

time he wrote pleasant notes of regret in answer to notices of our meetings, each time giving some sound reason for not attending. Once when urged to give a paper he replied telling of the press of his duties and suggesting that an effort be made to obtain another speaker. "But," he concluded with typical thoughtfulness, "if as the time approaches you do not find one please call upon me." The fact that he can no longer be called upon to give generously of his time and wisdom is tragedy to thousands. C. K. S.

JOHN CLEMENT FITZPATRICK

On February 10, 1940, John Clement Fitzpatrick closed a career of brilliant scholarship to which every student of American history is indebted. He was born in Washington, D. C., on August 10, 1876, a son of James Nicholas and Elizabeth (Combs) Fitzpatrick, and was educated in public and private schools in that vicinity. In 1897 he entered the service of the Library of Congress, with which his name will always be associated. In 1902 he became assistant chief of the Division of Manuscripts, which grew to be one of the world's great collections of source materials under his hands. The need of a national archives department was always close to his heart, and he served for a time on the commission to consider the problem. His scholarly interests lay in the period of the Revolution, and he ventured outside of it only to edit his *Autobiography of Martin Van Buren*. Within his chosen field he wrote *The Spirit of the Revolution*, *George Washington Colonial Traveler*, and *George Washington Himself*. He edited the *Journals of the Continental Congress* and the *Diaries and Writings of Washington*. It was to edit the last that he resigned from the Library of Congress in 1928, but he continued to do his work there and to serve in an advisory capacity. When he died twenty-six volumes of the *Writings* were published and the remaining eleven were in page proof.

Fitzpatrick's devotion to his task was so great that it was practically impossible to get him away from Washington. He so

concentrated his energies that he was not as well known as he deserved to be outside of his field; it is typical that his honorary degrees were from St. Mary's College, George Washington University, and Washington and Lee University. He did not marry until 1922, but from that date until the unfortunate death of his wife, Elizabeth V. Kelly, in 1933, she and their daughter usurped much of George Washington's place in his conversation and correspondence. Had Fitzpatrick not been so generous of his vast scholarship he could have had a wide popular following. As it was, his time and his unrivalled knowledge of the Revolutionary period were at the disposal of every scholar who brought him a problem. A request which might reasonably have been answered with brief clues often brought forth a veritable monograph on the subject. To him, scholarship was something to be shared, and the sharing of it was one of his great pleasures.

The one strong interest which Fitzpatrick had outside of his field was art, and he was a member of the American Artists Professional League. He was also president of the American Catholic Historical Society and a member of L'Institut Français de Washington, the New York Historical Society, the American-Irish Historical Society, and the American Academy of Political and Social Science. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1928, but not even his warm personal friendship for our librarian, Mr. Vail, could entice him to leave Washington to take part in our meetings.

C. K. S.

GEORGE ANTHONY GASKILL

George Anthony Gaskill died at Wellesley, Massachusetts, after a long illness. He was born in Worcester, June 4, 1877, the son of Francis A. and Katherine M. (Whittaker) Gaskill. His father was a justice of the Superior bench from 1889 until his death in 1909. The son attended the public schools in Worcester and Worcester Academy, and then entered Brown University, from which he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1898.

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.