

## OBITUARIES

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### CLARENCE WALWORTH ALVORD

Clarence Walworth Alvord died January 25, 1928, at Diano Marina, Italy. He was born at Greenfield, Mass., May 21, 1868, the son of Daniel Wells and Caroline Betts (Dewey) Alvord. After a preparatory education in the Northampton schools and Phillips Exeter Academy, he went to Williams College where he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1891. He was instructor at Milton Academy from 1891 to 1893, studied at the University in Berlin, 1893-1895, and took special studies at the University of Chicago in 1895. He became an instructor at the University of Illinois in 1897, advancing to professor in history in 1913. In 1920 he was chosen professor of history at the University of Minnesota where he remained until 1923. He married in 1893 Jennie Kettell Blanchard, who died in 1911, and secondly, Idress Head of St. Louis in 1913.

Professor Alvord was one of the most active and influential of the historians of the middle West, taking as his special field the history of the Ohio Valley. He was the author of "The Mississippi Valley in British Politics," which was awarded the Loubat prize in 1917, and of "The Illinois Country" in 1920. He was general editor of the Illinois Historical Collections from 1906 to 1920, himself producing many of the most important volumes in this series, and was founder and managing editor of the "Mississippi Valley Historical Review" from 1914 to 1923. He received the degree of Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1908 and was a member of many leading historical societies.

In 1925 he was requested by the British Academy to deliver the Raleigh lectures on history, and in the following year was the first American to be chosen Creighton lecturer at the University of London. He was elected to this Society in 1921. An excellent biographical sketch of Mr. Alvord, written by Solon J. Buck, appears in the "Mississippi Valley Historical Review," Vol. 15, p. 309.

C. S. B.

### JOHN SPENCER BASSETT

John Spencer Bassett was born at Tarboro, N. C., September 10, 1867, the son of Richard Baxter and Mary (Wilson) Bassett. He was educated at Trinity College, N. C., where he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1888, and later studied at Johns Hopkins University, receiving the degree of Ph.B. in 1894. He adopted the teaching of history as his life profession, serving as professor for thirty-four years at two colleges, at Trinity College, his alma mater, from 1893 to 1906, and at Smith College from 1906 until his death. On August 10, 1892, he married Jessie Lewellin, of Durham, N. C., by whom he had two children, Richard Horace and Margaret Byrd Bassett. It was when attending the annual meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies at Washington, January 27, 1928, that he met with a fatal accident, being struck by a street car just as he was about to enter the Cosmos Club. His sudden death deeply depressed all his associates in the Council, where he was highly admired and universally popular.

Professor Bassett was the author of many volumes on American history, those in his early life dealing with North Carolina events and later works devoted to biography and to the broader aspects of history. His most notable works were: "The Federalist System," 1906 (American Nation Series, vol. 6); "Life of Andrew Jackson," 1911; "Short History of the United States," 1913; "The Plain Story of American History," 1916;

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