

1938

In Memoriam: Charles L. Robbins; Percy Edgar Brown; Richard Philip Baker; Erwin Oliver Finkenbinder; Charlotte M. King

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IN MEMORIAM



CHARLES L. ROBBINS
1876-1938

Professor Charles L. Robbins, Professor of Education in the State University of Iowa, died January 10, 1938.

He was born in Chariton, Iowa, in 1876. He graduated from the University of Kansas with honors in 1902 and received his Masters Degree in 1903. After some teaching experience, he attended Teachers College in Columbia University and received his doctorate in 1912.

His field of specialization was the sociology of education, in which he emphasized the psychological approach to some extent.

Among his publications are the following:

Teachers in Germany in the Sixteenth Century, 1912.

The School as a Social Institution, 1918.

The Socialized Recitation, 1920.

School History of the American People (with Elmer Green), 1925.

The Will to Work, 1928.

In recent years he has given special attention to the problems of adult education.

Professor Robbins was a gentleman of refined tastes, socially agreeable, and a fine influence in the fields of art and education, both in his home and in his profession.

He is survived by his fine wife and two very gifted children.



PERCY EDGAR BROWN
1885-1937

In the passing of Dr. Brown Iowa State College has lost one of her ablest and most highly respected staff members; Agriculture has lost a leading educator, research worker and administrator, and all who worked with or knew him have lost a very dear and loyal friend and helpful adviser.

Because of his very thorough scientific training, his unusual ability and broad vision, his achievements brought him much honor and helped in a very large measure to bring Iowa State College to a place of honor among the leading agricultural colleges of the nation.

He was a teacher of outstanding ability because of his magnetic personality, friendliness and ability to inspire his students to master the subject under consideration.

He was eminently successful as a research worker in the fields of Soil Bacteriology, Soil Fertility and Soil Survey. He was recognized as an authority in this country and abroad, and few men of his age have published as many scientific articles, bulletins, etc., as the appended partial bibliography indicates.

As a successful administrator Dr. Brown had few equals. His work was planned with a definite goal in mind; he delegated responsibility and demanded good results.

He lived an exemplary life and by virtue of his fine personality, high character and ability he commanded the highest respect and loyalty of all who worked with him.

Dr. Brown was born on a farm at Woodbridge, New Jersey, October 9, 1885, and died suddenly of coronary thrombosis at his home on the morning of July 8, 1937, as he was preparing to leave for his office.

He graduated from Woodbridge High School in 1902 and received his B.S. degree from Rutgers College, New Brunswick, New Jersey, in 1906.

From 1906 to 1910 he served as assistant soil chemist and bacteriologist at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station in close association with Dr. J. G. Lipman and received his A.M. degree from his Alma Mater in 1909. On many occasions Dr. Brown stated that no man had influenced his life or given greater inspiration to his life work than Dr. Lipman.

In 1910 he was appointed assistant professor of soil bacteriology at Iowa State College, and following the conferring of the Ph.D. degree by Rutgers College in 1912 he was promoted to the rank of associate professor and to a full professorship in 1914. During the year 1931 Dr. Brown served as acting head of the department of agronomy and was made head in 1932 which position he held at the time of his death.

For a number of years Dr. Brown was secretary of Section O (Agriculture) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a "Fellow" of that association. He was consulting Editor of "Soil Science," "Fellow" of the Iowa Academy of Science, Business Manager and Editor-in-Chief of the Iowa State College Journal of Science, and member of the American Chemical Society.

At a meeting of the American Society of Agronomy at Massachusetts State College in 1920, Dr. Brown was nominated for the office of secretary-treasurer by Dr. Stevenson. He was elected and held the office from then to the time of his death, except for the year 1932 when he served as president. He was also among the first ten "Fellows" elected to the society in 1925. The great contribution which Dr. Brown made to that organization over a long period of years has prompted Dr. J. D. Luckett, Editor of the Journal of American Society of Agronomy to say, "I feel that the American Society of Agronomy and all that it stands for today is one of the many splendid monuments that Dr. Brown has left to his enduring memory."

In 1926 he was president of the American Soil Survey Association; in 1913 Councilor for the Society of American Bacteriologists; and expert on the National Research Council in 1918. He was also a member of the American Organizing Committee for the first International Congress of Soil Scientists and one of the twelve delegates appointed to attend that convention in Washington.

After the organization of the Soil Science Society of America in 1935 he served as secretary-treasurer of both the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America, and in addition served as treasurer of the International Society of Soil Scientists.

It was only natural that a man of his training and ability should receive invitations to become actively affiliated with many honor societies, including Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Zeta, Gamma Sigma Delta, Phi Lambda Upsilon, and Phi Beta Kappa. He was also a member of the Delta Upsilon social fraternity.

