

In Memoriam

Edmund Rice Hollinshead

February 4, 1855 - March 15, 1883

**Ramsey County Bar Association
District Court
St. Paul, Minnesota**

May 5, 1883

Preface

Edmund Rice Hollinshead was five years old when his father, William M. Hollinshead, a prominent lawyer during Minnesota's territorial period, died on Christmas Day 1860, age forty.¹ He followed his father into the law and, similarly, into an early grave.

Successor to Morris Lamprey's Law Practice

Morris Lamprey, a member of the New Hampshire bar, arrived in Minnesota Territory in 1855.² As the bar was small, he surely knew William Hollinshead, and probably faced him in court. By 1870s, Lamprey was a very successful lawyer and businessman. In the mid-1870s, Edmund Hollinshead read law in Lamprey's office and after being admitted to the bar on March 5, 1878, became his associate to help handle his large caseload.³ This arrangement lasted until April 9, 1879, when Lamprey died of diphtheria. Much of Lamprey's lucrative law practice fell into Hollinshead's hands. The *St. Paul Daily Globe* reported the succession:

Mr. Edmund Hollinshead succeeds the late Morris Lamprey in his law business, and occupies the same chambers in Ingersoll's block, so long and familiarly known to the clients of Mr. Lamprey. Mr. Hollins-

¹ For a biographical sketch, see "William M. Hollinshead (1820-1860)" (MLHP, 2018).

² For a biographical sketch, see "Morris Lamprey (1827-1879)" (MLHP, 2018).

³ He was given an oral examination on March 3, 1878, by lawyers Otis, Cornish and Sanborn, who were appointed by Judge Wilkin. *St. Paul Daily Globe*, March 3, 1878, at 1. Two days later, the *Globe* reported, "Edmund R. Hollinshead was admitted, in open court, to practice in all the courts of the State." March 5, 1878, at 4. On January 13, 1881, he was admitted to practice before the U. S. Supreme Court. *Daily Globe*, January 18, 1881, at 1.

head is the son of the late William Hollinshead, one of the pioneers of the State, and esteemed as one of the best citizens and the ablest lawyer of his day in this section. Edmund was born and raised in St. Paul, and enters upon his legal career with the highest and strongest endorsement of his many friends. Having been for many years connected with Mr. Lamprey as student and assistant, he is eminently qualified to fill the position he now occupies. Prompt in action, active and energetic, a most excellent advisor, and a careful business man, he is well fitted for the responsible station he assumes. We predict for him a brilliant career in his profession.⁴

On His Own

Hollinshead was twenty-four years old at the time and had practiced less than a year. But he was seen as having a promising future in the profession. Thomas M. Newson later recalled that he was "a small man with red hair, social in his nature and a lawyer of a good deal of ability, and had many admirable qualities."⁵ As a nephew of Henry and Edmund Rice, he was active in the Democratic party and served as Chairman of Democratic City Committee.⁶

In July 1881, he hired Frederick Nelson as an associate, and the new firm was announced in the *Globe*.⁷

⁴ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, April 24, 1879, at 4.

⁵ Thomas McLean Newson, *Pen Pictures of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Biographical Sketches of Old Settlers: From the Earliest Settlement of the City, Up to and Including the Year, 1857* 524-525 (1886). Newson misstated the date of Hollinshead's admission to the Minnesota bar as 1877. It was 1878.

⁶ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, April 23, 1881, at 1.

⁷ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, July 8, 1881, at 1.

Edmund R. Hollinshead, of this city, has associated with him as an assistant in his office, Mr. Fred. Nelson, a young man well known in this city. Mr. Nelson is a native of Sweden, and comes here highly recommended. Mr. Nelson will assist Mr. Hollinshead in his increasing law business.

By the 1880s, lawyers no longer placed their business cards in metropolitan dailies, unlike those practicing in smaller towns and cities where the practice continued until the early 1900s. But weekly ethnic newspapers were different. And so the firm ran this ad in the *Minnesota Stats Tidning*, a Minneapolis German-language newspaper in late 1881:⁸

Advokater
E. B. HOLLINSHEAD
och
FRED, NELSON
Utföra rättegångar vid alla domstolar i Sta-
ten Minnesota. Referenser: Corbin Banking
Co., New York Second National Bank, St.
Paul Dawson & Co. Bankers, St. Paul.
Office: Cor. 3rd and Wabasha.
St. Paul, Minn.

