

1912. In the years following, Mr. Taft frequently showed his interest in the Society. He wrote to influential friends to try to enlist their support for the Society, himself contributed to the invested funds in 1921, and made occasional gifts of manuscript and printed material to the Library. In 1917 he was elected a member of the Council of the Society. Although his duties upon the Supreme bench at Washington prevented his attendance at Council Meetings, he continued his interest and in 1921 represented the Society at the inauguration of President Angell at Yale University. The facts that Mr. Taft traced his immediate ancestry to the nearby town of Millbury, where he was a frequent visitor in the summer months, and that his father, Attorney-General Alphonso Taft, was long a member of this Society, were reasons why he was in closer touch with us. In one of his last letters he expressed his regret that Mr. Lincoln felt it advisable to resign the Presidency and wished that the Society should "continue on its distinguished and useful career."

C. S. B.

#### CLAUDE HALSTEAD VAN TYNE

Claude Halstead Van Tyne died at Ann Arbor, Mich., March 21, 1930. He was born at Tecumseh, Mich., October 16, 1869, the son of Lawrence M. and Helen Rosacrans Van Tyne. He was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1896, studied at Heidelberg, Leipsig and Paris in 1897-1898, and received the degree of Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1900. He married Belle Joslyn, June 19, 1896, who with four children survived him.

Mr. Van Tyne's life career was largely devoted to the teaching of history. From 1900 to 1903 he was senior fellow in history at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1903 he went to the University of Michigan

as assistant professor of American history, becoming professor in 1906 and head of the department of history in 1911. He received frequent recognition outside of Michigan. In 1913-1914 he was lecturer in the French provincial universities on the Harvard Foundation; from 1915 to 1922 he was co-editor of the *American Historical Review*; and in 1927 he was appointed to the Sir George Watson chair of American history in the British universities. He was the author of several historical works, among them "The Loyalists in the American Revolution," 1902; "The American Revolution," 1905; "The Causes of the War of Independence," 1920; "England and America," 1927; and "The War of Independence," 1929. An acknowledged authority on the Revolution, he produced works that showed painstaking research, brilliancy of interpretation and engaging style. Unfortunately he did not live to complete the studies which he had planned to publish.

Professor Van Tyne was elected to this Society in 1922. Although distance of residence and later ill health prevented him from attending the meetings or contributing to the Proceedings, he always was interested in the Society and frequently used the Library through correspondence.

C. S. B.

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