

1927

In Memoriam: Charles Nutting; LeRoy Titus Weeks; Edna M. Carter

L. H. Pammel

Guy West Wilson

Copyright © Copyright 1927 by the Iowa Academy of Science, Inc.

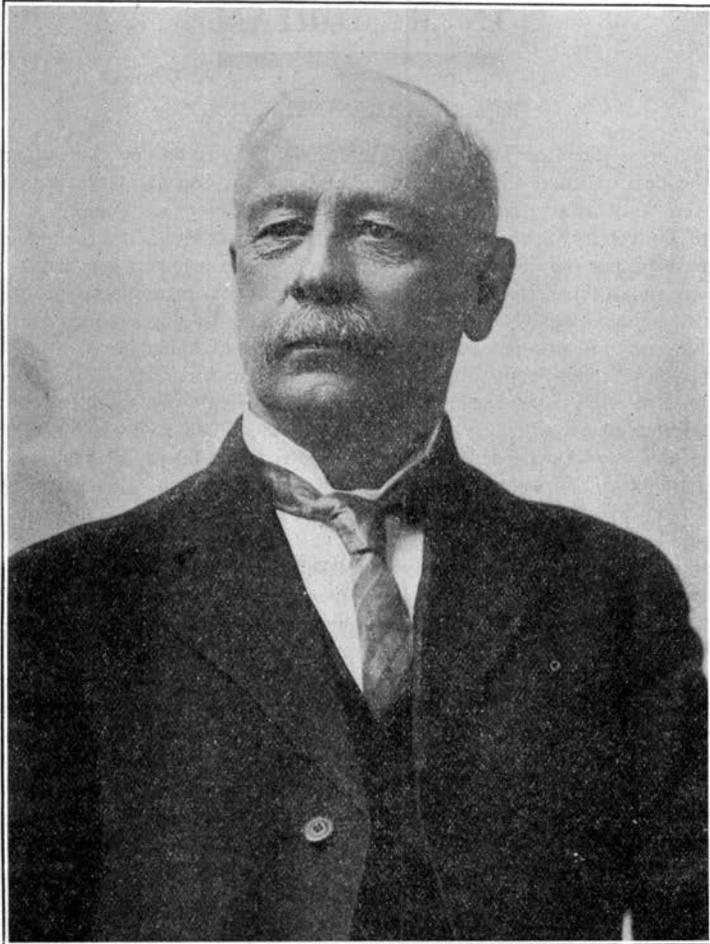
Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias>

Recommended Citation

Pammel, L. H. and Wilson, Guy West (1927) "In Memoriam: Charles Nutting; LeRoy Titus Weeks; Edna M. Carter," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, 34(1), 39-49.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol34/iss1/5>

This General Interest Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Iowa Academy of Science at 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.



DR. CHARLES NUTTING

IN MEMORIAM

DR. CHARLES NUTTING

The press items of January 24th and 25th, 1927, contained the sad news of the death of Dr. Charles Nutting at Iowa City on January 23rd. Dr. Nutting for many years was head of the Department of Zoology of the State University, a position he filled with great credit and honor to the University, not only because he was a great and an inspiring teacher, a fine citizen and a true friend, but an accepted authority on a special group of marine animals, namely the Hydroids. He was the leading authority in this country on this group, and this is altogether remarkable because he was hundreds of miles from salt water where they are found.

Dr. Nutting, on his death, was in his sixty-seventh year, and one would think there were still busy years ahead to extend his zoological contributions and to enjoy needed rest from his strenuous labors as head of the department of Zoology. The University authorities had relieved him in part from his duties but a weak heart made it impossible for him longer to stand the strain.

Your Committee on Necrology has asked me to prepare a sketch of his life for the Proceedings of the Iowa Academy. It is a pleasure indeed to do this, because I had known him quite intimately for more than thirty-eight years. I first met him at a meeting of the Iowa Academy held in Des Moines in 1889. He and other associates helped reorganize the present Academy to make it a force in Iowa. The present Academy owes much to those faithful workers of long ago—like C. C. Nutting, Herbert Osborn and R. Ellsworth Call who were the Zoologists of this early organization.

