

## In Memoriam

### MAY ATHERTON LEACH

By the death of Miss May Atherton Leach on October 6, 1945, the Council and the membership of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania have sustained a loss which cannot be measured and for which we can devise no compensation.

When an organization has been so fortunate as to have among its membership for fifty years one who possessed a rare combination of energy, intelligence, good sense, leadership and achievement, the final severance of the relationship by death leaves the Society many grateful and inspiring memories which unfortunately must be clouded by a sense of bereavement.

Miss Leach became a member of The Historical Society on February 25, 1895, and spent much of her life within its walls always busy on genealogical and other historical research. During a period of difficult administration, when the new building was literally being constructed around the old, she was called to be assistant librarian, 1904-1906. Largely upon her rested the heavy burden of superintending the moving of the great collections of books.

In 1923 she succeeded her brother, J. Granville Leach, Esquire, as historiographer of the Society and in the years following she rendered many even more notable services. As a member of the Council she was most regular in her attendance and her keen mind, her shrewdness, her frank expression of her opinions, and her superb mastery of the English language will not be forgotten as long as her associates survive. She made numerous gifts to the collections of the Society. She was an indefatigable committee-woman both within the Society and in many other organizations. She devoted her life to genealogy, history, civic organization and charity.

Her activities in the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, the Pennsylvania Historical Association, and on the Pennsylvania Historical Commission to which she was appointed by two governors, made her well known throughout the Commonwealth. Her wide correspondence as Secretary of the Genealogical Society caused her to be recognized in many parts of the nation. In all of these contacts people almost invariably associated her with The Historical Society, and its reputation was enhanced by her success.

Miss Leach knew books as well as people. No one probably has ever surpassed her in knowledge of the history of Pennsylvania families and customs. It is a great misfortune that so much of her knowledge died with her. Though she wrote a great deal, there is little record of it under her own name. She was content to have credit go elsewhere for she was truly modest, satisfied with the success of her labor and wanting little of the acclaim. In this as in so many respects, she was unique. Her place can never be filled.

ROY F. NICHOLS



M. ATHERTON LEACH, 1857-1945



## EDWARD CAREY GARDINER

The Council of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania records with deep regret the death of Edward Carey Gardiner on September 14, 1945, in his sixty-sixth year. Mr. Gardiner became a member of the Society in 1926 in which year he was also elected to the Council and to the office of Auditor. These positions he held until his death. During the many years that he served the Society, he was a member from time to time of practically every important committee, at his death being Chairman of that on Membership and Activities.

Throughout his long association with the Society, his interest in its welfare was at all times paramount in his mind. His generosity was no less than his interest, for during his lifetime he presented to the Society the total of some 20,000 manuscripts, now known as the Edward Carey Gardiner Collection. This collection deals with the business papers of Mathew Carey and of Henry Carey, and includes the Gardiner papers and the Baird family papers. To this he has added by bequest old family silver, jewelry, miniatures of great value from the point of view of Philadelphia history, as well as a most generous sum of money.

Members of the Council and of the Society as a whole will greatly miss his untiring efforts, his faithfulness in attendance at meetings and to his duties, as well as his sincere interest and sympathy for his friends in times of adversity.

R. NORRIS WILLIAMS, 2d.



## JOHN MORIN SCOTT

The death of the Honorable John Morin Scott on Wednesday morning, October 3, 1945, at his home, 1903 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, having been reported to the Council, the following memorial resolutions were duly proposed and unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, by the death of the Honorable John Morin Scott, senior Vice-President, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has lost the interest and able counsel of a most distinguished officer and citizen. The Council of the Society records its profound sorrow and directs that this memorial minute be entered upon its records.

John Morin Scott was born in Philadelphia in 1858 and observed without celebration his eighty-seventh birthday just a short time before his death. Affectionately known for four decades as "the Senator," Mr. Scott had throughout his adult life held a position of prominence and influence in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania that is rarely attained by one of unostentatious manner and modest disposition.

Mr. Scott obtained his education in private schools, the Episcopal Academy and the University of Pennsylvania; he was admitted to the Philadelphia bar in 1881. As a young man he was elected to the State House of Representatives, and following this was a member for ten years of the State Senate, where he served as President pro tempore for two terms, and as chairman of important committees, including the Committee on Finance. In 1924 he was elected Prothonotary of the Courts of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, and held that office for over twenty years, to the satisfaction of the Judges of the Courts, members of the bar and the public. His grandfather, John Morin Scott, also a Philadelphia lawyer, was Mayor of the city from 1841 to 1843.

Senator Scott supplemented his political service by taking an active part in the management of many civic organizations and societies. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society, on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Music, President of the Athenaeum Library, Director of the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company, Manager of the Apprentices Library, senior Vice-President of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Honorary General President of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution, and President of the Pennsylvania Society of that name, Governor of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Wars, honorary member of the Society of the Cincinnati, and a member of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, of the Military Order of Foreign Wars, of the Society of the War of 1812, and of the Loyal Legion. He was an unusually able presiding officer and a cordial and generous host, whether at a Wistar Party in his own home, or at the many dinners and luncheons that he was in the habit of tendering to friends and associates in numerous organizations.

A man of strong loyalties, Mr. Scott will be gratefully remembered by many persons of high and low degree to whom his friendship proved of great assistance and encouragement.

EDWIN O. LEWIS