

**M E M O R I A L**

**JOHN W. WHITE**

(1842 - 1930)

**RAMSEY COUNTY DISTRICT COURT**

**APRIL 4, 1931**

TO THE HONORABLE DISTRICT COURT OF  
THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF  
MINNESOTA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF RAMSEY.

THE RAMSEY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
BY THE UNDERSIGNED COMMITTEE PRESENTS THE  
FOLLOWING MEMORIAL OF

JOHN W. WHITE

JOHN W. WHITE as born in Philadelphia July 27, 1842, and died at St. Paul, Minnesota, October 3, 1930. His father was Samuel W. White of Maryland and his mother Zipporah Williamson of Philadelphia. He graduated from Princeton in 1865 and lived to be the last survivor of his class. His education in law was obtained at the University of Pennsylvania, he being admitted to the Bar of Philadelphia in 1868. Shortly thereafter he removed to St. Paul, arriving here in 1870, and, after spending some time in the office of Mr. Henry J. Horn, began the practice especially of mercantile and real property law, in which he continued until his death.

In 1881 he married Miss Louisa E. Patterson of Philadelphia, by whom he had two children, William Patterson White of Huntington, Long Island, and Ruby Hale White, now Mrs. Charles Holmes Cunningham, of Omaha, Nebraska. These two and a brother, Samuel S. White of Philadelphia, and a sister, Mrs. Annie R. Claflin of Cranbury, New Jersey, survived him.

Mr. White came of American Colonial stock and was educated in the best schools of his day and, upon arriving at St. Paul, then a small frontier city, he at once identified himself with the life of these with whom he had cast his lot. He became an active member of the old Minnesota Boat Club, was one of the organizers of the Cotillion and Nushka organizations and was recognized as an excellent amateur actor. He belonged to the Episcopalian Church

and was active in the building up of St. John's Parish. He travelled extensively throughout the West and in Europe and was not only an excellent lawyer but a cultured and kindly gentleman.

Mr. White was best known to a generation of lawyers of whom few are still living. When he came to St. Paul the Sioux Indians from Pembina with their Red River carts still maintained their trade here. Indeed, it is difficult to realize the changes occurring between 1842 and 1930, the span of John W. White's life. When he was born slavery still existed, Lincoln was only emerging from obscurity, the American clipper built ship was the last word in the merchant marine. Minnesota was not even organized as a territory, and Father Lucian Galtier had only just built his log chapel at St. Paul.

Through all these changes, as well as the marvelous inventions of the past thirty years, Mr. White lived, clean and honest, and, while in his old age he could not as in youth take an active part in public affairs, he continued to be respected by his fellow-citizens for his high character and abilities.

April Fourth, 1931

/s/ Thomas D. O'Brien  
/s/ Geo. B. Edgerton  
/s/ G. W. Lewis  
/s/ W. H. Yardley

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