

Obituaries

CHANDLER BULLOCK

The death of Chandler Bullock on March 23 of this year will sever for many of us the last link with the nineteenth century. As long as he was alive to regale us with his gay tales of a very observant young man in the days of horse cars, those days, relished in his memory, seemed to be ours, too. Without him to tell of them, they will recede into history.

Chandler was born in Worcester on August 24, 1872, the son of Augustus George and Mary (Chandler) Bullock. He came from the aristocracy of Massachusetts, but in the public schools his "swift straight inside pitch" made the little Irishmen think twice before twitting him about his background. After final polishing in a local private school he went to Harvard where he took an A.B. in 1894 and an LL.D. three years later. Upon graduation he settled in Worcester and entered upon the practice of law, with a general leaning toward insurance cases. From the outset his services were employed by the State Mutual Life Assurance Company, of which he became General Counsel in 1908. Moving swiftly up, he became President in 1927, and Chairman of the Board in 1943. Since his retirement from that office in 1950 he has served regularly in an advisory capacity. During these years he served as a director of a number of corporations, and for a time as President of the Worcester Chamber of Commerce. Of the many public service organizations with which he was connected, perhaps he was fondest of the Travelers Aid Society, of which he was

one of the founders and one-time President. As a Trustee of the Worcester Free Public Library, he heartily supported the programs of the professional librarians. During World War I he was chairman of District Board No. 2 of Massachusetts under the Selective Service Act, a difficult task which took most of his time in these years, and made him marvel and rejoice at the swiftness with which the American melting pot was working.

A born conservative with an impulse to be constructive, he served on the Republican State Committee and attended two Republican National Conventions. He took his defeats with good humor and waited for the next election to try again. What he feared about the Liberals was their inclination, in politics, to slander and cheating; one must play the game like a gentleman, he thought, or sink back into demagogery and despotism.

Chandler's literary tastes were equally conservative. For him no modern remotely approached Shakespeare. The theater fascinated him; his collection of programs was considerable. He was active in amateur dramatics, although an associate in these activities remarks that no matter what part Chandler played, he was Chandler still. His great interest really was, however, the infinite variety of the human race as seen from the chair of the draft board chairman or in the pages of history. He joined and was active in a number of historical bodies, such as the Lincoln Group of Boston, to name only a late favorite. His inclinations and heredity considered, it was inevitable that he should be drawn into the American Antiquarian Society, which happened in 1921. Six years later he became Treasurer, a post which he held for thirty-four years, and to which he gave the most devoted attention. Until recently his office performed all of the bookkeeping chores, the payroll, and the like. During the hard years of the depression he managed the investments

with the idea that eventually there would be inflation "managed or otherwise," and as a result of his wisdom the invested capital of the Society increased four-fold. Yet to him funds were but a means to an end. Never once in the twenty years during which he paid the bills which I, as librarian, incurred, was there a breath of difference between us. From my first day in Worcester I found that I had in him an ally and a hearty supporter of every library project which I advanced. "Choose your professional executive carefully, then take his advice as to his business and support him to the hilt" was Chandler's motto in all of his directorships.

During the last decade of Chandler's life he was an example of courage which shamed the rest of us. Almost blind, quite feeble, he nevertheless went to his office regularly, and attended meetings when the weather kept young men home. Of course it was the determination of his wife, Mabel (Richardson) Bullock, that he should do what he wanted to do, which made his late activity possible. He died as he would have wished, shortly after returning from a busy day in Boston. He is survived by Mrs. Bullock, their four daughters, and many grandchildren.

C. K. S.

JOHN W. HIGGINS

In the death of John Woodman Higgins, the city of Worcester lost one of its leading citizens. He was born in that city on September 1, 1874, the son of Milton Prince and Katharine (Chapin) Higgins. His father was a college professor who left the classroom to found manufacturing industries which have been largely responsible for the tremendous growth of Worcester. His childhood there was a happy one; its high light was a bicycle race in which he established a record which still stands. In 1896 he graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and immediately entered

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