For many years Dr. Brown was most active in Masonic work in the state of Iowa. In keeping with the high standard of excellency which he maintained in every undertaking, he served every high office attainable in the

several orders to which he belonged diligently and faithfully, receiving the K. C. C. H. degree in 1921.

Not only did he have time to carry on the many activities as listed above, but he also took part in community affairs as well. He, his mother, Mrs. Jeanette E. (Walker) Brown and sister, Edna, who survive him were faithful members of the Presbyterian church. Dr. Brown was a Rotarian, member of the Ames Chamber of Commerce, Ames Golf and Country Club, the Iowa Authors Club, the Mono Clan fraternity and Sons of American Revolution. In the college he served on many important committees.

In the quality of his work, his friendly coöperative spirit and all his associations with his many colleagues and friends, he demonstrated that he was a true friend and a big man in every sense of the word.

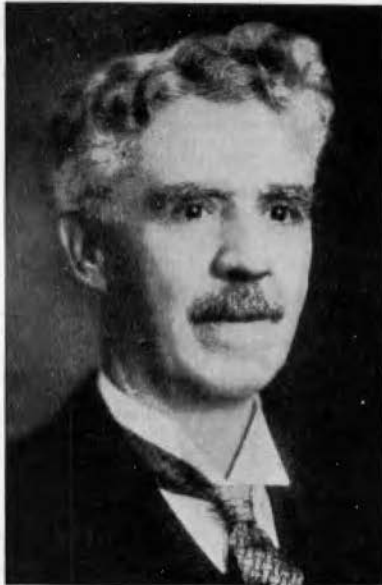
B. J. FIRKINS

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RICHARD PHILIP BAKER
1866-1937

Professor Richard Philip Baker of the State University of Iowa died at his residence in Iowa City, Iowa, August 13, 1937, after a short illness.

Professor Baker was born February 3, 1866, at Conover, England, near Shrewsbury, where his boyhood years were passed. In 1877 he entered Clifton College at Bristol where he continuously held scholarships in science by open competition, and was school exhibitor on leaving in 1884. He passed the Oxford and Cambridge higher certificates examinations with distinctions in mathematics, physics, and chemistry. As a Brackenbury scholar at Balliol College, Oxford, from 1884 to 1887, he took honors in mathematics and science. Having matriculated as a prizeman at London University in 1883 and having won honors in mathematics and physics, he received the degree of bachelor of science from that institution in 1887. He was made a member of Convocation by the University of London in 1890.

In 1888 he came to the United States, which since has been his home, and settled first in Texas, where he practiced law for several years after being admitted to the state bar in 1891. Before going to the University of Chicago as a graduate student in 1896, he was professor of music at the University of Oregon at Eugene. He was elected to a fellowship in mathematics and began his study toward the doctorate of philosophy. This degree was awarded to him "magna cum laude," in 1910, by the University of Chicago.

During the intervening years he was successively President of Lamar College, Lamar, Missouri, from 1897 to 1901, and co-principal of the Union Academy at Anna, Illinois, from 1902 to 1904. Following this he acted as chief analytical chemist for the R. L. Donnelly Press of Chicago.

He came to the University of Iowa as an instructor in mathematics.

in September, 1905, and served the University for 32 years, being made assistant professor of mathematics and astronomy in 1910, and associate professor of mathematics in 1916.

Professor Baker had a devotion for music and was associated with the University orchestra of which he was leader of the viola section for many years. It was his distinction to have organized the first chamber-music orchestra in Iowa City. This group of musicians met at his home until the establishment of a university school of music with whose orchestra they later merged.

Professor Baker's interests were well-expressed recently by Professor Gilbert A. Bliss, Head of the Mathematics Department of the University of Chicago, in the following statement:

"Dr. Baker was one of the early enthusiasts for mathematics to whom our central western mathematical group owes its beginnings and its existence. Not many of them are left, but the results of their pioneering influence are indestructible."

Professor Baker was one of our American mathematicians early interested in the Einstein theory of relativity.

Professor Baker had an exceptionally wide range of scientific interests. In mathematics, he was especially interested in algebraic equations, group theory, geometry, and mathematical physics. He had a large and interesting collection of mathematical models which he constructed throughout a period of many years.

Professor Baker was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, member of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America, and the Circolo Matematico di Palermo. For a number of years he served as an editor of the American Mathematical Monthly. Honorary scientific societies in which he held membership include Sigma Xi and Gamma Alpha fraternities.

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ERWIN OLIVER FINKENBINDER
1884-1937

Erwin Oliver Finkenbinder was born at Kent, Illinois, August 22, 1884, and died at his home in Cedar Falls, Iowa, September 19, 1937. His early years were spent in a farm environment where he learned a full quota of nature's rich lessons. A short period of study in Mount Morris Academy prepared him for his two years of teaching in rural schools. Thence he went at once to the Northern Illinois Normal School at DeKalb and to the University of Illinois where he received his A.B. in 1910.

