

Crescent Lodge 207, A.F. and A.M. of Staples, Orchid Chapter O.E.S. of Staples, Wadena Chapter of Royal Masons, Wadena Commandry of Knights Templar, Scottish Rite Bodies of St. Paul, Zurah Temple of Shrine of Minneapolis, Royal League, and the Knights of Pythias. He was also a director of the Minnesota Federal Savings and Loan Association of St. Paul, Minn.

Friends of Mr. Gardner were shocked on December 4th, 1953, when they learned that he had passed away in St. Paul having gone to the city only a few days prior and apparently in good health. He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Frank Ederington (Sadie) of Brookville, Florida.

May his memory live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

The following tribute from former Senator Harry L. Bridgeman:

Richard Nelson Gardner was born in Massachusetts, not far from Boston; "the home of the Bean and the God where the Lowells talk to Cabots, and the Cabots talk only to God."

His birth occurred in the year of 1881. While still a young boy he moved with his parents to St. Cloud, Minn., where he received his preliminary schooling. After completion of his education and his admittance to the Bar he became a resident of Staples, Minn. and represented the Fifty-first District in the Minnesota State Senate for many years. He finally resigned from the Senate in the year 1943 to accept appointment as, Referee in Bankruptcy. In this, as well as in all other positions he served with effectiveness and honest attention to duty.

It was my privilege to have known Dick as a legislator and as a private citizen. As a legislator he served his District and State with honor and distinction. His advice and counsel was sought by many and was freely given. He seldom entered debate, but when he did, he spoke with force and conviction.

As a man his friends were legion. He was very cosmopolitan and was admired and respected by everyone who came in contact with him. He enjoyed associating with his friends. As a bachelor, he usually had an apartment where he entertained a few of his particular friends with his famous beef stews.

While he and I did not belong to the same political party, our political philosophy did not vary much. Because of his wit and brilliant mind he was much in demand as a toastmaster at social and business gatherings.

I certainly cannot find words to do justice to this lovable man. Lovable is a correct definition. To know him was to love him. He had an unimpeachable character. He was truly a great American and contributed immensely to the benefit of mankind. He had an abiding faith in a Supreme Being. In his later years he contributed liberally to his church. His passing left a void in the community in which he was a vital part, and took from me a very dear friend.

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Stearns, Mr. Harren, who offered the following tribute and addressed the Senate as follows:

Mr. President, Members of the Senate, and Honored Guests:

The name of the man in whose honor I rise today is well known to nearly every member of the State Senate. Instances of a son following the footsteps of his father to halls of the Capitol are not a rare occurrence; neither are they commonplace events.

Ignatius Lemm served the 46th Legislative District from 1927 to 1931. His son, Homer F. Lemm, served the district in the 1951 and 1953 sessions.

The senior Mr. Lemm was born in Stearns County in 1888. He attended schools in that county, and in 1910 was graduated from the St. Cloud State Teachers College. He followed this schooling with a year at Valparaiso University in Indiana.

Following his return from the University he taught schools in Wright, Stearns, and Morrison Counties. For a period of three years he entered private business. But the love of serving the people was too great and he returned to public service by entering the State Senate.

After his term in the Senate, he returned to the City of Melrose to become clerk of the Water and Power Commission, as well as City Clerk. As Clerk, he was a central figure in the development of two industries in the city that are closely related to the agricultural economy of the area. He served the people of that city in these positions until his untimely death in June, 1954.

He served as Justice for the city for 21 years. He was a leader in the movement that brought electrical power to farmers of Stearns County in the '30's. During World War II he showed his patriotism and love of America by becoming a leader in the county and city War Bond Drives and assisting in other civilian projects during that period of strife.

Mr. Lemm had an ardent interest in amateur baseball in Minnesota. He played the game well, managed several clubs in the area, and when the necessity arose became an umpire for leagues in central Minnesota.

His interest in state and national politics did not lessen after his term as a Senator. He continued to work actively for his party, and for a number of years served as Stearns County chairman of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor party.

The residents of the city which he had served for so many years paid him special tribute, and I would like to read from a resolution passed by their council shortly after his death:

"The unselfish and genial character of Ignatius Lemm, together with his imagination and intelligence have to a great extent contributed to the development and character of this community and area.

"We do fully appreciate the sterling character, the public spirit and benevolent attitude of Ignatius Lemm at all times during his lifetime, and being fully conscious of his accomplishments and goodness, dedicate to his memory, our continuing efforts for the betterment and progress of our community."