

Obituaries

JOHN ADAMS

Some of us when faced by the words "President John Adams" have to glance at the context to remind ourself which man is meant, so nearly has our friend of the Massachusetts Historical Society eclipsed his ancestor for those of us who worked with him. Our John Adams was a son of Charles Francis and Mary (Ogden) Adams, and was born at Quincy on July 17, 1875. He grew up on the Bay in the last days of the great square-riggers, spent six years at Groton School, and graduated at Harvard in 1898. After a bicycling trip through Europe with his brother Henry and their father, he and Henry went to the Northwest to manage business interests which their father had acquired during the building of the Union Pacific. They had been about a year at Lewiston, Idaho, when the panic put an end to all business. John "cruised about the West" for a time before settling in 1902 in Kansas City in the employ of the United Zink and Chemical Company. Having worked up to the presidency of this organization by 1913, he returned to the East, established his residence in Lincoln, and served as the treasurer of several concerns, particularly oil companies whose business called him repeatedly to the Southwest. Under these circumstances Mr. Adams had all too little time sailing with his boys along the New England shore before the depression of the thirties postponed his hopes of retirement and travel. His Louisiana oil companies went by the board, but by furious industry he cut away the tangled rigging and rode out the storm.

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Alphabetically Arranged

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