

OBITUARIES

HERMAN VANDENBURG AMES

Herman Vandenburg Ames, professor of American constitutional history at the University of Pennsylvania, died in Philadelphia on February 7, 1935. He was born at Lancaster, Mass., August 7, 1865, the son of Rev. Marcus and Jane A. (Vandenburg) Ames. He prepared at Mowry & Goff's School in Providence, entered Brown, but removed to Amherst, from which he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1888. This was followed by graduate work at Columbia, and at Harvard from which latter University he obtained the degrees of A.M. in 1890 and Ph.D. in 1891, teaching history at the University of Michigan in 1891-1894, and taking further graduate studies at Leipzig and Heidelberg. On his return to this country he became assistant professor of history at Ohio State University in 1896, which was followed by his appointment as instructor of American constitutional history at the University of Pennsylvania in 1897. He had chosen his life field and here he remained until his death, becoming assistant professor in 1903 and professor in 1908. He was invariably known as Dean Ames, due to his long career of twenty years after 1907 as dean of the graduate school at Pennsylvania, where his tact, firmness and high ideals of scholarship made him an influential factor in the government of the University. He was unmarried.

Dr. Ames was a member of many learned societies, but was especially active in the American Historical Association, of which he was chairman of the Archives Commission from 1902 to 1912, and served on its council for three years. He received the honorary

degrees of Litt.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1925, and of LL.D. from La Salle College in 1927. His printed contributions were mostly in the field of American constitutional history. In 1896 he won the first awarding of the Justin Winsor prize for the best monograph based on original investigation in history with his "Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the United States during the First Century of its History." He also published an "Outline of Lectures on American Political and Institutional History" which went through three editions, edited a volume of "State Documents on Federal Relations" in 1906, and compiled in 1900 the "Report on the Public Archives of Pennsylvania." Professor Cheyney, in writing a sketch of Dr. Ames for the *American Historical Review*, said that "His attitude toward the Constitution was one of liberal interpretation, but he deprecated any intrusion upon its political character. When the eighteenth amendment grafted in it what he considered an alien provision, which should have been a matter of legislation, not of constitutional requirement, he protested and prophesied it would not remain permanently a part of the Constitution, which proved to be the case."

Dr. Ames was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1909 and contributed to its Proceedings in April 1919 a paper on "John C. Calhoun and the Secession Movement of 1850."

C. S. B.

FRANK BREWER BEMIS

Frank Brewer Bemis died at Boston, March 10, 1935. He was born in Boston, October 15, 1861, the son of Francis Theodore and Mary Haskell Fay (Brewer) Bemis. His education was obtained at the Rice Grammar School and at the Boston English High School. He did not prepare for college, but went

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.