Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science

Volume 50 Annual Issue

Article 5

1943

In Memoriam: Joseph Charles Arthur; James Frederick Clarke; Alice Louise Braunworth Halstead; Charles Rollin Keyes; Nicholas Knight; Henry S. Nollen; John Franklin Reilly; Luther S. Ross

Joseph C. Gilman *Iowa State College*

Cornelius Gouwens

E. J. Cable

Charles R. Keyes

George Pease

Copyright © Copyright 1943 by the Iowa Academy of Science, Inc. Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias

Recommended Citation

Gilman, Joseph C.; Gouwens, Cornelius; Cable, E. J.; Keyes, Charles R.; and Pease, George (1943) "In Memoriam: Joseph Charles Arthur; James Frederick Clarke; Alice Louise Braunworth Halstead; Charles Rollin Keyes; Nicholas Knight; Henry S. Nollen; John Franklin Reilly; Luther S. Ross," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*: Vol. 50: No. 1, Article 5. Available at: https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol50/iss1/5

This General Interest Article is brought to you for free and open access by UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science by an authorized editor of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

Gilman et al.: In Memoriam: Joseph Charles Arthur; James Frederick Clarke; Alice

In Memoriam



JOSEPH CHARLES ARTHUR 1850-1942

1

5/.

IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

[Vol. 50]

On April 30, 1942, death came to Joseph Charles Arthur at Brook, Indiana. With his decease, botany lost one of its outstanding investigators and the Academy one of its most distinguished members. Born at Lowville, New York, January 11, 1850, Joseph Charles came to Iowa at the age of six years when his father settled at Charles City. It was here that he received his early training and from Floyd County he entered the newly established Iowa State College at Ames. He received the Bachelor of Science degre in 1872 as a member of the first graduating class. After graduation he taught country school in the winter and returned to college intermittently where he received the first Master of Science degree conferred by the college in 1877. His thesis, still preserved in the college library, was on the anatomy of *Echinocystis* lobata (wild cucumber). He was an assistant in the Department of Botany until 1879 when he went to the University of Wisconsin as instructor in botany. The following year found him at Johns Hopkins where he came under the influence of Dr. William G. Farlow whom he followed to Harvard the next summer. John M. Coulter and Charles R. Barnes were fellow students, and the associations formed there flowered later in the Arthur, Barnes, and Coulter Handbook of Plant Dissection and the founding of the Botanical Gazette, which they jointly edited for a long period of years. In 1884 Dr. Arthur became the first person to hold a full-time position as botanist with an Agricultural Experiment Station at the New York Station, Geneva, New York, and while there he published his early work on pear blight, which was to have profound effect on the knowledge of bacterial disease in plants, and also found time to complete the graduate work at Cornell for his doctorate, which degree was granted in 1886. Previously he had taught at both the Universities of Wisconsin and Minnesota.

In 1887 Dr. Arthur became Professor of Botany at Purdue University where he remained until his retirement in 1915. At that time he was made Emeritus Professor of Botany and continued his work at Lafayette until his death. In 1901 he married Emily Stiles Potter of Lafayette, Indiana, who died in 1935.

Dr. Arthur contributed to the fields of plant pathology and physiology and was the first to advocate the use of formaldehyde for the control of potato scab (1895), but his chief interest and his main contributions lay in the field of mycology, particularly in the life cycles and taxonomy of the plant rusts. In this work which covered many years and thousands of cultures, Dr. Arthur made outstanding contributions to the knowledge of these minute parasites. His work culminated in the publication of two books, *The Plant Rusts* in 1929 and a *Manwal of the Rusts in United States and Canada* in 1934. In connection with this work he determined and reported on many of the rusts from all parts of the Western Hemisphere and also the Philippine Islands. He also collected widely and made numerous trips to Europse to study type specimens in the herbaria, to confer with fellow workers and to attend the International Botanical Con-

IN MEMORIAM

gress. In the earlier period of this work he was associated with E. W. D. Holway, then of Decorah, Iowa: an association was terminated by the death of Mr. Holway in 1923.

