

M E M O R I A L

To

THOMAS MONROE STRICKLER

(1899 – 1930)

**Presented before the
DISTRICT COURT OF RAMSEY COUNTY ,
SATURDAY, April 4, 1931.**

On behalf of the Ramsey County Bar Association, this memorial to THOMAS M. STRICKLER is hereby respectfully submitted.

Thomas Monroe Strickler was born in Springfield, West Virginia, December 15th, 1899, the son of Harrison Monroe Strickler and his wife, formerly Margaret Anne Thomas, of Baltimore.

In the year 1700, two Strickler brothers, one of whom was a direct ancestor of Thomas M. Strickler, were the first white settlers in the Valley of Virginia, and the Stricklers have lived in this Valley since that time. The old Strickler homestead, with its thick masonry walls and vaulted basement rooms, is located overlooking the Shenandoah River, north of Luray, Virginia.

Mr. Strickler's father was a captain in the Confederate Army, and after the close of the Civil war became a traveling Methodist preacher, one of the old circuit riders of Virginia.

Thomas M. Strickler was the youngest of five brothers and sisters. He was born while his mother was accompanying his father in making the rounds of the circuit of churches where his father preached.

Mr. Strickler's early education was obtained at the Randolph Macon Academy, at Front Royal, Virginia, but before completing his studies at this school, he heard the call to serve his country during the World War. In April, 1917, at the age of seventeen, he left Randolph Macon to enlist in the United States Navy, and was sent to Harvard to receive training as a radio operator. After completing his training at Harvard, he served on transport duty with the Navy, making several trips across the Atlantic in this service. The last nine months of the war he spent at the Arlington radio station of the United States Navy, in Washington, D. C.

After the war he came to Saint Paul, where two of his brothers were living, and attended the University High School, completing his high school education which had been

interrupted by the war. After graduating from high school he worked in a bank during the day time and attended the Saint Paul College of Law at night.

After completing one year of his law school course, he was married, to Maude Hurtubis, of Saint Paul, in the summer of 1921. They had two children, Leonard, who is now nine years of age, and Marilee, who is seven.

The fall following his marriage he transferred his night studies to the Minnesota College of Law. In 1923 he was graduated from law school, and, after successfully passing the Bar examination, was admitted to practice. He practiced law in Saint Paul from 1923 until 1928.

In 1923 he enlisted in the 109th Air Squadron, Minnesota National Guard. After serving one year in this organization, he was commissioned, and in December, 1925, was sent to Brooks Field, Texas, for flight training. After completing his flight training, Lieutenant Strickler returned to the practice of law in Saint Paul.

Ho was acclaimed by his fellow officers a natural flier, and loved to fly, spending most of his spare time in the air. He was enthusiastic about the future of aviation and the opportunities for development presented by this new means of transportation.

In 1928 he was offered the position of vice-president and manager of International Airways, having headquarters at Minot, N. D., and gave up the practice of law here to accept that position. He was with the International Airways for one year, and thereafter joined the Schlee-Brock Company when that company contemplated opening an air line between Saint Paul and Winnipeg. While with the Schlee-Brock Co. he made many extended trips throughout the U. S. and thereafter accepted a position with the Mamer Air Transport Company, flying between Saint Paul and Miles City, Montana. It was while flying from Saint Paul to Miles City, October 10th, 1930, that Mr. Stricker was killed, when he was caught in a treacherous fog over mountainous country, which made a safe landing impossible, thus giving his life to pioneering

America's transcontinental airlines, over the Rockies, just as his ancestors had given theirs to the establishment of the once new country east of the Alleghenies.

Respectfully submitted:

**MELVIN J. MAAS,
JOSEPH JOYCE,
FRANK DRILL,
THOMAS D. LANE,
Chairman.**

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Posted MLHP: February 20, 2011.