

IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD BLAKE YOUNG

(January 14, 1864 - May 25, 1927)

RAMSEY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

**DISTRICT COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA**

APRIL 7, 1928

EDWARD BLAKE YOUNG

(January 14, 1864 - May 25, 1927)

After graduating Harvard University in 1885, Edward Young headed West, to St. Paul, Minnesota, to study law under his uncle, George Brooks Young, former Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, and a partner in Young & Lightner, a prominent firm in the city and state.¹ He was admitted to the bar in 1887, and became a member of the firm five years later.² After Judge Young's death on December 30, 1906, the firm was reconstituted as Lightner & Young.³ Albert Marquis's *The Book of Minnesotans*, published the next year, has the following entry on him:

YOUNG, Edward B., lawyer; born at Newton, Mass., Jan. 14, 1864; son of Rev. Edward J. and Mary Clapp (Blake) Young; educated in public schools of Cambridge, Mass., and Harvard University, graduating degree of A. B., 1885; unmarried. Came to St. Paul, Minn., 1885. Began the practice of law, 1887; member of the firm of Young & Lightner. Member of the American Bar Association, Minnesota Historical Society. Clubs: Minnesota, Town and Country, Minnesota Boat. Recreation: Golf. Office: Gilfillan Blk. Residence: 324 Summit Av., St. Paul. ⁴

He never sought or held public office, preferring to participate in the life of the city through associations, clubs and volunteer work. The importance of the many professional and social organizations he belonged to cannot be underestimated. During his lifetime, many of

¹ For his Memorial at the Supreme Court see "George B. Young" in *Testimony: Remembering Minnesota's Supreme Court Justices* 83-88 (Minn. Sup. Ct. Hist. Soc., 2008).

² For the Memorial by the Ramsey County Bar Association of another lawyer who practiced with the firm at this time, see "Wade Hampton Yardley (1861-1934)" (MLHP, 2011).

³ For William H. Lightner's recollections of this era, see "Dedication of the St. Paul City Hall-Ramsey County Courthouse (November-December 1930)" 12-15 (MLHP, 2012).

⁴ Albert N. Marquis, ed., *The Book of Minnesotans: A Biographical Dictionary of Leading Men of the State of Minnesota* 570 (1907).

the important figures of St. Paul—bankers, businessmen, politicians, lawyers, religious leaders, educators and others—belonged to the same clubs and organizations, where they met, discussed and planned ways to meet its needs. This was the milieu where he served the community, where he was known as a “civic worker.”

He died on Wednesday, May 25, 1927, at age sixty-three.⁵ On Friday, the *St. Paul Daily News* reported the funeral:

**Funeral Services Are Held for
Edward Blake Young, Leading
St. Paul Attorney, Civic Worker**

Funeral rites for one of St. Paul's leading citizens, Edward Blake Young, were held at 2 p.m. today from the Young home, 324 Summit ave.

Mr. Young died of heart disease following a ten-day illness, Wednesday at his home.

....

WAS LEADING ATTORNEY.

Honorary pall bearers were Judge T. D. O'Brien, Judge John B. Sanborn, W. H. Lightner, C. P. Brown, E. H. Hailey, Charles Spencer, C. C. Rank, E. A. Horn and E. H. Cutler. Active pall bearers were Homer P. Clark, W. H. Yardley, C. W. Scott, E. P. Davis, Holyoke Davis and W. H. Fobes.

Mr. Young, who was one of the leading attorneys in the city, was also active in many civic and philanthropic activities. He was born in Newton, Mass., Jan. 14, 1864, the son of Dr. Edward J. Young and Mary Clapp Blake Young. Dr. Young was professor of Hebrew and other oriental languages at Harvard college. He attended Har-

⁵ The evening *Pioneer Press* carried a brief story the next day under the headline “Edward B. Young, Lawyer Here, Dies.” *Pioneer Press*, May 26, 1927, at 7.

vard, where he made the Hasty Pudding society and was graduated in 1885, coming to St. Paul, where he entered the law firm of his uncle, Judge George B. Young. He joined the Minnesota bar Oct. 14, 1887, and later was a member of the law firm of Lightner & Young, of which he was a member at the time of his death.

IN MANY ORGANIZATIONS.

He was a member of the Town and Country, White Bear and Minnesota clubs, a member of the board of United Charities, the charities and donations committee of the St. Paul Association, director of the St. Paul Institute, for eight years was chairman of the art section of the Institute, vice-president of the Minnesota State Historical Society, trustee of Unity church, superintendent of the Sunday school of that church and director in the Boy Scout organization and actively interested in scout troupe No. 75. For 12 years he was register and later historian of the Society of Colonial Wars, president of the Harvard club of Minnesota and for 12 years was chairman of the Harvard scholarship fund, having inaugurated this phase of the club activities in which 16 Minnesota boys were personally helped through Harvard.

