

OBITUARIES

EDWARD EVERETT AYER

Edward Everett Ayer, whose death occurred at Pasadena, Calif., May 3, 1927, was born November 16, 1841 at Kenosha, Wis., the son of Elbridge Gerry and Mary (Titcomb) Ayer. He married Emma Augustus Burbank, of Lawrence, Mass., September 7, 1865.

During his childhood the family moved to Harvard, Illinois, where the child absorbed the marvels in nature and history which had so great an influence upon his whole life. In 1860 he joined a wagon train which started from Kenosha; the party journeyed to Council Bluffs, which was almost an unsettled country, then by the north trail across the mountains to Salt Lake City and over to Carson City. Young Ayer worked in the mines, later proceeding to San Francisco where he enlisted in the Army and was the first man sworn in on the Pacific Coast. He was soon made corporal and was moved from camp to camp in California and thence to Tucson, Arizona. Here he saw a good deal of Indian life, and was called to select a squad and proceed to San Bernadinó mine, on guard duty. In his further experiences in the service of the Army he shared in the adventurous skirmishes with the Sioux and rose to the rank of lieutenant.

Upon his return from the war to Illinois he gave particular attention to the development of various timber interests which he had gradually acquired in various sections of the country. He was a pioneer in the business of supplying cross-ties for American railroads, and organized with John B. Lord in 1893 the Ayer & Lord Tie Company.

During a large part of his life he was noted for his activity as a collector. He had the largest and most complete library on the history of the American Indian, numbering thousands of books, pamphlets and manuscripts, some of the drawings of the Aztecs antedating the conquest of Mexico by Cortez. This remarkable collection he gave to the Newberry Library in 1911. Other important collections were of ornithology and ichthyology, pewter objects and figures, and Indian accoutrements, all of which he donated to the Field Museum of Natural History.

He was president of the Field Museum, director of the Art Institute of Chicago; and a member of the American Historical Association, Chicago Historical Society and Caxton Club. He was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1909.

M. R. R.

THOMAS WILLING BALCH

Thomas Willing Balch was born June 13, 1866 at Wiesbaden, Germany, the son of Thomas and Emily (Swift) Balch, and died June 8, 1927 at Atlantic City, where he had gone hoping to recover his health. He was graduated from Harvard College in the class of 1890 with the degree of A.B. and received the degree of LL.B. in 1895 from the University of Pennsylvania. Being possessed of ample means, he never was especially active in the practice of law, but devoted much of his time to the writing of history and to foreign travel.

In 1917 he received the degree of L.H.D. from Trinity College. He was a widely known authority on international law. He was manager of the Philadelphia Assemblies, 1909 to 1912, concerning which he wrote a valuable history from its inception, in 1748, to 1916; he was manager of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia from 1905 to 1915; at one time he was a director of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal Company

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