

MEMORIAL SERVICES RAMSEY COUNTY BAR

April 20, 1935.



EDWARD PEYSON SANBORN

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Edward Peyson Sanborn, for 55 years a distinguished member of the Ramsey County Bar, departed this life at his home in St. Paul on the 29th day of May, 1934. He was a descendant of a line of Revolutionary soldiers and statesmen. His great grandfather, Eliphalet Sanborn, was a soldier for the Colonies in the War of the Revolution. His grandfather, Joseph Sanborn, served in the New Hampshire Legislature in both the House and Senate for 22 years, and his father, Henry Frederick Sanborn, served two terms, or four years, in the New Hampshire State Senate when that body consisted of but twelve members.

Mr. Sanborn's mother was Eunice Davis and a granddaughter of Thomas Davis, soldier of the Revolution who fought under Prescott at Bunker Hill, was in the ranks of General Gates' army at the surrender of Burgoyne, participated in the battle of White Plains, and served in the Revolutionary army to the close of the war.

Mr. Sanborn was born at Epsom, New Hampshire, on May 19, 1853, in the old Sanborn family homestead, high up on Sanborn Hill, from the summit of which on clear days the shipping in Boston Harbor can be seen. The view from this old homestead is most beautiful; beautiful in the summer when the surrounding hills and valleys are covered with the green verdure of the forest, beautiful in the autumn when the verdure turns to red and gold, and beautiful also later when the earth's snowy blanket gleams white in the winter sun.

The home, which is still in a state of good preservation, is one of those large roomy New England houses, with high ceiled rooms and a commodious kitchen equipped With a great fireplace and oven such as one may read about in Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous story, "Old Town Folks". This house and the appurtenant farm was the Sanborn homestead for several generations, Mr. Sanborn's great grandfather having settled there in 1754. It is still owned by a member of the Sanborn family.

Mr. Sanborn's father, Henry F. Sanborn, was a brother of the late General John Sanborn, for many years a distinguished member of our Bar.

Mr. Sanborn's academic education was obtained at Dartmouth College, from which institution he was graduated in the Class of 1876. After graduation from Dartmouth he taught school a while, and in 1878 came to St. Paul and entered the law offices of John B. and Walter H. Sanborn, then composed of his uncle, General Sanborn, and his brother, Walter H. Sanborn.

In these offices he studied law and obtained the rudiments of his legal education, and in 1878 he was admitted to practice to the legal profession in all the courts of Minnesota and became a member of the Ramsey County Bar.

On January 1, 1882, he became a member of the law firm of John B. and W. H. Sanborn, and in this firm he remained until it was finally dissolved, first, by the elevation of his brother, Walter, to the Circuit Court of Appeals, and thereafter by the subsequent death of General Sanborn, after which he practiced alone. The firm of John B. and W. H. Sanborn was for many years one of the leading law firms

of St. Paul, enjoying a large and lucrative practice. In the course of its existence it employed many lawyers, and was to them a very practical law school. Its practice was quite general, and afforded the young men employed therein a very practical legal experience. Among the young men who were graduated from these offices into active practice on their own account, we recall Michael W. Fitzgerald, for many years Register of Deeds of Ramsey County and its first Registrar of Titles; Samuel Whaley, whose memory we are commemorating today; Alva L. Roe; Senator Winslow W. Dunn; the late Judge Charles Bechhoefer, and the writer of this memorial.

During the 55 years of his practice in St. Paul Mr. Sanborn saw and experienced many and great changes. He has seen the sprawling frontier village of 1878 grow into the magnificent city of which we are all now so proud. He has seen the wooden sidewalks and muddy, dusty streets replaced with our stone walks and paved streets. He has seen the old-fashioned law offices up flights of wooden stairways to quarters over business establishments, lighted with kerosene lamps, heated in the winter by wood-burning stoves, swept and dusted by students and law clerks, replaced with the splendid suites of office now in vogue, electrically lighted, steam-heated, janitor-served, and approached by modern elevator service. He has seen the little old frame Court House replaced by the splendid edifice which now accommodates our Courts, and he has witnessed and experienced the tremendous development of the law occasioned by scientific and material progress and legislative innovations developing new fields for the exercise of legal acumen.

As a lawyer Mr. Sanborn was an outstanding member of the

Bar. He was profoundly learned in the law, and possessed sound judgment and great practical common sense. His industry was great, and he always understood his own case and usually that of his antagonist. His advice to his clients was wise, and his services to them beneficial.

His legal ethics were of the highest type. He never brought an action or proposed a defense in the justice of which he did not believe. Once convinced of the righteousness of his cause, he brought to its prosecution his best efforts and was quite uniformly successful in his litigated cases.

Mr. Sanborn was a typical New Englander, possessed of a New England conscience and an innate diffidence which made it impossible for him to indulge in any self-advertisement.

It is difficult in this brief memorial to do justice to his character. That he was learned, wise and capable, that he was possessed of the highest integrity and scrupulous honesty, that he was kind and generous, statements though true, are so conventional and commonplace as to create no adequate impression of his character as a citizen, an associate and a friend.

He was interested in the public welfare, and contributed generously to many humanitarian enterprises. He twice represented the Seventh Ward of the City as its alderman in the City Council. In politics he was a Republican and an influential member of that party in St. Paul. He was a leading member of the Knights Templar; Eminent Commander of Damascus Commandery in 1889; and Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Minnesota, in 1905 and 1906. He was a member of the American Bar Association,

the State Bar Association, the Ramsey County Bar Association, and the Minnesota Historical Society. He was also a member of the Minnesota Club.

Mr. Sanborn was a loyal, faithful and helpful friend, and many a young lawyer has been benefited by his considerate advice and kindly assistance. Under a somewhat forbidding exterior, due largely to his native modesty, he concealed a most kind and generous heart, as those who have been intimately associated with him can abundantly testify.

Mr. Sanborn was married in 1884 to Miss Susie Dana. She died in January, 1913, and he is unsurvived by children. The closest next of kin by whom he is survived are his cousins, Judge John B. Sanborn, of the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals; Mrs. Lucy Sanborn Clapp, Frederick Sanborn and Miss Rachel Sanborn; his nephew, Bruce W. Sanborn, of St. Paul, and his nieces, Mrs. Grace Hartin and Mrs. Marion Van Sant.

Mr. Sanborn was a distinguished and capable lawyer, an upright and honest man, a good and patriotic citizen, and a true and loyal friend, and his passing leaves a vacancy keenly and regretfully appreciated by his friends and clientes.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Frederick N. Dickson

/s/ Frederick G. Ingersol

/s/ Winslow W. Dunn, Sr.