditions, but, like so many of true Minnesotans, they found the lure of Minnesota was too deeply rooted in them to be gone long, and they did return to Minnesota, where they purchased a home and a few acres on the outskirts of Mound, Minnesota, where Mr. and Mrs. Utley resided until his demise.

John E. Utley and his wife were devout and active members in the Bethel Methodist Church of Mound, Minnesota. Mr. Utley also served several terms and the School Board of the Village of Mound.

John E. Utley was a member of the Masonic fraternity; having been initiated into the fraternity at Lake Harriet Lodge No. 277, from which lodge he demitted to become a charter member of Lynnhurst Lodge No. 317, but, upon his return to Minnesota from the west, he affiliated with Mound Lodge No. 320, where he served for several years as Master, and, being a Past Master, was always ready and willing to assist his Masonic brethren. He was a member of St. John's Chapter No. 9, Royal Arch Masons, and, also, he and Mrs. Utley were members of the Order of the Eastern Star, Minnetonka Chapter No. 271. Mr. Utley was proud of his Masonic affiliations and very active in his Masonic work. He attended his lodge meetings regularly, where his brotherly love and sincere sympathy was most vividly illustrated by the stories told by his fellow lodge members. It appears that on numerous occasions, when the class of candidates at his lodge were made Master Masons, and all of the candidates, except one, would have sponsors and would be presented with Masonic pins and other gifts, Mr. Utley, in true brotherly spirit, refused to permit this one brother to feel alone and unsponsored and he would remove his Masonic pin from his own label and step up and present this lone candidate with his pin. However he had one pin with which he

would not part, that was the Past Master's pin, which he considered one of his most cherished possessions.

John E. Utley had several hobbies, which influenced he and Mrs. Utley to purchase the property on the outskirts of Mound, Minnesota. One of such hobbies was bee-keeper, as he had several bee-hives. He, also, raised raspberries and had a garden; the produce of which hobbies he liked to enjoy with friends who called at his home. He converted an old barn on his premises into a workshop and built himself a power saw, power grinder and other power tools, so that he could spend time making things in his workshop.

Having known John Utley for many years, I state that he is the most just and conscientious man I have ever known. He was eminently fair both in his dealings with his client and with those against whom it was necessary for him to proceed. Never, to my knowledge, in his long practice of law has he been known to have been accused of sharp practices or mean and small dealings, but, on the contrary, has often interceded for a debtor when such intercession was indicated by the facts. I do not mean to infer that John Utley was a "soft touch", for, when the occasion required and particularly when someone sought to take an unfair advantage of his client through deceit and misrepresentation, he could be very exacting, but always with due regard to justice and without malice.

John E. Utley was always ready to lend a helping hand to the poor and unfortunate, and there have been many who are recipients of his bounty, given quietly and without ostentation. Mr. Utley was an honest, upright, Christian gentleman, who loved and helped his fellow man and was a true believer in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of all men.

To Mrs. Ruth N. Utley, widow of John E. Utley, the Memorial Committee, on behalf of the Minnesota State and Hennepin County Bar Associations, extends to you their most sincere sympathy in your loss and expresses the hope that you will find consolation in the many glorious memories of your happy married

life. May you, also, find consolation in the thought that your husband, John E. Utley, will be greatly missed by his friends, his Masonic brothers, the law fraternity in general and, particularly, by those with whom he was closely associated. It can be truly said, that the world is better for his having lived. Yes, we all cherish his memory.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis E Schnedler



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