

MEMORIAL FOR

JAMES CONDIT MELVILLE

November 4, 1875 - April 13, 1949

**HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
DISTRICT COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

1950

JAMES CONDIT MELVILLE

James Condit Melville was born in Czarist, Russia on November 4, 1878. His father, George McDonald Melville, was at the time in the United States diplomatic service and was then stationed in that country. Shortly after the birth of James, his father and mother (Mrs. Anna Morris Melville) were transferred to Germany. Mr. Melville remained there into the kindergarten year of James. Shortly after he was four years of age, his parents moved to New York City. Mr. Melville attended the public schools of New York including some collegiate work.

In 1900 the family moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota and Mr. Melville enrolled in the University of Minnesota Law School. He was graduated in 1902 and was admitted to the bar [on June 6, 1902]. From 1902 until 1908 he engaged in the lumber business in Minneapolis.

In 1908 he opened his law office and practiced in Minneapolis, until his retirement in 1946 when because of illness he closed his office.

Mr. Melville had a substantial trial practice in the field of Mechanics Lien Law. His work brought them into court frequently and he became recognized as an authority in that specialty.

On June 28, 1902, Mr. Melville was married to Alice Whitnee Basford who survives him and there are two children, both residing in Minneapolis; a son Sumner James, and a daughter, Lewis Mary Melville. Mr. Melville is survived by two sisters; Mrs. Byron Batkin, Orosi, California, and Mrs. Frank Enoch of Berkeley, California.

Mr. Melville was a member of the Hennepin County and Minnesota State Bar Association and was a member of the Phi Delta Phi Law Fraternity at the University of Minnesota.

He was very active in the Zuhrah Temple Shrine activities and was a member of the Gethsemane Episcopal Church.

He served during the First World War attaining the rank of captain at the time of his discharge. From 1894 to 1897 he served in the regular army of the United States as a sergeant and saw active service in the Boxer Rebellion in China. After that he served three years in the New York National Guard and after moving to Minnesota he served six years in the Minnesota Field Artillery. During the Second World War he served on the local draft board.

Mr. Melville was an intense student of Shakespeare and he was familiar with all of his writings and could quote extensively therefrom. Also he was an amateur student of the Bible having read the same through from cover to cover on many occasions. He was a pianist of more than average ability.



Appendix

Melville was born on November 4, 1875 in St. Petersburg, Russia, and died April 13, 1949 in Clinton County, Iowa.

Source: Ancestry.com.

Directory of the Alumni of the University of Minnesota
College of Law, Class of 1902, page 271 (1916):

James C. Melville,
LL. B., 02; Phi Delta Phi; Lawyer. 300
Warner Bldg., and 2423 Lake Place, Mpls.,
Minn.

Little Sketches of Big Folks 268 (1907)

MELVILLE James C, Minneapolis. Res 1011 3d av S, office 430-432 Lumber Exchange. Lumber. Born Nov 4, 1875 in St Petersburg Russia, son of George D and Anna M (Morris) Melville. Married June 28, 1902 to Alice W Basford. Educated in Brooklyn public and high schools; and graduated from U of M, LL B. Engaged with Wm Buchanan Texarkana Texas in yellow pine business 1897-99; with H Stevens whol lumber Minneapolis 1899-1902; mngr Carpenter Glass Lbr Co yards 1902-1903; mngr and treas Melville Lumber Co; mngr and sec Mutual Lumber Co; pres and treas American Diamond Mining Co; v pres Minneapolis Art China Co. Member Battery "I" 1st U S Artillery 1893-96; now member Battery "B" 1st Artillery M N G.

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