

Memorial Service  
for  
Ole J. Vaule, Deceased  
December 8, 1938

Memorial services for the late Ole J. Vaule were conducted by the Fourteenth Judicial District Bar Association in the court rooms of the Court House at Crookston, Minnesota, on December 8, 1938, at 1:30 o'clock P. M., with J. H. Sylvestre, President of the Fourteenth Judicial District Bar Association, presiding.

Present were Hon. M. A. Brattland; Hon. James B. Montague; Hon. William Watts; John Vig, Fosston; L. A. Wilson, Mahnomen; T. B. Elton, Grand Forks; Martin O'Brien, Crookston; Olav Vaule, Ada; Fridtjof Vaule, Crookston; William P. Murphy, Crookston; L. S. Miller, Crookston; F. H. Stadvold, Crookston; and E. A. Masee, East Grand Forks.

The Memorial (a copy of which is attached hereto) prepared by a committee appointed by the President of the District Bar Association consisting of Wm. P. Murphy, Crookston, Chairman; M. J. Hegland, Roseau; and John Vig, Fosston, was read by the Secretary of the Association, and upon orders of the Hon. James B. Montague was made a part of the Court records.

John Vig read an extended and intimate word-picture of the deceased as he knew him from the beginning of his practice at Fosston, Minnesota, until his death.

The Hon. M. A. Brattland, formerly law partner and very intimate friend of the deceased, spoke very intimately and feelingly upon his early contacts as students with the deceased and his intimate friendship all through the remainder of his life.

The Hon. William Watts addressed the group, commenting especially upon the legal learning and ability of the deceased as viewed from his early law partnership, intimate friendships and appearances before the Bench.

Martin O'Brien, the Dean of Law Practitioners of Polk County, addressed the meeting, reviewing briefly the entire legal life of the deceased as encompassed within the practice of Mr. O'Brien.

Further speakers on the occasion were Hon. James B. Montague, L. A. Wilson and Win. P. Murphy, all commenting upon the character and ability of the deceased as displayed by their various contacts with him.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 o'clock P.M.

/s/ L. D. Miller

Secretary.

Again, within the year, the Bar Association of the Fourteenth Judicial District is called upon to mourn the loss of one of its oldest and most esteemed members, Ole J. Vaule, of Crookston, Minnesota, who passed away August 6, 1938, at the age of 79 years. As a manifestation of the respect with which Mr. Vaule was held by his fellow practitioners, the undersigned committee of the Fourteenth Judicial District Bar Association presents the following Memorial with the request that the same be spread upon the records of the Court.

#### M E M O R I A L.

Ole J. Vaule was born March 10, 1859 on a farm called "Vaule" on Rennes, an island near Stavanger, Norway. His parents were landed farmers, and he received his elementary education in the local district schools. His father died while Mr. Vaule was quite young, and it devolved upon his mother to raise and educate the children. Mr. Vaule early realized that farming under the adverse conditions encountered on the home island,

was not very attractive as a future, and he was sent to a teacher's college on an adjoining island from which he graduated and taught school for about a year. In 1884 he emigrated to the United States, and soon learned that further education would be necessary if he was to have a better future than the one he had abandoned. He had been headed for the Ministry by his mother, and when he arrived in the United States he was still of the same mind. He learned, however, that a knowledge of the English Language was an absolute necessity for progress in this country, and he therefore matriculated at St. Cloud Normal, from which he graduated in 1887. He then attended, a German Theological Seminary at Afton, Minnesota, for one year, when he definitely determined that he was not to be a Minister of the Gospel. He then attended the University of Minnesota and was graduated from the Law School of the University of Minnesota in 1891. He worked on farms, sold books and carried a newspaper route in Minneapolis, in order to defray the expenses of his education while attending colleges and the University.

Upon his graduation and admission to the bar, Mr. Vaule associated himself with his roommate at the University, Hon. M. A. Brattland, and they journeyed to Polk County to establish themselves in the practice of law. Mr. Vaule established his office at Fosston, and Mr. Brattland, at McIntosh, and they used to walk back and forth between the two offices to discuss their problems and to cheer each other up as they battled the serious legal and economic problems that confronted them. In 1893 Mr. Vaule moved his office to Crookston and for a time officed with Hon. William Watts who was then engaged in the practice of law at Crookston. In 1898, upon the election of Judge Watts to the District Bench, Mr. Vaule was appointed Referee in Bankruptcy, by Hon. Wm. Lochren, United States District Judge, for the Sixth Division of Minnesota, to succeed Judge Watts who had been the first appointee after the passage of the Nelson Act in July, 1898. Mr. Vaule continued to hold the office of Referee in Bankruptcy under successive appointments to the time of his death, a period of forty years, becoming

thereby the oldest Referee in Bankruptcy in point of service in the northwest.

In January, 1900 he became associated with Wm. P. Murphy in the practice of law, under the firm name of Vaule & Murphy, and that partnership continued to the time of his death.

He was active in civic affairs, having served as City Attorney for the City of Crookston under Mayor M. R. Brown, from April 15, 1896 to April 15, 1898; from 1917 to 1927 he served upon the City Council of the City of Crookston as alderman from the Sixth Ward of said city; he served as a member of the Charter Commission of the City of Crookston from 1903 to the time of his death, having been appointed thereto by the Hon. William Watts at the formation of the present commission. He also served terms upon the Library Board and the Park Board of the City of Crookston,

He was a member of the Polk County Bar Association from its formation in 1894, and served as its Secretary, Vice-President and President. He was also a charter member of the Fourteenth Judicial District Bar Association and served as the Vice-President and President. He was also a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association. He took a keen interest in the workings of these various bar associations and all of them feel they have sustained a great loss in his passing.

He was possessed of a very keen legal intellect and his opinions on law were greatly valued by the bench and the bar alike. And he has left his mark upon the law of the land by the decisions he has wrung from the courts upon close questions of law.

On September 22, 1897, at Crookston, Minnesota, he was united in marriage with Margit Stenmoe and that union was blessed by seven children,—three girls and four boys, two of the girls passing away in infancy. He was a firm believer in the power of education and therefore furnished each of his children with a college education. He is survived by his wife, Margit; four sons, Sven A., an engineer of Providence, R. I.,

Norman C., Engineer, of Lancaster, Wisc., Clay E., a lawyer at Ada, Minnesota, and Fridtjof, a law school graduate, of Crookston; and one daughter, Margaret, a graduate of the University of Minnesota and Home Economics teacher, all of whom were with him at the end.

The Last Rites for Mr. Vaule were held at the Federated Lutheran Church of Crookston, Minnesota, at 2:30 o'clock P.M., August 9, 1938, at which a large assemblage of the citizens of Crookston and surrounding territory paid their last respects to an able lawyer, a model citizen and a loving husband and father.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Fourteenth Judicial District Bar Association.

By: WM. P. MURPHY (Signed)  
Wm. P. Murphy, Chairman.

M. J. HEGLAND  
M. J. Hegland

JOHN VIG  
John Vig

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Posted MLHP: March 11, 2010.