

MEMORIAL PRESENTED BY THE RAMSEY COUNTY BAR
ASSOCIATION TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF RAMSEY
COUNTY, MINNESOTA, AT A SPECIAL TERM
OF THE COURT ON APRIL TWENTIETH,
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE.

ALF E. BOYESEN
1857—1934.

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**ALF E. BOYESEN
1857—1934.**

Alf E. Boyesen was born at Christiana, Norway, on April 21, 1857, and was the son of S. F. and Hannah (Tveten) Boyesen. His father was a Captain in the regular Army of Norway. Mr. Boyesen came of a highly educated and cultured family, who for over two hundred years owned and occupied one of the largest landed estates in Norway.

Alf E. Boyesen died at LaJolla, California, October 27, 1934.

He came to this country when about sixteen years of age. His early education was received in the common schools of Norway and the United States, and he later attended Urbana University, at Urbana, Ohio.

For a short time after leaving Urbana University, he worked with a financial and insurance news publishing house, reporting and writing extensively upon economic and financial conditions.

He studied law in the office of his brother in Chicago. He came to Minneapolis and was admitted to the Bar in 1880. He practiced in Minneapolis about six months, and then moved to Fargo, North Dakota, where he practiced until 1887.

He moved to St. Paul in 1887, practicing alone until 1891, when he formed a partnership with Marcus D. Munn and Nels M. Thygeson under the firm name of Munn, Boyesen & Thygeson.

He retired from that firm in 1897, and formed a partnership with Patrick J. McLaughlin and John R. Donahue under the firm name of McLaughlin, Boyesen & Donahue

He retired from that firm in 1901, and practiced alone until 1906. Henry H. Flor, who was a law student in Mr. Boyesen's office, was admitted to practice and they were associated as Boyesen and Flor until 1918.

Then Mr. Boyesen formed a partnership with James C. Otis and Kenneth G. Brill under the firm name of Boyesen, Otis & Brill.

Roland J. Faricy joined the firm on January 1, 1924, and the firm name became Boyesen, Otis, Brill & Faricy.

On May 21, 1929, Kenneth G. Brill was elevated to the District Bench of this County, and the firm became Boyesen, Otis & Faricy, and remained so until Mr. Boyesen's death.

He was married to Florence Knapp, daughter of F. M. Knapp, Racine, Wisconsin, December 12, 1884. She died September 1, 1923.

He was married to Alice Day, who survives him, on January 24, 1925. Miss Day is the daughter of Doctor David Day, a prominent pioneer citizen of St. Paul.

He was a member and, for many years, a trustee of Unity Church of St. Paul.

He was generous in his charities.

He was always a Democrat of conservative tendencies, never, however, aspiring to or holding public office.

As a young man Mr. Boyesen found recreation in hunting and fishing, and later in less strenuous outdoor activities. Other interests were his books and works of art. These interests, broadened by extensive travel in foreign countries, enlarged his cultural life. He particularly enjoyed biographies and the study of American political and economic history.

Mr. Boyesen was retained by the North Western Fuel Co. as its local attorney at the time he practiced in Fargo.

This relationship influenced his entire professional life. Mr. Edward N. Saunders, Sr., then president of the Fuel Co., was so impressed with Mr. Boyesen's character and abilities that he retained him as general counsel for the company at St. Paul. Mr. Boyesen continued to act during his entire legal practice. This affiliation resulted in a very thorough, general and complete knowledge of the business and operations of coal dock companies and of the legal complexities incident thereto. Mr. Boyesen's unusual legal ability in this field was so generally recognized that in time he represented most of the important coal dock companies in this locality.

Mr. Boyesen had an unusual knowledge of Federal and State court procedure.

While working he was intense; he gave the best that he had and permitted nothing else to occupy his attention. The task, once done to his satisfaction, was promptly dismissed from his mind to undertake some other matter.

As a counselor, Mr. Boyesen was sound, careful and conscientious, and his opinions were the result of close, exhaustive and analytical research.

He was a man of the highest integrity, with an outstanding characteristic of loyalty to his friends and to his associates, which resulted in the acquisition of the honest and sincere friendship of all those with whom he was associated.

He was modest and retiring, and never sought to impose his opinions upon others, but when they were requested, he gave them truthfully and conscientiously and tenaciously would defend them against all attacks, save only that of pure reason.

In his death his wife has lost a devoted husband; his partners a kind and considerate associate; the Bar an able member, and the community a worthy citizen of the highest type.

**IRA C. OEHLER,
HAROLD C. KERR,
GEORGE W. MORGAN,
Committee.**

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APPENDIX

In 1897, a compendium of sketches of prominent Minnesotans, collected and edited by Marion D. Shutter and J. S. McLain, was published under the title *Progressive Men of Minnesota*. The following is the entry on Alf E. Boyesen. We may assume that he either wrote or contributed to this profile.

ALF E. BOYESEN.

Alf E. Boyesen, a lawyer of St. Paul, was born in Christiania, Norway, April 21, 1857. His father, Capt. S. F. Boyesen, of Christiania, was an officer in the Norwegian regular army. Capt. Boyesen's father was a landed proprietor of Norway, and the owner of "Hovin," one of the largest estates in Norway. "Hovin" is situated a few miles out of Christiania, Norway's capital, and is famous as one of the most attractive country seats in that region. The maternal grandfather of Alf E. was Judge Hjorth, of Systrand, on Sognefjord, Norway. Alf Boyesen attended the public schools in Norway, and also studied with his father, who was a man of fine educational attainments, until he came to the United States at the age of twelve years. On his arrival in this country he went to Urbana University, at Urbana, Ohio, where his brother, the celebrated author and philologist, the late Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen, was then engaged as an instructor. In 1878, having completed his university course, Mr. Boyesen came to Minnesota, located in Minneapolis, and was taken into the law office of Shaw, Levi & Cray, as a law student. He was admitted to the bar of Hennepin County in 1880, and shortly afterward went to Fargo, North Dakota, to engage in the practice of his profession. He continued there in that business until 1887, when he returned to Minnesota and located at St. Paul, where he has been engaged in the practice of law ever since. He is now a member of the firm of Munn, Boyesen & Thygeson. This partnership was formed in 1890, and constitutes one of the leading law firms of the state. Mr. Boyesen is what may be called a Cleveland Democrat in politics, is a thorough believer in sound money, in a low tariff and adheres to the principles of civil service reform. He has, however, never aspired to any political office, and has no desire to achieve honors or responsibilities of that kind. His political activities consist chiefly of a leading membership in the Civil Service Reform Association, of St. Paul. Mr. Boyesen was married in 1883 to Miss Florence Knapp, of Racine, Wisconsin. They have no children. ■

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