

Long Island, August 25, 1927. He was of Scotch-Irish descent, the son of Thomas and Margaret Mathews Kelby. During the Civil War he enlisted in the United States Navy in 1864 at the age of eighteen and served during the remainder of the war. In 1868 he became an assistant in the library of the New York Historical Society where his brother, William Kelby, was then assistant librarian and thus began upon a life work that was to last nearly sixty years. In 1893 he was elected assistant librarian and in 1899 librarian. During his long connection with the Society, as Mr. Alexander J. Wall shows in his admirable sketch of Mr. Kelby in the *New York Historical Society Bulletin* for January 1928, the number of volumes in the library increased from 25,000 volumes to over 150,000 volumes, and the funds from \$15,300 to over \$1,109,000. In this period, some of the most valuable collections were acquired and many important projects undertaken. The raising of the funds which resulted in the laying of the corner-stone of the new building in 1903 was chiefly due to his efforts, and for all time to come the Society will look back with gratitude to this modest custodian of its possessions whose appeals for support did not go unanswered.

In 1921, at his own request, Mr. Kelby was relieved of his active duties and was elected Librarian Emeritus. During the last seven years of his life he was largely confined to his house as a result of a paralytic shock, but never did he lose the cheerfulness and humor which were outstanding elements in his character. Mr. Kelby was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1918, and was always much interested in aiding both its library and its librarian.

C. S. B.

WILLIAM PENDLETON PALMER

William Pendleton Palmer died in Cleveland, Ohio, December 17, 1927. He was born in Pittsburgh, June 17, 1861, the son of James Stewart Palmer and

Eleanor Pendleton Mason. After graduating from the Pittsburgh Central High School, he entered into the steel business and rapidly gained advancement, being successively general sales agent of the Carnegie Steel Company, assistant to the president of that company, second vice-president of the Illinois Steel Company, general manager of the American Steel and Wire Company at the age of thirty-eight, and finally president of the latter company, which position he held until his death. For the last thirty years of his life he resided at Cleveland, where he was actively connected with many business organizations and local institutions. In 1898 he married Mary Boleyn Adams of Chicago.

Mr. Palmer's greatest interest outside of his business was the collecting of material relating to the Civil War, in which his father had taken an active participation as Captain of Company C of the 155th Pennsylvania volunteers. He gathered one of the most notable Civil War collections in the country, numbering over 35,000 pieces, and especially strong in Lincolniana, regimental histories and manuscripts. This collection he presented to the Western Reserve Historical Society, of which he had been elected President in 1913. As President, he aided the Society in every way, raising funds, securing members and giving generously of his own time and money. He always maintained an active interest in Worcester, the home of one of the branches of the American Steel and Wire Company. In 1908 he began on plans for a Worcester Industrial Museum which has turned out to be a remarkably comprehensive and valuable historical exhibit of the beginnings of the wire industry. He was elected to the Antiquarian Society in 1914 and although he attended but few meetings, he was always interested in the progress of the Society and the growth of its library.

C. S. B.

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