

MEMORIAL

FOR

FRANK L. RANDALL

(September 30, 1856 - August 5, 1921)

**DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
WINONA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

Monday, September 19, 1921

MEMORIAL FOR FRANK L. RANDALL

In the recent death of Frank L. Randall the bar of the State of Minnesota lost one who was in the prime of life and was distinguished for his eminent service to the cause of humanity. A keen student of the science of penology, he dedicated many years of his active life to the welfare of those who had fallen into wrong ways and found themselves facing periods of penal servitude. For twelve years, since 1900, Mr. Randall was superintendent of the State reformatory at St. Cloud, and during that time he made a national reputation for himself because of his improved methods of administration of an institution of that character. In that position he came into personal contact with many unfortunate young men,— first offenders,— and was so able to deal with them as to aid them, renew their ambitions, and, on their release, send them back again into the activities of life determined to make amends for prior wrong doings and lead straight lives. Resigning from this responsible position in 1912, Mr. Randall accepted the chairmanship of the prison commission for the state at Massachusetts, which position offered him a wider field of endeavor in his chosen work and he was later made director of prisons for that Eastern commonwealth, when failing health forced him to retire. So successful was he in his work that the authorities of the state of Massachusetts withheld accepting his resignation with the hope that he might regain his health sufficiently to enable him to resume his position. This opportunity, however, was denied him. He spent sometime in the warmer climates of Jamaica, in the British West Indies, returning to the United States during the Summer months, but died in Minneapolis on the 5th day of August, 1921.

Mr. Randall was born under interesting circumstances, his parents being then living at Fort Ridgely, where his father, Major B. H. Randall, was there stationed, and was there, with his parents, when the Indian attack took place. He was born September 30th, 1856. In 1863, his parents removed to St. Peter Minnesota, where he was reared and educated, and, studying law, he was admitted to practice in 1879. He practiced first at Tracy, then at New Ulm, and for a while was associated with the Hon. John Lind. He moved to Winona in 1886, opening a law office in this city, and there continued in the general practice until he accepted the position at the St. Cloud reformatory. In 1892 he was elected county attorney and filled that position in a most credible manner for one term. Later, in 1898, he was appointed Referee in Bankruptcy serving for a short time, until March 29, 1900, when he resigned.¹

¹ See "Referees and Judges of the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota, 1898-2012" (MLHP, 2010)

In January, 1888, upon the rejuvenation of the Winona County Bar Association, Mt. Randall made application for membership, and upon its incorporation the following year (1889) he was an active member and continued to hold an active interest in the association until his removal from the County.

Mr. Randall was buried in the national cemetery, at Fort Ridgely. He is survived by his widow and three children, as well as by two brothers and two sisters. Among those surviving him, is his brother Richard A. Randall, an active member of the local bar, who is present secretary of the bar association, and has credibly filled the offices of county attorney and attorney for the city of Winona.

As an expression of our regard and esteem for the late Frank L. Randall, your committee respectfully presents this memorial, and asks that it be spread upon the records of this Court. □

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—ADDENDUM—

Randall was associated with John Lind from early 1881 through 1883. Lind's biographer George M. Stephenson quotes a letter from him to a Washington, D.C., lawyer soliciting business:

I am confident that though I may not be able to give you many cases myself hereafter I shall have plenty of opportunities to recommend you to paying clients and of course I shall take pleasure in doing so every opportunity I have. I think I shall like the office first rate and pecuniarily it will certainly be preferable to my law practice, though I have been doing very well in New Ulm. I have taken in a partner Mr. Frank L. Randall who in connection with my former clerk will continue my law practice at New Ulm. Firm name Lind and Randall.²

Lind and Randall was dissolved on January 1, 1884, and was succeeded by Lind and Hagberg.³

For his brother Richard Randall's bar memorial, see "Richard A. Randall (1863-1921)" (MLHP, 2013). ■

² Lind to C.A. Vedder, June 9, 1881, quoted in George M. Stephenson, *John Lind of Minnesota* 23-4 (Kennikat Press, 1971)(published first, 1935).

³ Id. at 24 n.18.