

time of the medieval Inquisition to that of Dreyfus. In 1934 he published his books on *Early American Jews* and *Robert Grosseteste and the Jews*, and in the decades which followed he turned out a steady stream of books and articles of sound scholarship. His two doctorates were in recognition of his legal work, but he was as deserving in the field of history.

Friedman served as a member of the council of the Massachusetts Historical Society and as president of the American Jewish Historical Society. His first contact with the American Antiquarian Society came in the course of his historical research. He was elected to membership in April, 1952, and thereafter attended every meeting unless kept away by duties in court. He died, after a short illness, on August 7, 1957, survived by his sisters. Despite his learning and his personal charm he was not widely known, a fact which is to be explained by his great modesty and his unwillingness to intrude his affairs on those of others.

C. K. S.

### J. HALL PLEASANTS

J. Hall Pleasants, a member of this Society for twenty years, died August 24, 1957. He was born in Baltimore County, Maryland, September 12, 1873, the son of Richard Hall and Elizabeth Moale Poultney Pleasants. He was graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1895, obtaining his medical degree from the same University in 1899. He engaged in medical practice until 1910, thereafter teaching at Johns Hopkins, holding various civic offices, and indulging in historical research. On January 30, 1902, he married Delia Tudor Wilmer, who survived him, with two daughters.

His associations with societies were chiefly in the fields of history and of art. He was a trustee of the Baltimore Museum of Art, and of the Municipal Museum of Baltimore. He was president of the board of trustees of Peabody Institute and vice-president of the Maryland Historical Society. He was a member of the Walpole Society, frequently attended its meetings, and contributed papers to its *Note Books*. He was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1937. Although distance prevented his attendance at the meetings, he was much interested in the Society and valued his membership. He contributed to the *Proceedings* two important papers—"Justus Engelhardt Kuhn, an early eighteenth century Maryland portrait painter," in 1937, and "Four late eighteenth century Anglo-American landscape painters" in 1943. His most important contribution to Maryland history was his editorship, from 1929 to 1945, of the *Archives of Maryland*, sixteen folio volumes comprising the printing of seventeenth and eighteenth century colonial records and a model for the publishing of State Archives. With Howard Sill he wrote in 1930 an authoritative volume on *Maryland Silversmiths*. Other publications were *Joshua Johnston, the First American Negro Portrait Painter*, 1942, *Saint-Memin Water Color Miniatures*, 1947, and "George William West" in *Art in America* for January 1949. His studies in the portraiture of the Maryland area were exceedingly comprehensive, with his material surpassing the collections of the Frick Art Reference Library, since he developed biographies of the subjects of the portraits and explored the careers of many artists. Fortunately his files were presented to the Maryland Historical Society by his family.

A painstaking worker in history and art for over forty years, the curtailment of his activities produced a real loss to

the many Societies with which he was connected and to historical scholarship throughout the country. Distinguished first as a physician and teacher, then as ornithologist, genealogist, historian, prolific writer on art, civic leader, and tireless searcher in many fields, Dr. Pleasants left an impress which can never be forgotten. His genial character, his affection for friends, his love of a good story, and his willingness to aid other scholars in their chosen researches, constituted a personality that will be greatly missed.

C. S. B.

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