

MEMORIAL

FOR

OWEN MORRIS

(1858 – 1930)

RAMSEY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

April 14, 1930

To the Honorable,
The Judges of the District Court
in and for the County of Ramsey,
State of Minnesota.

MEMORIAL

for

OWEN MORRIS

April 14, 1930.

May it Please the Court:

The Bar Association of Ramsey County, has requested this Committee to formally announce to the Court the death of our associate, Owen Morris, who was summoned from this life on February Tenth, 1930, at his home in Saint Paul, and in connection therewith to present this brief Memorial.

Custom and propriety call for a few words in commemoration of his professional life.

Mr. Morris took high rank as a man of talent in the profession, which he honored and loved.

He was born in Anglesey, Wales, August 12th 1858. His parents came to the United States when he was eleven years, and settled at Cambria, Minnesota. As far as education and development are concerned he was strictly a Minnesota product, and a man of vigorous intellect.

In 1877 he entered Carleton College at Northfield, where he took high rank. The first prize in the State oratorical, contest was awarded him and he was selected as the Minnesota Speaker at the intercollegiate oratorical contest held in Indianapolis where he received the second prize.

Throughout his life his services were widely sought both as an orator and as a singer. On two occasions he spoke and sang before large assemblies of the Welch people in the land of his ancestors.

In 1883 he was elected to the State legislature from Blue Earth County. He was then studying law with that eminent lawyer, Gordon E. Cole. In 1886 he was admitted to the bar and began practice in Saint Paul. He became a partner with Mr. Cole, who had been Attorney General of the State, and with William E. Bramhall. Later he was in partnership with W. H. Williams. His wife survives him.

From 1889 to 1905 he was before our Supreme Court in twenty cases. In four of these cases he was successful in both courts. In thirteen he was successful in the Supreme Court. One tax case was certified by the District Court to the Supreme Court, as "of great public importance", and he won it.

He assisted the courts in establishing the law in railroad land grant cases, the rights of settlers on indemnity lands, the rights of lessors and lessees, the rights of mechanics lien claimants, and stock subscription rights.

His career at the bar was marked by untiring energy, and forceful and remarkable address. He was bold, but prudent. His professional character was at standard. His efforts for his clients and the courts were earnest and thorough.

Rarely does the life of an honorable and active lawyer enter into history. Generally he is known only by his contemporary associates.

The faithful discharge of duty, the confidence and admiration of clients are not distinguishing qualities to be perpetuated publicly. Nevertheless they are recalled and remembered by his professional brethren, and may well be considered and imitated by the younger members of the bar.

Respectfully Submitted

/s/ Morris Richardson

/s/ Edward Sanborn

/s/ W. H. Williams

/s/ Henry C. James

/s/ John W. Bradford

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Posted MLHP: July 8 , 2011.