

Clarence A. Webber

(February 4, 1866 - November 5, 1922)



CLARENCE ALBERT WEBBER
MINNEAPOLIS.
DODGE & WEBBER, LAWYERS.

(1915)

Clarence Albert Webber was born in Illinois in 1866, and came to Minnesota in 1883. Later, while working at the Northwestern National Bank in Minneapolis, he enrolled in the University of Minnesota's night law school, graduating in 1893, at age twenty-seven. He was admitted to the bar on June 2, 1893.¹ In 1894 he was awarded a LL.M. from the Law Department. He then became the partner of George B. Young. Their professional card appeared in *Hubbell's Legal Directory* in 1902, although the firm was dissolved in 1900:²

GEORGE B. YOUNG. CLARENCE A. WEBBER.

YOUNG & WEBBER,
Suite 307 Lumber Exchange Building,
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

COMMERCIAL AND CORPORATION LAW.

Thoroughly organized Collection Department. Depositions carefully taken. Issue Commissions to Clarence A. Webber.

Attorneys for and represent Wilber Mercantile Agency, Mercantile Adjuster, and U. S. Fidelity and Guaranty Co.

REFERENCES. — Banks and jobbing houses of Minneapolis.

In 1900, he joined Fred Dodge in what became a “leading firm” in the city, with offices in the New York Life Insurance Building. The firm must have prospered because in 1906 he placed this advertisement in the *Minneapolis Evening Journal*.³

<p>WE OFFER OUR OWN MONEY TO LOAN ON improved city property at lowest current rates; no delay. The Minnesota Loan & Trust Co., 813 Nicollet av.</p>
<p>FINANCIAL—MONEY TO LOAN AT 6 PER cent on improved city property and nearly im- proved farms. Clarence A. Webber, 916 New York Life bldg.</p>
<p>R. D. CONE & CO., 517 GUARANTY BLDG., have on hand to loan on improved property \$1,000, \$1,500, \$2,000, \$3,500; lowest rates.</p>

Minnesota lawyers in the nineteenth century, especially in rural areas, occasionally advertised that they had money to lend but this business practice

¹ 1 *Roll of Attorneys: Supreme Court, State of Minnesota, 1858-1970* 31 (State Law Library, 2011).

² *Hubbell's Legal Directory for Lawyers and Businessmen*, Appendix, at 139 (1902).

Webber is listed as a member of Young & Webber in *Davison's Minneapolis City Directory for 1900*, at 1416; while the same directory the next year lists him as a member of Dodge & Webber. *Davison's Minneapolis City Directory for 1901*, at 1370. It is likely that Young and Webber dissolved midway through 1900, and Dodge & Webber was formed thereafter. In his sketch in *Little Sketches of Big Folks*, he states that he associated with Fred Dodge in 1900.

³ *Minneapolis Evening Journal*, July 4, 1906, at 12 (enlarged).

was rarely pursued by lawyers in Minneapolis and St. Paul in the twentieth century. ⁴ It was, in other words, unusual.

At this stage in his career, he harbored political ambitions. In 1904 he ran in the Republican primary to represent the Forty-first District in the House of Representatives. It was a “top four” primary, with nine candidates in the race. He came in sixth in the election on September 20, 1904. ⁵

W. D. Washburn, Jr.....	2,580
Winfield W. Bardwell.....	1,941
Joseph T. Mannix.....	1,819
John G. Lennon.....	1,622
John Peterson	1,547
Clarence A. Webber.....	1,537
Arthur L. Helliwell.....	1,527
Arthur W. Selover.....	1,108
Christopher Sparling.....	787

In 1906, he again ran unsuccessfully in the Republican primary for House District Forty-one, coming in sixth in a field of eight in the election on September 18th: ⁶

John G. Lennon.....	2,230
Henry G. Hicks.....	2,034
Charles L. Sawyer.....	1,962
James W. Stokes.....	1,722
John N. Berg.....	1,699
Clarence A. Webber.....	1,636
Daniel Fish.....	1,610
Thomas Kneeland.....	1,321

In 1907, he married but, sadly, his wife died the next year. His biographical sketch in *Little Sketches of Big Folks of Minnesota* in 1907, lists his firm, corporate directorships and professional clubs but not his marriage:

⁴ For ads of lawyers’ offering to lend money, see Penney A. Petersen, “Isaac Atwater” 4 (MLHP, 2014), and “Orrin E. Maxson (1862-1931)” 5 (MLHP, 2014-2015).

⁵ *Minneapolis Journal*, September 26, 1904, at 6. In the general election on November 6, 1904, Washburn, Bardwell, Mannix and Lennon, all Republicans, were elected. 1905 Blue Book, at 523.

⁶ *Minneapolis Journal*, September 20, 1906, at 6. These results are incomplete because they do not include at least nine precincts. In the general election on November 6, 1906, Republicans Henry Hicks, John G. Lennon, Charles L. Sawyer and James W. Stokes were the top four vote-getters and won. 1907 Blue book, at 499.

