

industrialist, outstanding public citizen, he filled a place of supreme importance in the community. Foremost in all undertakings designed to aid his fellow men, he spent a life largely in the service of others. Calm, judicial, kindly, he gave freely of his counsel and support to many institutions, financial, educational, charitable and social. With a conservatism balanced by optimism and faith, he inspired confidence and service in those who were associated with him. His love of life, of social contacts, of his family, brought him happiness and contentment, as well as the affection of his friends."

C. S. B.

THOMAS HOVEY GAGE

Thomas Hovey Gage, for seventeen years recording secretary of this Society, died at his home in Worcester, after a long illness, July 15, 1938. He was born in Worcester, January 13, 1865, the son of Dr. Thomas Hovey and Anna Maria (Lane) Gage. He attended the public schools in Worcester and then entered Harvard College, from which he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1886, followed by the degrees of A.M. and of LL.B. at the Harvard Law School in 1889. Immediately admitted to the bar, he became associated with Senator Hoar as his private secretary for one winter. He then set up practice for himself, with an office in the Worcester Five Cents Savings Bank Building, which was so filled with lawyers that it seemed like the roster of the Worcester Club. In 1902 he joined with Frank Bulkeley Smith and Frank Farnum Dresser in forming the law firm of Smith, Gage & Dresser, really a continuation of a succession of earlier firms going back to the early part of the previous century. In this firm, later changed to Gage, Hamilton & June, he remained until his death.

In his profession Mr. Gage attained a high place in the community. Conservative and shunning the popularity of trial work, he became one of that dwin-

dling group of lawyers distinguished for their legal learning and their adherence to high standards. Because of his conservatism and upright character, he was entrusted with the care of important estates, and this became a feature of his practice. He was interested in the study of the law and made frequent contributions to the *Massachusetts Law Quarterly*. His services as a lawyer were recognized by his election to the presidency of the *Massachusetts Bar Association*, his membership in the *American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, and by his appointment on the *Judicial Council of Massachusetts*, of which important body he was later chairman and so served until his death. During the World War he gave up his practice and went to Washington to accept an appointment as a counsellor on the staff of Herbert C. Hoover in the national food administration, and later was appointed Federal fuel administrator for Worcester.

Mr. Gage's activities outside of the law were varied. He became a significant force in the institutional and cultural life of the city. A director of the *Worcester County Musical Association*, and of the *Horticultural Society*, director and treasurer of *Memorial Hospital*, and serving on boards of various industrial and banking institutions, he took an active interest in all of these associations and contributed much of his time and energy to their welfare. But outside of his profession, his leading activities were in connection with the *Worcester Art Museum* and the *American Antiquarian Society*.

Mr. Gage was one of the original incorporators and trustees of the *Worcester Art Museum* in 1896, and for forty-two years was actively concerned with its welfare. He served as its clerk until 1925, then as treasurer until 1934, and finally as president until his death. During this long period of unselfish service, it is doubtful if anyone ever connected with the *Museum* exerted a stronger influence upon its development. Conservative in his judgments, he chose the safe path whenever

the unusual or unconventional, whether in acquisitions or in activities, was proposed. Yet he was open-minded, ready to listen to cogent argument, and willing to rely on the thoughtful judgment of the director. As treasurer he guided the finances through a distressing period of deflation and always preached economy and living within the income. He took much interest in the outside activities of the Museum and largely supervised the Sunday concerts which attracted thousands of visitors every season. His own knowledge of art was chiefly confined to early American pictures, but in this field he achieved considerable reputation. For forty years he had gathered material for a record of all Worcester County painters, and his notes, now in the Antiquarian Society, show the comprehensiveness of his research. His place on the Art Museum board was difficult to fill.

Although not connected with the American Antiquarian Society for so long a period, he took an equal interest in this organization. Elected a member of the Society in 1914, he was chosen to the Council as Recording Secretary in 1921, and held that office until his death. Throughout this long term of service he was prominent in the administration of the Society's affairs, meticulously careful in the keeping of the records, and always present at the meetings of both the Council and the Society. As a member of the Council, his conservative judgment, his keen legal mind and his sincere interest in the Society's welfare made his advice constantly sought in the solution of every problem. After Mr. Lincoln's death, the Director increasingly relied upon Mr. Gage for counsel. With an inclination for historical research, he frequently visited the Library in search of material. He contributed a paper to the Society in 1920 entitled "An Artist Index to Stauffer's American Engravers," and in April 1923 wrote the report of the Council. When the famous bottle of Madeira was opened by the Council, with proper ceremonies, in 1931, in obedience

to the resolution passed in 1831 by the committee on the Centennial of Worcester County, Mr. Gage wrote a report of the occasion and also an amusing poem on the ceremony and on the times. He was generous in helping the Library to solve its financial needs, giving \$1000 to the Building Fund in 1924, and establishing with Mrs. Gage in 1927 a fund of \$5000 in honor of Charles Augustus Chase, Mrs. Gage's father, long a member of the Society and of its Council. In his own will he bequeathed the sum of \$5000 to the Society.

With a fondness for social life, Mr. Gage belonged to the leading older Worcester clubs. He was a familiar figure at the early meetings of the Bohemians, generally joining the musical group which held forth at the Christmas Revels. He was elected a member of the Worcester Fire Society in 1900, and attended nearly all of its quarterly meetings for nearly forty years. His occasional poems read at the Society's meetings and his reminiscences of past members were both suggestive of his marked ability in effective and imaginative writing. He was interested in the Worcester Club, the St. Wulstan Society, and the Club of Odd Volumes of Boston. To the First Unitarian Church he gave much of his time and his counsel. His fondness for historical research gave him the incentive to produce a few published works of permanent value, particularly his "Notes on the History of Waterford, Maine," 1913, and an "Address at the Social Festival of the Bar of Worcester County," 1915.

Mr. Gage married, June 8, 1898, Alice Chase, daughter of Charles Augustus Chase, who survived him, with one daughter, Mary Hovey, wife of Albert W. Rice.

His various connections with so much of the social and cultural life of Worcester made his death a real loss to the community and his place difficult to fill. Following by only a few days the death of his brother, Homer Gage, it brought the realization that the bonds which connect Worcester's present with its past were

being broken, and that the older order was passing. Mr. Gage represented that which was stable and conservative in the city's life. He was able in his profession; he freely gave his time and his counsel to the institutions which he helped to direct; he made himself a force for progress in the community. But to those who knew him well, his passing brought a feeling of real sorrow and meant the loss of an understanding and loyal friend.

C. S. B.

FAIRFAX HARRISON

Fairfax Harrison, railway president and author of important books on Virginia history, died in Baltimore, February 2, 1938. He was born in New York City, March 13, 1869, of Virginia ancestry and the son of Burton Norvell and Constance (Cary) Harrison. He was graduated from Yale with the degree of A.B. in 1890, which was followed by the degree of A.M. from Columbia in 1891. He practiced law in New York for four years and in 1896 entered the service of the Southern Railway Company as solicitor. With this company he remained until his retirement in 1937, rising from one position to another until he became president in 1913, and helping with his foresight and his ability to place the railroad on a firm financial footing and to make it a powerful influence in Southern transportation. He married June 6, 1894, Hetty, daughter of John Brune Cary of Baltimore, by whom he was survived, with four children.

Important as he was as a railway executive, Mr. Harrison achieved even more permanent distinction as a historian and author. A keen student of Virginia history, he originated the "Virginia Historical Index" and selected the 120 volumes to be indexed; he also published a number of volumes on local history including "The Devon Carys (1920), "A Frenchman in Virginia" (1923), "Landmarks of Old Prince William"

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