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### Collins, Loren Warren (1838 - )

Tresa Gruber

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COLLINS, LOREN WARREN

File No. B-245

While the personal popularity of a judge may not always be an infallible criterion of his worthiness, yet, in a republic, where public sentiment must control to secure the best results in administration, a consensus of opinion favorable -- which is in fact only popularity -- cannot be far wrong. Although the old Roman motto, "Vox populi, vox Dei," is frequently subject to a sneer from some who affect wisdom, it still remains a statement very close to the truth. Therefore a judge, who by the conscientious discharge of duty, wins the esteem of the people, is not only fortunate in his experience, but he is a factor almost invaluable in establishing confidence in the judiciary. Judge Collins, the subject of this sketch, has during his long service so efficiently discharged his duties that there seems to be no position in the gift of the people of the state that they are not willing to give him, when the occasion offers. He has been solicited frequently to assume the highest honors, but has steadily refused to swerve from his chosen profession. He was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, August 7, 1838. His father, Charles P. Collins, was a native of Vermont, and descendant of Benjamin Collins, who settled at Salisbury, Massachusetts, in 1660. His mother was Abigail C. Libby, a native of New Hampshire, and a descendant of John Libby, who settled near Boston, Massachusetts, about 1638. A published "History of the Libby Family" shows that it was prominent and influential from early colonial time forward. Charles P. Collins was a man in limited circumstances and was by occupation, before moving to Minnesota, an overseer in a cotton mill.

He and his family came to the state - or than territory in 1854, and settled at Eden Prairie, Hemepin county, upon unsurveyed government land. His son, the judge, was then sixteen years old, and had been educated at Chicopee and at Palmer, Massachusetts. He chose law for his profession but his studies were held in abeyance by the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion. In 1862 he enlisted in the Seventh Regiment Minnesota Infantry. He was promoted to second lieutenant and to first lieutenant, and received the rare honor of being brevetted a captain by the President of the United States. After the war he resumed his law studies, and in 1866 began to practice his profession at St. Cloud, Minnesota, where he still resides. He was elected county attorney of Stearns county, and served for several terms, also member of the house of representatives, while he continued his general practice of law in St. Cloud until 1883, when he was appointed, in April of that year, district judge of the Seventh Judicial District, by Governor Hubbard. In 1884 he was elected to the same position. In November, 1887, Governor Mc Gill appointed him associate justice of the Supreme Court of Minnesota. He has been elected to the same position by the people three successive times, the last being without opposition in November, 1900. Such approval by the people needs no comment. He has always affiliated with the Republican party, but has held only offices in the line of his profession. He was tendered the office of United States senator by Governor Lind December 28, 1900, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Senator Davis, but declined for personal as well as political reasons. In religion he is a Unitarian, and is a member of the Unitarian church. In 1878 he was married to Ella Stewart, at Berlin, Wisconsin. She died at St. Cloud May 31, 1894.

Judge Collins has three children, sons: Stewart Garfield, Louis Loren, Loren Fletcher. The two elder are students in the University of Minnesota. Through his army service Judge Collins is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Loyal Legion. By reason of his descent from Colonial ancestors he is a member of the Society of Colonial Wars, and of the Sons of the Revolution. He also belongs to the fraternity of Elks, and is a Royal Arch Mason. Though an upright judge and stern in justice, Judge Collins is a genial companion, a kind neighbor and father, and a citizen of whom the state is proud.

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE LOREN WARREN COLLINS BIOGRAPHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Baby Collins	July 7, 1879	St. Cloud	Loren W. Collins	
2. Stewart Garfield Collins	Oct 30, 1880	" "	" " "	
3. Charles B. Collins	Oct. 5, 1882	" "	" " "	
4. Baby Collins	Oct. 7, 1887	" "	" " "	

	<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1.	Ella Stewart		A	375	32	
2.	" "		A	419	63	
3.	" "		A	519	69	
4.	" "		B	94	79	

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1894 A 4 PAGE 118 LINE 7

Ella S. Collins Died May 31, 1894

Age 42 years 5 months and 17 days

Born May 31, 1894

Daughter of William and Jane Stewart

COLLINS, LOREN W.

File No. B-246

Loren W. Collins was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, August 22, 1839. He received a common school education; came to Hastings, Minnesota, sometime prior to the Rebellion, studied law with Smith and Crosby and was admitted to practice, but in August, 1862, entered service of his country in Company F. Seventh Minnesota Volunteers, of which company he was commissioned Second Lieutenant, and a year later First Lieutenant. He was discharged with regiment at the close of the war, and returned to his law practice. In 1866 he removed to St. Cloud and practiced law. He served as county attorney a number of years; was a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1881 to 1883; and was appointed judge of the Seventh Judicial district April 8, 1883, and elected to that office in 1884. November 12, 1887, he was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Berry, an appointment that gives general satisfaction, Judge Collins having won an enviable reputation as a jurist and as a man.

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

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