

OBITUARIES

CLARENCE MONROE BURTON

Clarence Monroe Burton was born at Whiskey Diggins, in Plumas County, California, November 18, 1853 and died in Detroit, Michigan, October 23, 1932. He was the son of Dr. Charles S. and Annie Monroe Burton. When he was two years old, his parents removed to Hastings, Michigan, where the son was later placed in the public schools. He entered the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated with the degree of B.S. in 1873, and of LL.B. in 1874. He immediately engaged in the practice of law in Detroit, but gradually forsook that profession to engage in the abstract of titles of estates, finally becoming president of the Burton Abstract and Title Company. Through this work and his own studies he became an authority on real estate, real estate law, and the history of the Northwest Territory. He married on December 25, 1872 Harriet J. Nye who died February 7, 1896; on December 27, 1897 Lina O. Grant who died October 4, 1898; and on June 20, 1900 Anna M. Knox who died February 8, 1925. By his first marriage he had six sons and two daughters and by his third marriage, one daughter.

Almost from the time of his coming to Detroit, Mr. Burton began to collect books on Detroit, Michigan, and the West, following out a resolution which he once made to buy at least one book a day on his chosen subject. At first aided by the advice of such men as Judge James V. Campbell and Henry A. Chaney, he acquired an historical background for collecting, and his work in the tracing of titles to

property familiarized him with much of Detroit's early annals. As he later was provided with more leisure and greater means to pursue his hobby, he travelled extensively throughout this country, as well as in Canada, England and France, to purchase books and to locate manuscripts which he might have copied. After about forty years of effort his collection became one of the finest libraries of Americana in the Middle West and the Detroit section unquestionably was the most complete of any formed for any similar locality. In 1914, the year he turned the library over to the city of Detroit, the collection amounted to about 60,000 books and pamphlets, 100,000 manuscripts, and 10,000 Detroit prints and photographs. The books included early editions of Hennepin, Lahontan, and other French historians, most of the thousands of titles of the Revolutionary and War of 1812 periods where they concerned the West, and the great mass of secondary sources of the nineteenth century. The manuscripts included many originals, but also hundreds of transcripts of unpublished papers relating to Michigan history, copied from archives in Montreal, the British public record office, and the French archives. The collection of photographs of Detroit views and portraits was monumental, the outgrowth of a systematic combing of local private residences and photograph galleries. This collection in itself was a model of what other communities might well form. The entire library, known as the Burton Historical Collection, is now housed in the Detroit Public Library.

Mr. Burton was the author of several books and pamphlets on the history of Detroit, and was chief editor of the five volume work "The City of Detroit," 1922, and the four volume "History of Wayne County," 1930. He received the honorary degree of A.M. from Michigan in 1905. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1907 and contributed a paper to the Proceedings in 1909 on "John Connolly, a Tory of the Revolution." Although most of his financial effort went to the building up of his own library, he

always responded to our appeals for assistance; especially when it meant the increase of our collections.

C. S. B.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

Calvin Coolidge, president of the American Antiquarian Society, died January 5, 1933. Elected to the office in October 1929, he thus served less than four years as the chief administrator of the Society's affairs. This is not the place for a biography of Mr. Coolidge. Many lengthy volumes, not to mention his own *Autobiography*, narrate in detail the facts of his life. All that will be attempted here is a brief sketch of his career and then a comprehensive account of his connection with the Society.

Calvin Coolidge was born at Plymouth, Vermont, July 4, 1872. He was a descendant in the tenth generation from the colonist John Coolidge, who came from Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, England, to Watertown in 1630. His line came down from the second son, Simon, whereas the Boston Coolidges descended from the sixth son, Jonathan. Mr. Coolidge's great-great-grandfather, John Coolidge, who served in the Revolutionary War, removed from Bolton, Massachusetts to Plymouth, Vermont, about 1781, cleared a farm, and was the father of Calvin, father of Calvin Galusha, father of John Calvin, father of Mr. Coolidge. His grandfather, Calvin Galusha Coolidge, died at Plymouth in 1878, but the widow, Sarah Almeda Brewer, had a great influence on her grandson's early life and lived until 1906. His father, John Calvin Coolidge, married Victoria Josephine Moor who died in 1885, and for his second wife, Carrie A. Brown, who died in 1920. On his mother's side Mr. Coolidge was descended from James Franklin of Swansea, as he himself told me once when inquiring whether there could be any connection of this with the Benjamin Franklin line.

Mr. Coolidge was christened John Calvin Coolidge,

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