

## OBITUARIES

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### ARCHER BUTLER HULBERT

Archer Butler Hulbert, historian of the West, died at Colorado Springs, December 24, 1933. He was born at Bennington, Vermont, January 26, 1873, the son of Calvin Butler and Mary Elizabeth (Woodward) Hulbert. He fitted for college at St. Johnsbury Academy and was graduated at Marietta College in 1895 with the degree of A.B., later pursuing graduate studies at Western Reserve, Chicago, Wisconsin, Columbia and Harvard Universities. In 1897 he went to Korea, where his brother Homer was engaged in educational work, and worked on the editorial staff of the *Korean Independent*, the first foreign newspaper in that country. He remained for one year, when he returned to the United States to locate in Ohio and pursue historical studies. Here he prepared his valuable "Historic Highways of America," which was published in sixteen volumes from 1902 to 1905 and treated of the roads and waterways of western expansion. In 1904 Mr. Hulbert became professor of American history at Marietta College where he remained for fourteen years, giving courses in American history at a time when few of the smaller colleges had chairs in this subject.

During this period he produced much as an author and editor. In 1904 he edited three of the volumes in Thwaites' "Early Western Travels." In this same year he brought out the first of his "Crown Collection of American Maps," reproducing in four series of volumes from originals in the British Museum and elsewhere several hundred eighteenth century maps of historic interest. In 1905 he wrote "Washington and the West" and in 1906 "Pilots of the Republic." In

1906 and 1908 he contributed two large volumes on "The Ohio River" and "The Niagara River" to the Putnam series on American rivers and lakes. In 1917 he edited in two volumes "The Records of the Ohio Company" and in 1918 a volume of Ohio documents entitled "Ohio in the Time of the Confederation."

In the fall of 1918 Professor Hulbert decided to seek a position in the East in order to be near some of the larger libraries of American history and of source material. He was appointed lecturer in American history at Clark University in 1918, followed by the position of associate professor in 1919. During this period he became intimately associated with the American Antiquarian Society, of which he had been a member since 1912, and filled in his spare time as an assistant in the library in charge of the newspaper collection. At a meeting of the Society in April 1919 he read a paper on "The Increasing Debt of History to Science." In 1920 he returned to the West to become professor of history at Colorado College. Here he was able to devote much time to research in the subject of early Western exploration and travel. In 1925 there was established at Colorado College the Stewart Commission on Western History, founded by Philip B. and Frances C. Stewart of Colorado Springs, with whom Charles B. Voorhis of Pasadena later became associated. Acting as director of this Commission, Professor Hulbert produced a valuable series of volumes, the product of extensive research. The Commission first issued six volumes of maps reproducing the early Western trails. In 1932-1934 appeared four volumes of diaries and journals, severally entitled "Zebulon Pike's Arkansas Journal," "Southwest on the Turquoise Trail," "Where Rolls the Oregon," and "The Call of the Columbia." These were to be part of a series of eight volumes, subtitled "Overland to the Pacific," designed to provide a documentary history of the far West from 1800 to 1870. To prepare for these volumes Mr. Hulbert travelled extensively over the West, and during

the spring months had his residence at Claremont, California, where he served as adjunct professor of American history at Pomona College.

During the last decade of his career Mr. Hulbert wrote many other volumes of national importance. He contributed two volumes to the *Chronicle of America Series* on "The Paths of Inland Commerce" and "The Highways of Commerce." He wrote the "United States History" in 1923, a compact volume which was much used in schools. In 1929 he wrote "Frontiers, the Genius of American Nationality," and in 1930 "Soil, its Influence on the History of the United States." His last volume, "Forty-Niners: the Chronicle of the California Trail" won the \$5000 *Atlantic Monthly* prize in 1931 for non-fiction, dealing with the American scene. In 1928 he contributed to the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society a paper on "Letters of an Overland Mail Agent in Utah."

Professor Hulbert received the honorary degrees of Litt.D. from Middlebury College in 1929 and of L.H.D. from Marietta College in 1930. His literary output was notable, the bibliography of his writings which was published by the Vermont State Library in 1929, showing 102 titles. He wrote easily and with vitality. The graphic side of history especially appealed to him and illustrations were always a feature of his books. A writer in the *American Historical Review* for April 1932, said: "He has shown a growing mastery of the vast detail of American expansion, and a creative imagination that was forever seeing new pictures where most of his associates had regarded the work of exploitation as complete. . . . He is, without challenge, the leader in the field of American historical topography."

Mr. Hulbert married, September 16, 1901, Mary Elizabeth Stacy who died in Colorado in 1920; and secondly, Dorothy Printup, June 16, 1923. He was survived by two children from his first marriage by his widow and by two children from his second marriage.

C. S. B.

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