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## In Memoriam: Charles Sherman Cobb; Elbert William Rockwood; Franklin Scott Wilkins; Alonzo A. Miller; James H. Lees

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## IN MEMORIAM

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CHARLES SHERMAN COBB  
1864 - 1934

Charles Sherman Cobb was born on September 24, 1864, at Andalusia, Illinois. At the age of eight he moved with his parents to a farm near Early, Iowa. Thus his boyhood was spent on an Iowa farm. He attended school at Odebolt, where he completed the high school course. After finishing there he alternately taught school and attended college at Cedar Falls, from which he graduated in 1893 with the degree of Bachelor of Didactics. In 1921 he received the Bachelor of Arts from the State University of Iowa, and in 1928 the degree of Master of Science. In addition, his training included a summer at Drake University in 1894, at the University of Nebraska in 1903, and at the University of Chicago in 1905.

His first teaching work after graduation in 1893 was at Shelby, Iowa, where he remained six years. In 1899 he went to Hot Springs, South Dakota, for five years. From 1904 to 1907 he taught at Sidney, Iowa. Then at Logan, Iowa, from 1907 to 1913. For three years (1913 to 1916) he taught at Lanark, Illinois, a Dunkard settlement. For the next two years (1916 to 1918) he was out of school work on account of poor health. But in 1918 he went back to Logan, and remained there for six years. Late in 1924 he was called to Sioux City to take the science work in the newly established

East High School in Morningside. He was at this post up to the time of his death, which occurred on September 13, 1934.

On June 18, 1890, Mr. Cobb was married to Miss Jessie Scott, at Andrew, Iowa, whom he met while both were teaching school at Ireton, Iowa, and she survives him. He was a member of the Landmark Lodge of Masons.

Mr. Cobb took great interest in his students. He encouraged them to make collections and to undertake such problems as might be available to them. Much time "out of school" was devoted to botanizing with a bunch of boys. Material for school work was collected in this way. He also became interested in the Junior Academy of Science, and was quite regular in attendance, sometimes taking a group of his students to the meetings.

He took great pride in his garden, sowing it early in the spring, and keeping it immaculately clean. He was buried in the Logan Park cemetery, in Sioux City.

T. C. STEPHENS



ELBERT WILLIAM ROCKWOOD  
1860 - 1935

While waiting for the train that was to carry him on a vacation to his beloved New England, Professor Elbert William Rockwood died suddenly from a heart attack on July 17, 1935. With his passing the Iowa Academy of Sciences has lost one of its oldest members.

He was born in Franklin, Massachusetts, on July 4, 1860, the son of William and Laura Matilda (Blake) Rockwood. He received his B. S. degree from Amherst in 1886, his A. M. degree in 1901. Between 1889 and 1894 he spent nearly two years in study and research in the famous German Universities of Göttingen, Strassburg, and Leipzig, and at the University

of Chicago. He received his M.D. degree from the State University of Iowa in 1895 and his Ph.D. degree from Yale in 1904.

During the three years following his graduation from Amherst he was successively instructor in chemistry at Wesleyan University and Cornell University, and chemist at the Hatch Experiment Station (Connecticut). He came to Iowa as Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology in 1888. In 1904 he became head of the department of chemistry and he held that position until 1920 when he retired as professor of chemistry to devote his time to teaching and research.

Upon coming to Iowa Dr. Rockwood was placed in charge of students in medicine and dentistry. That this was not an easy task will be readily admitted by the honest and sincere, yet vigorous, boisterous, fun-loving students of those early days. The real genuine interest which he has always taken in his students won for him then, and since, the lasting loyalty and friendship of his students.

Dr. Rockwood came to Iowa when the department was in its infancy; throughout the whole of his regime economy was the watchword; funds for equipment and instructors were low. The teaching staff was necessarily small and the teaching schedules were heavy. He never shirked his part, but always bore his share of the teaching load. Imbued with the conviction that the best and most mature instructors were none too good for the students, he employed only full-time instructors. The efforts which he made were reflected in the attitude and work of the students. At the side of the student in the laboratory he had few equals in imparting knowledge and methods of technique.

