

THE BAR OF LYON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

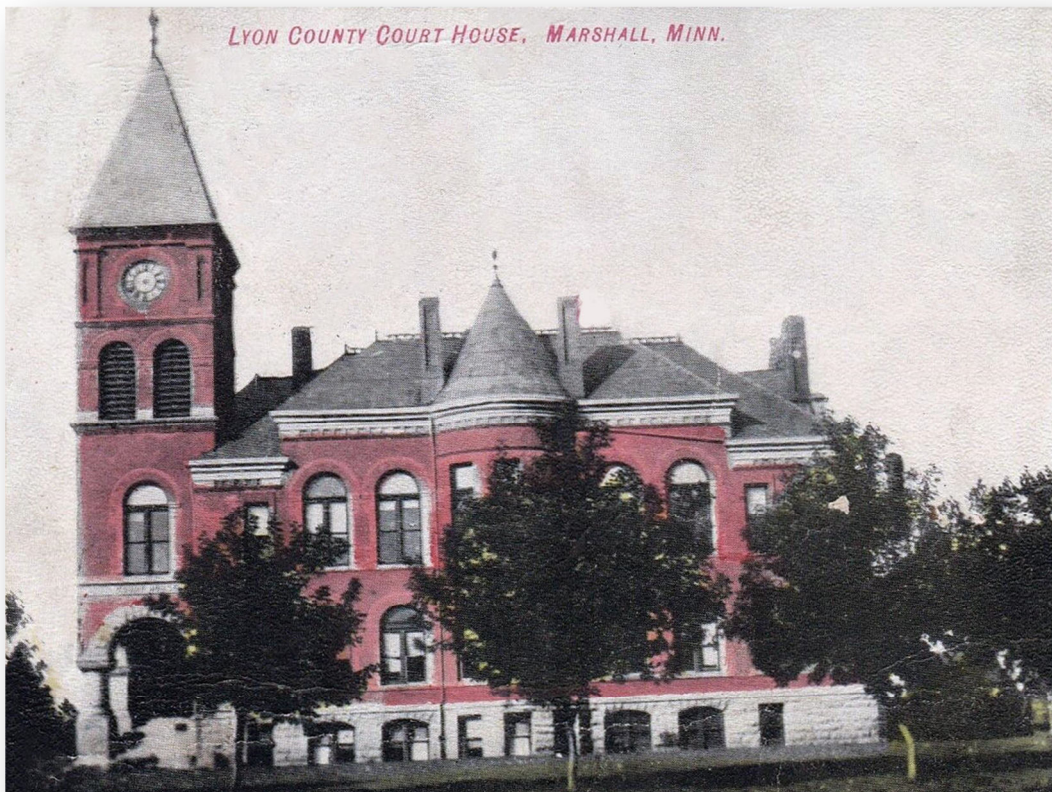
(1912)

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Foreword

Arnold P. Rose did not have a separate chapter on the “bench and bar” in his history of Lyon County published in 1912, unlike most county histories published before the First World War. He included one story “Early Courts of Justice,” which was a short, humorous account of a wedding by a justice of the peace. A dozen lawyers helped finance the publication of this book and, in return, had their personal and family sketches published. Several also had their photographs inserted in their profiles. They follow. Rose’s spelling and punctuation are not changed.



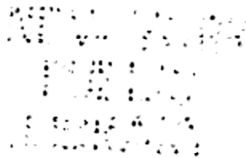
**Lyon County Court House
Marshall, Minnesota
Date of Postcard: 1908
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AN
ILLUSTRATED HISTORY
OF
LYON COUNTY
MINNESOTA

By ARTHUR P. ROSE

MEMBER OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Author of the Histories of
NOBLES, JACKSON, ROCK AND
PIPESTONE COUNTIES, ETC.



NORTHERN HISTORY PUBLISHING COMPANY
MARSHALL, MINNESOTA
PUBLISHERS
1912

EARLY COURTS OF JUSTICE.

(by W. M. Todd.)

The early history of Marshall presents nothing more amusing than the first judicial proceedings.

