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In Memoriam: George Ellsworth Thompson; Stephen J. Popoff; Samuel Walker Beyer; Johan Augustus Udden; William Ernest Andrew Slaght; Merrill M. Meyers

Authors

L. B. Spinney, Edward Bartow, C. S. Gwynne, W. H. Norton, Christian A. Ruckmick, and James H. Lees

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE ELLSWORTH THOMPSON

1887 - 1931

George Ellsworth Thompson was born at Warren, Ohio on the second day of April 1887 and died at his home in Ames, Iowa on Saturday morning, May 30, 1931. His body was returned to the home of his parents Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Thompson at Warren, the place of his birth, and was there buried in a local cemetery on the third of June.

Dr. Thompson received his education chiefly from the University of Indiana and from Cornell University. From the former institution he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1909 and the degree of Master of Arts in 1910. At Cornell he was granted the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1913.

After four years of experience as instructor, one at the University of Indiana and three at Cornell, he came to Iowa State College as assistant professor of physics in 1914. The year following he was advanced to an associate professorship which position he held continuously to the time of his death.

Dr. Thompson's scientific interests were divided between theoretical and experimental physics with some specialization in the field of alternating currents and in particular in the phenomena of high frequency associated with wireless transmission. In recent years he inaugurated and developed advanced courses in this field.

He did important research work in different fields, particularly those of heat transmission and ultra-sonic waves. He investigated the conduction of heat in short cylinders from both the experimental and theoretical viewpoints and made practical application of his results in the determination of the minimum sterilization time for canned foods. He also contributed to the experimental determination of the velocity of ultra-sonic waves in various gases and vapors. He was a member of the Iowa Academy of Science and contributed a number of papers to its proceedings.

Dr. Thompson was a man of high ideals and sterling character. He was a good citizen and a staunch supporter of all efforts looking toward civic improvement and community betterment. He was a good neighbor and a loyal friend. In his seventeen years of service at Iowa State College he proved himself a faithful and conscientious teacher. He was a willing and enthusiastic co-worker and he left a deep impress upon the lives of those with whom he came in contact. Among his college associates his influence will be lasting and, particularly by those of the physics staff who were privileged to know him best, his genial friendliness, his kindly helpfulness and his sympathetic understanding will long be held in grateful memory.

L. B. SPINNEY

STEPHEN J. POPOFF

1885 - 1931

Stephen John Popoff, Associate Professor of chemistry and head of the division of Analytical Chemistry of the State University of Iowa died October 29, 1931. He had suffered a mental break-down in November, 1930, and had been given leave of absence, spending the remainder of the year in a sanitarium and convalescing in Minnesota and Colorado. He resumed his work in September, 1931, but was unable to continue.

Dr. Popoff was born in Samocov, Bulgaria, September 10, 1885. His father was a Congregational minister. Dr. Popoff came to the United States in 1904. After attending the Fredonia, N. Y., Normal School from 1905-8, he entered Cornell University where he received the degree of Bachelor of Chemistry in 1912. He was Lowenthal Fellow at the University of Chicago, 1917-1918, and was granted the Ph.D. degree there in 1918.

From 1913-17, he was head of the department of chemistry and physics at the University of Dubuque. In 1917 he was research chemist for Armour and Company and in 1918, research chemist for the Air Nitrate Corporation. He was appointed instructor in chemistry at the State University of Iowa in 1921, associate in 1924, assistant professor in 1925, and associate professor in 1929.

Dr. Popoff was a member of Sigma Xi, and Phi Lambda Upsilon, honorary science and chemical fraternities. He had been a member of the American Chemical Society since 1915, and was secretary of the Iowa section in 1926, and chairman in 1927. He was a member of the Iowa Academy of Science and chairman of the chemistry section in 1928-29.

His work has been with manganates and permanganates, standards in iodimetry; electrometric titration; alkaloids, standards in analytical chemistry; oxidation potentials and equilibrium constants. He is best known in the scientific field for his text book "Quantitative Analysis" of which the first edition was issued in 1924 and the second in 1927. At the time of his death he was preparing a third edition.

