

speaker made him a most forceful presiding officer at the meetings of the Society. One of the most important literary contributions to the Society will be his history of its first hundred years, which he had practically completed a few weeks before his death.

His legal and historical researches resulted in the production of many volumes which are of recognized value. His more important works were "The History of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Constitution of the United States," 1889, and "The History of the Supreme Court of the United States," 1902. In his work as an historian he acquired an invaluable collection of books, prints and portraits. His collection of engraved portraits of Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Lafayette and other notable figures in American history was one of the most complete ever formed in this country and its disposal at auction in 1904 has long remained a standard for the value of American engravings.

Mr. Carson was elected a member of this Society in 1924. He presented at the April, 1927 meeting a paper entitled "The Common Origin of the Middle Colonies," a contribution rather notable in that it was delivered orally, over half an hour in length and filled with an array of facts and dates, without hesitation or a single change of wording or reference to any notes. Mr. Carson was deeply interested in the welfare of the Society, and frequently contributed to its funds, being especially anxious to see the collections completed by the purchase of necessary volumes.

M. R. R.

JOHN WHITTEMORE FARWELL

John Whittemore Farwell of Boston, who was elected a member of this Society in April, 1915, was born at Waltham, April 17, 1843 and died in Boston, October 7, 1929. He was the son of Nathaniel Whittemore and Eliza (Fletcher) Farwell and eighth in

descent from Henry Farwell of Boston, England, who with wife Olive and two children, emigrated to America in 1636 and settled at Chelmsford, Mass. Mr. Farwell received a public school education and entered Tufts College in the class of 1866, but did not graduate. Fifty years later, in 1916, on the occasion of the anniversary of the graduation of his class, he was given by Tufts the degree of Bachelor of Letters as of the class of 1866. He was connected during his whole life with the bleachery branch of the cotton industry, beginning in his father's bleachery at Lewiston, Me. and continuing in those at Somersworth, N. H., Lisbon, Me., and Lawrence, Mass. Of these several mills and of others in Maine and Rhode Island he became, after his father's death in 1886, a leading and often a controlling officer. He also became actively interested in banking and insurance, being a director in several corporations in these lines. In early life he gave considerable time to political affairs and served in the City Council and School Committee of Lewiston and, for a year each, in the legislatures of Maine and Massachusetts as representative. He afterwards was much concerned in the education of women and was, at the time of his death, a trustee of Wellesley College, to the welfare of which he was much devoted.

In later life, Mr. Farwell became much interested in the collecting of Americana, especially with relation to the early history of New England, and succeeded in accumulating a large and valuable library of which one of the chief features was the collection of early maps. After his election to this Society he took pleasure in responding to calls for assistance in adding to its collections and several important additions to its newspapers are due to his liberality. He was also a generous contributor to other requests by the Society for financial aid. His final bequest of five thousand dollars in his will is an additional testimony to the great interest he took in fostering the Society's work.

He was a member of many other historical societies,

in all of which he took an active interest. He married, May 8, 1870, Ruby Frances Howe who died at Boston, November 20, 1923. They had no children.

W. L.

JAMES BENJAMIN WILBUR

James Benjamin Wilbur, a member of the Council of the Society since 1921, died in New York City on April 28, 1929, a few days after he had returned from a four months' trip to Europe. He was born in Cleveland, November 11, 1856, the son of James Benjamin Wilbur and Lauretta Welch. After an education in the public schools of Cleveland, he entered immediately into business life, serving as a cashier of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company from 1876 to 1882. In 1884 he removed to Colorado where from 1885 to 1890 he was engaged in ranching and banking. He then organized the Royal Trust Company of Chicago, acting as president from 1896 to 1909. When this company was merged with the Central Trust Company of Illinois, Mr. Wilbur retired and removed to Manchester, Vt., where he developed one of the most beautiful country estates in New England, and where he lived, except for trips to Europe and to the South in the winter, for the remainder of his life. In 1880 he married Carrie B. Hurd of New York, and had one son, James B. Wilbur, Jr. Mrs. Wilbur died in 1917.

Soon after his removal to Vermont, Mr. Wilbur became much interested in book collecting and in historical research. He began to acquire early and rare Vermont books and soon built up a remarkable collection of literature relating to that State, including the leading books of State and local history, many examples of eighteenth century Vermont printing and what was probably the best existing collection of early Vermont laws. There were many fields into which he did not enter, such as newspapers, almanacs and nineteenth

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.