The writer served with Dr. Nutting on many committees. He always had splendid ideas on matters of policy and publication. He did not present many papers during these thirty-nine years but they were good. He once told me after the presentation of some of his papers, as "Systematic Zoology in College," "Some of the causes and results of Polygamy among the Pinnepedia," "Do lower animals reason?," that he used the Academy Proceedings to bring certain interesting points about animals, the peculiarities of structure and general philosophical zoology before the public. His presidential address on "What we have been doing" is a brief resume of scientific work of members of the Iowa Academy.

Dr. Nutting for many years was one of the University representatives to deliver lectures on zoological subjects to colleges and universities. Three of these which I heard were delivered to large audiences at Iowa State College, one on "The Bahama Expedition," "The Winnipeg, or The explorations in the North," and "The Barbados-Antigua Expedition." He was clear and concise in presenting his subjects to the public. Fine lantern

views made his subject matter doubly interesting. The lessons he presented were long remembered by his audience. It was indeed a pleasure to hear him because he always had an important message. On Laysan Island, it was the protection of the bird life. On the Winnipeg area, it was to preserve the breeding places of our migratory birds, and so on.

It was the writer's pleasure to have been entertained in his home. He was a fine host and his wife an equally fine hostess. The family life was an ideal one, a simple American home in which religion was a part, and his ideas of the home were beautifully brought out in "Ascending Humanity" — Commencement address delivered at Mid-Year Convocation on February 4, 1925, at Iowa City. In this address he paid a fine tribute to Henry Drummond, the author of "The Ascent of Man," and that other great book, "The Greatest Thing in the World," in which Drummond presents the thesis that "the greatest thing is love, or perhaps better, affection." In this address a beautiful tribute is paid to Motherhood, the development of the family, the Clan, State and Nation, and finally he advocates a spirit of brotherhood among nations. In this ascent and co-operation then, there must be self-control, the basis of love, charity, self-sacrifice and altruism. Christ is a part of the ascent of man. He tells us, "The Progress of Civilization may be likened to a rising tide, a succession of waves, each advancing and receding, each sweeping higher and higher and higher on this shore."

Dr. Nutting was born in Jacksonville, Illinois, on May 25, 1858, and came from a fine family. His father was Rev. Rufus Nutting, Professor of Greek in Blackburn College and a Presbyterian minister. His mother was Margaretta (Leib) Hunt. Dr. Nutting married Lizzie Hersman, of Hersman, Illinois, August 10, 1886. Some years after the death of his first wife he married Eloise Willis, of Iowa City, June 16, 1897.

Professor Nutting received his early education in the public schools of Jacksonville, Illinois, prepared for college at Carlinville, entered Blackburn College, Carlinville, Illinois, in 1876, from which he graduated in 1880, receiving the A.B. degree and the A.M. in 1882. After his graduation from Blackburn College he became an assayer in Leadville, Colorado. In 1882 he became connected with the Smithsonian Institution as an explorer in Central America. He came to the State University of Iowa as an assistant under Dr. Samuel Calvin in 1886 and four years later was made professor of Zoology, which position as head of the Department of Zoology and Curator of the Museum of Natural History he held continuously until his death.

Dr. Nutting was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Secretary Section F, Zoology, in 1897 and Vice-President of the same section in 1902; a member of the Zoological Society, President Central Branch 1906; member Naturalists of Central States; Washington Academy; Fellow Iowa Academy, President in 1891; President Iowa Anthropological Association, 1906. His name is starred in Cattell's "American Men of Science," which means that his associates in Zoology recognized him as one of the leading zoologists of the country. Dr. Nutting was the leading authority in this country on Hydroids and Alcyonaria. He built up for the State University of Iowa one of the finest collections of this group in the country and this is a fitting monument.