He was active in promoting research in analytical chemistry, was a member of the committee for the award of the J. T. Baker Fellowship in Analytical Chemistry, and one of his students was the first to hold this fellowship.

While head of the division of analytical chemistry, at the State University of Iowa, he was able to improve it greatly. In addition he made many suggestions concerning the welfare of the department as a whole. His research students were most loyal in their regard for his ability.

EDWARD BARTOW



SAMUEL WALKER BEYER

1865 - 1931

Samuel Walker Beyer was for many years actively associated with the development of geology in the state of Iowa and with the Iowa Academy of Science, having been a life Fellow of the Academy from 1910 until his untimely death on June 2, 1931. He served as the president of the Academy in 1918-1919. His professional work as a geologist was done almost entirely within the state and for over 40 years he was actively connected with the development of geology, mining engineering, and ceramics at Iowa State College. His passing is that of a sturdy pioneer, and as a scientist and educator he will be mourned not only by the members of the Academy but also by the hundreds of students who received inspiration from him in the classroom.

Beyer was born in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, on May 15, 1865, but his father Abraham Beyer, moved to Iowa within a few years, and so his boyhood was spent on a farm near Rock Falls. He attended the country schools of that vicinity from the age of seven until he was sixteen. He then entered the Cedar Valley Seminary at Osage, and attended there for two winters, following which he taught for three terms in district schools. He matriculated at Iowa State College in the fall of 1886 and received the Bachelor of Science degree in 1889, teaching in the country schools during the winter vacations of those years. While at the college he took the scientific course, including in this considerable mathematics and physics.

After his graduation he spent one month teaching school near Redfield, but resigned from this position in order to accept one in the Science Department of the Marshalltown High School. He remained there for somewhat more than a year, but then returned to Iowa State College for post graduate work in geology and with the position of assistant in geology and zoology. During the long winter vacations of 1891-1892 and 1892-1893 he attended John Hopkins University, taking special training in geology under

George H. Williams the eminent petrographer. Following this he was awarded a fellowship at John Hopkins University in 1894 and received the Doctor of Philosophy degree from that institution in 1895. Before resuming his teaching duties at Iowa State College in the spring of 1897 he attended the meeting of the International Geological Congress in Russia, and engaged in study at the University at Munich.

For many years following his return he was head of the Department of Geology and Mining Engineering at Iowa State College, and under his guidance the work in mining engineering at the institution became well recognized. The present Department of Ceramics at Iowa State College came into being also as a result of his work. In 1908 he was appointed Vice Dean of the Engineering Division of the College, and continued in that position until 1917 when he became Dean. In 1919 he was appointed Dean of the Industrial Science Division in which position, as well as in that of Head of the Geology Department, he was active at the time of his death. During the last 15 years of his life he was thus more closely occupied with administrative duties, but he continued active in teaching.

He became an assistant with the Iowa Geological Survey in 1892, continuing in the Survey until 1918, and was also for a time with the U. S. Geological Survey. He prepared the Iowa Geological Survey reports on the geology of Boone, Marshall, Story, and Harding Counties and with L. E. Young of Monroe County. He devoted much time to a study of the non-metallic mineral products of the state; with I. A. Williams he prepared the State Geological Survey reports on The Technology of Clays, The Geology of Clays of Iowa, The Materials and Manufacture of Portland Cement, and Iowa Quarry Products, and with H. F. Wright, The Road and Concrete Materials of Iowa. Conservation in the state of Iowa was a deep interest of Beyer's and he did much to encourage it, particularly through his contact with students at Iowa State College.

In 1893 he was married to one of his schoolmates Jennie Morrison of Hedrick, Iowa. They had two children, Jeanette (Mrs. Clive McCay) of Ithaca, N. Y., and Mary Morrison of Ames.