The state historical building was closed today from 2 to 5 p. m. during the service in tribute to Mr. Young.⁶

On April 7, 1928, the Ramsey County Bar Association presented a memorial to him in district court. It was written by his law partner, William H. Lightner, and signed by the leaders of the bar:

To the Honorable Judges of the District Court
of Ramsey County, Minnesota:

Edward Blake Young died at his home, 324 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota, on May 25, 1927, after a brief illness. He had apparently been in good health until

⁶ *St. Paul Daily News*, May 27, 1927, at 13 (account of funeral service omitted).

shortly before his death, when he developed heart trouble from which he did not rally.

Mr. Young was born on January 14, 1864, at Newton, Massachusetts. He was the son of Edward James Young, Professor of Oriental languages and president of the Divinity School of Harvard, and of Mary Clapp (Blake) Young, of Worcester, Massachusetts. He entered Harvard University, from which he graduated in 1885, Magna Cum Laude. He was a member of the Hasty Pudding Club.

After graduation he came to St. Paul, Minnesota in 1885 and studied law at the office of Young & Lightner, of which his uncle, the late George B. Young, who was one of the leaders of the bar, was the senior member. He was admitted to the bar of Minnesota on October 14, 1887 and on January 1, 1892 became the junior member of the firm of Young & Lightner. Upon the death of his uncle, Judge George B. Young, he entered into partnership on December 30, 1906 with W. H. Lightner under the firm name of Lightner & Young, which continued the practice of law at St. Paul until his death.

On August 31, 1909 Mr. Young married Miss Violet Lee Dousman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hercules L. Dousman, Jr., a name prominently associated with the early days of Minnesota. They had one child, Mary Blake Young, at present a student at Smith College, who, with her mother, survives him.

Mr. Young was a firm believer in the value of physical exercise, was an enthusiastic member of the Minnesota Boat Club, continued active in bicycling until long after his friends had lost interest therein, and until the time of his death enjoyed some form of exercise,

He was a student of history, particularly of genealogical subjects, was vice president of the Minnesota Historical

Society, and was for many years historian and registrar of the Society of Colonial Wars. He was a student of and quite proficient in the French language.

During the World War Mr. Young performed guard duty as a special deputy sheriff during a strike on the Twin City Street Railway, having charge of the East Broadway Car depot. He was a member of the Civilians Guard from December 1917 until it was mustered into the Minnesota Home Guard in 1918, and continued in the Home Guard until it was mustered into the National Guard. He was very active in all Liberty Loan and Red Cross drives and was associate member of the Legal Advisory Board for his district during the selective draft.

Probably nothing Mr. Young did in his life gave him more satisfaction, or better exhibited the fine traits of his character, than his work in the Harvard Club of Minnesota. He was a member of its Council and vice president at the time of his death, for twelve years he was chairman of the Scholarship Committee and by his untiring efforts he was able to raise the work of the Club from sporadic scholarships, awarded now and then, to a permanent institution. This year three scholarships were awarded. They are open to all Minnesota boys and all of the many boys sent during these twelve years without exception have made fine records while at college, and later, in whatever line of business or profession they had undertaken. Mr. Young followed each boy in his career with loving interest and encouragement, and their un-failing merit gave him great satisfaction. He was deeply interested in Boy Scouts and particularly so in Troupe #93, and was a great inspiration and help in their affairs,

Mr. Young never sought, nor accepted public office, but for the protection of his country and belief of the suffering and needy he was always ready to furnish his services. He was a member of the Minnesota Tyler

Tornado Relief Commission, director of the United Charities for the Relief of the Poor, member of the Charities and Donations Division of the St. Paul Association, trustee of the St. Paul Institute, director of the Ramsey County Bar Association, and member at the Minnesota, Town & Country and White Bear Yacht clubs.

He was a faithful and dedicated member of Unity Church of St. Paul, of which he was a trustee and superintendent of the Sunday School.

This brief review of his life's activities gives a good insight into his character. He was untiring in labors for others, whether for his own family and friends or his fellow citizens. He never complained and did not criticize others. It may safely be said that he had no enemies. He was an able lawyer and a sound and safe counsellor, and to his profession he brought the highest attributes of honesty and integrity. Mr. Young was modest and retiring, but the key-note of his character was loyalty and service and no worthy cause ever sought his aid in vain.

Gifted with unswerving integrity, with a strong feeling of his responsibilities to his country, to his church, to his friends, and above all to his family, and with a most kindly disposition for all his fellowmen, he led a model life and has left a lasting record of the life of a good citizen, a good friend and a good father. His character is best described by a life-long friend, who said of him, "He seems to me the soul of loyalty to family, friends, to his associates, his profession, his university, and to every interest committed to his charge. This is one of the finest qualities that a man can show and Mr. Young personified it." In his home, his church, and among his everyday associates, was his sterling character best understood, admired and loved. He was the finest type of all that is embodied in the term of a Christian gentleman.

Respectfully submitted,

April 7, 1928.

J. E. Boyers

W. J. Bailey

Edward V. Struzycki

John A. Burns

George W. Morgan

W. H. Ingersoll

Edward K. Hubbard

Ralph A. Stone

Charles W. Terwilliger

B. W. Scandrett

H. F. Lyons

W. H. Lightner

Chairman

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