

Obituaries

WALDO GIFFORD LELAND

Waldo Leland was born in Newton Lower Falls on July 17, 1879, a son of Luther Erving and Ellen M. (Gifford) Leland. Theirs was a family of school teachers, so Waldo headed in the same direction, with a college professorship as his goal. At Brown, where he took his B.A. in 1900, he formed a friendship with Clarence Brigham. Moving on to the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, he took an M.A. in 1901, and while working toward his Ph.D. held an assistantship and occasionally lectured. One day in 1903 Professor Hart called him in and suggested that he go to Washington for six months to assist Van Tyne in the preparation of the Carnegie Report on the archives of the United States. So Waldo laid down for good his work on his doctorate; but several institutions were in the years to come to give him academic laurels.

In Washington, Leland did the hard work in the survey of the records of the Federal government, and, inheriting the responsibility for the task, brought out the *Guide to the Archives of the Government of the United States* which was the compass of an entire generation of American historians. He remained in Washington as a member of the department of historical research of the Carnegie Institution. In 1907 it sent him to Paris, where until 1914, and again from 1922-1927, he worked on the famous series of Carnegie guides to those archives.

During these years Leland was in Washington enough of the time to be active in the American Historical Society,

and particularly in its conferences to further the work of the State, local, and specialized societies. His careful planning of these sessions was an example of his peerless executive ability in this kind of work. The establishment of the International Union of Academies in 1919 raised the question and the problem of American representation, and Leland solved it by managing the organization of the American Council of Learned Societies Devoted to the Humanities. He was the Secretary until 1939, when its growth compelled a reorganization, which made him its Director. After his retirement in 1946, the American Council had several able executives, but they had great difficulty in managing an institution which was peculiarly his creation and his shadow.

Waldo first visited the American Antiquarian Society in 1905, and was elected to membership in 1924. Naturally he was our delegate to the A.C.L.S. until fear of conflict of interest compelled him to resign as representative. He was a faithful attender of meetings, and many of my own happy memories of Worcester meeting days have to do with driving him back to Newton or Boston. At the meeting of October, 1951, he read a paper on "Recollections of an Itinerant Historian" which is delightful, and a priceless picture of his early years in the profession. We nagged him to carry on this narrative, and our efforts finally brought him to give his "Personal Recollections of John Franklin Jameson" at the meeting of October, 1959; but we never could bring him to get the manuscript ready for press. He had a constitutional difficulty in getting anything ready for the printer, chiefly because there were always things to do for other people. His aid to us in finding funds to finance the Evans and the Sabin bibliographies is a case in point. The story of his part in the establishment of the National Archives would need a volume in itself. He was president of both the international Union of Academies at Brussels and

the International Congress of Historical Sciences at Zurich in 1938, which was hardly an exceptional year for him. He joined in the planning and organization of UNESCO, and at times was an United States delegate to it. In its meetings his voice was raised against the "intellectual enslavement in the Soviet-dominated areas."

Leland had long anticipated retirement to his family home in Newton, only to have it snatched from him and the environment changed unrecognizably by the new highways. So he passed his last years in Washington, concerned largely with the illness of his wife, the former Gertrude Dennis. He died in Washington on October 17, 1966, and was buried in Newton.

C.K.S.

GEORGE RUSSELL STOBBS

George Stobbs was born in Webster, Massachusetts, on February 7, 1877, a son of Charles Richard and Anna Betsey (Lincoln) Stobbs. His father was a native of Canada and a printer who moved to Webster as publisher of *The Webster Times*. George's mother was from Shrewsbury, Vermont. As a youngster George visited the family farm there during the summers, and often told us of his love for that state.

From the Webster public schools he went to Phillips Exeter Academy, and then to Harvard College, where he took his B.A. in 1899. While attending the Law School, he served as an assistant in History I for two years, and earned an M.A. in 1900. He began the practice of law in Worcester with the firm of Taft, Morgan and Stewart in 1902, but perhaps had little to do for a time, for he later maintained that he had held the first automobile agency in Worcester. In 1908 he became a member of the law partner-

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