In recognition of his contributions to science and as a result of was a member of many scientific societies. He was a member of his indefatigable enthusiasm, Dr. Arthur received many honors and Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, Societe Mycologique de France (1884-1889), Association Internationale des Botanistes (1901-1915), Duetsche Botanische Gesellschaft, Society for Promotion of Agricultural Science (1886-1920), American Mycological Society (1903-1906), Botanical Society of America, Torrey Botanical Club, Plant World Association (1907-1919), American Phytopathological Society, Washington Academy of Science, American Association of University Professors, American Philosophical Society, American Society of Naturalists, and the Mycological Society of America. He was a corresponding member of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia, a fellow of the Indiana Academy of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Science and an honorary fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science. He was elected vice-president (1897) and president (1901 and 1919) of the Botanical Society of America, president of the American Phytopathological Society (1933), president of the Indiana Academy of Science (1892), assistant general secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1887). He also was secretary of Section F of the Association in 1886 and vice-president of Section G in 1895. He served as associate editor (1883-1885; 1900-1904) and editor (1886-1900) of the Botanical Gazette and associate editor of Mycologia (1909-1932). He helped organize and was secretary of the Madison Botanical Congress in 1893 and a delegate to the International Botanical Congress at Vienna in 1905 and at Brussels in 1910. He was honored with the degree of L. L. D. by the University of Iowa in 1916, the D. Sc. from Iowa State college in 1920 and from Purdue University in 1931.

The life of Dr. Arthur with his early efforts to establish himself in a profession which as yet was scarcely established itself, underlines the moral that conscientious effort and unquenchable enthusiasm when combined with intelligent ambition make a worthy place for their possessor. The men who worked with Dr. Arthur and came thereby under his influence are, together with his direct contribution to science, a lasting memorial to his endeavors, and constitute the best measure of his accomplishment.

A full bibleography of Dr. Arthur's writings was prepared by Dr. George B. Cummins and published in Phytopathology 32:838-844, 1942.

JOSEPH C. GILMAN Department of Botany, Iowa State College 33

IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

[VOL. 50

4



JAMES FREDERICK CLARKE 1864-1942

Dr. James Frederick Clarke was born in Fairfield, Iowa, on February 23, 1864, and died on April 12, 1942. He lived most of his life this same city. He attended Parsons College and graduated with a B. S. degree from the University of Iowa in 1886, and a M. S. degree in 1889. He graduated from the Medical College of the University of Pennsylvania in 1889 and spent two years in interneship in the Philadelphia General Hospital. Post graduate work was taken in John Hopkins University and the University of Gottingen in Germany, and several seasons at the New York Post Graduate School. He was honored with the degree Sc. D. by Parsons College in 1933.

Dr. Clarke entered the Spanish American War as Major and a surgeon of the 49th Iowa Infantry with detached service in charge of medical wards of the Second Division Hospital of the Seventh Army Corps in Florida and Cuba. While in Florida, Dr. Clarke was able to introduce the employment of trained women nurses, including Mrs. Clarke, in the United States Army field hospitals. He managed to get permission from Leslie M. Shaw, then Governor of Iowa, and General Fitzhugh Lee, commander, to place twenty-five Iowa nurses in a small commandeered Negro school as a hospital.

Dr. Clarke organized Unit R for the World War and served as major and lieutenant colonel in France in Base Hospital No. 32 at Contrexeville and Red Cross Hospital No. 5 in Paris, both of which hospitals he commanded in the final weeks of this service. This Unit R was formed in Fairfield and was composed of 12 surgeons, 23

34

https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol50/iss1/5

IN MEMORIAM

He was a lecturer of Hygiene in the colleges of Medicine and Dentistry of the State University of Iowa as well as in Parsons College where he lectured on fungi and bacteria. He obtained the location of the first county hospital in Iowa at Fairfield, in Jefferson County. He wrote a history of early medicine of Jefferson County. He did very notable work with thyroid treatment of cretin children. He was considered the dean of doctors in Fairfield with about fifty years of active service as a physician. He was born in the same building which until recently housed his office.

Dr. Clarke was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, of the Iowa Academy of Science, and the American Medical Association. It was he who made the first x-ray pictures in Jefferson County, did the first appendectomy and introduced organotherapy in the county. For thirty years he was local surgeon for the C. B. & Q. and for the C. R. I. & P. companies. He was the first president of the Iowa Assembly of the Agassiz Societies and the founder of the first golf club in Iowa; the founder and for three years president of the Fairfield Rotary Club. He served as mayor of Fairfield and served his county in the General Assembly in 1906-07. He has twice been vice-president of the Iowa State Medical Society and president of the Des Moines Valley Medical Association, and the Southeastern Iowa Medical Society.

Dr. Clarke married Miss Melinda E. Clapp on October 13, 1891, who survives. Certainly the Iowa Academy of Science has lost a most notable member and the State a most worthy citizen.

Dr. R. Monroe Mackenzie of Fairfield and the Fairfield Ledger are sources for this material.

