

ought to be, can justly evaluate his unselfish devotion to this enterprise. A check-list of his other contributions, chiefly to literary and professional periodicals, exceeds twenty-three titles.

On October 14, 1908, he married Florence May Wyman, of Cambridge. Their only surviving child, Margaret, is now in charge of the Peabody Museum Library, Cambridge.

He was elected to this Society in 1942. He had temporarily suspended work on his almost complete Oliver Wendell Holmes bibliography when death unexpectedly overtook him on September 14, 1946.

R. K. S.

ALLEN FRENCH

Allen French, historian and novelist, died in Concord on October 6, 1946. He was born at Boston on November 28, 1870, a son of John James and Frances Maria (Stratton) French. From the Public Latin and English High schools of Boston he proceeded to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received his B.S. in 1892. After two semesters at the University of Berlin he entered Harvard to study English and the Fine Arts, and took a B.A. in 1894. Being enrolled at that time in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, he was somewhat surprised to find later that he was a member of the Class of 1894 in Harvard College.

Poor health drove French to Europe again. Upon his return he was married at Providence, Rhode Island, to Ellen Richmond Dorrance, on April 4, 1898. They settled at Concord, Massachusetts, where Mr. French gardened, wrote, raised three daughters, and regained his health. Mrs. French died on April 28, 1918, and Mr. French married Aletta Aycrigg Lillibridge of New York City on June 17, 1922. In the years from 1901 to 1918 he wrote three novels, two practical books on gardening, and a number of juveniles

with historical settings. In 1907 he became an instructor in English at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the next year he moved on to Harvard where he taught until 1913. He was at the training camp at Plattsburg early in the War, but being too old for active service, he returned to Concord where he headed civilian war activities. However, war-time shortage of teachers at Technology and at Harvard brought him again to the classroom where he remained until 1920.

Allen French began his historical writing at the age of eight, when he produced a history of the town of Hull. When, after his second marriage, he found himself free to devote his entire time to historical research and writing, he turned out in quick succession *The Day of Lexington and Concord*, *A British Fusilier in Revolutionary Boston*, *The Taking of Ticonderoga, 1775*, *General Gage's Informers*, and *The First Year of the American Revolution*, each of which was the best in its field. As President of the Concord Antiquarian Society he was largely responsible for the professional quality of the historical work of that town. He was long a member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Historical Society, but his nomination for our society was several times passed over because of the impression that he would not be likely to attend meetings. When his importance as an historian compelled his election in October, 1942, regardless of the prospect of his attending meetings, we found how mistaken we had been. He regularly attended, took part in the discussions, and generously gave from his library various modern historical works which our library lacked. In return we had the pleasure of assisting his last work, "The Puritan Exodus, a Study of the Causes of the Great Migration," which he completed not long before his death. His gentle charm of manner no less than his command of colonial history causes him to be missed at the

meetings of our societies. He is survived by Mrs. French and by three daughters, Miss Maud French of Hanover, New Hampshire, Miss Frances S. French of New York, and Mrs. Evan Spalt of Plainfield, New Jersey.

C. K. S.

HENRY LEFAVOUR

Henry Lefavour was born at Salem, Massachusetts, on September 4, 1862, a son of Thomas Hovey and Caroline (Wallis) Lefavour. His father was an insurance officer in the last days of Salem commerce. Henry was educated at Salem High and Classical school and sent to Williams College where he ignored the fraternities and enjoyed the mathematics and astronomy. It was typical of the middle-of-the-road proclivities which marked his whole life that as an undergraduate he recorded himself as a tariff-for-revenue-only Republican. After being graduated with the Class of 1883 he taught for one year at Williston and then returned to Williams, first as an instructor of French and mathematics and later as a professor of physics. In 1886 he received a Ph.D. from Williams and during the years 1888-90 he studied at the University of Berlin. In 1897 he became Dean of Williams College.

During the summer of 1901 Dean Lefavour was asked by the trustees of the John Simmons funds to draw a plan for the proposed vocational college for women. His program was so obviously the solution to a difficult problem that he was invited to become the first president of Simmons college. From January 1, 1902, when he took office, to 1933, when he retired, he built up the college from 140 to 1600 students. In spite of the opposition of the friends of the college he built buildings, against the opposition of the American Association of University Women he won the right to grant degrees, and with the conspicuous non-cooperation of some of Boston's

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