Dr. Rockwood brought with him the traditions and the ideals of the old colleges of the cultured East and of Germany. He brought also the idea that scientific chemical training, if it is to be most fruitful, must go hand in hand with culture. He stood for scholarship among chemists, for quality rather than quantity.

In spite of the heavy burden of his work, he found time to read widely in all fields. He kept pace with the most important advances in pure and applied chemistry, and in other sciences as well. His knowledge and grasp of theoretical chemistry outside of his particular field has always been a source of amazement and wonder to his colleagues.

An enthusiastic and conscientious teacher himself, he was always sympathetic and generous toward the efforts of others. His attitude was a source of inspiration and encouragement to younger men entering the teaching profession. He always sought the advice and suggestions of his more mature instructors and, whenever possible, he incorporated their ideas into the work of the department. I shall never forget one personal incident which occurred during my second year. I went into Dr. Rockwood's office one day with a feeling of considerable temerity. I went in to ask him if he would object if I offered an additional graduate course in physical chemistry, — the Phase Rule, during the following year. Can you imagine the surprise of a young instructor when he came back quickly with these words: "I wish you to understand right now that any time you feel that you can introduce a course that will advance this department, you *do* it." What an opportunity, what an incentive, what an inspiration to a serious, progressively minded young instructor. It was my privilege in later years to introduce seven other more advanced courses, — all with his approval and best wishes.

His office door always swung open to student and instructor alike. He was never too busy to stop his work and chat upon things worth while; never too busy to give advice and encouragement. Whenever it became necessary to admonish or to bear down, he did that also, but always in an open and gracious manner that left no sting. The one admonished may have left his office somewhat sorry, saddened and sobered, perhaps somewhat angry at the time, yet, in the twenty-eight years during which I have been associated with Dr. Rockwood I have never known a student to leave his office as an enemy.

He always looked upon our special students and graduates in chemistry as his boys, and his interest in them has continued long after their graduation. How often he has come to me with these words, his face all smiles: "Do you remember Mr. ———, way back there? I just received a letter from him. He is doing fine. I knew that he would." Since he relinquished his duties as head of the department he has edited a much cherished "News Letter" to the alumni of the department. His passing leaves an intimate contact with the alumni which will be difficult to fill.

The fairness with which he dealt with students, the advice, the encouragement, the friendly admonition which he so freely gave built up for him a loyalty among our alumni, rarely, if ever, excelled in any university in this country. I know this to be true from the spontaneous response to letters sent to his former students and to the alumni of the College of Medicine requesting subscriptions for his bust. Within sixty-five days after the letters were sent out the fund was fully subscribed and the memorial cast in plaster; within three months and seventeen days the finished bronze was presented to the University, a monument to their affection for "Dear Old Rockie." The letters which he received from the alumni at that time contained many expressions of felicitation, of loyalty and esteem, of gratitude for the counsel and advice which he had given them in the "long ago."

It was these qualities in Dr. Rockwood, together with his culture and refinement, his fairness and generosity, his humility, his love for all that is good in life, in the arts and in music, that have endeared him to the alumni and to the University.

In 1894 Dr. Rockwood married Laura Clark of Iowa City. She died in 1922. Two sons were born to this union. Paul died in December 1927; Alan, the second son, is a radio electrical engineer at Newton, Massachusetts. In 1925 Dr. Rockwood married Lillian Gertrude Smith of Franklin, Massachusetts.

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J. N. PEARCE

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FRANKLIN SCOTT WILKINS

1889 - 1936

On April 3, 1936, after 20 years of service to the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station by Franklin Scott Wilkins, more familiarly known as "F. S." or as "Scott" Wilkins, his earthly remains were interred in the College Cemetery at Ames, Iowa, reserved for the burial of those who have served Iowa State College and the people of the State faithfully and long.

F. S. Wilkins was born at Addison, Pa., November 18, 1889. While he was still a mere boy the family removed to a farm in South Dakota, from which environment he enrolled at the South Dakota State College in Agriculture. In the fall of 1915 he was awarded a fellowship in Farm Crops at Iowa State College and the following year was employed as an instructor in Farm Crops at the Iowa State College, continuing in this position until 1918 when he resigned to offer himself for military training. During the years 1919-1920 he was on the staff of the Oregon State College as Assistant Professor of Farm Crops, returning to Iowa State College in 1920 as Research Assistant Professor in Forage Crops, continuing in this position to the time of his death. From 1928 he also was in the employ of the Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, United States Department of Agriculture, directing the extensive investigations which that division had elected to locate at Ames in coöperation with the Iowa station.

