

Obituaries

NATHANIEL FARWELL AYER

Nathaniel Farwell Ayer was born at Boston on June 24, 1879, a son of Dr. James Bourne Ayer and Mary Eliza Farwell. He was prepared for college at Hopkinson's School, in Boston, and was graduated B.S. at Harvard in 1900. He immediately entered the Boston offices of the Farwell cotton mills and bleachery of Lowell, of which in time he became director and treasurer. In 1942 he disposed of his interest in these mills, but he was associated with other mills and manufacturing companies. He was director, also, of the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company, the National Shawmut Bank, and the New York Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Ayer was interested in fishing and boat racing, and was at one time commodore of the Eastern Yacht Club. In April, 1917, he was appointed aide to the chief of staff of the Boston Navy Yard, and later in the year was made commanding officer of the Naval Radio School at Harvard University. He was retired with the rank of commander. In the second war he was Chairman of the Board of the Army and Navy Officers' Mess of Boston. He was president and for some time a member of the Board of Governors of the Harvard Club of Boston, a member of the alumni committee for the Tercentennial celebration, and a member of the visiting committee on military science. Among his other activities was service on the Board of Governors of the Boys' Club of Boston.

Mr. Ayer's father and his uncle, John W. Farwell, were book collectors and members of this Society and, thanks to

him and the other heirs, the Farwell library and some of the Ayer books came to us. He was elected to membership in 1942, and was very much interested in our affairs, but the fact that the dates of our meetings conflicted with his fishing customs prevented his becoming widely acquainted among the members.

On May 24, 1924, Mr. Ayer married Helen Draper, who died in 1934. They had no children. He died suddenly while on a vacation in Canada on July 26, 1948. C. K. S.

HENRY WATSON KENT

Henry Watson Kent was born at Boston on September 28, 1866, a son of Robert Restiaux and Eliza (Watson) Kent. From Boston Latin School he went to Norwich Academy and thence to Columbia College where he was a member of the first class in Melvil Dewey's first library school. His first professional employment was at Norwich Academy where he was in charge of the Peck Library and was curator of the Slater Memorial Museum. From the latter, which was a pioneer in the modern museum movement, he went to New York to become assistant secretary of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1905. Eight years later he became secretary of the Museum, and between that date and his retirement in 1940 he well earned the title of dean of American museum officials. As a measure of his activities outside of the Museum it might be noted that he became vice-president of the American Association of Museums and president of both the Grolier Club and the New York Library Club. He was awarded an honorary M.A. by Hamilton in 1920 and a Doctor of Arts degree by Brown in 1932. Two years later he was awarded the Michael Freidsam medal for contributions to art in industry, and two years ago he received the dis-

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.