

OBITUARIES

EDWARD CHANNING

Edward Channing died in Cambridge, Mass., January 7, 1931. He was born at Dorchester, Mass., June 15, 1856, the son of William Ellery Channing and Ellen Kilshaw Fuller, both prominent transcendentalists and contemporaries of Emerson and Thoreau. His father was a poet and essayist, named after his uncle, the famous Unitarian clergyman, and his mother was the sister of Margaret Fuller, eminent as an author and an exponent of transcendentalism. Edward Channing entered Harvard where he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1878, receiving degrees of A.M. and Ph.D. in 1880, with the thesis of "The Louisiana Purchase." He was christened Edward Perkins Channing and carried this name until about 1884 when he adopted the shortened name. In 1881 he travelled in *Europe* and in 1883 was appointed Instructor of History at Harvard. He immediately began to take a prominent place among American historians, contributing to the "Narrative and Critical History of America," writing for the publications of historical societies and becoming one of the founders of the American Historical Association in 1884. In 1887 he was appointed Assistant Professor of History and in 1897 Professor of History. In 1898 he produced his "Students' History of the United States," which passed through many editions and was as successful commercially as it was historically valuable. From this volume and from the "Guide to the Study of American History" (written in 1896 in conjunction with Professor Hart) and his "Short History of the

United States" for schools, 1900, he derived a large income, enabling him to live comfortably and to concentrate upon his life dream, a comprehensive, complete and authoritative "History of the United States." In 1928 Mr. Channing wrote a characteristic sketch of his life for the Fiftieth Anniversary volume of the Class of 1878. In this he said "The life of a professor is not interesting reading as a rule, but in my case my activities have been so commingled with the everlasting reformation of Harvard University, including the upsetting of the old administrative systems and the making of an entirely new one, that it has not been so pokey as most lawyers would think. I have had enormous classes and research students by the bushel, and I hope that they have all of them pleasant recollections of my ministrations to their intellectual uplift. In 1896 I took my family to England for nine months and wrote a high-school textbook, entitled 'A Student's History of the United States,' which took me four months to write and has added greatly to the comfort of my wife and children. It has also made it possible for me to devote a large portion of the last quarter of a century to the production of a 'History of the United States.' Six volumes of this work have appeared to date, bringing the story down to 1865, and two more will come if 'the gods' permit."

Unfortunately he did not live long enough to complete his undertaking, as he had scarcely finished half of the seventh volume when death intervened. But the History was complete through the Civil War, a monumental task in itself.

Professor Channing retired from active teaching in 1929, spending almost every working day in his study in the Widener Library. The sixth volume of his History received the Pulitzer prize for the best book in 1925 upon United States history. He received honorary degrees of LL.D. from the University of Michigan in 1921 and Litt.D. from Columbia in 1926. He married, July 22, 1886, Alice Thacher of West Newton,

Mass., who was the sister of Mrs. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, and had two daughters, Alice and Elizabeth Torrey.

Mr. Channing was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1885 and at the time of his death was the fourth senior member. He contributed to the Proceedings papers on "The Navigation Laws" in October 1889, "Colonel Thomas Dongan, Governor of New York" in October 1907, and "The Present State of Historical Writing in America" in October 1910. He was a constant attendant at the meetings, especially in his earlier years, and was a good friend to the Society throughout his life.

C. S. B.

HENRY WINCHESTER CUNNINGHAM

Henry Winchester Cunningham, for eighteen years a member of the Council of this Society, died at his summer home on Brush Hill Road, Milton, October 27, 1930. He was born at Winchester, Mass., March 26, 1860, the son of James Henry and Lucinda S. (Winchester) Cunningham. His father, James, was a merchant in Boston during the middle part of the nineteenth century, and his grandfather, Andrew Cunningham, was a prominent Boston ship owner and merchant in the foreign trade. His maternal grandfather, Stephen Winchester, was a merchant well known as owner of several large yachts, and a member of the firm of E. A. and W. Winchester.

Henry Cunningham was educated at the Roxbury Latin School, after which he went to Harvard, graduating with the degree of A.B. in 1882. After graduating he travelled in Europe for three months and then entered the employment of the Continental Sugar Refinery of which his father was treasurer. He stayed with this company until 1888 when it was taken over by the American Sugar Refining Company, after which he was engaged with his father in closing up the affairs

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