
The meeting was called to order at two-forty-five o'clock by President Roalfe.

PRESIDENT ROALFE: In commencing the meeting this afternoon I want first to announce that we are going to have the privilege of hearing Lord Wright of Durley, the Master of the Rolls of England, during this session, and as he is also scheduled on another program we will interrupt whatever portion of our program is in progress at the time in order to hear him.

The first thing on our program today is the reading of the Memorials for two of our members who for many years were active participants in the affairs of this Association. I know that all of us will feel very deeply the loss of these two members.

We will now hear from Mrs. Gladys Judd Day who will give the Memorial on Dr. George S. Godard, former State Librarian of Connecticut.

Memorial to Dr. George Seymour Godard

In *The Seven Lamps of Architecture* Ruskin wrote, "When we build let us think that we build forever. . . We may live without architecture, and worship without her, but we cannot remember without her."

It seems to me that these words of Ruskin aptly describe the character of the life work of our friend Dr. George Seymour Godard, as the Librarian of the Connecticut State Library and the mental and spiritual architect of its model home, the State Library and the Supreme Court Building.

All of us who have had the privilege of working in or visiting it, have seen his Memorial, for he wrought it himself with his exceptional foresight and careful supervision from the bedrock below to the minutest detail beneath its stately roof.

Any words of mine appear insignificant against such a living memorial as the Connecticut State Library presents to the people of Connecticut and of the Nation today. Let us call this only a tribute to one who made his profession serve an ever widening field of public service.

George Seymour Godard was born in Granby, Connecticut, June 17, 1865, of thoroughly English-Connecticut ancestry. He received his degree, Bachelor of

Arts from Wesleyan University in 1892, and was among its best known alumni. The University conferred on him the Honorary Degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Literature in later years. He also studied at Northwestern University and the Yale Divinity School, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1895. Mr. Godard was invited to become the Assistant to the State Librarian in 1898, and upon Dr. Hoadley's death in 1900 was appointed State Librarian.

Inspirations which determine trends in occupations and give character to our living receive more attention today than they did in times gone by. Mr. Harvey Godard drove into Hartford from his farm in Granby over sixty years ago to give his son George an opportunity to visit the Capitol. The young lad was fascinated by the library where he found more books about Connecticut than his father had in their home collection. It was only an incident in a day to the older man, but to the boy it was the incident which inspired a life of purpose and character. His boyish curiosity impressed Dr. Hoadley, and the two became warm friends. Perhaps the greatest joy Mr. Godard ever experienced was the receiving of a letter offering him a position in the State Library in the summer of 1898. I know Mr. Godard said he could not express his feelings at the event.

When Mr. Godard entered the State Library he was greeted with row upon row of uncataloged books, records, and pamphlets, with new material constantly arriving, requiring care and indexing. Mr. Godard expressed his surprise to his close friends at the time at the wealth of material which was unavailable and unknown because unindexed. He immediately set himself to the task of making the entire library accessible. Another thing which amazed him was the lack of protection for Connecticut's historic treasures. One of his first purchases for the Capitol Library was of three large safes, and the Charter of 1662 and the official copy of the Constitution of 1818, both engraved upon parchment, were rescued from the walls of the office of the Secretary of State and housed in safer quarters. Among the "stowed away papers of ancient days", Mr. Godard found the two hundred and twenty-two rolls and lists of Connecticut men who served in the French and Indian wars from 1755 to 1763. Not only giving names, but being muster and payroll, much interesting data was given which could not be found elsewhere. Over one hundred and fifty of them were in single sheets of uneven size, and all very brittle. Mr. Godard made at once a complete study of the ways and means of preserving all such rare treasures, realizing, as he put it, that "Eternity to eternity is a long time, but history will be studied and understood in proportion as the data for the different periods are preserved and made available."

