

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON**

**DISTRICT COURT
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**In the matter of the Memorial
Services for the late
Francis V. Comfort,
of the Washington County Bar.**

General Term—May 11, 1954

To the above named Court:

Pursuant to the order of this Court made and entered on April 12th, 1954, we submit the following memorial in honor of the late Francis V. Comfort of the the Washington County Bar.

Francis V. Comfort was born at Mineral Point, Wisconsin on August 7, 1853. He came to Stillwater at about the age of 17 and as a young man took up the study of law in the law office of H. R. Murdock. He was admttted to the bar of this state on February 14, 1878.

Copies of various documents relating to his admision to the Bar, including the report of the committee which examianed him and recommending his admission are hereto attached. The originals are on file in the office of the Clerk of this Court, who informs us that there is on file in his office an order dated January 3, 1907, signed by F. M. Crosby, District Judge, which recites that the records of the application of Mr. Comfort by inadvertance or mistake show that he was admitted to practice under the name of Frank V., and which order changes the records to read Francis V.

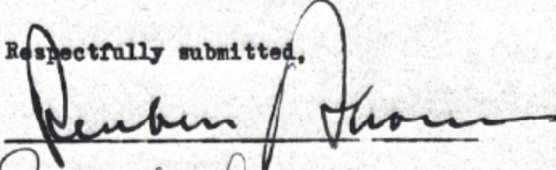
For more than 47 years thereafter he practiced his profession here in Stillwater. He served as Stillwater City Attorney in 1898 and 1899. He retired from active practice in 1925. During the many years of his active practice he handled many important matters for the people of this community.

On October 15, 1883 Mr, Comfort married Miss Elisa T. Hebenstreit. She died in 1923. Three sons, Hollis, Russel and Atwood preceded him in death. Hollis was also a lawyer. He and his father practiced for many years as partners under the firm name of Comfort & Comfort with offices on Myrtle Street in the building west of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank now occupied by Dr. Henry Van Meier. Russel was an investment broker in Chicago. Atwod was killed in France in Wold War I. Surviving Mr. Comfort are two daughters, Helen Manuson of Roberts, Wisconsin and Frances McCord of Chicago, Illinois.

Francis V. Comfort died on April 5th, 1954, having attained the ripe old age of 100 years, 6 months and 26 days. Prior to his death he was probably the oldest member of the Minnesota Bar. He was the contemporary of such pioneer lawyers as Hollis R. Murdock, William McCluer, Fayette Marsh, Frank T. Wilson, James N. Castle, L. E. Thompson, John C. Nethaway, Fred W. Gail, Hugh H. Gillen, Orris E. Lee, C. B. Jack, Thomas Lecky, Jasper N. Searles, L. L. Wanwaring, Edwin D. Buffington, S. Blair McBeath, and George H. Sullivan. Mr. Comfort was buried in Fairview Cemetary, Stillwater, on April 7.

We hereby pay tribute to his memory. He contributed much to the welfare and development of the City of Stillwater and the St. Croix Valley during his lifetime.

We move that this Memorial be filed as a permanent record of this Court and that a certified copy of the same be sent to Mr. Comfort's daughter, Mrs. Helen Magnuson.

Respectfully submitted,


Edward Thelin

Paul G. Neumeier

Committee.

ADDENDUM

The following documents relate to the admission of Francis Comfort to the bar of Minnesota in February 14, 1878.

State of Minnesota)
County of Washington) ss
Frank V. Comfort on being first duly sworn deposes and says:
That he is a resident of the City of Stillwater in the County of Washington and State of Minnesota and that he is of the age of twenty-two years.
F. V. Comfort
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of November 1877.
(Seal) Theo. Van Tassel
Notary Public

I hereby certify that Frank V. Comfort of Stillwater Minn. has been a student in my office for nearly two years: and that he is a young man of unblemished moral character, and correct habits, and has shown commendable zeal and diligence in his chosen profession.
Stillwater Nov. 13th 1877.
H. R. Murdock

To the Hon the District Court of the County of Washington Minnesota
Hon. F. M. Crosby presiding

The undersigned appointed by you as a committee for the
examination of candidates for admission to the bar of this court
would beg leave to report that the examination by them given in
your court to Theodore Van Tassal, Levi McKusick and Frank V. Comfort
applicants for admission to practice in this court as attorneys and
counselors, is satisfactory to your committee and we would respectfully
recommend that each of the above named be so admitted to practice.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Stillwater February 14 1878.

L. E. Thompson

James N. Castle

Thos. Lecky

COPY OF MINUTES OF A GENERAL TERM OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNTY OF WASHINGTON ON
FEBRUARY 14th, 1878, AS APPEARS IN COURT JOURNAL ON PAGE 402

In the Matter of the Application of
Levi H. McKusick, Theo. Van Tassel
and Frank V. Comfort to be admitted
to practice as Attorneys & Counsellors
at Law

It appearing from the report of the Committee appointed by the
Court to examine such applicants: that said applicants had been severally
examined by said committee and found to be citizens of the United States,
of the age of twenty one years, of good moral character and possessing
the requisite qualifications of learning and ability,

It was thereupon ordered by the Court, that upon taking the oath
prescribed by law, said Levi H. McKusick, Theo. Van Tassel and Frank V.
Comfort each of them be admitted to practice as attorneys and counsellors
at law in all the Courts of the State of Minnesota; thereupon said Levi
H. McKusick, Theo. Van Tassel and Frank V. Comfort were severally duly
sworn as required by law.

Biographical sketches Comfort placed in two books in 1907.

From Albert Nelson Marquis, ed.,
Book of Minnesotans 99 (1907):

COMFORT, Francis V., lawyer; born at Mineral Point, Wis., Aug. 7, 1853; son of Amzi W. and Eliza (Vanornum) Comfort; educated in common and high schools, Portage, Wis., and read law with Judge Hollis R. Murdock, at Stillwater, Minn. Learned trade of turner and machinist before 21 years of age; began study of law and also followed civil engineering for two years; was a member of firm of Murdock and Comfort, in insurance business; since 1897 has been alone in the law business. Has been a resident of Stillwater since Aug. 30, 1872, and filled office of city attorney of Stillwater for two years. Republican. Vice president Washington County Bar Association, member Minnesota and American Bar associations. Member Sons of American Revolution. Married at Stillwater, Minn., Sept. 20, 1883, to Miss Elise T. Hebenstreet. Address: Stillwater, Minn.

From *Little Sketches of Big Folks* 86-87 (1907):

COMFORT Francis Vivian, Stillwater. Res 1204 3d av S, office 226 E Myrtle st. Lawyer. Born Aug 7. 1853 in Mineral Point Wis. son of Amzi W and Eliza (Vanorman) Comfort. Married Sept 20, 1883 to Elise T Hebenstreit. Educated in the common and high schools Portage Wis. Moved to Stillwater and studied law in the office of Hon R R Murdock. Admitted to bar 1878. Began practice with O H Comfort under the firm name of O H & F V Comfort, which firm continued until 1880; Comfort, Gregory & Comfort 1880-83; Gregory & Comfort until 1885; practiced alone 1885-86; Comfort & Comfort 1886-87; alone until 1894; Comfort & Wilson 1894-1897 and has been engaged alone since that time. Former city atty Stillwater. Member Washington Light Guards of Stillwater 1879-81; member American Minnesota State and Washington County Bar assns and Sons of the American Revolution.