Before the village was organized a certain township justice of the peace issued a summons in a civil process. He took delight in telling of the coming suit and always added that he could not understand why they brought the case before him, for he had heard nothing about it and knew nothing of the particulars. He did not know that his professional ignorance constituted his sole qualification.

After the case had been called and the complaint filed, the attorney for the defendant made a motion to dismiss, on the ground that "the complaint did not state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action." After a moment's silence the learned justice assumed an air of judicial dignity and said: "A motion has been made to dismiss; does anyone second the motion'."

During the years I wore the judicial ermine many amusing incidents happened, some of which will never be forgotten.

On a certain occasion I performed a marriage ceremony under quite extraordinary circumstances. One day in May I was cleaning up the room, which was used in turn for lumber office, court room, council meeting room, etc. The day was intensely warm and I had removed coat, vest and collar and rolled up my sleeves, my hands were dirty, my hair disheveled, and drops of perspiration were trickling over a dust begrimed face.

While in this condition a Norwegian couple appeared upon the scene to be married. It was about eleven o'clock and I told them that I would go to dinner early, clean myself, and be ready for the ceremony about one o'clock. This would not answer at all. They wanted to be married then and there, without delay. I pleaded in vain for a delay. I pleaded in vain for a short postponement and finally told them that in any event I must go home and wash and put on

some clean clothes. They would not agree even to that and demanded that the ceremony be performed at once.

I was hardly able to conceal my displeasure at their unreasonable haste and lack of consideration for my embarrassed appearance, and I jumped up before them and told them to stand up and take hold of hands. Then, turning to the woman, I said: "Do you like him?" She coyly answered "yes." Next addressing the man, I said: "Do you like her?" He blushing said "yes." "Then go to it." That was the only ceremony and it occupied less than half a minute. The whole party was actually dazed and somewhat dissatisfied over its brevity and lack of formality. ¹

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BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY. ²

THOMAS E. DAVIS (1877), mayor of Marshall and an attorney of that city, is one of the best known men of Lyon county — a man who has played an important part in the affairs of his community. Although born outside the county, his parents were residents of Lyon county at the time, and he has spent his entire life here.

Thomas E. Davis was born in Judson, Blue Earth county, Minnesota, February 18, 1877. He was brought to Lyon county by his parents when a babe. He was graduated from the Marshall High School in 1894 and during the next year he worked at various occupations. He was a student at Macalester College in 1895 and 1896, preparing himself for the ministry, but he changed his plans and decided to become a lawyer. In March, 1898, he entered the law office of

¹ For another story of a couple who were in a hurry to marry succeeded by agreeing to a "marriage by proxy," see "Henry Jackson, St. Paul's First Justice of the Peace" 7-8 (MLHP, 2012-2016).

² The date in parenthesis following each lawyer is the date that individual arrived in Lyon County.

M. E. Mathews, where he read law during the next three years. In March, 1901, he entered the office of Senator V. B. Seward, completed his studies, and the same year was admitted to the bar.

The law firm of Mathews & Davis was then formed and until April, 1902, our subject was engaged in practice with the older attorney. He then opened an office in a dingy little room containing no furniture except a kitchen table loaned by his mother. To purchase books he borrowed one hundred dollars from Col. A. R. Chace. In September, 1902, Mr. Davis received the Republican



THOMAS E. DAVIS

Mayor of Marshall (1910-12) and an Attorney of That City.

primary nomination for county attorney, defeating E. C. Patterson, the incumbent, with a majority of 276. At the general election he defeated E. B. Johnson, of Tracy, an independent candidate, by a majority of 540. He received the Republican nomination without opposition in 1904, but was defeated at the general election by B. B. Gislason, of Minneota, by 214 votes.

During his term as county attorney Mr. Davis was exceptionally successfully in the prosecution of criminal cases, securing 140 convictions out of 143 cases, including minor and major offences. His law business has grown rapidly, and today he enjoys one of the

largest law practices in Southwestern Minnesota. He devotes his time exclusively to the trial of cases and has a large practice in Redwood, Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle and Swift counties.