A consideration of Beyer's life would not be complete without a tribute to his work in athletics in the colleges of the Missouri Valley. He was for many years the Iowa State College faculty representative in the Missouri Valley Conference, and more recently in the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association. As an undergraduate he played on the college baseball team and he continued to maintain a keen interest in athletics and out-of-door life. He was among the first to advocate a system of physical education for all students in colleges and encouraged the development of sound and clean sports.

In addition to being a Life Fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science, Beyer was a member of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, and the Geological Society of Washington. He had been a Fellow of the Geological Society of America since 1896.

C. S. GWYNNE



JOHAN AUGUSTUS UDDEN
1859 - 1932

Johan Augustus Udden was born in Sweden in 1859. He died in Austin, Texas, January 5, 1932. His life, after his first two years, was spent in the United States.

Doctor Udden was graduated from Augustana College in 1881. From 1881 to 1888 he taught natural science and physics at Bethany College, Kansas, and in 1886 he studied at the University of Minnesota. From 1888 to 1911 he held the professorship of Natural Science and Geology in Augustana, and from 1911 to his death he was a member of the staff of the University of Texas, — since 1915 as the Director of the Bureau of Economical Geology and Technology. For several years he has been also a member of the Graduate faculty of the University.

Doctor Udden's professional services were engaged by several geological surveys: the Iowa geological survey, 1907-1913; the Illinois geological survey, 1906-1911; the University of Texas Mineral survey, 1903-1904; and the U. S. geological survey, 1908-1914.

The scientific researches of Doctor Udden are on record in more than 100 published papers. They were made chiefly in the fields of stratigraphic, areal, and economic geology, and in sedimentology, particularly that of the air. To Iowa geology he contributed reports on the geology of Muscatine, Louisa, Pottawattomie and Jefferson counties, and several papers to the Proceedings of this Academy.

It was in the wide and comparatively undeveloped field of Texas that Doctor Udden's matured talent for research found amplest scope. "His was the leading spirit in the renaissance of Texas geology," writes a coadjutor. "He initiated important new methods of investigation," writes another

colleague, "recorded new observations valuable to many industries, promoted the development of resources of great value to the state, and gave advice to thousands who consulted him."

His first important work in Texas was with its valuable deposits of quick-silver. Deductively he reached the conclusion, now proved correct, that potash should be found in the Permian basin of West Texas. In 1916 he advised the Regents of the University that petroleum probably would be found in the University lands of West Texas, a prophecy followed by the discovery by the drill of oil fields which already have added nearly \$15,000,000 to the University's endowment.

It has been said by a member of his staff, Mr. C. L. Baker, "Doctor Udden was the first to suggest the possibility that oil and gas fields could be found by what are known as geophysical methods, particularly applicable in those places where no other methods can be used. Since then the use of these methods has added hundreds of millions of dollars to the wealth of Texas and Louisiana, and has resulted in the discovery of the world's greatest sulphur deposits."

Like McGee, Calvin, and McBride, his contemporary co-workers in this Academy, Doctor Udden did not have the opportunities for University training now open to the student. In compensation he, like them, developed initiative, self-reliance, a direct and self-directed approach. He chose problems in restricted fields permitting intensive and at the same time comprehensive study. He planned ingeniously his methods of attack. He diagnosed with skill. He combined critical observation and logical induction.

Doctor Udden's mind was keen, analytic, practical, functioning with that cool, detached objectivity, sometimes rather rashly said by anthropogeographers to characterize the Swedish people. He sharply focussed, registered accurately, with no distortion from personal bias or preconception. I recall a field trip with Doctor Udden to view the topography of different drift sheets, when he stubbornly refused to say that he saw, what as a fact he did not see, although what accepted theory demanded that he see and what geologists of note said that they had seen.

Udden held that "*science is measurement*," not subjective general impressions. Let me take an example from his classic pioneer works on wind deposits, works which in my teaching of advanced classes I ranked with those of Walther. It was not enough for Udden to know that occasional dust storms passed over Rock Island. The dust must be measured. Hence, his ingenious devices, his boxes, glycerined brushes and anemometers. He must find out the number of tons of dust carried per cubic mile of moving air and the size and nature of the particles.