Nature had endowed him with an intense interest in all growing, living things and a mind which demanded to know how and why they responded as they did to their environment, thus making him an ideal crops experimentalist. In this investigational work no procedure was too detailed or laborious to be followed through, once he was convinced that it offered the best means of getting accurate results. It is believed that few experimentalists have been more careful and accurate in making and preserving

in the most systematic order their recorded observations. Above all he is known always to have been absolutely honest.

Mr. Wilkins did not have the blessing of good health. For a period of years it was necessary for him to subsist on a most rigid diet, a diet which often brought physical weakness. During recent months there had been almost continual distressing pain, such distress resulting in sleepless nights or but fitful rest. But through it all he carried on his work almost continuously, never complaining or referring in any way to his own condition. On the contrary, one of his most conspicuous characteristics was his sympathetic concern and active interest in the difficulties and troubles of others. In spite of his physical handicap, by thoughtful, careful effort and planning he carried on his work effectively, accomplishing more than many another, possessed of good health, might have done.

One of the most notable of Professor Wilkins' contributions to our knowledge of forages was the results obtained from an investigation of the factors involved in the successful production of soybeans. It is particularly fortunate that the results of a great variety of studies which have been underway through a considerable period of years, having to do with the different legumes and grasses, either have recently been reported and published by the station, or are now ready for publication. The manuscript for a publication having to do with investigational methods employed in conducting forage crops research and to which Mr. Wilkins gave his best efforts for several years, was completed only a few days before his death. The results of much of his work remain to be published but, fortunately, as a result of the meticulous care exercised in the recording and filing of experimental records, it will be possible for others to complete the reporting of these results with some degree of satisfaction.

But the reports of his investigational work have not been limited to the publications of the station. Professor Wilkins was a writer of recognized ability with an urge to write. He contributed extensively for Wallaces' Farmer and Iowa Homestead, the Agricultural Journal which blankets Iowa farmers, the greater part of this material having been published without any indication of its source. It was written with a desire that the results of investigations to which he was devoting his energy be made available as quickly as possible for practical application in the solution of Iowa farm problems.

With the passing of Franklin Scott Wilkins, it is recognized that the staff of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station loses the services of a co-worker of recognized ability and standing in his field of research, a man of the very highest character, interested in the most worth while things in life, an asset to the civic and religious life of the college community, and a valued friend and counsellor.

H. D. HUGHES



ALONZO A. MILLER

1865 - 1933

Mr. Miller was born in Davenport on February 4, 1865, and belonged to a pioneer family. He was a resident of Davenport practically all his life, a member of Trinity lodge, Zarephath Consistory and Kaaba Temple Shrine, and an active member of the first Presbyterian Church. On October 24, 1900, he married Miss Marion Potter of Davenport who survives him; there is also one son William.

Mr. Miller was recognized as one of the prominent educational leaders of the state. He began teaching when eighteen years old, following his graduation from the local high school. After teaching for several years in Blue Grass, Eldridge and Long Grove, he became County superintendent of schools in 1896, a position which he held until 1902 when he assumed the position of Principal at Fillmore School. Mr. Miller served in this capacity for 19 years; for 12 years previous to his death he was Principal of the Harrison Part Time School.

He was a botanist of unusual ability and took great pride in beautifying the surroundings of his home; he cultivated many rare plants and flowers in his garden, which was one of the most beautiful in the Tri-cities. He presented a large collection of orchids to Iowa State College at Ames. In collaboration with Will Barnes of Davenport and Mr. Reppert of Muscatine, he assembled data for a *Flora of Scott and Muscatine Counties* which was published by the Davenport Academy of Sciences in 1901.

The Davenport Democrat in an editorial devoted to Mr. Miller after his death has this tribute to him: It is doubtful if any school principal ever had closer or more heartfelt relations with his pupils than was the case with this good man. He displayed an equal interest in the welfare of the children placed under him, as a parent would in his own child. His kindness,

his wholeheartedness, and his genial and wholesome nature, made him much loved and admired far beyond the boundaries of the school room.