Professor Nutting's great work in the field of Zoology was generally recognized. In 1926 Cornell College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Dr. Nutting was inspired by that fine master and teacher, Dr. Samuel Calvin, who was eager and took his recreation in the "unalloyed joy of research." As Calvin once said to Nutting, "This is my recreation, my pleasure, my golf, if you please." Prof. Nutting tells about the discovery of a new Protozoan in the laboratory of Dr. Calvin, which was not only appreciated by Prof. Nutting, but by Prof. Calvin. In the words of Dr. Nutting, "Dr. Calvin, the best teacher that ever I knew, looked at it, and his face fairly beamed in sympathy with the enthusiasm of his new assistant. His decision was instant. "This looks like something new, drop everything else and stay with it. I will see to it that your time is occupied by none of the usual duties. Work out the life history of this new creature and prepare an account for immediate publication." Then he tells us how delighted he was to have described then his first new species. "It had more thrill in it than hundreds of other species" described since.

Prof. Nutting served as assistant at the State University until 1890 when he was elected to the chair of Zoology. In the year 1895 he occupied the Harvard University table at Naples. His interest in a study of salt water animal life began with his work in Central America, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Work in the Smithsonian Institution and the United States National Museum and at Naples helped him to lay the foundation for his future life work in Marine Zoology, especially Hydroids.

He was the naturalist for the Hawaiian Cruise in 1902 under United States Governmental auspices on the steamer U.S.S. Albatross and this was an important one because many important discoveries were made. He was connected with many other zoological cruises as The Bahama Expedition in 1893, which was prolific of many scientific papers and gave the students at the State University of Iowa a wonderful opportunity to study marine life. There were twenty persons connected with the Bahama Expedition working under his direction. His account "Narrative and Preliminary Report from the State University of Iowa," known as the Bahama Expedition, gives a most fascinating account of the animal life and this cruise. The headquarters were on board the ship Emily E. Johnson. It seems to me this Bahama Expedition not only accomplished a great deal in the way of collecting valuable material but is an important contribution. It required good executive ability and organization to bring about the co-ordination of the work of the expedition. The Crinoids and Echinoderms were studied by H. L. Clark, the fishes of the West Indies and Florida by A. E. Verrill. The descriptive account appeared in *Bulletin of the Laboratories of Natural History* (7:1-252).

The Barbados-Antigua Expedition was undertaken in 1918. The report was published by the University, *Continuation Bulletin from the Laboratories of Natural History of the State University* (8:1-274). There were 19 persons, including students, under his direction on this expedition. The shores and reefs were studied as well as deep sea dredging in 150 fathoms of water. He tells us that though the region was not as rich as the Bahama Islands, Cuba and Florida Keys, it was interesting because comparatively little study had been made of the Barbados and Antigua Islands and their

collection added materially to the knowledge of the geographic distribution of animal life. The Antigua Island is a part of the Leeward Island and with the Windward Island is known as the Lesser Antilles. They explored St. Thomas Island, St. Croix Island, St. Kitts and Antigua. Dominica is the most beautiful island of the Lesser Antilles. Dr. Nutting expressed himself in beautiful terse English as shown in the following extract under the head of Outward Bound, "After the strenuous life of the preceding days it was an immense relief to find ourselves on shipboard with the prospect of a restful voyage of two weeks involving one of the most delightful cruises imaginable, including visits to many of the beautiful islands of Lesser Antilles, and with nothing to do but enjoy ourselves."

In another part of the report he says, "Life at sea in these latitudes is a deliciously lazy one. The weather is usually fine, the air soft and not hot, the water the bluest of blue, and the sky blue for the most part, but girdled around the horizon with the beautiful columnar tropic clouds. We watched the countless small schools of flying-fish rising suddenly, skipping along the crests for a hundred yards or so and then plunging into the water. By night we leaned over the rail and watched the sparkling phosphorescence caused by innumerable pelagic organisms."