In his survey of Pottawattomie county, there arose the problem—is the boulder clay multiple or that of a single drift sheet? To decide, Udden took his pebble count from top, middle, and bottom of the terrane, thirty-six samples each of 100 pebbles of a selected size. He correlated the Dakota sandstone by tabulated percentages of pebbles and sand grains. He attacked the problem of the origin of the gumbo with ranked battalions of percentages of materials of different degrees of coarseness in gumbo and lèss, twenty-two samples, each with fourteen grades. The glacialist would sometimes like to know very much the actual ratio of the remaining initial surface of a drift sheet to its total area. In Pottawattomie county Udden measured the undissected and dissected areas and found that the flat upland

is less than one per cent of the total area of the drift plan. He measured also the pitch of the slopes.

His Louisa county report offers another striking illustration of Udden's patient attention to detail. There are five pages of tabulated well records. This is no jackdaw collection of irrelevant facts. It forms the basis of a contour map of the bed rock of the county. And if such maps had been made of all our counties we should now know much more than we do of the pre-Pleistocene drainage of the state.

Science was measurement to Udden, but measurement directed to the solution of specific problems and interpreted by a keen, logical, and well-informed mind.

His former students tell us that Doctor Udden was a great teacher, sympathetic, thorough, training them skilfully in the methods of research. I recall his geologic museum as I saw it in the early nineties. It was not a collection of rare fossils and costly minerals. It was the model museum once defined as "a collection of labels illustrated by specimens." The specimens were good enough, but the labels were so clear and full that in due sequence and with some unavoidable gaps filled, they would have made up a very good textbook in elementary physical geology.

Doctor Udden's early diversified teaching had led him into various fields besides geology: history, civics, the other natural sciences. He was a master of three modern languages, and no doubt a student in college of two ancient ones. He was fond of music, a singer of Swedish songs, a player in orchestra of the 'cello.

Doctor Udden was not exempt from the sorrows of human life. A daughter, Antonio, and two sons, Jon Andreas, geologist, and Anton, physicist, fulfilling each the promise of the father's training in science, had preceded him in death.

His intimate friends describe Johan Augustus Udden as a man of outstanding personality and sturdy independence, modest and unassuming, without pretense or self-acclaim, high-minded, kindly, helpful, faithful to his principles, loyal to his friends, devoted to his church. "One of God's real noblemen," write his colleagues in the University of Texas, "the world has been enriched materially, intellectually, and spiritually by his life."

W. H. NORTON



DR. WILLIAM ERNEST ANDREW SLAGHT
1874 - 1932

On March 26 of this year there passed away a psychologist well known to his colleagues of the state and beloved among a still larger circle of professional and personal friends. Stricken in the classroom in line of duty there has been removed from our ranks one of the State's most effective teachers, a man of wide sympathies, of genial personality, and well read in the original sources of his subject.

Dr. Slaght was born in Woodstock, Ontario, Canada, on November 3, 1874, the son of Philander and Catherine (Malcolm) Slaght. His preparatory education was received at the London (Ontario) Collegiate Institute. He graduated from the University of Toronto with the A.B. degree in 1898, at which time he was awarded the Governor General's Gold Medal for the highest standing in the University. He did post-graduate work in philosophy there the following year. He studied philosophy and theology at Yale University from 1899 to 1902 when he received the degree of S.T.B. from the School of Divinity. He continued his graduate studies in theology there until 1903 and then turned to philosophy during 1905 to 1907, at which time he received his master of art's degree in that field. In 1906 he was ordained in the Methodist Episcopal ministry and was pastor of the Westville Church at New Haven, Connecticut from 1906 to 1908. He was associate pastor at the First Church in Middletown, Connecticut in 1909. He then became Professor of Philosophy at Baker University from 1910 to 1920. Since 1920 he has been Professor of Psychology at Cornell College, receiving the degree of doctor of philosophy from the University of Iowa in 1925.