CORNELIUS GOUWENS

ALICE LOUISE BRAUNWORTH HALSTEAD 1866-1941

Mrs. Alice Louise Braunworth Halstead, 75, former pharmacy operator and school teacher who was well known in educational and business circles in Muscatine, passed away at the home of her sister, Jessie A. Braunworth. Mrs. Halstead, had been ill with complications for the past seven weeks.

A graduate of Muscatine high school and Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, she was active in the drug business here as proprietor of the Braunworth Pharmacy. She later disposed of her interests in this establishment to the Pentzer Drug and Optical Co. She taught in the Mercer and Rock Island county and city schools in Illinois, and was a member of the National Pharmacy association and of the National American Science Club as well as of the Iowa Academy of Science.

The daughter of Jacob and Louisa Wagner Braunworth, she was born October 11, 1866, in Muscatine and was a life-long resident of this community. She was a member of the Episcopal Church.

35

IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

[VOL, 50]

Surviving are a son, Braunworth Halstead, Muscatine; a daughter, Mrs. Alice Schmarje, also of Muscatine; a brother, William Braunworth, Bentonville, Arkansas; a sister, Miss Jessie A. Braunworth, Muscatine; and one grandchild, James William Halstead. She was preceded in death by her parents, three sisters and a brother.

CORNELIUS GOUWENS

CHARLES ROLLIN KEYES 1864-1942

Charles Rollin Keyes was born at Des Moines, Iowa, December 24, 1864 and died at Tuscon, Arizona.

He was a man of exceptional ability as witnessed by his numerous contributions to scientific publications and the many important positions which he filled.

He was educated at the University of Iowa from which he received his B. S. in 1887, and the A. M. degree in 1890. He later entered John Hopkins as a fellow and received his Ph. D. in 1892.

In 1889-90, he became assistant to the United States Geological Survey and was made paleontologist to the state of Missouri from 1894-97. He also served as assistant to the Iowa Geological Survey from 1892-94. During the interval from 1897-99, he traveled in Europe, Asia and Africa making reconniassance investigations in the field of geology. In 1902-1904, he became president of the School of Mines of the state of New Mexico.

In later life he was consulting engineer with residence at Des Moines. Doctor Keyes was a prolific writer in his chosen field. Some of his more significant contributions are, Genesis of Ore Deposits, Geology of Missouri and New Mexico, the Maryland Granites, The American Carboniferous, Changes in Geological Climates, Desert Geology, and many others.

He maintained his membership in the Iowa Academy of Science and was a constant contributor to its publication. In his death the Academy has lost one of its oldest members and faithful contributors.

E. J. CABLE

Gilman et al.: In Memoriam: Joseph Charles Arthur; James Frederick Clarke; Alice

1943]

IN MEMORIAM



NICHOLAS KNIGHT 1861—1942

Dr. Nicholas Knight, a Fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science for many years and President of the Academy in 1922-23, died at his home in Mount Vernon on July 29, 1942. A native of New York, he had attained the age of eighty-one.

Dr. Knight's academic degrees, A. B., A. M. and Ph. D., were all conferred by Syracuse University. His graduate work was supplemented greatly, especially in summer vacations, during his earlier years of teaching at Casenovia Seminary, New York, and Randolph-Macon College, Virginia, by research in the laboratories of Cornell University, Harvard University and Johns Hopkins. The two years 1892-94 were spent at the University of Strassburg.

Research in chemistry was an important life interest with Dr. Knight. Probably his chief contribution to pure science was his discovery in a laboratory of Johns Hopkins of the phenomena on the basis of which Professor Harry C. Jones formulated the solvate theory. For a period of thirty years at Mount Vernon, he and his students kept full Publisher Decimination works of the phenomena of the Nitrogen,

37

IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Chlorine, and Sulfur Content of Rain and Snow at Mount Vernon, Iowa. Dr. O. R. Sweeney of Iowa State College regarded this pamphlet as a very important contribution for the agriculture of Iowa.

Mainly, however, Dr. Knight's strength and interest were devoted to teaching. He came to Cornell College in 1899 as Professor of Chemistry, retiring in 1933 after thirty-four years of distinguished service. Several laboratory guides were written with the problems of his pupils as their chief aim: A Course in Quantitative Anaylsis, Notes on Blow-Torch Analysis, Problems in Chemical Arithmetic, The Chemistry of Colloids. It was early in his teaching period at Cornell that an uninterrupted succession of chemistry students from the college laboratories began to prepare for the various university graduate schools. Dr. Knight's vigorous class and laboratory methods, his humor, and his quick detection of any remissness secured most regular and steady application to business. The teacher's own physical endurance, for his classes nearly always reached the maximum enrollment, was quite noteworthy. The writer remembers an occasion when a number of faculty members undertook a day's excursion on foot to the Palisades of the Cedar River, a good twelve-mile jaunt. Although this happened late in his teaching career, Dr. Knight came in as fresh as anyone.

