

SKETCH OF THE LIFE
OF
JUDGE CHARLES ELWIN CALLAGHAN
(May 20, 1863 - August 13, 1926)

District Court, Wabasha County
June 17, 1927

SKETCH OF JUDGE CALLAGHAN'S LIFE.

Pursuant to the Order of the above named Court made at the November, 1926, General Term of Court, appointing the under signed a committee to draft a suitable sketch of the life of the late Charles Elwin Callaghan, Judge of the above named District Court, the committee so appointed presents the following report and requests that the same be filed as a part of the permanent records in the office of the Clerk of said Court, viz:

Charles Elwin Callaghan was a resident of Minnesota for 61 years. He was born May 20, 1863, in Livingston County, New York, and was brought by his parents, Charles A. Callaghan and Catherine L. Callaghan, to Minnesota in September 1865. His father, while a resident of Livingston County, enlisted in the Union Army and served with credit for three years as a member of Company A, First New York Dragoons, in the Army of the Potomac. He participated in many hard campaigns and sharp engagements, and was mustered out with honor at the expiration of the period of his enlistment.

He resided in Fillmore County from 1867 to 1876, at which time he came to Rochester, where he made his home since that time.

As a youth he showed evidence of the qualities that made him one of the foremost citizens and successful attorneys and judges in the state. He showed adeptness in his studies and was in the front rank of his fellow scholars. He was educated in the common schools of Rochester, and was a student in Darling's Business College, graduating from that school in the spring of 1886.

He began the study of law in the office of H. A. Eckholdt, father of Irving and Walter Eckholdt of Rochester, the former a practicing attorney here. After completing the required course of study and

fulfilling the requirements imposed by the state board of examiners, he was admitted to the bar in June, 1889.

On October 1, of the same year he began the practice of law in a newly established office here and on April 1, 1890, the year following, he formed a partnership with the late Thomas Spillane, practicing under the firm name of Spillane and Callaghan. The partnership continued for nearly four years until January 1, 1893, when the firm dissolved. From that time until January 1, 1898, a period of five years, he practiced alone in a Rochester office.

At that time Judge Callaghan entered into a partnership with George W. Granger, a close friend throughout his life.

For seventeen years the law firm of Callaghan and Granger occupied a place in the front ranks of southwestern Minnesota Bar firms and enjoyed a large practice.

During the years 1890, 1891, 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1897, Judge Callaghan served with the highest credit as city attorney, as well as accepting the duties imposed by private practice.

An added honor was accepted by Judge Callaghan on April 1, 1898, when he received the appointment as postmaster of the Rochester office. He filled the position with distinction until February 3, 1911.

In 1915 his law partner, George W. Granger, was appointed judge of the third Judicial District, Judge Callaghan carrying on his law practice alone. In 1917, upon the resignation of Judge Granger, his one-time law partner, Mr. Callaghan, was appointed to occupy the bench of the district court.

He was elected without opposition as District Judge in 1918. At that time the district included the counties of Wabasha, Winona and Olmsted Counties and he sat consecutively on the district benches in the cities of Wabasha, Winona, and Rochester. He was re-elected by a majority that gave evidence of his popularity in 1924 over Henry Buck of Winona, a candidate for the judge-ship.

Judge Callaghan was married at Racine, Minnesota, to Clara B. Sanborn, the daughter of a prominent farmer, on November 27, 1890.

He leaves his widow, one son, Howard Callaghan, Wichita Falls, Kansas, and three daughters, Mrs. Walter Conley, Chicago, Ill., and the Misses Helen and Gertrude Callaghan of Rochester.

Dated Wabasha, Minnesota,
June 17, 1927.

/s/ John W. Murdoch

/s/ James A. Carley

/s/ John R. Foley

Committee.

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This memorial did not state the date of Judge Callaghan's death. According to his death certificate at the Minnesota Historical Society, he died on August 13, 1926, in Olmsted County.

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