Mr. Davis has taken an active interest in politics and is an orator of state-wide reputation. In the campaigns of 1908 and 1910 he made speeches for the state and national tickets in many parts of the state, spending several weeks in Minneapolis, Duluth and other cities. He has been mentioned as a

candidate for congress and is credited with the ambition to represent his district in the nation's law-making body. Locally he has held several offices in addition to that of county attorney. In 1908 and 1909 he served as alderman from the second ward, and in April, 1910, he was elected mayor of the city, defeating H. P. Fulton by ninety-eight majority.

Mr. Davis is a man of family. He was married at Chetek, Wisconsin, June 26, 1906, to Mabel Emma Johnson. She is a native of that place, having been born May 17, 1884. She is the daughter of Ole and Mary Johnson, who were born in Norway. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Davis: Esther Mabel, born March 4, 1908, and Dona May, born June 23, 1910. Mr. Davis holds membership in the M. W. A., Royal Arcanum, Maccabees, Elks and Knights of Pythias lodges.

The subject of this biography is the son of Reese and Jane (Jones) Davis, the former a native of Wales and the latter of Ohio, she being of Welsh descent. Reese Davis came to the United States at the age of three years and located with his parents in Ohio. In 1861 he enlisted in Company C, of the Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry, served the period of his enlistment, and then re-enlisted and served until the close of the war. Jane Jones located in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, with her parents in 1858. After the war Mr. Davis located in the same county, where was a large Welsh settlement, and there the parents of our subject were married. They moved to Lyon county in 1873 and took a homestead claim in Monroe township. They left the farm in 1882 and located in Tracy, and four years later moved to Marshall, where they have since resided.

Mr. Davis is a trustee of the First Presbyterian Church and has been since the church was built.

Reese and Jane Davis have five children, all living and all graduates of the Marshall High School. Following are the names of the children: Esther, the wife of William Russell, an attorney at Moorhead; Mary Agnes, the wife of O. A. Krook, who is postmaster of Marshall; Elizabeth Ida, who was the assistant principal of the Laurel, Montana, schools and who is now the wife of Thomas

Rigney, a merchant of Laurel; Thomas E., of this biography, and his twin brother, John I., who is an attorney at Benson, Minnesota.

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BJORN B. GISLASON (1879) is a lawyer and real estate dealer of Minneota and has lived in Lyon county for the past thirty-three years. He was county attorney in 1905 and 1906. Mr. Gislason is a native of Iceland and was born May 29, 1873, coming to Lyon county with his parents in 1879 and locating in Westerheim township. He is a son of Bjorn and Adalborg (Johnson) Gislason. The former died in July, 1906, aged seventy-nine years; Mrs. Gislason resides on the old home place with her son, J. B. Gislason. They are the parents of nine children, six boys and three girls, as follows: Eyjolfur Bjornson (Mrs. John Snidal), of Westerheim township; Olive and Walter, of Badger, Minnesota; John B., Mrs. S. J. Holm, Bjorn B., Haldor B., a teacher in the University of Minnesota; and Ami B. Bjorn made his home with his parents on the farm for several years, attending the country schools, the Minneota schools and the Marshall High School. He served in the Spanish-American War, in Company A, Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and saw service in the Philippines, his regiment participating in thirty-two engagements.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Gislason again took up his studies, graduating in 1900 from the Law Department of the University of Minnesota. After his graduation from the university Mr. Gislason located in Lake Benton and practised his profession for one and a half years. He then moved to Minneota, where he has since been engaged in the practice of law. In 1900 he assisted in the organization of the Globe Land and Loan Company, capitalized at \$50,000. This is one of Minneota's principal enterprises, the firm doing a thriving business. In 1900 its land sales amounted to half a million dollars. There are two branch offices, one at Elbow Lake and one at Badger, Minnesota. The law firm has been conducted under the name of Gislason & Gislason since January, 1911, when our subject admitted A. B.

Gislason. The subject of this review is a member of the Masonic, Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen lodges.