Taking advantage of Nelson's Scandinavian origins, they also placed the ad in the *Skaffaren*, a Swedish language newspaper published in Red Wing:⁹

⁸ *Minnesota Stats Tidning* (Minneapolis), September 1, 1881, at 3 (enlarged).

⁹ *Skaffaren* (Red Wing) November 3, 1881, at 8 (enlarged); the same ad was published on January 18, 1882, at 6.

<p style="text-align: center;">ADVOKATER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E. R. HOLLINSHEAD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">och</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FRED. NELSON</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Utföra rättegångar vid alla domstolar i staten Minnesota. Referenser: Corbin Banking Co., New York; Second National Bank, St. Paul; Dawson & Co., Bankers, St. Paul.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Office: Cor. 3:rd & Wabasha Sts., St. Paul, Minn.</p>
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Their association was short-lived, the fate of many law firms then and now. It is not mentioned in articles in the *Daily Globe* about Hollinshead's many appearances in criminal and civil cases, nor in his obituary.¹⁰

Last Illness.

On September 14, 1881, an item appeared in the *Globe* that may have been the first public notice of the poor state of Hollinshead's health:

E. R. Hollinshead, Esq., who has been spending a few weeks at Detroit Lake, has been quite ill while there, but his many St. Paul friends will be pleased to learn that he is improving and will be able to return home in a short time.¹¹

¹⁰ At first glance the *Globe* seems especially attentive to Hollinshead's court appearances but this is deceiving as it covered all courts very closely. Proceedings in state and federal courts were interesting, entertaining and easily reported.

¹¹ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, September 14, 1881, at 4.

He suffered from tuberculosis, a disease easily detected at the time but not treatable. He never married but a friend, Deputy Sheriff Marion Harrison, closely monitored his health and his observations made their way into the press. In early 1883, his health was in such rapid decline that he sought relief in the drier climate of the Southwest. Receiving an alarming telegram in early March, Harrison visited his friend in New Orleans and sent the following dispatch to the *Globe*:

The Condition of Mr. E. R. Hollinshead

Deputy sheriff Harrison returned yesterday from New Orleans, accompanied by Mr. James Goodhue. Mr. Harrison left St. Paul about two weeks ago in response to a telegram from New Orleans announcing the serious illness of Mr. E. R. Hollinshead. Upon arriving in that city the condition of the latter gentleman was found to be not half so serious as was feared, and with good nursing and attention he was soon put on the way to recovery.

Mr. Harrison left New Orleans last Monday, the condition of Mr. Hollinshead at that time being considered quite cheerful. He is in the best of hands, his welfare being looked after by Mr. D. A. McDonough, chief of the mayor's staff of New Orleans, and a well-known gentleman to northern tourists. It is the intention of Mr. Hollinshead to proceed from New Orleans to San Antonio and New Mexico.

En route home Mr. Harrison met with quite an adventure on the Illinois Central Railroad. Below Cairo, a passenger on the sleeping coach named David Doll, of Chicago, had a gold watch and chain

stolen from his berth. This affair was reported and in a short time Mr. Harrison recovered the watch from the person of the Chicago crook, named Hahn.¹²

Four days later Harrison received good news, again reported in the *Globe*:

Deputy Sheriff Harrison received a letter yesterday from Mr. E. R. Hollinshead, dated from New Orleans, in which he states that his health is very much improved.¹³

But his optimism was premature. He died on March 15, 1883, in San Antonio, Texas, at age twenty-eight. His death was reported in the *Globe* two days later, commencing with lines from Sir Walter Scott's *The Lady in the Lake*.¹⁴

E. R. HOLLINSHEAD.

**Death of this Highly Esteemed Young
Man in Texas.**

**The hand of the Reaper
Takes the ears that are hoary,
But the voice of the weeper
Wails manhood in glory.**

¹² *St. Paul Daily Globe*, March 2, 1883, at 12.

¹³ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, March 6, 1883, at 8.

¹⁴ "Coronach" in *The Lady of the Lake* (Canto 3) by Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832), published in 1810.

In the death of Mr. Edmund R. Hollinshead, the lines of the poet seem particularly applicable. In the far distant city of San Antonio, whither he had journeyed in hopes of gaining renewed strength from the inroads of that dread disease, consumption, at the early age of twenty-nine years (sic), he died last Thursday forenoon.