The General Assembly of Connecticut delegates to committees the investigation of bills presented, and of recommending definite lines of action. Mr. Godard realized in 1903 that the pros and cons presented before these committees were most important, and immediately began to insist on receiving copies of hearings, which were arranged and indexed, thus making a significant contribution to Connecticut legislative work.

Realizing again the inadequacy of Connecticut bibliography, he urged and succeeded in having a permanent committee appointed through the Connecticut Library Association which prevailed upon all the members to join hands in taking an inventory of all printed works relating to Connecticut: genealogies and biog-

raphies of Connecticut men and women, newspapers and periodicals published in Connecticut, maps, sermons, addresses, pictures of important persons and events, etc. Standard cards were prepared, and the completed data deposited at the State Library.

The sons and daughters of old Connecticut at home or abroad owe a common debt to this conscientious public collector of Connecticut material of every type. I can do no better than to quote from Mr. Godard's report of 1903-1904 which sums up so successfully his underlying reasons and reveals him to have been at heart not only a librarian but a historian of fact, not fancy. I quote—"As the little, musty, inkstained, quaintly phrased diaries, pamphlets, etc. of Colonial days, so common in their day, usually destroyed or soon forgotten, are now eagerly sought by historians, so the everyday state, county, town maps and charts, and the pamphlets, broadsides, and circulars which are suddenly and constantly appearing from state, town, church and lodge officials in any community only to disappear again as quickly—are the very data from which the statesman and historian of the future is to gain his view of our life and interpret our civilization. As the writing of history will never end, so the collecting of material for historical purposes must never cease."

Lord Chesterfield would never have felt that "History is only a confused heap of facts" if he could have visited the Connecticut State Library, for Mr. Godard supplemented his work by choosing a loyal, efficient staff who have given of their highest and best to bring order out of confusion and to serve all with equal care and ability.

Mr. Godard earned the title I occasionally heard applied of "Preservation Godard". It was an honorable title. It was largely through his endeavors that the General Assembly in 1909 passed an Act Concerning the Preservation of Books, Records and Documents, which gave any official of the State or of the county or town, or any other official, the right to turn over to the State Librarian with his consent, for permanent preservation early records and documents, and also giving the certified copies of such records the same authority as evidence. We cannot estimate the value of this Act alone. The preservation of early probate records which were previously frequently stored in the homes of the judges of probate or the town clerks in the country districts, liable both to loss by fire and theft, was a tremendous advance step. Transfers have since been made from the Secretary of State's office and the various superior courts of court papers from early days to varying dates. It was largely through Mr. Godard's persistent efforts that the present building with all its splendid equipment rose from his dream into an actual reality in 1911.

One can only outline the high and unique features originating with a spirit so keen in collecting information and so ardent to make it uniformly available. The service rendered by Mr. Godard and his efficient staff to the State during the World War and since that time in perfecting the records of the Military Census, and the Connecticut Council of Defense, would need a volume by itself. For the past nineteen years Mr. Godard had been in charge of all this work as Chairman and Director. One of the outstanding collections resulting from this work is a complete file of all documents affecting the 26th Division (Yankee

Division) of the United States Army, of which photostats were made for Connecticut while the material was being arranged under his supervision.

Mr. Godard was tremendously impressed with the value of the photostat in the reproducing of documents for reference work and for the increase of library possessions. Frequently he obtained gifts of rare documents by preparing for the owner a photostat copy. He established a library reference service which aided greatly the handling of legislation in the General Assembly. As soon as a bill was introduced it was reproduced photostatically and the legislators provided with copies. The manufacturers consider the photostatic equipment of the State Library one of the most complete in the country.

I think it is safe to say that it was Mr. Godard's splendid supervision and care of historical treasures that led the Massachusetts Historical Society to return the "Trumbull Papers", an occasion observed with fitting ceremony. This collection of records of both colony and state were not solely confined to Governor Trumbull's term of office. Many were of his predecessors, and all of great historical as well as commercial value. The Daniel Nash Morgan Collection including the table on which Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation is only one of many collections which signify the triumph of Mr. Godard's unwearying zeal.

