

MEMORIAL

FOR

GEORGE W. KIEFER
(1891 – 1943)

**WINONA COUNTY
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

WINONA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

September 23, 1943

Memorial for GEORGE W. KIEFER.

To the Honorable District Court of Winona County, Minnesota:

The County of Winona, State of Minnesota, has recently lost by the death of George Kiefer a citizen, and the Bar, a member who has rendered faithful services to his many clients. The Winona County Bar has thought it proper that there be recorded here in this Court a memorial in recognition of the services rendered to the community by our departed member.

George W. Kiefer was born in St. Charles, Minnesota, on October 9th, 1891. He spent his boyhood there, and was graduated from the St. Charles High School, after which he attended St. Thomas College, St. Paul, Minnesota. He then enrolled in the St. Paul College of Law, from which institution he was graduated in June, 1916, and admitted to the Bar that year. Mr. Kiefer made his living and paid his college expenses by following the trade of barbering, which trade had been practiced by his father and was taught to his son as a youth.

In 1916 he began the practice of law at Lewiston in this County, but shortly thereafter, and in 1917 he answered the call of his country to the colors and enlisted in the United States Army as a Private. Later earning the ranks of Corporal and Sergeant, he was selected as an officer candidate, and entered Third Officers Training Camp at Camp Dodge, Des Moines, Iowa, in January, 1918, and from which he was graduated with a commission of Second Lieutenant, Infantry, in April, 1918.

On April 23rd, 1918, he married Nancy Flanagan of Lewiston, to which union there were born five children, three sons, George, now serving in the armed forces, John and Peter, and two daughters, Margaret and Marie, who with his wife survive him.

Upon being honorably discharged from the army in the Spring of 1919 he returned to Winona County, where for three years he operated a farm in Fremont Township. In 1921 he again established a law office in

Lewiston, and remained in the active practice from that time until his death on July 25th, 1943. While in Lewiston, he served as its Postmaster for fourteen years, and in 1936 was elected a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives from rural Winona County, in which office he continued to serve, and which he held at the time of his death. In the Legislature he served as Chairman of the Temperance and Liquor Control Committee, and as a member of the Agriculture and Horticulture, Judiciary, Transportation, and Towns and Counties Committees, and was a member of the Interim Committee which conducted a study of the game and fish laws of the State. He was active in agricultural matters in the Legislature and sponsored the soil conservation and erosion legislation, under which the district plan of soil conservation and erosion prevention was set up in Southeastern Minnesota. He was highly regarded and well thought of by his colleagues in the Minnesota State Legislature. They knew the dependability of his recommendations and many members sought his counsel and advice; and he was there regarded as a leader in legislative activities.

He was a member of the American Legion and the St. Rose of Lima Church of Lewiston, in the cemetery of which he was buried on July 27th, 1943.

George W. Kiefer was always a companionable, lovable person, and had a magnetic personality, a quick mind, strong will-power and an exceptionally keen sense of humor. He was loyal, and faithful to every trust. He learned and knew the story of the poor, and did all in his power to alleviate those conditions. He advised and counseled with patience and good judgment, whether compensation would follow or not. He tendered invaluable services to this community, and his loss will be felt for many years by the citizens of Winona County, particularly those citizens of the rural district.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ M. J. Galvin _____

/s/ - - - - - _____

/s/ Leo F. Murphy _____

Memorial Committee

• E •