A zoological exploration was made to Saskatchewan in July and August, 1891. A full account of this was published by the State University (Bull. Lab. Nat. Hist. 2:235). Dr. Nutting gives a fine description of the region, the animal life in and about Lake Winnipeg and Lake Winnipegosis, and the streams. A part of the drainage system of British America, like the Saskatchewan, Nelson and a maze of lakes, is a fine breeding place for wild fowl ("One of the greatest palustral regions in the world and breeding place of most of our migratory birds"). This paper is especially valuable for its account of the animal life and a comparative study of the western Arctic and temperate fauna. The paper lists the species and notes the eastern and western migrants which never occur in Iowa.

He published many papers on Hydroids. The extensive collection made by the Harriman Alaska Expedition, Puget Sound and Alaska, were studied by him and he extended the list of Sertularians (Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum 21:.....). The West Coast Hydroids were monographed by Dr. Nutting while McLean Fraser under his direction, also studied Hydroids (Bull. Lab. Nat. Hist. 6:3). Monographed in Washington Acad. Sci (3:.....). The paper on the Hydroids of the Woods Hole region was published by the U. S. Fish Commission. The Hawaiian Hydroids collected on the steamer Albatross of the U. S. Fish Commission in 1906 was published by the Fish Commission, 1903. He described the Alcyonaria mainly from Japanese water well worked up by him (Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum 43:1-104, pl. 1-24). Several new species were described. During 1906 the Albatross made a cruise in the Northwest Pacific, securing 102 species. In a discussion of these he took up the geographical bathymetric distribution of Alcyonaria. (Parts I, II and III issued as special bulletins of the U. S. National Museum 1900-1915) and the Gorgonacea of the Siboga Expedition (Parts III to VII, 1910-1911) also issued as special bulletins.

The Gorgonidae of the Coelenterata also received his attention. In one of the early contributions of the bulletin laboratories of Natural History of the State University (1:97-160) he, in order to determine the relationship

of the group, had to make a thorough study of the anatomy and then made some observations on living species.

Dr. Nutting was an easy and forceful writer and had the ability to make clear his discussion of a subject. Let me quote what he had to say about Frederiksted, St. Croix Island, "Quite a number of our party went ashore at Frederiksted where we secured automobiles and took a drive over to Christiansted on the opposite side of the island. The roads were excellent and the novelty of bowling along between rows of stately palms and through great sugar estates with many beautiful vistas of tropical valleys between hills that would be called mountains at home, with a glimpse of the blue sea beyond, was hugely appreciated by the Iowa folk."

It must have been a rare treat for the students to see the Botanical Garden on St. Kitts Island, the wonderful tree ferns on the island, to visit St. Johns, the capital of Antigua, the Guadeloupe, Pointe (a) Pitre, a city as foreign as it could be, the beautiful Dominica, the most beautiful and most interesting of all the Lesser Antilles, at least to the naturalist, who could see the wonderful Botanic Garden and the public museum.

Another illustration of his style is shown in his account of porpoises: "A short distance beyond St. Pierre a big school of porpoises gave us an exhibition of fancy swimming, hurdling and diving as they followed the ship and played alongside for half an hour or so. One never tired of watching their aquatic acrobatics." "We were up early in the morning of May 9, and found the low hills of Barbados, the Ultima Thule of our cruise, in sight. Soon we could make out the trees and buildings of Pelican Island which was to be our home for the next five weeks and looked very attractive in the morning light." Speaking of tropical fishes he said, "No flower bed nor collection of tropical butterflies could surpass the bright color of these fishes, and we all were immensely enjoying surveying the contents as they were brought in. Of course these colors faded very soon after death, and nothing in the preserved specimens indicated their real appearance in life."

He gives a fine account of the Barbados Islands not as well known to Americans as some other islands like the Bahamas and Cuba. He mentions the agriculture, the profusion of flowers like Hibiscus, Bougainvillea, silk cotton tree. He was impressed with Imperial Department of Agriculture, the fine Botanic Garden. He gives as an introduction a fine description of St. Lucia as follows:

"The next morning we witnessed from our portholes a sight that for splendor of coloring I never saw surpassed. We were gliding through perfectly calm water in the lee of St. Lucia off the sharp pinnacles of the Pitons, twin cones slender almost as church spires, twenty-six hundred feet high." The remainder of this book, as well as the Bahama Expedition, are equally interesting and are well worth reading.