Mr. Godard was a master of explicit detail, devising methods for keeping records which now have extensive use, and was regarded as an outstanding archivist.

I have traced a few of these intimate steps through the years to verify his measure of success, which proves that a good librarian is not a mere purchasing agent, but foresees the wants of the public, and makes its wants available, even stimulating its interest and desire. "The Log Book of the Ship of State" of Connecticut has become alive through his facility in making public records face the open light.

Love of one's work, genial fellowship, steadfastness of purpose, create a responsive attitude on the part of others. It was only four years after he became librarian, that he was honored by the election to the Presidency of the National Association of State Librarians, and five years later, you of the American Association of Law Libraries similarly honored him.

No word of mine can add to your knowledge of the variety of services Mr. Godard rendered to you throughout these years. As Chairman of the Joint Committee of National Legislative Information Service, his indefatigable spirit sustained the courage of all who worked with him. Mr. Godard was one of the type of men who did not know it was impossible to do certain things, and so he did them. As a member of the Committee on the Index to Legal Periodicals and Law Library Journal, he took no note of time or service, except that real accomplishment might be carried further. Our daily use and reliance on the INDEX, and our appreciation of the LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL, are tributes to this broad service.

I might give a lengthy list of patriotic and historical associations, clubs, and societies to which Mr. Godard belonged and to which he contributed time and thoughtful service. I picked up a random copy of the *State Library Echo* published several years ago, and found in this number announcements of five different

addresses Mr. Godard gave that month for such gatherings, and again I was reminded of Ruskin in his thought that "The training which makes men happiest in themselves also makes them most serviceable to others".

You who have been his friends and have met him year after year in these national conferences know how much joy, goodwill, and common sense he contributed to these meetings. If we can make our libraries the better for his example of devotion and zeal, we shall carry forward his lighted torch.

GLADYS JUDD DAY, *Librarian*
Hartford Bar Library

PRESIDENT ROALFE: The Memorial to Dr. G. E. Wire, former Librarian of the Worcester County Law Library, will be read by Mr. A. J. Small.

MR. SMALL: Up until this session the first group of members present at the organization of the American Association of Law Libraries had been intact. This year the chain is broken.

In 1906 there were three librarians who met at Narragansett Pier: Mr. Poole, Dr. Wire, and myself. It was quite remarkable that for thirty years that same three attended regularly. Now the chain is broken and many that have been connected with the Association have long since passed on.

So I say that it is with deep and sincere regret that I have been called upon to deliver this Memorial to Dr. Wire.

Memorial to Dr. George E. Wire

In the midst of busy activities of the American Association of Law Libraries in conference assembled, we pause to pay tribute and to revere the memory of Dr. George E. Wire, our late beloved and distinguished member, who in the early morning of February 23, 1936, in the City of Worcester, Massachusetts, passed peacefully and unexpectedly into the realm of endless sleep, after having finished an active and useful life.

Dr. Wire was born in Dryden, Tompkins County, New York, February 6, 1859. He was of a retiring and kindly temperament, not seeking personal applause or ostentation, but constantly industrious in his chosen activities. He was faultlessly true to his profession and to his friends, ever seeking their interests. Throughout the library world his friends were numerous as he had been a constant and active member of the American Library Association since 1886.

He was one of the founders of the American Association of Law Libraries, which was organized in 1906. Dr. Wire contributed many articles to library periodicals and made many reports to the two associations which were of great value to libraries and librarians.

Dr. Wire had a liberal and extensive education. He attended the public schools of Evanston, Illinois, from 1870 to 1876 and Northwestern University from 1876 to 1878. He then entered the Chicago Medical College and was graduated with the M.D. degree in 1883. Instinctively he had a librarianship tendency and chose that as his life's profession, serving from 1885 to 1887 as