His loyalty to town, church, and college was impressive. He was city chemist for most of his forty-three years in Mount Vernon, a member of the official board of his church for twenty-eight years and superintendent of the church school for a full decade. Even in the final years of physical decline he struggled manfully to meet every duty and engagement.

Dr. Knight was listed in both the American and British editions of Who's Who, and in addition to the Iowa Academy of Science he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, The American Chemical Society, and Die Deutche Chemische Gesellschaft. For a number of years he served as Associate Editor of School Science and Mathematics.

CHARLES R. KEYES

IN MEMORIAM



HENRY S. NOLLEN 1866-1942

Henry Scholte Nollen, mathematician, astronomer, and financier, for almost 30 years a ranking executive officer of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa and for 49 years a life insurance leader, died Friday, April 24, 1942. He was 75 years old.

The distinguished son of a brilliant father and a famous grandfather, Mr. Nollen endowed the Equitable Life of Iowa with his full heritage of mental acumen and moral integrity, leaving an indelible impress of his character upon an organization he played a great part in building. Elected executive vice president in January, 1913, he was elected president in 1921; chairman of the board of trustees in 1939, and retired under the provisions of the company's retirement plan on January 23, 1941, remaining, however, a member of the board of trustees. Following his retirement he had been engaged in compiling a history of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa—a task which remained uncompleted at his death.

Mr. Nollen was born September 26, 1866, in Pella, Iowa. He was the eldest of five children born to John and Johanna Scholte Nollen. Each of the children was destined to attain high honors in the fields of life insurance and education.

From his parents, Mr. Nollen inherited a rich legacy of intelligence and culture. His father was a pioneer banker, mathematician, and author. His mother was the daughter of Hendrik Scholte, the Dutch dominie who, in 1847, founded Pella with 800 of his countrymen whom

he had led from The Netherlands to Iowa in search of religious free-Published dy MNI ScholarWorks, 1943

IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

[VOL. 50

Henry S. Nollen secured his education in the home of his grandfather, Dominie Scholte, and at Central College, Pella, which conferred the degree of bachelor of science upon him in 1885, when he was but 19 years old. Following a few years spent as a clerk in his father's bank, and in auditing work in central Iowa, he became an employee of the Bankers Life Company, Des Moines, in 1893. During the following twenty years Mr. Nollen rose from a clerical position to the office of secretary of the Bankers Life Company.

His life insurance career was appropriately recognized in 1935 by his selection as chairman of the Life President's Association Convention for that year... an association of the chief executives of all the nation's leading life companies.

The following testimonial, presented to Mr. Nollen by the field force of the company shortly before his death, summarizes the place he held in the lives of his associates:

"To Henry S. Nollen----

"For more than a quarter of a century you have been closely associated with the personnel of our beloved Company."

"During that time, you have given us the benefit of your counsel and the inspiration of your leadership. You have been personally interested in the development of each of us and cooperated with us in the advancement of our mutual best interests. You have always been eager to see each of us show progress and improvement."

"In Company meetings and conventions you have constantly voiced the spiritual factors of our work and painted the broad vision of the functions of the Life Insurance business and of our responsibilities as agents and employees. We all have cherished memories of the words of wisdom and inspiration that you have given us . . . words that in many cases have changed the course of the current of human life and set it in a better direction. On anniversary occasions, in times of distress, in times of bereavement and in achievement, your counsel, your sympathy and your congratulations have always been freely extended."

"With pride, we as your co-workers, have appreciated the attention you have given to life insurance as an institution and particularly the leadership you have given to The Association of Life Iusurance Presidents."

"As a token of our appreciation, respect, admiration, and esteem, we present this signature roster of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa Field Force."

A resident of Des Moines for fifty years, Mr. Nollen had devoted a great deal of time to the development of the civic and cultural life of Des Moines and of the state of Iowa. At the time of his death he was chairman of the board of trustees of the Des Moines Water Works, which he had served as a trustee since it was established in 1919, with the exception of the years 1937 and 1938.

He also was chairman of the building committee of the Edmundson Art Memorial, director of the Des Moines Association of Fine Arts, director and past president of the Des Moines Civic Music Association,

IN MEMORIAM

41

a life member and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science, and a member of the Archaeological Institute of America.