WEBBER Clarence Albert, Minneapolis. Res 302 S 11th st, office 916 N Y Life bldg. Lawyer. Born Jan 29, 1866 in Urbana Ill, son of James Henry and Amanda Olivia (Farson) Webber. Educated in the public and high schools of Urbana Ill; graduated from the law dept U of M 1893; LL M 1894. Atty and dir Minnesota Cannery Co and Belle Plaine Canning Co; is associated with Fred B. Dodge in the firm of Dodge & Webber, established 1900; has been practicing law since his graduation. Member Commercial Club and Commercial Law League. ⁷

Dodge & Webber developed a large corporate clientele, a few of which were listed in their professional card in *Hubbell's Legal Directory* in 1919: ⁸

FRED B. DODGE.	CLARENCE A. WEBBER.
DODGE & WEBBER, SUITE 301 NEW YORK LIFE BUILDING, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	
Corporation, Commercial, Real Estate, and Probate Law. Twenty-three Years' Local Practice.	
REFERENCES.	
<p style="text-align: center;">MINNEAPOLIS.</p> <p>FIRST AND SECURITY NATIONAL BANK. N. W. NATIONAL BANK. WYMAN, PARTRIDGE & Co. MPLS. DRY GOODS Co.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHICAGO.</p> <p>MANDEL BROS. SPAULDING & Co. WOODFORD DISTILLING Co. RINGER, WILHARTZ & LOUER.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ST. LOUIS.</p> <p>CUNNINGHAM BROS. WOOLEN Co. GRANT & GRANT.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BOSTON.</p> <p>PHIPPS, DURGIN & COOK.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEW YORK.</p> <p>JOHN WANAMAKER. HARRY KITZINGER & Co. THE AUTOPRESS Co. HASTINGS & GLEASON. HERMAN STEINBERG.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PHILADELPHIA.</p> <p>WESTHEIMER & Co. CARR & STRINMATE. JOHN B. ELLISON & SONS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROVIDENCE.</p> <p>GENERAL FIRE EXT. Co.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CLEVELAND.</p> <p>CONSUMERS' RUBBER Co. NATIONAL CARBON Co. STEARNS, CHAMBERLAIN & BOYCE.</p>

⁷ *Little Sketches of Big Folks in Minnesota* 46 (1907). In 1916, the directory of law school alumni does not list his firm:

Clarence A. Webber, LL. B., 93; LL. M., 94; Lawyer;
mem. Minneapolis Athletic Club. 916 N. Y. Life Bldg.,
and The Leamington, Mpls., Minn.

Alumni of the College of Law, 1889-1915 248 (1916).

⁸ *Hubbell's Legal Directory for Lawyers and Businessmen* (Appendix) 206 (1919) (enlarged). The identical card was published in later editions. See e.g., 1922 edition, Appendix, at 235.

In his last years he lived in the Leamington Hotel, where, after a lengthy illness, he died on November 5, 1922, at age fifty-six. The *Minneapolis Morning Tribune* carried his obituary:

**C. A. Webber,
Lawyer Here
29 Years, Dies**

**Pioneer Resident Was Member
of One of Oldest Law
Firms in City.**

**Attorney Had Been Confined
To Bed Since Accident
Last June.**

Clarence A. Webber, a resident of Minneapolis for 39 years and a member of one of the oldest law firms in the city, died early yesterday at the Leamington Hotel. He was 56 years old.

Mr. Webber was born in Urbana, Ill., and came to Minneapolis when he was 17 years old. He took a position at the Northwestern National bank and enrolled in the night law school at the University of Minnesota. He was graduated in 1887 (sic), but did not begin practice until six years later when he formed a partnership with George B. Young, now of Vermont, under the firm name of Young & Webber. About 20 years ago this partnership was dissolved and Mr. Webber became associated with Fred B. Dodge under the name of Dodge & Webber.

He was regarded as one of the leading consulting attorneys in Minneapolis although his poor health prevented him from presenting many cases before the bar. He had been confined to bed since last June when he fell and broke his kneecap.

In 1907 Mr. Webber was married to Emma Lea Roberts, daughter of Judge M. A. Roberts of Ottumwa, Ia. Mrs. Webber died a year after the marriage.

Mr. Webber is survived by two brothers, John T. Webber of Chicago, and Clyde E. Webber of Minneapolis, and two sisters, Mrs. H. G. Power of Indianapolis and Mrs. Lois Locke of Harrisburg, Ill. Funeral services and burial will be conducted at Ottumwa.⁹

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RELATED MEMORIAL

“Fred B. Dodge (1853-1935)” (MLHP, 2012-2015).

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Posted MLHP: August 16, 2015.

⁹ *Minneapolis Morning Tribune*, November 6, 1922, at 4. The *Journal's* story was shorter. See *Minneapolis Journal*, November 6, 1922, at 11. The photograph on the first page is from *Men of Minnesota* 155 (1915).