

MEMORIAL

HARRY P. CHURCHILL
(1888 – 1934)

Ramsey County Bar Association

April 20, 1935

HARRY P. CHURCHILL

Harry P. Churchill was born in St. Paul May 12th, 1888. He was educated in the public schools of this city and upon graduating from high school was obliged to earn his own living. He was employed in real estate offices in St. Paul and during that time enrolled as a student in the St. Paul College of Law. He graduated in 1911 and was admitted to the Bar the same year. He immediately engaged in practice and was for several years associated with Price Wickersham under the firm name of Wickersham and Churchill. That partnership was dissolved when Mr. Wickersham removed to Kansas City, and Mr. Churchill continued to practice law alone. He continued until the commencement of the rather long illness preceding his death to be a very active and successful member of the Bar. He was engaged in much important litigation and established for himself a reputation as an able and successful lawyer. He enjoyed the respect and confidence of the Bar of Ramsey County.

He died December 10, 1934 after a long illness. Despite physical weakness and suffering which he endured the last two years of his life, he continued his activities and endured his sufferings and trouble without complaint. His many friends among the Bench and Bar of Ramsey County will long remember him as an able lawyer, a genial gentleman, and a loyal friend.

While Mr. Churchill devoted himself zealously to the practice of his profession, it was by no means his only interest. In 1918 he was elected a member of the Board of County Commissioners of Ramsey County and served continuously in that office until his death. One month before his death he was re-elected for another term, receiving the largest vote he had ever received in any of his campaigns. It is his work as a County Commissioner which endeared him to thousands of people in St. Paul and which will keep his name and memory fresh in the minds of the people of St. Paul long after most of them will have forgotten his career as a lawyer. Almost immediately after his election as

County Commissioner, Mr. Churchill commenced to take a keen and lively interest in welfare work among underprivileged children. The Board of County Commissioners has general charge of child welfare work in Ramsey County, the operations of the so-called parental schools, and the preventorium at Lake Owasso, where thousands of children who would doubtless become consumptives have been given early treatment and one which enabled them to grow up to healthy and normal men and women. Mr. Churchill was very active in all these works. At his own solicitation he was for many years and continued to be up to the time of his death the county representative on the child welfare board. He was for years chairman of the parental schools committee and chairman and member of the committee dealing with the Children's Preventorium. Mr. Churchill never treated lightly his duties as County Commissioner. To him the regular meetings of the Board were but an incident in the performance of his duties. He was never too busy to lay aside his personal business and answer to the calls of distress of the poor and unfortunate.

Harry Churchill was a modest, unassuming man. Probably many of his friends of the Bar did not really appreciate the full extent of his unselfish devotion to the interests of the unfortunate. The members of the committee preparing and presenting this material were among his closest and most intimate friends and will long remember him not only as a lawyer but more especially as a devoted and sincere public servant who made the cause of the unfortunate his cause, and placed their interests even above his own.

Mr. Churchill is survived by his widow and two daughters, He left them a heritage of a life well spent and the respect and confidence of all who knew him.

/s/ Patrick J. Ryan
/s/ Herbert P. Keller
/s/ Arthur A. Stewart

