

On June 15, 1938, Forbes married Mrs. Lois Whitney Perry of St. Cloud, Minnesota. They made their home at Cambridge where he became active in Christ Church. In spite of his ample personal means, he labored at his editorial tasks until it could well be said that he worked himself to death. As if with a premonition of the coming stroke, he resigned the editorship of the Colonial Society in 1946, and had wound up most of his other work when he died suddenly on January 21, 1947. He is survived by Mrs. Forbes and her three children, by a brother, William, of Taunton, and by a sister, Mrs. Mahlon W. Hill, of Wellesley.
C. K. S.

ROGERS CLARK BALLARD THRUSTON

The passing of Mr. Thruston breaks a link between the present and the founding days of Kentucky. He was a member of a family which had played a major part in the founding of the state, which was proud of that part, and which steeped little Rogers in the traditions of the first generation there. He was born in Louisville on November 6, 1858, a son of Andrew Jackson and Frances Ann (Thruston) Ballard, and named for his great-grandmother's brother. In 1884 he legally added his mother's name to his own with the thought of perpetuating the patronymic of an old Kentucky family.

Rogers Thruston was educated in the public schools of Louisville, the Hopkins Grammar School of New Haven, Williston Seminary at Easthampton, and Yale. He entered the Sheffield Scientific School in 1876, but after a year, left to go west. He returned to New Haven in the fall of 1878 and was graduated in 1880. He was doing graduate work at Yale in 1881, when he was moved to try his luck in the mines of New Mexico. He reached Louisville where his

family shunted him into the office of the Louisville, New Albany, and Chicago Railway. Here he was making remarkable progress when he met Professor Shaler whose infectious enthusiasm carried the young man into the Kentucky Geological Survey. He found the Kentucky mountain region almost untouched by civilization. The period is pictured, and he is one of the three young men who were the prototype of the engineer, in *The Trail of the Lonesome Pine*, by John Fox, Jr. He took thousands of photographs of remarkable quality and exhibited some of them for the Geological Survey at the Louisville Exposition in 1883-84, and at the New Orleans Exposition, in 1884-85.

Thruston's description of the mineral wealth of the mountain region had much to do with the great coal-land rush which followed. In 1887 he was carried in the rush as property buyer for the Interstate Investment Company. Later he was a trustee under the mortgage of the Big Stone Gap Improvement Company, from 1890 to 1894, in charge of the land department of the Kentucky Union Land Company, and from 1895 to 1899 was manager of the Big Stone Gap Iron Company. He not only out-rose the collapse of most of the companies involved in this speculation, but built up a large personal fortune by buying up land in advance of the wave of population moving into the coal regions.

In 1909 Thruston retired from business to devote himself to history. Since 1892 he had been a member of the Filson Club, which now gradually became the center of his life. In 1913 he salvaged the library and collections of the nearly defunct club and installed them in his office, where they remained until, very largely by his aid, a fireproof building was constructed for the club in 1929. He then gave his own library and historical collections, including his Kentucky photographs. In all, he gave \$150,000 for endowment. He was president of the club from 1923 until his death.

Mr. Thruston was also at one time president of the national society of the S.A.R., and was a member of many patriotic and historical societies. His first contact with the American Antiquarian Society came in 1914 when he inquired about our *Proceedings*. He was elected to membership in October 1916, and he frequently corresponded with us on mutual problems such as the preservation of newspapers. Although he was a generous friend of this Society, he could never be brought to read a paper at one of our meetings. Indeed he was primarily a gatherer and preserver of historical materials, and the only item of importance which he ever wrote was a booklet on the origin and evolution of the United States flag, which was published by the government. The great work on the Signers of the Declaration of Independence on which he labored for some years, was never finished.

There were many other ways in which Thruston served his generation. He was active in the Red Cross during and after the first World War, and was for many years a trustee of the Louisville Free Public Library. With the other members of his family he gave to the city three public parks and the home of George Rogers Clark. The University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky awarded him honorary degrees. He was always a good son of Yale which he served as president of the Alumni Association of Kentucky and a member of the executive committee of the Alumni Advisory Board. He died, unmarried, on December 30, 1946, survived by a nephew, Breaux Ballard, and by many other members of the younger generations of his family. C. K. S.

WILLIAM SAWITZKY

William Sawitzky, art historian and leading authority on early American portraiture, died at his home in Stamford,

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