Alonzo Miller, or "Lon" as he was better known among his intimates, was a gentleman of the old school—courteous, polite and obliging in the extreme. A man of Christian spirit, his entire life was one of kindness and gentleness.

W. A. HAUBER



JAMES H. LEES

1875 - 1935

James H. Lees, one of our academy's long-time members, passed away at Garden Grove, California, August 6, 1935, stricken with cerebral hemorrhage. For thirty years or more, Doctor Lees was one of the academy's most active and influential members. He served as secretary of the academy from 1914 to 1924, and was president in 1931.

Doctor Lees was of English stock. He was born in Yorkshire, England, July 26, 1875, and came with his parents, Mr. Henry Lees and Sarah Lees, to America in 1881, where his parents settled on a government claim in South Dakota. After three years of homesteading in Dakota, the family moved to Iowa and located on the Fields brothers' farm, just west of

Cedar Falls. The Fields brothers were also English and conducted a large stock farm.

At fifteen years of age, James entered the Iowa State Normal School, where he remained until he had secured his B Di. and M Di. degrees. After finishing at Cedar Falls, he taught school for several years. He decided to leave the teaching profession and continue his preparation for some line of professional work. He entered Coe College and received his A.B. degree in the spring of 1901. In the fall of 1901, he entered the State University of Iowa. While here he came under the magnetic influence of Doctor Calvin, who gave to him the inspiration to enter the field of Geology as a life's work. After receiving his Master of Science degree from the university in 1903, he spent the next three years at the University of Chicago as a graduate student and research assistant. In 1906, he returned to Iowa where he was made assistant state geologist to Doctor Calvin, who was then state geologist. Some years later he completed his thesis and in 1915 received his Ph.D. degree from Chicago University.

At the death of Doctor Calvin, the State University called Doctor Kay from Kansas University to head up the Department of Geology at Iowa, and to take the place of Doctor Calvin as state geologist. Doctor Lees was retained by Doctor Kay as his assistant in which capacity he served until the summer of 1934, when because of ill health, Dr. Lees resigned his position.

Dr. Lees' work was of such a nature as to take him into every county of the state. This made him familiar with its geology as is the rare opportunity of few men to attain. During his numerous field trips he became thoroughly familiar, not only with its structural history, but with its economic minerals as well. He has written many articles concerning Iowa geology, some of the most noteworthy being "The Des Moines River Valley," "History of Coal Mining in Iowa," "The Deep Wells of Iowa," and many other valuable contributions which enabled him to give valuable advice to any one interested in the development of the state's natural resources. He rendered notable service to the State Park Board Commission when advice was needed regarding areas within the state where land should be set aside as state parks.

As assistant geologist it was his duty to edit the Iowa Geological Survey Reports. During the time that he served under Dr. Calvin, he edited five volumes, and fifteen volumes as assistant to Dr. Kay. The survey has never had a more careful or painstaking editor. His knowledge of English and modern methods of publication made him of outstanding value and his publications today stand out as examples of high standards of excellence. Dr. Lees was possessed with a most genial and inspiring personality. He was a keen student and observer, tactful, kind and considerate with all who might differ with him. Society is made up of a multitude of many sided personalities. Some effect one but slightly, while others make an indelible impression which only death can erase. To the latter of these personalities belonged Dr. Lees. His was like the well cut diamond sending back in beautiful tints and colors, good cheer, sympathy, helpfulness, and the loftiest ideals of worthy service and citizenship.

As a citizen he was one of the most kindly, modest and upright of men, courteous with that type of courtesy which some might call "old fashioned," but which this old world of ours needs in great abundance. As a Christian

gentleman, he needs no words of eulogy. He gave of his time and efforts to his family, the church, and all worthy civic enterprises.

In his untimely death the Academy has lost one of its most valuable members, his family a devoted husband and father, and society a valuable personality. Such lives of true, inspired service will help lighten the sorrow and misery of today with a far reaching, prophetic hope and will surely strengthen and confirm our faith in the God-like possibilities of human living.

Dr. Lees is survived by his wife, Agnes Mae Crane, and his two sons, Robert and Lawrence.

E. J. CABLE