

Mr. Wolkins' standards of historical research were as strict as his standards of personal conduct, with the result that, although he contributed a number of articles to the publications of societies, he wrote no major volumes of history. His great contribution was of an administrative nature. For fifteen years he was treasurer of the Massachusetts Historical Society, spending a portion of every week performing even the clerical chores of the office at a saving to the society, it turned out, of thousands of dollars a year. He was as well a faithful servant of the Old South Historical Society and of the Prince Society, and a member of the Club of Odd Volumes and of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts.

Our friendship with George Wolkins dates from June, 1895, when Clarence Brigham met him in an interscholastic tennis match. His connection with our Society goes back to the day when he purchased some of our publications for the reference library which he built up in his home in Newton Highlands so that he might do research when public libraries were closed. He was elected to membership in April, 1934, and was a faithful attendant and a generous friend. The article on Edward Winslow which appeared in the last number of the *Proceedings* was the last product of his pen. After an evening spent, as was his custom, in reading to his wife, he died suddenly in his sleep on March 2.

C. K. S.

### HARRY ANDREW WRIGHT

Harry Andrew Wright was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, on June 30, 1872, a son of Andrew J. and Mary J. (Case) Wright. In 1897 he married Florence M. Carr of Springfield, and made his home in that city. After a brief period in the insurance business he manufactured corsets, and then turned to the developing and patenting of various mechanical devices. As a youth in his teens he printed an

article on John Brown in Springfield, and later he wrote a column for the *Springfield Graphic*. His first major historical work was *Indian Deeds of Hampton County*, which appeared in 1905, and in time he became an authority on the Algonquin vocabulary and other aspects of New England Indian life. In those days the academic anthropologists were inclined to ignore, rather pointedly, the amateurs, with the result that much that Mr. Wright said and wrote about the Indians had the frustrated tone of a man talking to the totally deaf. Curiously enough, he had the same experience as a sound scholar among what he called the "nice old lady" kind of antiquaries. Springfield still remembers the explosion with which he resigned from the tercentenary committee of 1936 because it insisted on local log cabins.

It was never wise for even the professional historian to differ thoughtlessly with Mr. Wright because he had an incredible memory. Having once read John Brown's Speech to the Court which Tried Him, or any similar piece, he could repeat it word for word as long as he lived. His interests were much wider than the regional fields on which he was regarded as the authority; he spent a portion of a stay in England searching for the missing portions of the records of the Council for New England.

Because of Mr. Wright's visits, correspondence, and interest in our *Proceedings*, he was well known to us long before his election to the Society in April, 1939. At our meeting of April, 1940, he read a paper on "Those Human Puritans," which was based on his transcription of the cypher love letters of John Winthrop to his wife. It is printed in the *Proceedings* for that meeting. His very useful *Story of Western Massachusetts* appeared in four volumes in 1949, and he was working on a book on the Knox Trail when he died at his home on October 20, 1950. He leaves two children, Andrew S. Wright of Springfield and Mrs. Susan Sauerwein of West Hartford.

C. K. S.

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