Mr. Gislason was married in Minneapolis October 7, 1904, to Joan T. Peterson, a native of Iceland. They have three children, Pjorn B., Rose and Harry Sidney Payson.

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FREMONT SHARPE BROWN (1880) has practised law in the city of Tracy for the past thirty-two years and has been prominently identified with the affairs of Lyon county during all that time. He has served as judge of probate and county attorney and held many minor offices. His part in the political and business affairs of the county richly entitles him to a place in this History of Lyon County.

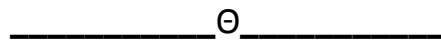
Judge Brown was born in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, June 15, 1856. His ancestry can be traced back to colonial days in New England; his parents, Myron Holly Brown and Sarah M. (Sharpe) Brown, were both born in New York State. In May, 1865, the family became residents of Minnesota, locating in Wabasha. There young Brown read law and in 1879 he was admitted to the bar. He practised in his home city a few months and then located in the young but growing town of Tracy, which has ever since been his home.

Many times has Judge Brown been called upon to serve in an official capacity. Before the incorporation of Tracy he served as clerk of Monroe township, and after the incorporation he was the first village recorder. He was elected county judge of probate in 1882 and was re-elected four consecutive times, serving until January, 1893. He was chosen county attorney in 1896, was re-elected in 1898, and held the office until the beginning of the year 1901. In 1887 the Minnesota Legislature provided that the governor appoint a commission of three members to codify and revise the probate laws of the state. Judge Brown, who was then serving as probate judge, was named as one of that

commission and assisted in the work. In 1859 the Legislature adopted and enacted into law the probate laws as revised and codified by the commission.

In business affairs Judge Brown has also had considerable to do, having perfected the organization of several incorporated companies for investment in lands. In Masonic circles Judge Brown has taken advanced degrees. He holds membership in the Minnesota Consistory, Paladin Commandery No. 21, Osman Temple, St. Paul Council, R. S. M., Bower Chapter No. 44, R. A. M., Tracy Lodge No. 155, A. F. & A. M., and Virginia Chapter No. 14. O. E. S.

Judge Brown was married in Mankato to Sue B. Gleason. She died in September, 1896. To them were born two children. Mary Kathrine and Hoit Sharpe. The second marriage of Judge Brown occurred in February, 1907, to Flora A. Hartigan, a native of Plainview. Minnesota.



MARVIN E. MATHEWS (1876), a Marshall attorney-at-law, is a pioneer of Minnesota and of Lyon county. He has lived in Minnesota nearly sixty years and in Marshall thirty-six years. He is a man of prominence in his profession, but of a retiring, modest disposition, adverse to notoriety. He is richly entitled to biographical mention in this History of Lyon County, being a representative man and an eminent member of the bar of Southwestern Minnesota. Not only in the law is he prominent, but also in business and social circles.

Mr. Mathews descends from one of the old American families. His paternal grandparents were Caleb and Margaret (Van Salisbury) Mathews, natives, respectively, of Vermont and Pennsylvania. The former died near Jamestown, New York, at the age of eighty years; the latter died at the age of seventy-five years. The parents of our subject were Joseph V. and Clarissa (Chipman) Mathews. Joseph V. Mathews was born at Albany, New York, and at the age of five years accompanied his parents to Gary, New York. He located in Rochester, Minnesota, in 1854, took government land in Murray county in 1872, and died in that county. The mother of our subject was born at

Jamestown, New York, and was a daughter of James Chipman. She also died in Murray county. There were six children in this family, as follows: James W., of Tracy; Charles, of Minneapolis; Edward, of Duluth; Ellen J. Endersbe (deceased) and Sidney (deceased).