The news of his untimely death was first received early yesterday morning by Deputy Sheriff Marion Harrison, who had left his devoted friend in New Orleans about three weeks ago, under circumstances that pointed to his recovery. Mr. Hollinshead left New Orleans nearly three weeks ago for San Antonio, Texas, where he met Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Haines of St. Paul, who were present at his death, and who telegraphed the sad news to this city.

Telegrams were received by Mr. Harrison on the 12th, 13th and 14th inst., and the latter sent a mutual friend to look after his welfare. Dr. Snyder, who had attended Mr. Hollinshead during the winter, left for New Orleans about two weeks ago to see his patient and returned only yesterday morning. It seems, however, that the case was beyond all human control, death intervening as before stated.

The deceased has been a sufferer for over a year, the malady not assuming dangerous proportions until a few months ago when it became apparent that a change of climate would be agreeable, and for the purpose of recuperating and avoiding the

raw weather attending the spring break up, he left for the South about two months ago. Most of the time he has been in New Orleans where he has had the best of attention.

In the death of Mr. Hollinshead the St. Paul bar loses one of its brightest ornaments. He was a lawyer of more than ordinary ability and his life already bore evidences of great promise. His death will be lamented on every side as a calamity. To strong intellectual capacity he joined a cordial and agreeable nature which endeared him to a wide circle of friends. Although young in years he was accounted a lawyer of unusual ability. He first entered the office of the late Morris Lamprey, and after being admitted to the bar he commenced practice for himself, acquiring a large share of Mr. Lamprey's business at the time of the latter's death. He was the son of the late Wm. Hollinshead, of lamented memory, and the nephew of mayor and Hon. H. M. Rice. He leaves a mother and two sisters residing in this city to mourn his death. The remains will be brought to St. Paul for interment.¹⁵

Ten days later the *Globe* published an account of his funeral:

THE LATE E. R. HOLLINSHEAD.

**The Funeral Obsequies Yesterday—
Beautiful Floral Tribute.**

¹⁵ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, March 17, 1883, at 2.

The funeral of the late Mr. Edmund R. Hollinshead took place at 10 a. m. yesterday at the residence of Mrs. Hatch, 155 Pleasant avenue. The remains of deceased rested in a rich and handsome casket, the cover of which was almost completely covered with flowers, some of the offerings being especially rich and appropriate and handsome in design. One, a head rest, nearly two feet in length by a foot in width, of closely interwoven white flowers, with the initials of deceased, "E. R. H.," in the center in colors, was especially noticeable. Another was the motto "Rest," artistically executed of white flowers with a delicate tracing of color. Then there were two anchors, a cross, casket, and other happy conceptions, all silently, but most touchingly portraying the deep regret so universally felt by the community in which deceased had grown up, and among whom he had made so bright a name in his chosen profession.

The bar of the city were very generally present, as well as a large number of personal friends. Rev. Mahlon N. Gilbert, of Christ church, Episcopal, conducted the service, after the prescribed form of his church, the male quartet of the church choir rendering the music. The beautiful but impressive service concluded, the remains were borne to Oakland cemetery for interment, the following gentlemen, members of the St. Paul bar and friends, acting as pall bearers: Hon. C. K. Davis, Hon. J. J. Egan, Hon. E. G. Rogers, Hon. R. B. Galusha, C. N. Bell, Esq., Geo. C. Squires, Esq., Dr. Edgar Snyder and Marrion Harrison, Esq. At the grave the prayer

for the dead was recited, and the last sad rites were ended.¹⁶

Bar Memorial

On May 5, 1883, the Ramsey County Bar Association held a memorial service for three members who died recently: Lorenzo Allis, George L. Otis and Edmund R. Hollinshead. The following is the Bar Association's tribute to Hollinshead that was printed in the *Globe* in its Sunday edition, May 6th:

DISTINGUISHED DEAD.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION.

A Feeling Tribute to the Memory of Messrs. Lorenzo Allis, Geo. L. Otis, and E. R. Hollinshead— Resolutions and Biographical Memoirs.

