

Obituaries

HENRY WYCKOFF BELKNAP

Henry Wyckoff Belknap, a son of Thomas and Catharine H. (Wyckoff) Belknap, was born in New York City on May 18, 1860. He was educated at St. Paul's School at Concord, New Hampshire, from which he returned to New York to enter business. After practicing for some years as an interior decorator he became associated with the Tiffany studios in 1892. It was he who was in charge of their exhibits at Paris in 1900 and in Buffalo in 1901. During the years which followed he spent much time in Europe, but in 1905 he established himself in Salem, Massachusetts, turning his attention more and more to genealogical work. This with his background of experience as an interior decorator made him an excellent choice to succeed our associate George Francis Dow as curator and secretary of the Essex Institute in 1918. In spite of the many duties which his offices involved, in the years following his appointment he was more active than ever in research and writing. He produced genealogies of the Lambert (1918), Burnap-Burnett (1925), Grafton (1928), and Forrester (1935) families, as well as books on the *Artists and Craftsmen of Essex County* (1927) and the *Traders and Tradesmen of Essex County* (1929).

Mr. Belknap was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in October, 1922, and presented a paper on Philip English at the meeting of April, 1931. He was a shy man and so much devoted to his duties at Salem that he rarely attended our meetings. He retired from his offices in the Essex Institute on August 1, 1931, after which his state of health

served more than ever to keep him in Salem. He died, after a long illness, on September 19, 1946. He was unmarried, but is survived by a brother, Mr. Francis Belknap of Marblehead.

C. K. S.

THOMAS FRANKLIN CURRIER

The world of Thomas Franklin Currier was the world of bibliography, deemed by many to be dark and dull, but not by such as Evans, Pollard, or Currier. Born at Roxbury, February 26, 1873, he was graduated from Harvard in 1894 with the degree of B.A. After a few months at the old Boston Athenæum, directly following graduation, he was projected at once upon the stage where he was destined to act out his life work: the matchless library of his Alma Mater. In 1913 he was appointed assistant librarian in charge of cataloguing and, in 1937, associate librarian. In 1940 he retired, with a letter of high appreciation from President Conant.

A serious handicap which he surmounted cheerfully and successfully was his chronic deafness, from which he suffered during all his adult life. Having early learned to practise an admirable philosophy of living, he would refer, almost playfully, to his serious impediment as a welcome excuse, leading to immunity from much dull duty on boards and committees. This infirmity precluded also his acceptance of an offer to teach mathematics, seemingly a far cry from a librarian who graduated with honors in French.

His life-work was divided between cataloguing and bibliography, the latter emerging first as an avocation. A scholar, but never a recluse, ever a genial and popular companion, he was a loyal and life-long member of the American Library Association, and, as a keynoter of a Committee of Five, appointed to draft rules for cataloguing for general

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