M. E. Mathews was born at Jamestown, New York, September 25, 1849. He accompanied the family when it moved to Rochester, Minnesota, in 1854 and he has ever since been a resident of this state. He spent his boyhood days on a farm near Rochester. At that time Southeastern Minnesota was very thinly settled, the country being marked only occasionally by the log cabins of settlers, the advance guard of civilization. For the most part the country was occupied by Indians and wild animals. There were no school laws, teachers or schools when the Mathews family made their home in this western country and it was several years before a school was established in the vicinity. When one was finally established instruction was given only a few months of the year, held in some claim shanty and supported by subscription. In the school which our subject first attended the shanty was supplied with seats and desks made by splitting logs into slabs and placing them on logs driven into the ground; the school room had no floor except that provided by nature and it was heated by an open fireplace built of stone. No certificate or qualification and but little education was required of the teacher. Reading, writing, spelling, geography and arithmetic were the branches taught, and those desiring further education were obliged to obtain it by their own unaided exertions. Mr. Mathews studied grammar and other branches while working in the fields and soon made the contents of such volumes his own, and he is now a master of the English language.

After completing the course provided by the country school Mr. Mathews continued his studies in the Rochester High School, which had then been established. From the age of seventeen years he made his own way in the world. He worked as a farm hand and chopped wood in the forests during the winter months and later taught a country school. For a time he studied law in the office of R. A. Jones, at Rochester, and in 1872 he moved to New Ulm and taught in the high school. While thus engaged he continued his law studies in the office of George W. Kuhlman until the fall of 1873. From that time until he located in Marshall in 1876 he practised his profession at New Ulm.



M. E. MATHEWS
Who Has Practised Law in Marshall Since
1876.



MRS. M. E. MATHEWS



THE MATHEWS HOME IN MARSHALL

From 1876 until the present date Mr. Mathews has engaged in practice in Marshall. He took a course in the Law Department of the University of Michigan and was graduated with the class of 1881. He has become one of the leading attorneys of the state and has been connected with much Important litigation in this section of the state.

Mr. Mathews has been a life-long Democrat, a recognized leader in politics, and prominently identified with several Democratic organizations of the state. He has served as mayor of Marshall, county attorney, and was receiver of the United States Land Office at Marshall during President Cleveland's second administration. He was a candidate for the office of judge of the district court, but was defeated by the present incumbent, Hon. I. M. Olsen.

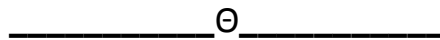
In many fraternal orders Mr. Mathews holds membership, among them the Council, Consistory, Mystic Shrine and Eastern Star of the Masonic orders, the Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Mathews was married at New Ulm, Minnesota, on August 21, 1875, to Minnie Boesch, a native of Brown county and a daughter of Werner Boesch. To them were born four children, named as follows: Werner B., born February 17, 1878, died April 14, 1896; Logan B., born March 31, 1880, died March 27, 1891; Sidonia A. (Mrs. Howard Harmon), of Marshall, born June 16, 1887; Rolland M., born January 6, 1889. Mr. Mathews and his wife are great lovers of children and have done much for a number of them in Lyon county, having assisted them in their schooling and getting a start in life. Besides their own they have two adopted children which they brought up from infancy. They are Arloine, at one time a leading nurse in Rest Hospital, Minneapolis, now the wife of Garfield Jaeger and a resident of Spokane, Washington, and Joseph P. Mathews, a student at the University of Minnesota. They are the daughter and son of Edward Mathews, a brother residing at Duluth, Minnesota.

JAMES H. HALL (1897), county attorney of Lyon county, was born in Kankakee county, Illinois, in 1876. He is the son of James and Margaret (McGlade) Hall, of Balaton. Both parents were born in Ireland and came to America when children.

In 1883 the family moved to Hand county, South Dakota. Our subject received his education in the country schools of that county and in Wessington Springs Seminary. After his school days he taught one year in South Dakota, and in 1897 he located in Lyon county. After teaching two years in Lyon county Mr. Hall took up the study of law in the offices of O. E. Maxson, E. C. Patterson and V. B. Seward. He then attended the night school of the St. Paul College of Law, took the state bar examination, and was admitted to practice in 1905. He formed a partnership with E. C. Patterson, of Marshall, and was a member of the firm of Patterson & Hall from October, 1905, until January 1, 1910. Mr. Hall then opened an office in the Dibble Block. He was elected county attorney in 1910 and took office the first of the following year.