Pursuant to adjournment a meeting of the Ramsey County Bar association was held at the new district court room at 10 a. m. yesterday — the opening of the court in special term having been delayed for that purpose to hear the report of the committee named at a previous meeting to draft and present for consideration resolutions in memoriam of the late Lorenzo Allis, Geo. L. Otis and Edmund Hollinshead, members of the bar, deceased in the past few

¹⁶ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, March 27, 1883, at 2.

months. The association was called to order by its president, H. R. Bigelow, Esq., and in the absence of the secretary, Mr. Wm. H. Lightner was elected secretary pro tem. In calling the meeting to order, Mr. Bigelow simply stated its purpose, to hear the report of the committee as above stated, when Mr. J. B. Brisbin of the committee, to whom had been assigned the duty of preparing a paper upon the life and services of

GEO. L. OTIS AND E. R. HOLLINSHEAD.

Following Mr. Brisbin, Hon. C. K. Davis presented the papers prepared in memoriam of Geo. L. Otis and Edmund R. Hollinshead the other deceased members of the association. . . .

EDMUND R. HOLLINSHEAD, ESQ.,

The following is the testimonial to Mr. Hollinshead: At a meeting of the bar of Ramsey county, held on the 6th (sic) day of May, 1883, the following resolutions were presented by the committee:

"That the members of this bar unite in their sincere expressions of respect for the memory, and regret for the death of the late Edmund R. Hollinshead, one of the junior members of this bar."

He was the son of the late William Hollinshead, who was among the earliest and most eminent lawyers of Minnesota, and he inherited much of his father's talent. Studious habits and diligence in attending to the interests committed to his care,

had given him a standing in the profession seldom attained by practitioners of his age. It was the will of Providence that he should not reach the term of years so necessary to the completion of professional character, but from what he did within the short span of his life we can infer had he been spared his position at the bar would have been among the first. He won the confidence of his clients by perfect devotion to their interests — devotion that was manifested throughout his failing health down to its last stage, and he died in the enjoyment of the affection of troops of friends.

Mr. Charles N. Bell moved the adoption of the report.

To an inquiry of the president as to further remarks, Judge Greenleaf Clark said it was the understanding that the report should be formally presented to the supreme court by the association, and that such further expressions of respect and condolence as might seem appropriate should be made then.

Upon the motion of I. V. D. Heard, Esq., the committee reporting were continued to submit the report to the supreme court. The report was then adopted. Upon motion of Judge Clark, it was voted that when the association adjourn it be to the call of the president for the purpose of accompanying the committee upon its presentation visit to the supreme court.

Upon the motion of C. K. Davis, Esq., Mr. I. V. D. Heard was designated to wait upon the district

court judges and inform them that the Bar association of the county had a communication they desired to submit. After a short absence Mr. Heard returned, and was soon followed by Judges Wilkin, Simons and Brill, when the usual formalities of opening court in regular session were gone through with, following which Mr. Brisbin in behalf of the committee presented the action of the association. At the suggestion of the court the resolutions were read, at the conclusion of which

HON. WESTCOTT WILKIN, senior judge, spoke substantially as follows:

The court will direct the resolution of the bar and the accompanying memorials to be entered upon its minutes, In so doing, we desire to express our profound sympathy with the members of the bar in the grief which they feel for the loss of our distinguished brethren, and our full concurrence in the sentiments of respect for their memory expressed in those resolutions and memorials.

Messrs. Allis and Otis had long and honorable careers as practitioners at this bar. Both were men of eminent ability. They were also men of varied attainments and profoundly learned in the profession to which they belonged. They were men of research, laboriously and conscientiously discharging their duties to the clients whose interests were entrusted to their care. The court has been often instructed by their arguments, and greatly aided in the discharge of its duties by their professional efforts. They were men too whose influence was

largely felt, and whose loss will long be deplored in the community with which their interests were so long identified.

Of Mr. Hollinshead, the youthful advocate, whose sad and untimely fate we all so much deplore, it must be said, that with great inherited ability, he exhibited at the very outset of his professional life an energy so great, and took so practical a grasp of the business of his profession as to give high promise of a successful career. The eloquent memorials which have been here presented contain so just a mite to the memory of our deceased friends, and present so full an appreciation of their characters and merits as to leave nothing further for the court to add.¹⁷

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Related Articles

“William M. Hollinshead (1820-1860)” (MLHP, 2018).

“Morris Lamprey (1828-1879)” (MLHP, 2018).

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¹⁷ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, May 6, 1883, at 6.