

land. He was a charming host in his home, as those who visited him at "Bald Hill" in Woodstock can testify. He had known intimately so many leaders of thought and action for half a century, that his conversation was filled with highly interesting reminiscence. He had met or visited every President from Grant to Coolidge, and had refused to write for a well-known magazine a story based on this phase of his career. He was so modest about his achievements that it was almost embarrassing to offer him a compliment. He was interested in all kinds of outdoor life—golf, horseback riding, hunting and the care of his garden. But his most notable characteristic was his pertinacity. If he decided to perform a certain task, no matter how onerous or burdensome it was, he never put it off, but with a devotion and a perseverance, he persisted until he accomplished his purpose. His place in the Council of this Society will not be easily filled.

C. S. B.

REUBEN COLTON

Reuben Colton, senior member of the Society, died in Worcester, February 26, 1936. Elected to membership in 1885, he had during recent years stood second in seniority, only preceded by William Harden of Savannah. But Mr. Harden's death on January 4, 1936, made Mr. Colton for two months the Society's earliest member. He was born in Worcester, November 27, 1855, the son of Samuel Horton and Ann (King) Colton. His father was for several years publisher of the "Massachusetts Spy" and in later life was prominent in the nursery business and horticulture. After a preparatory education in Worcester schools and at the Friends School in Providence, Reuben Colton entered Haverford College, in Pennsylvania, and was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1876. He spent a year in Europe and upon his return in 1878 became an assistant librarian at the American Anti-

quarian Society. The library at that time was about to embark upon an undertaking which had been planned a dozen years before, that of making a card catalogue of the eighty thousand titles in its possession. The only index available was a copy in the Librarian's office of the printed 1837 Catalogue, interleaved to include the additions of forty years. With funds supplied by Stephen Salisbury, Jr., and under the supervision of Mr. Colton, shelf-lists were first prepared by Mr. John Riordan, who was Mr. Salisbury's secretary. When the shelf-lists were finished, the titles were copied on cards by Miss Mary Robinson, who had begun her services in the library in 1881, and is with us today as Mrs. Mary R. Reynolds. By 1886 the task was finished. Mr. Colton also aided in the preparation of the Index of the printed Proceedings. He was active in all departments of the Society's activities, representing the institution at the Library Conference at Washington in 1881 and attending important book acution sales in New York and Boston. The Society highly valued his services, and a Council Report stated that he had "shown great aptitude and skill, and rare intelligence in library work."

Early in 1889 Mr. Colton resigned his position and later in the year, on October 21, married Grace Goddard Cleveland of Worcester. After a short interval in business in Worcester, he removed in 1895 to Boston, where he established himself as a landscape architect, a profession that greatly appealed to him because of his father's long interest in the subject. In later life, however, he retired from all active business. He gave much of his time to the affairs of the First Church of Boston, and was treasurer of its Welfare Society, which had large charity funds to disburse. For ten years he was the president of the Haverford Alumni of New England. In 1932 he returned to Worcester where he spent the remainder of his life, deeply occupied in reading and enjoying the personal contacts with old Worcester friends. He was one of

the most constant of all members in attending the meetings of the Society, and his friendly presence and cheerful greeting will be greatly missed.

C. S. B.

WILLIAM HARDEN

William Harden, for several years past the senior member of the Society, died at Savannah on January 4, 1936, in his ninety-second year. For nearly seventy years Librarian of the Georgia Historical Society, he held the position continuously until his death—a record of service perhaps unequalled in this country. He was born in Savannah, November 11, 1844, the son of Edward J. Harden, a well known lawyer much interested in the study of English literature and the classics, and Sophia H. Maxwell. He entered the Confederate service in 1861, at the age of sixteen, as a member of the Savannah Cadets, engaged with other youths in home guard duty. In 1862 this Company became a regular part of the Georgia Infantry, and young Harden served throughout the entire war, during its last two years in the Signal Corps. Although he had narrow escapes from death and capture, he was mustered out in May 1865 and soon afterwards took a position as telegraph operator at Jacksonville. Within a year, however, he determined to study law, entered his father's office, and was admitted to the bar in 1873. After practicing for ten years, he entered the office of the County Treasurer, and there remained for the rest of his life.

Although he maintained a business profession, it was because of his interest in historical research and his librarianship of the Georgia Historical Society that he became known outside of his own State. Mr. Leonard L. Mackall, in an excellent biography of Mr. Harden in the "Georgia Historical Quarterly" for March 1936, from which this sketch has been largely drawn, tells how Mr. Harden first entered the

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