

the Conquest of Peru" in October 1917, and "Champlain and His Landings at Cape Ann" in October 1933. He was survived by his wife, the former Miss Annie W. Lyon of Salem, Mass., and two sons, Randolph M. and Winthrop L. Saville of New York City.

C. S. B.

### EDWARD HERBERT THOMPSON

Edward Herbert Thompson, who spent most of a long life in archaeological researches in Yucatan, died at the home of his son, Edward J. Thompson in Plainfield, N. J., May 11, 1935. He was born in Worcester, September 28, 1857, the son of Josiah A. and Mary E. (Thayer) Thompson. After a preparatory education in Worcester public schools, he entered Worcester Polytechnic Institute with the class of 1879, although not continuing his course to graduation. When a student in college he had published an article in the *Popular Science Monthly* for October 1879, entitled "Atlantis not a Myth," which attempted to connect Maya civilization with the lost continent of Atlantis. Stephen Salisbury, Jr. and Senator George F. Hoar, both prominent in the affairs of the American Antiquarian Society, knew of this article and had kept track of the young man and his interest in archæology. In 1885 they induced him to go to Yucatan, where they procured him the position of American consul, with the main purpose of having him investigate the country's ruins. The next few years of his life were spent in research and exploration, uncovering the hidden Maya ruins and bringing to light the relics of a past civilization. The Peabody Museum of Cambridge was interested in his quest, and it was for that institution that he collected materials for a notable

Maya exhibition at the World's Fair in 1893. In the course of his research he discovered the long sought "Hidden City" buried in the interior of Yucatan; purchased a plantation to include Chichen Itza; uncovered the "Maya Venus," the mausoleum of the high priest; the Temple of the Painted Columns; and the "Chichen Tablet"; and successfully explored the "Sacred Well" of Chichen Itza.

This last undertaking was the culminating achievement of his life. Tradition had related that into this dark pool of water, nearly two hundred feet in diameter and sixty-five feet in depth, rich treasures and human sacrifices had been thrown as an offering to appease the vengeance of the God of Waters. He had long dreamed of exploring the bottom of the pool and bringing to light the rare and valuable objects which he knew must be there. With financial assistance from Mr. Salisbury and other friends, he procured a dredge with which for weeks he used to bring up tons of mud, with many objects, from the pool's floor. Then, a complete diving equipment was acquired, and after practice previously gained in Boston waters, he ventured below, with Maya natives handling the air-pumps and the signal cords. For weeks he worked, finally bringing to the surface a vast number of objects in wood, stone, copper, jade and gold, to aid the scientific knowledge of a past civilization. Today these objects are to be found in the Peabody Museum in Cambridge.

Mr. Thompson's labors are related in at least three publications—T. A. Willard's "The City of the Sacred Well," 1926, which is a narrative of his discoveries and explorations; "Forty Years of Research and Exploration in Yucatan," which he himself contributed to the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society in April 1929; and in the autobiographical chronicle of his career, published by him in 1932 and entitled "People of the Serpent—Life and Adventures Among the Mayas." He contributed many articles to learned publications and especially to the Proceedings of the

American Antiquarian Society, including "Archæological Research in Yucatan," 1886, "Explorations in Yucatan," 1887, "The Ancient Structures of Yucatan," 1892, "Yucatan at the Time of its Discovery," 1892, "Ancient Tombs of Palenque," 1895, "A Page of American History," 1905, "Kindlier Light on Early Spanish Rule in America," 1911, "Some Early American Pioneers," 1917, and "A Maya Legend in the Making," 1931.

He was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1887 and was a constant donor to its collections. The monumental reproduction of the facade of the Labna Temple, given by him in 1887 and so long a feature of the old Antiquarian building at Lincoln Square, was deposited with the Peabody Museum at Cambridge in 1908, when the remains of the Society's museum were placed with other institutions. He also presented to the Library many photographs of the results of his explorations, and especially a fine series of prints of the ruins of Chichen Itza, colored by hand. Mr. Thompson was married in 1883 to Henrietta T. Hamblin of West Falmouth, Mass., by whom he was survived with five children. He was always interested in the activities of this Society and loyal to the memory of his friend and patron, the late Stephen Salisbury.

C. S. B.

### LYON GARDINER TYLER

Lyon Gardiner Tyler died at his home in Charles City County, Va., February 12, 1935. He was born in August 1853, the son of John and Julia (Gardiner) Tyler. His father was tenth president of the United States, 1841-1845, and married Julia Gardiner of

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