

Obituaries

ALFRED LAWRENCE AIKEN

Alfred Lawrence Aiken, long prominent in banking and finance in the East, died in New York, December 13, 1946. For ten years he was connected with Worcester banks, leaving the impress of his personality upon the financial and cultural interests of that community.

He was born in Norwich, Connecticut, July 6, 1870, the son of William Appleton and Eliza Coit (Buckingham) Aiken. He was graduated from Yale with the degree of A.B. in 1891. He then became connected with the State Mutual Life Assurance Company, at Worcester, but in 1894 went to Boston as assistant manager of the New England department of the New York Life Insurance Company. In 1899 he entered upon his banking career, serving for three years as assistant cashier in the National Hide and Leather Bank and for two years in the same capacity with the State National Bank, both in Boston. In 1904 he came to Worcester, serving as treasurer and then as president of the Worcester County Institution for Savings, and from 1912 to 1914 as president of the Worcester National Bank. In 1914 he returned to Boston to become governor of the Federal Reserve Bank for four years, and then president, and later chairman of the board, of the National Shawmut Bank. In 1924 he was chosen vice-president of the New York Life Insurance Company, then president in 1936, and retired in 1943.

During his life in Worcester he was much interested in the cultural life of the city, and was a trustee of the Worcester Art Museum and of Clark University. He was a member

of two Worcester social organizations—the St. Wulstan Society and the Worcester Fire Society. In 1943 he came on to the 150th Anniversary Dinner of the latter Society, at which time he was fourth in seniority of membership. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1918, although he had shown much interest in the Society before that time and had presented many gifts to the Library. He had gathered one of the most complete collections of early Worcester views. These hung in his office in the Institution for Savings, but upon his departure for Boston, he presented the collection to this Society. Long an admirer of the financial genius of Alexander Hamilton, he formed during his life a notable collection of Hamiltoniana, including many editions of *The Federalist*, broadsides and autograph letters. This collection he presented to the Society in 1941.

Mr. Aiken married, November 25, 1896, Elizabeth Peck Hopkins, daughter of William Swinton Bennett Hopkins of Worcester, and had a son, William Appleton Aiken. Mrs. Aiken died March 20, 1942, and he married, September 21, 1944, Anna Lee Colvin Hopkins, the widow of Erastus Hopkins. From Yale University he received the honorary degree of A.M. in 1918.

C. S. B.

ALLYN BAILEY FORBES

Allyn Bailey Forbes, director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, was born at Taunton on November 2, 1897, a son of Harrie Wilson and Bertha (Wilbur) Forbes. He was educated at Taunton High School, St. George's School, and Amherst College, where he received his B.A. in 1919. After five years of teaching at Deerfield Academy he entered the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences where he

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