Mr. Hall was married December 31, 1905, to Rose Parfitt, of Sunnyside, Washington. He is a member of the Methodist church and of the Masonic order.



ARCH R. ENGLISH (1887) is a lawyer of Tracy and a native of Lyon county. He was born in Tracy December 18, 1887, and with the exception of a few years spent in Waseca he has ever since resided in the city in which he was born. After graduating from the Tracy High School he read law in the office of N. J. Robinson and was admitted to the bar March 2, 1910. On that date he formed a partnership with Mr. Robinson and has since engaged in practice as a member of the firm of Robinson & English. He is a member of the Gopher Club, a social organization.

Our subject is a son of Michael and Tillie (Boydell) English, residents of Tracy. The father was born in Vermont and the mother in Chicago. They came to

Lyon county in 1887. There are three children in the family, Bert L., editor of the Tracy Headlight; Florence A. and Arch R. Mr. English was married at Watertown, South Dakota, January 1, 1912, to Pearl D. Sturdevant, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Sturdevant. ³

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JAMES VON WILLIAMS (1881), attorney at law, is a native of Marshall and has spent practically his entire life in that city. He was born March 26, 1881. After graduating from the Marshall High School he was a student at the University of Minnesota for six years. He was graduated from the academic department in 1903 and from the law department in 1905.

After his graduation, Mr. Williams worked in a Marshall bank for a few months and then located in Fessenden, North Dakota, where he was admitted to the bar. There he was engaged in the practice of law, in abstracting, and in the insurance and real estate business for one year and eight months, at the end of which time he returned to Marshall. He has since practised his profession and engaged in the insurance business, making a specialty of collections.

Mr. Williams has been city attorney the last two years. He is a member of the Blue Lodge (being master of the local lodge in 1912) and of the Chapter of the Masonic orders and of the Modern Woodmen of America lodge. He owns land in Lyon and Lincoln counties and in Colorado, the cement block garage on Main Street, and a half interest in the Hitch livery barn, his partner being August Durrenburger.

The father of our subject is James W. Williams, who was born in Wisconsin, came to Marshall in the early seventies, and is still a resident of the city. For many years he engaged in the hardware business. He has served as a member of the Minnesota Legislature, as county treasurer and clerk of the

³ For a longer sketch see "Arch R. English (1888-1963)" (MLHP, 2014).

district court. The mother of our subject is Ada Frances (Webster) Williams, a daughter of Captain S. Webster, a homesteader and early settler of Lyon county. There are three children in the family, the other two being Roy W., of Lyon county, and Helen A. (Mrs. C. E. Hall), of Gary, Indiana.

Mr. Williams was married at Cottonwood November 8, 1911, to Amelia Anderson, a native of Lyon county and a daughter of Gabriel Anderson, one of the county's early settlers.

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GEORGE A. SCHAIN (1911) is one of the young attorneys of Lyon county and resides in the city of Tracy. He was born in Browns Valley, Minnesota, September 17, 1887. His parents are Jacob and Irene (Burdick) Schain, the former a native of Norway and the latter of New York. They located in Willmar in 1860. In 1880 they moved to Browns Valley, where the father is engaged in the mercantile business. The mother died in September, 1911. There are three children in the family, Charles R., Josephine and George A.

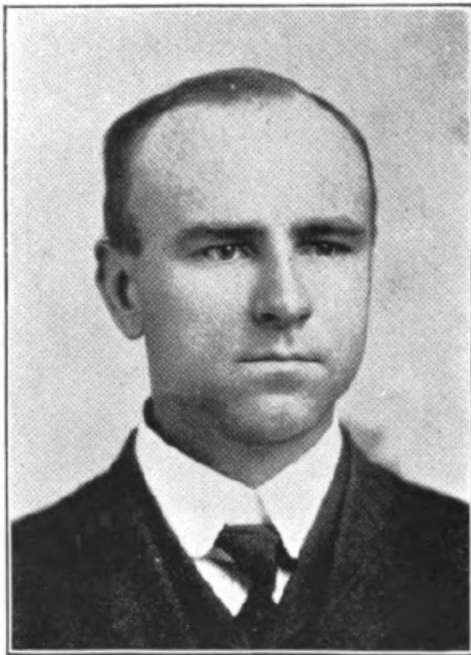
George grew to manhood and attended school at Browns Valley, having been graduated from the high school of that city. He then attended the University of Minnesota and was graduated from the law department in 1911. While attending school he clerked and read law in an office. On June 26, 1911, he moved to Tracy and opened an office over the Boston Cash Store.