Dr. C. C. Nutting, in "Lessons from Fiji" (*Scientific Monthly* 23:19-32), says: "It is even so in Fiji, the British Colonials on the one hand and the Indians on the other hand, or the upper and nether millstones, between which the really fine native race, seem destined either to assimilation, which seems unlikely, or obliteration, which I sadly fear is probable. The lesson is, then, that communism, although an alluring ideal, is but an indiscreet treatment doomed by an inexorable natural law to failure when

brought into competition with a people inured to the struggle for existence, by which progress is alone possible from the biological point of view."

The Daily Iowan, in commenting on the work of Prof. Nutting, says: "As long as the University lives, Professor Nutting is alive, for it was he who gave so unsparingly of his services that the University might be what it is. He will live in the hundreds of deep sea museum specimens he procured and brought to the University of Iowa and in the intellect of the students he has instructed during the last 41 years.

"But longest of all he will live because of the unflinching sense of duty that distinguished him as a scientist and a gentleman."

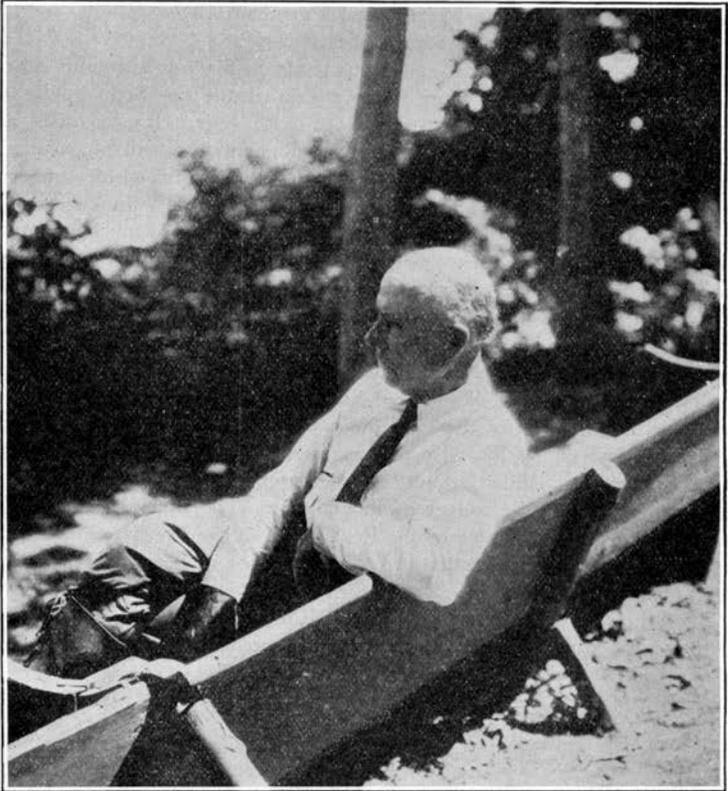
Dr. Dayton Stoner, in the same publication, says:

"He was extremely human and sympathetic in his contacts with others. He could always see the other fellow's side of the question. While the passing of Prof. Nutting will be noted with regret by scientists and co-workers on account of his scholarly attainments, he will be most sincerely mourned by those who had the privilege of his friendship and have known something of his appreciation of life's values. His presence on the campus, always an inspiration to his students, has meant so much to returning graduates that his absence will be keenly felt for many years to come, and no commencement occasion will seem quite complete without him. President W. A. Jessup said, 'Prof. Nutting had one of the most interesting and colorful personalities I have ever known. He was a great leader in the field of science and one of the outstanding naturalists who has developed in the Academic world. He shared honors with Calvin and Macbride in centering the attention of the scientific world on the University of Iowa.'

