

# Memorial

TO

## Harry Lee Buck

( June 21, 1861 - November 15, 1952 )

DISTRICT COURT  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
WINONA COUNTY

WINONA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

April 20, 1953

## H. L. BUCK

(1861-1952)

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Memorial presented by the Winona County Bar Association to the District Court of Winona County, Minnesota, April 20, 1953.

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Harry Lee Buck, known to his immediate friends and associates as Hal and generally addressed as Judge Buck, the nestor of the Winona County Bar, died at his home on Lake Boulevard, in the city of Winona, November 15, 1952, at the age of ninety-one years. He had been ill for several years confined to his bed. Until he retired from the active practice of law in 1945, he was an active practitioner except when holding a public office at which time he was restricted from actively practicing his profession.

Judge Buck was born on June 21, 1861, in the home where he died. He was a son of Cornelius F. and Nancy Jane (Robinson) Buck, pioneer Winonans. His father was a horticulturist and practiced law but held public office during much of his life here. He served as U. S. Marshal under appointment by President Lincoln and was Postmaster of Winona.

The son's education was in the model school of the then Winona State Normal School and its Normal department and the old Winona High School. He studied law for two years in the office of the Honorable Thomas Wilson, at one time Chief Justice of this State, and passed the bar examination in 1882, being then admitted to practice. But to complete his education in law he entered the senior class of the law school of the University of Wisconsin, graduating in June, 1883, being then admitted to practice in that State.\*

Returning to Winona, he formed a partnership with the late State Senator Patrick Fitzpatrick as Fitzpatrick & Buck, which continued until the death of Senator Fitzpatrick in 1910, when the latter's son, James, joined with Judge Buck as Buck & Fitzpatrick.

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\* For another example of a lawyer who attended law school after being admitted to the bar, see "Thomas Jefferson McDermott (1861-1939)" (MLHP, 2013).

Judge Buck followed his father's foot steps by taking a special interest in politics. He was a Democrat. He served as city attorney in 1887. Then in 1891 he became Judge of Probate, serving ten years. In 1905 he was elected Municipal Judge of the City of Winona, serving one term, as he was defeated for re-election in a factional party contest. He previously served one term (1895-1899) as Special Municipal Judge. In 1913 he was appointed postmaster of the City, which office he held for nine years. After his retirement he again entered upon the practice of law alone, which continued until his retirement, his practice being chiefly office and probate work, for he had many friends and a large acquaintance in the city and vicinity. His first law office was in the Richardson Block and later he had offices in the Slade building.

In other respects Judge Buck took an active part in the development of his home city. For four years he was resident director of the Winona State Normal School and also served four years as a member of the Public School Board being its president for two years, during which time the old Lincoln School building was erected. For twenty-five years he was president of the Winona Library Board. Always active in political party affairs he was Democratic State chairman in 1902, and was ever interested in promoting the candidacy of Governor John A. Johnson. In 1912 he was a delegate to the Democratic national convention which nominated Woodrow Wilson for president.

Fraternally he was a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in which he was especially active, in the Knights of Pythias, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Modern Woodmen of America and the United Workmen of America and was an honorary member of the United Spanish War Veterans. He was a life member of the Minnesota Historical Society. His chief love was the Winona County Old Settlers Association, of which he was president for over thirty years and when unable to act was made president emeritus.

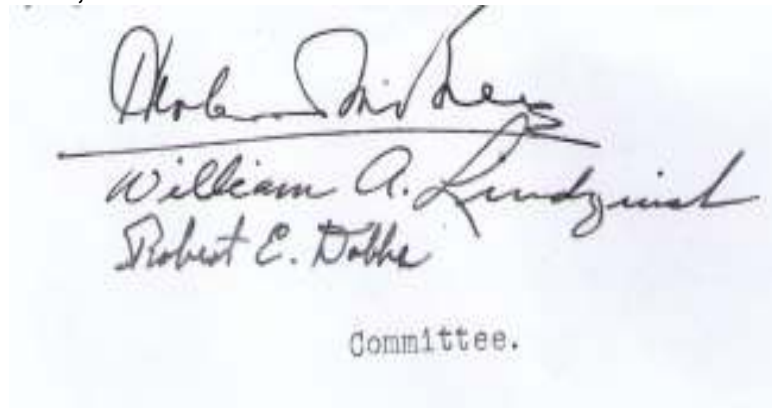
Professionally he was a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association, holding its certificate for having practiced law for more than fifty years, and for thirty years was president of the Winona County Bar Association. In his practice he enjoyed the activity of trial work and was an aggressive trial attorney. His long years of service, together with his wide acquaintance, made him especially helpful in land title matters and he was ever ready and able to make affidavits of identification.

He married Ida Carpenter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willet Carpenter, in 1887. She died in 1943, so he had over fifty years of wedded happiness. His four children, Harriet, Carpenter and Roger, all of Winona, and Mrs. A. H. (Dorothy) Shaxted, Chicago, survive him.

Naturally he left his impression upon Winona. He is missed by the lawyers who knew him and whom he often aided, and by his many acquaintances whom he frequently befriended.

The Winona County Bar Association requests that this memorial be spread upon the minutes of this Court and that a copy thereof be sent to the family of the late H. L. Buck.

Winona, Minnesota, April 20, 1952.



Robert E. Doherty  
 William A. Lundquist  
 Robert E. Doherty  
 Committee.

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#### ADDENDUM

The following biographical sketch of H. L. Buck's father, Cornelius Buck, is in Warren Upham & Rose Barteau Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies, 1655-1912* 87 (Minn. Hist. Soc., 1912):

BUCK, C. F., lawyer, b. in Erie county, N. Y., in 1847 (sic); was admitted to the bar in 1852; settled in Winona, Minn., in 1853; was U. S. Marshall one year; raised a company of troops to serve against the Indians in 1862; was a state senator in 1870-1 and 1879, and a representative in the legislature in 1877. ■

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