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N. J. ROBINSON (1872), attorney-at-law of Tracy and ex-county attorney, is a native of the county and a son of two of the very early settlers. He is a successful practitioner and is interested in many business enterprises of his city.

Our subject was born on his father's homestead on the southeast quarter of section 1, Custer township, March 8, 1872, and on that farm he made his home until moving to Tracy in 1900. He was graduated from the Tracy High School in 1897 and from the Law Department of the University of Minnesota in 1900 with the degree of L. L. B. He at once engaged in the practice of his profession at Tracy and has been so engaged ever since.

In local politics Mr. Robinson has taken an active part. He served two terms as mayor of his city, has been city attorney for the past six years, and for the same length of time has served as a member of the Water and Light Board. He was elected county attorney on the Republican ticket in 1906, was re-elected in 1908, and served four years. In business matters Mr. Robinson has also been active. In 1910 he organized the Tracy Garage Company and has since been president of the company. It is one of the big institutions of Tracy,



N. J. ROBINSON

**An Attorney of Tracy and a Native of
Lyon County.**

the building which houses it being one of the largest in the county. He is also one of the organizers of the Tracy Building and Loan Association, which was founded in 1910, and is its attorney and a director. Mr. Robinson is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Maccabee lodges. For six years prior to 1910 he was chancellor commander of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias.

Our subject was married in Tracy February 26, 1911, to Leah M. Mongeau. She was born in Manteno, Illinois, and came to Lyon county when a child with her parents, Adler and Agnes (Smith) Mongeau.

N. J. Robinson descends from cue of the old New England families whose coming to America dates back to the earliest known settlements in the Colonies. On his father's side he is Scottish-German origin; his mother was of New York parentage and of Scottish descent.

His father, George S. Robinson, was born April 7, 1836, at Springwater, Livingston county, New York, being the son of Joseph and Cathreen (Spangler) Robinson, the former a Methodist minister. His mother, Nellie (Gould) Robinson, was born December 15, 1846, in North Adams, Massachusetts. The parents came to Lyon county in 1868 and took as a homestead claim the southeast quarter of section 1, Custer township. On it the father built a log cabin, in which was held the first meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Lyon county.

George Robinson was identified with the early history of the county and held many offices of trust in his township. He died August 24, 1906. Mrs. Robinson still lives and makes her home in Tracy. There are seven children in the family. Evan D., the eldest, resides in Montana. The others reside in Lyon county and are as follows: George M., Ella (Mrs. J. E. Morgan), Fred R., Frank D., Earl H. and N. J. ⁴

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JOSEPH V. MATHEWS (1907), attorney at law of Cottonwood, is a native of Southwestern Minnesota, having been born on his father's homestead on section 8, Shetek township, Murray county, on March 30, 1879. He grew to young manhood on the farm and in 1902 was graduated from the Tracy High School. He then took a one year's preparatory course in Macalester College, after which he matriculated in the St. Paul College of Law, from which he was graduated in June, 1906.

Mr. Mathews was admitted to the bar on June 22, 1906, and was admitted to practise before the United States district and circuit courts on November 4, 1910. After his admission to the bar Mr. Mathews practised seven months with Judge L. S. Nelson, of Slayton, and on March 12, 1907, became a resident of Cottonwood, where he has since practised his profession, with offices on the second floor of the Grieve & Laingen Building. Mr. Mathews has been very successful in the law.

