

OBITUARIES

FRANCIS HENSHAW DEWEY

Francis Henshaw Dewey died after a brief illness at his home in Worcester, April 20, 1933. He was born in Worcester, March 23, 1856, the son of Judge Francis Henshaw and Sarah Barker (Tufts) Dewey. He descended from a long line of those high in the judicial concerns of Massachusetts. His father was a justice of the Superior Court from 1869 until his resignation in 1881, and might have continued on the Supreme bench had not important business interests intervened. His grandfather, Charles Augustus Dewey, was justice of the Supreme Court from 1837 until his death in 1866. His great-grandfather, Daniel Dewey, was also justice on the Supreme bench from 1814 until his death the following year.

Mr. Dewey's early education was received at schools in Worcester, followed by St. Mark's School at Southboro. He then entered Williams College and was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1876, ranking among the first six in his class in scholarship. In 1879 he received from Williams the degree of A.M. After reading law for a time in the office of Staples and Goulding in Worcester, he entered Harvard Law School, where he was graduated with the degree of LL.B. in 1878, being admitted to the bar the following year. Since that time he practised law in Worcester, but devoting practically his entire attention to corporation banking and railroad interests, in all of which fields he was a leader in Worcester. The unusual combination of legal training, a keen mind and business sagacity made him successful in each field. He married,

December 12, 1878, Lizzie Davis Bliss of Worcester and was survived by his widow and two children, Mrs. Rockwood H. Bullock and Francis Henshaw Dewey.

Mr. Dewey's business connections were diversified and important. Perhaps his greatest concern was the Worcester Consolidated Street Railway Company of which he became president in 1898 and which he led into a commanding position in central Massachusetts, covering two hundred miles of tracks, linking thirty cities and towns, and at the height of its power carrying sixty million passengers annually. Also interested in steam roads, he was president of the Norwich and Worcester Railroad and of the New London Northern Railroad Company, and a director of the Fitchburg Railroad Company. He was president of the Denholm & McKay Realty Company and the Proprietors of the Bay State House, vice-president of the Morris Plan Company and of the Worcester Gas Light Company, and director of the Massachusetts Bonding and Insurance Company, and the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company. An important figure in banking, he was trustee of the Worcester Mechanics Savings Bank and president since 1888 of the Mechanics National Bank, through his leadership one of the most successful and conservative banks in Central Massachusetts.

Mr. Dewey's associations with civic and educational institutions in Worcester were notable. He was trustee, vice-president and treasurer of Clark University and Clark College, giving a large amount of his time to these duties and occupying a position there which could not be filled easily. A friend and executor of the late Stephen Salisbury, he participated in the establishment of the Worcester Art Museum in 1896 and served as its first vice-president. In 1919 he succeeded to the presidency of the Museum and for fourteen years, until his death, his annual reports were models of clarity and common sense. Few presiding officers could expedite business so easily and so tactfully as

Mr. Dewey. Under his presidency the Art Museum greatly increased in prestige and in the value of its collections. He was a trustee of the Memorial Hospital, president of the Home for Aged Men, and an active force in the affairs of the First Unitarian Church. He was a trustee of Williams College, in this respect following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather.

Mr. Dewey was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1891 and at the time of his death was sixth in seniority of membership in the Society. Except for Reuben Colton no Worcester member has been so long in our roll. When the management of the Society was entrusted to the presidency of Waldo Lincoln in 1906, Mr. Dewey became a member of the finance committee and so served until his death. In 1912 he was elected to the Council and for the next twenty-one years worked continually and constructively for the good of the Society. In 1911 he contributed \$2500 to the Centennial Fund, in 1923 \$2500 to the Building Fund, and in 1928 he increased the Dewey Fund, left to the Society by his father, by a gift of \$5625. His advice and counsel in the raising of funds actively aided Mr. Lincoln in his necessary task. The spacious Dewey home on Elm Street has often been the scene of dinners to the Council of the Society and of luncheons to the members.

He was a kind and helpful friend to the Society, always interested in its welfare and never too busy to give its problems his serious consideration. This was one of the reasons for his success in life—that no detail was too small to be overlooked by him or to aid him in forming his judgment. His sense of loyalty was unswerving, his optimism and cheerfulness an unfailing source of inspiration. Those of us who have known him intimately on the Council for so many years will always value his friendship and honor his memory.

C. S. B.

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