

published considerable scientific data. He was elected to the Society in 1899 and contributed the following papers to its Proceedings: "Did Benjamin Franklin fly his electrical kite before he invented the lightning rod?" in vol. 18, new series, 1906; "Benjamin Franklin and the first balloons," in vol. 18, 1907; "Benjamin Franklin's original letters about balloons," in vol. 19, 1908. A paper by him entitled "A contribution to the history of ballooning in America" was to have been prepared for the meeting on April 10, 1912, but his death intervened.

He married Margaret Randolph Anderson, November 22, 1893, who with three children survives him. s. u.

WILLIAM BABCOCK WEEDEN.

William Babcock Weeden was born in Bristol, R. I., September 1, 1834, and died in Providence, March 28, 1912. He was a student at Brown University, 1847-50, but left without graduating, receiving the honorary degree of A. M. from that institution in 1875. After leaving college he became a successful woolen manufacturer. In the Civil War he was first lieutenant in Battery A, 1st Regiment, R. I. Light Artillery. After the battle of Bull Run he was promoted to the rank of captain and came home to recruit Battery C of the same regiment and returned to the front with his new command. A year later he became chief of artillery and ordnance of the First Division, Fifth Corps and while holding this important position directed the batteries at the battles of Mechanicsville, Gaines's Mill and Malvern Hill. He was also at the siege of Yorktown and at the battle of Hanover Court House, in both of which he took a conspicuous part. On July 21, 1862, he resigned his commission, returned to Providence and resumed business, in which he remained till 1902, when he retired. He remained a director in several financial and business corporations in which he was an active and efficient force. He was married first to Amy Dexter Owen, secondly to Hannah Raynor Balch, and thirdly to Jeanie

Lippitt who, with six children by the second marriage survives him.

Mr. Weeden was a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Massachusetts Commandery of the Loyal Legion and of this Society to which he was elected in 1884. He has been a member of the Council since 1893. He made a generous contribution to the Centennial Fund and had presented these papers to the Society: "Early African Slave Trade in New England," read in October, 1887; "The World of Commerce in 1492," read in October, 1892; "Quality the Prevailing Element in Representation," read in October, 1894; "Development of the American People," read in April, 1899; "Three Commonwealths: Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island; Their Early Development," read in October, 1902; "Ideal Newport in the 18th Century," read in October, 1906; and "Early Commercial Providence," read in April, 1909.

Our associate, Professor MacDonald, an intimate friend of Mr. Weeden, wrote of him the following notice, part of which has been recorded by the Council as its tribute to him:

"Early in life Mr. Weeden began the historical studies which resulted in the production of a number of books of permanent value in the field of American history and won for him an honorable place among the American historians. In the field of American economic history he was a pioneer. He was one of the first American writers to perceive the value which lay in the records of industrial and commercial activities, of land-holding and agricultural development, of currency, finance and trade, and of social habits and customs. With painstaking and untiring zeal he searched the early records of New England, both printed and manuscript, for material illustrative of the life of the people.

"His 'Social Law of Labor,' published in 1882, was a broad historical survey of the relations of labor and capital in Europe and in this country, while his 'Econ-

omic and Social History of New England' established his reputation as an economic historian and in its field of colonial history has not been superseded. Later studies in the same field were published under the titles of 'Indian Money as a Factor in New England Civilization,' and 'Early Rhode Island.' In a recent volume entitled 'War Government, Federal and State,' he examined for the first time the governmental and administrative operations of the States and of the United States during the Civil War, and supplemented all previous studies of the civil side of that great struggle. Of Mr. Weedon's devotion to the interests of this Society and his active and intelligent participation in the work of the Council, the Council record their grateful and affectionate appreciation. Amid the labors and cares of a large business he found time for systematic study and writing, for generous concern with many phases of culture, and for wide and enduring friendships. To those who for years were his associates here, as to those who shared the friendship and hospitality of his home, he leaves the memory of a gracious presence, a zeal for all good causes, a broad outlook upon the world of men and ideas, and an intellectual interest which ended only with his death."

S. U.

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