⁴ For a longer sketch see "Net J. Robinson (1872-1927)" (MLHP, 2014).

He is a self-made man and has had to rely almost wholly on his own exertions, having worked his way through college.



JOSEPH V. MATHEWS
A Practising Attorney of Cottonwood.

Mr. Mathews takes a leading part in the affairs of his community. He is secretary of the Cottonwood Commercial Club and was village attorney in 1906 and 1907. He is a member of the Masonic and Woodmen orders.

The parents of our subject, J. W. and Alice (Robins) Mathews, are pioneers of Southwestern Minnesota. The father is a native of New York State, the mother of Rochester, Minnesota. They settled in Murray county in 1870 and still reside upon the farm which they took as a homestead. They have five sons and two daughters, as follows: Clara J. (Mrs. P. M. Hart), of Hillyard, Washington; Joseph V., of this review; John E., of Murray county;

James A., of Murray county; Arthur R., Murian and Mildred M.

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ERNEST A. MICHEL (1906) is the junior member of the law firm of Davis & Michel, of Marshall. He was born at Appleton, Minnesota, October 15, 1887, and spent his boyhood days in that town. He was graduated from the Appleton High School and then took a year's course in a business college.

In 1906 Mr. Michel located in Marshall. He entered the employ of Thomas E. Davis as a stenographer and at the same time read law. He was admitted to

the bar February 8, 1909, and in July, 1910, entered into partnership with his employer. Mr. Michel is a member of the Elks and Modern Wood men lodges.

Ernest Michel is the son of the late Ernest Michel and Caroline (Schmidt) Michel. They came from Germany when children, were married, and located in Michigan. They became residents of Willmar, Minnesota, in the early days and for a time conducted a hotel in that city. Then they moved to Appleton, where Mr. Michel died and where Mrs. Michel now resides. Ernest is the youngest in a family of fourteen children, of whom ten are living.⁵

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DUNCAN L. KENNEDY (1887) is a lawyer of the city of Marshall. He is a native of Wisconsin and was born December 30, 1881, a son of D. Ward and Flora (Keter) Kennedy, natives of Wisconsin.



When six years of age our subject came to Lyon county and made his home with his grandfather, Judge D. A. Kennedy, on a farm in Island Lake town-ship, one year, after which he moved to Marshall and was graduated from the Marshall High School in 1900.

He then attended Hamline University two and one-half years, after which he returned to Marshall and was employed in the law office of Thomas E. Davis two years. He then went to Wisconsin and learned the printer's trade, which he followed until February, 1909, when he returned to Marshall and read law in the office of Davis & Michel. He was admitted to the state bar in June, 1911, and

D. L. KENNEDY

Member of the Marshall Law Firm of Davis,
Michel & Kennedy.

⁵ For his memorial by the Hennepin County Bar Association, see "Ernest A. Michel (1887-1947)" (MLHP, 2019).

entered the firm of Davis & Michel, where he has since been engaged.

He is a member of the B. P. O. E. and the M. W.A. lodges. Mr. Kennedy has been prominent in athletics since boy-hood and while at Hamline University took an active part in athletic sports and was a member of the Hamline University football teams of 1902-03-04. He was equally prominent in other branches of athletics while at Hamline. He was admittedly one of the best all-around athletes that ever attended Hamline University. During his three years of football he was placed on the "All-Minnesota" team by the newspaper critics in as many different positions, as half-back, guard and end. His prowess on the cinder path was scarcely less. Among his numerous records are the following: Fifty-yard dash, 5 3-5 seconds; one hundred-yard dash, 10 2-5 seconds; running high jump, 5 feet 5 inches; running broad jump, 22 feet 4 inches; running hop, step and jump, 44 feet 4 1-2 inches; 16-pound shot put, 37 feet 7 inches. Mr. Kennedy was also a member of the baseball and basketball teams of Hamline and enjoyed the unique distinction of being the first student at the university who made every athletic team during his freshman year. In addition to these various athletic honors, he was elected president of the "Class of 1905" during his freshman year.

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