

## **In Memoriam**

### **HARROLD EDGAR GILLINGHAM**

**1864-1954**

On March 25, 1954, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania suffered the loss of one of its oldest members. For sixty years Harrold Edgar Gillingham had been on its membership rolls, for eighteen years he had been a member of its Council, and for eighteen years, one of its Vice-Presidents. In 1953 he was elected Honorary Vice-President of the Society.

Mr. Gillingham was born in Hainesport, New Jersey, in 1864, the son of Lt. Frank C. Gillingham of the 119th Pennsylvania Volunteers and of Tacy Shoemaker Morris, of ancestry that enabled him later to become a member of the Welcome Society, the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution.

He went to school at the old Lauderbach Academy and the Germantown Academy, and at the age of eighteen became a clerk in an insurance office. He eventually organized an insurance business of his own and finally merged it in the firm of Robert M. Coyle and Company. In the meantime, he developed transportation interests and served as president of the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad Company and as vice-president of the 13th and 15th Streets Railway Company. He was also a manager of the Germantown Savings Fund.

Mr. and Mrs. Gillingham, the former Louise Hance Long, had extensive collecting and historical interests. Their collection of silverware, medals, and decorations was unique; in fact, their Germantown home was something of a museum. Mr. Gillingham wrote a number of historical articles on Philadelphia silversmiths, shipbuilding, and fire protection.

He was a loyal and active member of many historical and patriotic societies and an officer in most of them. He served not only The Historical Society of Pennsylvania as Councilor and Vice-President, but he had been president of the Welcome Society, the Genealogical Society, and the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies.

Older members of the Historical Society will remember him well. At one period of transition in its affairs, he gave much of his time and energy to its management. For many years he was constant in his attendance and diligent in his attention to its affairs. Many of Philadelphia's organizations have like cause to accord him grateful remembrance.

**ROY F. NICHOLS**