

MEMORIAL

JOHN J. TRIPPE

(May 6, 1868 - February 28, 1906)

**Winona County District Court
Third Judicial District
Winona, Minnesota**

Winona County Bar Association

February 1, 1907

JOHN J. TRIPPE

(1868 - 1906)

John J. Trippe, a stenographer who had “the reputation of being the fastest typist and one of the most reliable” in the city of Winona, was elected to a four year term as Clerk of the District Court of Winona County in 1898 and re-elected in 1902. He died of diabetes ten months before completing his second term. On Thursday, March 1, 1906, the *Republican-Herald* carried his obituary:

MOURNED BY MANY

**Clerk of Court, J. J. Trippe Passed A-
Way Suddenly Wednesday
Evening**

ILL FOR ONLY BRIEF PERIOD

**He Was Well Known Throughout the
County and Highly Esteemed by
All - Leaves a Wife and Two
Small Children**

John J. Trippe, the genial and popular clerk of the District court, all of whose acquaintances were his friends, died at 7 o'clock on Wednesday evening from diabetes. While Mr. Trippe had been suffering since shortly before Lincoln's birthday with a running sore on his head, still it was not supposed the trouble was anything more than would yield to the skilled treatment he was receiving. While not attempting to perform the regular duties during this period Mr. Trippe visited his office everyday up to last Saturday, and as late as Tuesday evening gave directions to his deputy, H. W. Arndt, concerning the conduct of matters in the office.

About 4 o'clock Wednesday morning he was taken worse and lapsed into unconsciousness which ended in death, Wednesday evening. A consultation of physicians was held yesterday when it was decided the trouble was an acute development of diabetes with which he was first attacked a year and a half ago. The running sore was simply one manifestation of the disease and of itself not dangerous.

John J. Trippe was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Trippe. He was born in Winona on May 6, 1868, and spent his entire life here with the exception of a brief period when he attended business college in Milwaukee. He attended the St. Joseph's parochial schools and the Winona public schools and after leaving these institutions of learning he worked for a time for Rheinberger Brothers, when they were in the dry goods business on Center street in the store building now occupied by Max Conrad. Leaving there he entered the law offices of Judge Thomas Wilson, and after being there for a time went to Milwaukee, where he took a thoro course in shorthand and typewriting and general business methods. On returning he resumed his work for Judge Wilson in his offices, and was with Mr. Wilson and Lloyd Bowers until they left the city, and after that with Brown & Abbott. While in this position he enjoyed the reputation of being the fastest typist and one of the most reliable in the city. In the fall of 1898 Mr. Trippe received the Democratic nomination for Clerk of the District court and at the election in November of that year was chosen to that office by a large majority. In 1902 he was renominated and re-elected, and had he lived until the first of next year he would have completed his second four year term.

As clerk of the court, in which position he was best known to the public, Mr. Trippe made an enviable record. Uniformly courteous and obliging and ever ready to assist those having business with the office to the extent of his ability he was esteemed by all who had transactions there. Several reforms were contemplated

during his conduct of the office, one of the most important of which was the opening of a marriage license book, in which all persons making application for marriage license were compiled to sign a sworn statement that they were not violating any of the provisions of the law regards to marriage licenses, which were set forth in detail above the signature. At court sessions he was quick and correct and the discharge of all duties connected with the office was marked by zeal and ability.

Mr. Trippe was a member of several secret orders. He was one of the most active members of the Winona Elks and had a great deal to do with arranging for the annual Lodge of Sorrow of that order last December. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Red Men and the Old Settlers' association. He was also a member of the Pastime band. He belonged to the St. Joseph's Catholic church of this city and was faithful in the discharge of church duties.

On February 5, 1896, Miss Augusta Miller, daughter of the late Charles Miller, became his wife and he is survived by his wife and two small daughters, Gertrude and Holm. His loss is also mourned by his aged parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Trippe, and a brother, Gustave Trippe, and relatives in Detroit and Mount Clemens, Mich., and Niagara Falls, N. Y.¹

A year later, the Winona County Bar Association presented the following memorial to him:

Winona, Minn., Feb'y 1st, 1907

To the Honorable Arthur H. Snow, Judge of the District Court of Winona County:-

¹ *Winona Daily Republican Herald*, Thursday, March 1, 1906, at 8 (funeral arrangements and small photo omitted).

The Committee representing the Winona County Bar Association, heretofore appointed to prepare and present to this Court a Memorial on the recent death of John J. Trippe, late Clerk of this Court, makes the following report:-

MEMORIAL

February 28th, 1906, after a few days illness, John J. Trippe, Clerk of the District Court for Winona County, died at his home in this City.

He was a native and life long resident of the City in which he died.

Born May 6th, 1868, he received education and training in the schools of Winona, and early in life began the upbuilding of the high character possessed by him at his death. Inheriting the sturdy honest and simplicity of his parents, he developed a broad, whole-souled, jovial nature, that won the companionship and love of all who knew him.

Quick, alert and painstaking in his business relations, he won the esteem and confidence of his early employers, and when, in the fall of 1898 he was drafted as a candidate of the Democratic Party for the office of Clerk of this Court, his fitness, popularity and high character united in causing his election by a very large majority.

At the expiration of his first term in 1902 he was unanimously re-elected by the people of the County and was in the active discharge of his official duties when claimed by death.

As Clerk he was faithful, accurate, honest and efficient and seemed to have peculiar aptness for the duties of that position.

Generous, large hearted and manly his death came as a crushing blow to wife and children and the community at large.

The Committee moves this Court that an order be made entering at large upon the minutes of the Court this Memorial to a faithful officer.

/s/ W. D. Abbott
/s/ Henry M. Lamberton
/s/ H. S. Booth

Committee

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