May I introduce to you two fascinating volumes in *Minnesota Reflections* and the woman who added so much to their value.


Lydia Lucas, a retired archivist from the Minnesota Historical Society, transcribed all of these signatures. More than that, she added information to many of them to help people understand who the lawyers were and how people can learn more about them.


Lucas’s work enhances that story. For example, about Cowan, she added small pieces of the story of his life. He lived from 1820-1863, was from Traverse des Sioux, and served as a state senator from 1857-60. For others, particularly the more prominent, we learn where to find their professional papers and that many of those who served in the Minnesota Legislature have their portraits in Minnesota.

I did a little searching of my own, just for fun and exploration. There are no Rengels in the collection, but then I have never heard of any lawyers in my family. But the collection does include attorneys from St. Cloud, my hometown.

Of course, there are famous Minnesota lawyers:

- Walter F. Mondale, U.S. senator, vice president, ambassador, and prominent Minnesotan, signed the roll on Oct. 23, 1956, with a large group of attorneys. His signature is on page 324 of volume 1, about halfway down the page (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/sll/id/12878).

- Warren Burger, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 1969 to 1986, signed the roll of attorneys on Sept. 16, 1931. His signature is on page 244 of volume 1, eighth from the bottom (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/sll/id/12796).


A few kindly notes:

- These are large documents and will take some time to load. Be patient. You will be rewarded.

- The transcript of each page, including Lydia Lucas’s added information, is found in the “Description” field below the image of that page. Also, click on the “Image & Text” button above the right corner of the image for an additional view of the transcript.

- To explore the entire volume, start on Page 1. In this view, a “Text search” button appears above the left corner of the image. Clicking this will open a small search window that allows you to search the whole volume. (This button does not appear when viewing the cover or inside cover.)

Have fun!