"He is survived by his wife, a daughter, Miss Elizabeth Nutting, and two sons, the Rev. Willis D. Nutting of Evergreen, Colorado, and Chas. B. Nutting, a junior in the college of Liberal Arts. The funeral services were held from the Nutting home by the Rev. Rhind of the Presbyterian Church, assisted by Rev. Willis Nutting who is Rector of an Episcopal church in Evergreen, Colorado."

The editor of the University of Iowa Bulletin News, says this: "Prof. Nutting was a most interesting character, recognized everywhere as a scholar, one of the last and best of the old school."

L. H. PAMMEL.



DR. LEROY TITUS WEEKS

IN MEMORIAM

DR. LEROY TITUS WEEKS

Dr. Weeks did not very frequently attend the meetings of the Iowa Academy of Science. Nevertheless he was deeply interested in all phases of scientific work. In my visit with him last October, he said, "I prize my membership in the Iowa Academy, and especially that the Academy saw fit to elect me a fellow."

Dr. Weeks was born in Mount Vernon, Iowa, on February 1, 1854, and died in Council Bluffs, Iowa, March 4, 1927. He died at an age when most people expect to retire from active service, but when I saw him last in October he was most active in the college work at Tabor and helped to do large things. Dr. Weeks, Dean and Professor, though born in the city, was a lover of the great out-of-doors. He came in contact with early rural Iowa on the farm of Mr. M. F. Rigby near Stanwood. It was here that he became interested in birds, flowers and animals. It was here that he received his first instruction in natural history, the birds and flowers. It was here that he seriously first studied the music of the bobolink, whose music he put in that fine poem, "The Bobolink." He was indeed a lover of the birds and he knew their habits and songs as no one else did. Many a boy and girl will thank him for the hikes taken with them to study bird life in the forest, meadow, stream and lake. Ornithology with him was an avocation, for he was a minister of the gospel, first in the Methodist church, later rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Emmetsburg, and later still college chaplain of Tabor College and rector of the church in Glenwood. He held pastorates in the Methodist church in Kansas. He was also a teacher in McKendrick College, Lebanon, Illinois, and Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas. As a teacher of English and English literature he left his impress on the students, who respected and loved him for his sterling qualities. He was loved as a pastor and rector, for his fearless expression in behalf of righteousness and truth. He was a great and good citizen and we love to honor him for his contribution to science. Cornell College has turned out many notable men but none finer nor who did a man's work better than Dr. Weeks. He graduated in 1883, and received his A.M. in 1902; took graduate work at the University of Chicago; was a student at Oxford and received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Denver. Not long ago I met two citizens of Atlantic, Iowa, who spoke of the inspiration they received from his bird trips at the School of Wild Life Protection and his lectures on birds. He made many addresses before Iowa audiences on birds. His work at McGregor was greatly appreciated by everyone.

Dr. Weeks contributed to the Des Moines Register, Tabor Beacon, Bird Lore, Iowa Conservation Magazine, and Century Magazine. His poetry on out-of-door life is worthy of a prominent place in the literature of Iowa.

L. H. PAMMEL

IN MEMORIAM

EDNA M. CARTER

Edna Margaret Carter was born at Hesper, Iowa, August 28, 1875, and passed away at Fayette, Iowa, March 6, 1926. She graduated from Upper Iowa University in 1916 and pursued her scientific studies further at Iowa State College and at the Lakeside Laboratory of the University of Michigan.

She taught for a time in the department of Biology at Upper Iowa. For five years she taught in the Dubuque high school, leaving there in 1924 to accept a position in the Fayette high school so that she might be at home with her aged mother. Failing health caused her to relinquish her school work in December, 1925.

Her career as a teacher was unusually successful. She was devoted to her work for which she was especially well qualified. She was one of those rare teachers who have the ability to inspire students with a love of nature and a desire to know more of the world about them. Her pupils felt that she had a vital personal interest in them.

Her interests were not limited to the class room. The community and all its activities interested her deeply. She was active in church work and in all those enterprises which had for their object civic betterment. In her death the teaching profession and the community sustained a real loss.

GUY WEST WILSON