His professional affiliations include membership in the American Philosophical Association, associate membership in the American Psychological Association, and a fellowship in the Iowa Academy of Science in which he

was elected to the chairmanship of the section for psychology in 1930. He was also a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and affiliated with the Masonic Order.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Minnie Edith Deacon Slaght, whom he married in London, Ontario on June 23, 1902, and by three sons, Morley Frederick, Leonard Malcolm, and William Henry. He was not a prolific writer but believed in giving his time and energy principally to his students, whom he served with the utmost friendliness and insight. The scope of his papers is, therefore, limited in number but directly applicable to the problems of the classroom. Among them are: Untruthfulness in children: its cause and setting in child nature, *Uni. Iowa Publ., Instit., Char. Res.*, 1, No. 4, 1928, (thesis); Contributions of psychology to religious education, *Rel. Educ.*, 23, No. 1, 1928; and Pedagogical implications of untruthfulness, *Rel. Educ.*, 24, 1929.

May I add a word of personal tribute. I have often visited Professor Slaght at Cornell College and I sat on his committee for the doctorate degree. I deem it an honor to have had him in several of my courses, not only because I find myself thus accidentally in the company of such great educators as Kirschmann, Royce, Hocking, Bakewell, Judd, Patrick, Seashore, and Starbuck, who have contributed to Dr. Slaght's culture, but also because on many occasions this culture was reflected in an easy and not stilted manner in Dr. Slaght's own philosophy of life. Conversation always flowed genially and gentlemanly. His face was often illuminated by happy thoughts and his heart needed no secret key or combination to unlock its warmth of friendship and its fine fellow feeling. He has served the State and the Academy well and Cornell College need never fear for its place in the educational system of the state and of the country at large as long as it can attract men of such scholarly excellence in and out of the classroom and of such high moral ideals as were embodied in the personality of Dr. William Ernest Andrew Slaght.

CHRISTIAN A. RUCKMICK



MERRILL M. MYERS

1891 - 1932

Doctor Myers' acquaintance among the membership of this Academy was limited to a few. Those few, however, appreciated his worth very highly. He was an earnest, enthusiastic scientist, and the breadth of his interest is suggested by the fact that he joined the Academy of his own wish, because he realized the value of its work. In his own field, that of diseases of the heart, he was recognized as one of the leaders in Des Moines and Iowa. He had been living in Des Moines for thirteen years and had developed an extensive practice, not only there, but also in neighboring cities, where he conducted weekly clinics under the auspices of the Iowa State Tuberculosis Association.

Doctor Myers was born in Glenwood, Iowa, May 24, 1891, and was graduated from Des Moines College in 1913. Then he attended Rush Medical College, from which he received his medical degree in 1918, and did graduate work in the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard Medical schools. Later as a part of his clinical training he worked in the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. This work was carried on during a recess in his Des Moines practice. He was founder of the Iowa Heart Association in 1925 and its president until illness forced him to resign.

Doctor Myers found time in the midst of his medical work for other activities. He was superintendent of the Sunday School of his church and he contributed a number of articles to medical journals, among them one on Rheumatic Heart Diseases of Children and several on various phases of heart troubles. He was my personal physician for several years, and from this intimate contact grew a great admiration for his sterling qualities of character. One glimpse of his breadth of outlook was given in a request he once made for information regarding progress in geologic thought during

the present century. This was to be used in a talk before one of his medical societies on general advance in scientific thought and achievement.

It seemed to be Doctor Myers' failing that he made his patients' troubles his own to a dangerous extent. He could not leave his cases behind when he locked his office door at night. So greatly did this concern affect him that his health finally gave way and he was obliged to seek rest. Unfortunately he did not seem to attain the hoped-for recovery and he finally died on March 26 of this year (1932). It is not mere laudation but a sincere statement of truth to say that his going means a serious loss to the medical profession and the public whom he served so earnestly and faithfully.

JAMES H. LEES