Drake University conferred the honorary degree of LLD on Mr. Nollen in 1933 in recognition of his mathematical attainments and of his interest in astronomy and its advancement as a science at the Drake Observatory. In 1939, the Iowa Gamma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa initiated him into membership.

He was senior warden of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and a thirtythird degree Mason, in which order he had always displayed keen interest.

GEORGE PEASE

IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

[VOL. 50



JOHN FRANKLIN REILLY 1875—1942

Professor John Franklin Reilly, a member of the department of mathematics at the State University of Iowa, died at his home, 307 Beldon Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa, on Tuesday evening, August 18, 1942, after an illness of approximately a year.

Professor Reilly was born at Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Canada, on December 11, 1875. He received his early education at Prince of Wales College Normal School. In the continuation of his studies he received a B. A. degree from Dalhousie College in 1902, where he won many honors as an undergraduate, a M. S. from Harvard in 1906, and a Ph. D. from the State University of Iowa in 1921.

He joined the faculty of the State University in 1906 where he served continuously in the department of mathematics for thirty-six years and where he achieved distinction as a teacher and an investigator in the field of actuarial science. His special interest was in interpolation, on which he published several papers in the "Record of the American Institute of Actuaries." For many years he assisted the Examination Committee of the Institute in their work with the mathematical papers. He was also co-author of the text book *Plane and Spherical Trigonometry*, published in 1936.

In addition to his affiliation with the American Institute of Actuaries, Professor Reilly was a member of the following other scientific organizations: The Iowa Academy of Science, The American Mathematical Society, The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics,

https://schalanwgiksuni.adu/plas/wal50/i341/50 1933 he served as secretary of the Iowa

IN MEMORIAM

section of the Mathematical Association of America. He was also a member of the Triangle Club, a faculty organization at the university.

Professor Reilly was active in civic affairs as well as in educational work. He was government weather observer in Iowa City for over twenty years, served two terms on the city council, and for many years was chairman of the nonpartisan committee whose function was to nominate candidates for election to the city school board.

He maintained an active interest in religious matters by membership in the Presbyterian Church where he served for some years as an Elder. He was also very much interested in Masonry. He was a member of Iowa City Lodge, No. 4, A. F. and A. M., Iowa City Chapter, No. 2, R.A.M. and of Swafford Council No. 28, R. and S. M. He was Master of Iowa City Lodge No. 4 in 1927.

On August 30, 1899, he married Isabel Hutchinson, who still resides in their home in Iowa City. He is survived by their five sons, each of whom was graduated from the University of Iowa, and four of whom are at present serving in the armed forces of the United States.

As a scholar, teacher, citizen and friend, John Franklin Reilly made for himself a high place in the hearts of all who knew him.

ROSCOE WOODS

IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

[VOL. 50

14



LUTHER S. Ross 1864—1943

The death of Dr. Luther S. Ross on April 5, 1943, in Claremont, California, marks the close of a long life devoted to science and teaching in the Middle-West.

Dr. Ross was born at Reno, Illinois, September 6, 1864. His undergraduate work was done at the University of Illinois, which institution awarded him the degree M. S. in 1890. His later graduate studies were done at the University of Chicago, where he was awarded the Ph. D. degree in 1919.

The early years of his teaching career were spent as the Professor of Natural Science at the Minnesota Normal School, Winona, and as principal of public schools in Illinois in 1891 and 1892. He was appointed Professor of Biology at Drake University in 1892 and continued his service in that institution until his retirement in 1934. He spent his last years in active retirement, supervising his orange groves in Claremon, California. He became associated with the Iowa Academy of Science in the '90s and was secretary of the Academy from 1906 until 1913 and served as president in 1918. He had held a life membership for many years.

His research studies concerned the crustacea, the cytology of the crayfish nerve cell, the tracheation of the grasshopper nerve cell, and the bacterial content of desiccated foods, and studies involving dust particles as carriers of bacteria.

His teaching association with Drake University was a memorable https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol50/iss1/5

IN MEMORIAM

45

one from the standpoint of his students, his colleagues, and the development of the institution. He was an inspiring and challenging teacher. His associates enjoyed his friendship, his keen humor, and kindly spirit. They admired his high ideals and his unswerving allegiance to his principles and beliefs. He enjoyed athletics and served many years in developing higher standards of athletic competition in the Missouri Valley.

Dr. Ross was a fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was a member of the American Microscopical Society, Phi Beta Kappa, and Sigma Xi. Dr. Ross's death, following a short critical illness, marks the passing of a fellow long associated with science in Iowa and the conclusion of a long period of loyalty to the Iowa Academy.

George Huff, Drake University