As a result of interests developed under the direction of Dr. J. W. Baird he received a research fellowship at Clark University where he continued his investigations of learning and forgetting. It was here that he came under the influence of G. Stanley Hall which was to be the formative factor in his professional life. In 1913 he received his doctorate and went at once to a professorship in the Milwaukee Normal School where he served two years. Then followed two years as Social Hygiene Director in the employ of the U. S. Government. One year as head of the Department of Education at Cornell College was followed by his appointment as professor of Education in Iowa State Teachers College where he served from 1920 until his death. The summer of 1932 was spent as visiting professor at New York State College for Teachers. Two shorter periods of study in the summer sessions of Chicago University, 1917, and 1929, gave evidence of his continued interest in study.

Dr. Finkenbinder was a member of many professional and social organizations, to which he gave active support in all cases. The National Education Association, National Society for the Study of Education, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Iowa Academy of Science, American Association of University Professors, National Society of College Teachers of Education all claimed his attention, and in several cases as an executive officer.

His publications were practically all reports of detailed research studies,

the majority of which appeared in the Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science between 1921 and 1933. Earlier articles appeared in the American Journal of Psychology, The Pedagogical Seminary, and the Kadelphian.

Dr. Finkenbinder was a favorite with his fellow-faculty members and his students. At Iowa State Teachers College he succeeded in establishing a chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, of which he was a charter member at the University of Illinois, and a member of the committee to form its constitution. He was a regular attendant at its annual meetings.

The social, recreational, and religious life of his community received full participation by Dr. Finkenbinder. To all issues of local import he gave freely of his time and talent and often served as leader in many important issues.

Besides the relatives of his father's family in Illinois he is survived by his wife, Mrs. Althea Walworth Finkenbinder, and one son, Wiliston.



CHARLOTTE M. KING
1864-1937

Charlotte M. King was born at Lakeville, Massachusetts, August 5, 1864. Her early life was spent in Des Moines, Iowa, where she received high school training and later taught in the public schools. Several years were spent in biological study at Iowa State College, with which institution she became affiliated in 1894 as artist for the experiment station, a position which she filled for more than 25 years. During this time the publications in entomology and botany were greatly enhanced by her pen.

For several years she directed classes in botanical drawing, and later instructed in methods of seed analysis. Though her time was largely given to

aspects of research, her teaching won her many lifelong friends who were impressed by her sense of perspective, breadth of knowledge, sympathetic interest and practical judgment which she exercised in her instruction.

From 1906 to 1930 Miss King was the seed analyst for the Seed Testing Laboratory administered by the Botany Department. She engaged also in other phases of scientific investigation in the capacity of assistant botanist, and later as assistant chief of the experiment station. From 1931 until her death May 26, 1937, she continued her work with the experiment station as research assistant professor and chairman of the editing committee of scientific papers published by the Botany department. Her knowledge of English and literary form as well as her scientific perspective enabled her to fill this position of editorship with exceptional efficiency.

Miss King was a lifelong student in the fields of music, art, literature and science. Her training was acquired through the application of an inherent love and capacity for learning and the judicious use of time and opportunity and not by the formality of college courses which lead to academic degrees. She was a generous loyal friend, gifted with the art of human understanding. Though herself self-disciplined, she was broadly tolerant of the differing views of her associates and was always charitable in the interpretation of their motives. Her delicate, alert sense of humor constantly brightened the routine of the day.

She became associated with societies coöperating in various pursuits and though never aggressive, she was always a contributor to thought in whatever activity she participated. Among the organizations with which she was allied were: The Unitarian Church, Cosmopolitan Club, Sigma Xi, Gamma Sigma Delta, the music, art and nature study divisions (at different times) of the Faculty Women's, or City Women's Club, The Iowa State College Grange, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Botanical Society of America, the Ecology Society, and the Iowa Academy of Science to which she was a regular contributor since her affiliation in 1899.

Her contributions to the field of science included:

Phenology of Iowa Plants, Iowa State Hort. Repts. 1902-1933; Illustration of a series of entomological articles for Dr. Herbert Osborn; Germination of Trees and Shrubs with L. H. Pammel, Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci., 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 1917-1930; Germination of Trees and Shrubs, C. M. King, Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci. 39, 1932; Fungous diseases, C. M. King with L. H. Pammel, Iowa Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 104, 116, 131; Reports of Seed Investigation, with L. H. Pammel, Iowa Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 99, 115, 146, 203, 226, 1908-1925. In addition to several papers dealing with the vascular cryptogams and weed flora, she was the joint author of two volumes: Weed flora of Iowa, Iowa Geol. Surv. Bul. 4, 1913. Rev. in 1926, and Honey Plants of Iowa, Bul. 7, Iowa Geol. Surv. 1930.