

## FREDERICK WOODWARD SKIFF

Frederick Woodward Skiff died on March 15, 1947, at Tillamook, Oregon, whence he had removed a few years ago from Portland. He was born at Kent, Connecticut, on August 12, 1868, a son of Samuel A. and Francilla L. (Woodward) Skiff. After attending several private schools he was graduated at Sharon Academy. Disregarding his father's recommendations of Yale, he roamed the West for a while, but finally returned to work in mathematics at the Sheffield Scientific School. He never took a degree, although he later passed the New York examinations for expert accountants.

At the age of twenty-two Skiff obtained election from the Yale ward to the New Haven city council, and the next year was promoted to the board of aldermen. When his term expired he was appointed to the board of directors of the New Haven Public Library, where he served for three years. In the meantime he was named to the Connecticut State Insurance Department where he remained for some years, leaving to become chief accountant for the Empire State Realty Company. In 1905 he went to Portland, Oregon, as accountant for the Olds and King department store. He remained with this firm, after 1915 as assistant treasurer, until it changed hands in 1925. In July of that year Mr. Skiff was admitted to practice in the United States income tax division, but although he did thereafter handle some large tax cases in Washington, D.C., his attention was turned more and more to collecting, and on one of his expeditions East, he made the acquaintance of the officers of this Society. In 1935 he brought out *Adventures in Americana*, and in 1937 *Landmarks and Literature*, which resulted in his being elected a member in April, 1937. Although we wrote to him for advice on Western Americana, distance

and years prevented his attending the meetings of the Society. The University of Oregon awarded him the degree of Litt.D. in 1939. He is survived by a son, Mr. Walter S. Skiff of Portland. His wife, Nancy Jane (Emerick) Skiff, predeceased him.

C. K. S.

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