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## MEMORIAL TO MARCELLUS H. STOW

May 19, 1902–November 27, 1957

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Marcellus Henry Stow was born May 19, 1902, at Washington, D. C., and died November 27, 1957, at Lexington, Virginia, of a heart attack which cut short a memorable career. "He was a dedicated scientific investigator, inspiring teacher, indefatigable contributor to public welfare, and a wholehearted cooperater with others—in the cause of science."<sup>1</sup>

"Mar" Stow is mourned by many generations of students from Washington and Lee University where he taught for thirty years, and by his colleagues in teaching, government, and research. Most will remember his jovial, easy-going manner and delightful sense of humor. He was a man of quiet patience, a congenial and unhurried attitude. With a door continually open to his students and friends, he always had time to take on another committee assignment and to embark on another project. What appeared to be a slow-paced life was marked by successes and achievements that could only be attained by a man of great energy and prodigious drive.

Raised in Washington, D. C., Marcellus Stow was graduated from Central High School. He entered Cornell University that fall and received an A. B. degree in 1926 and an M. A. in 1927. He served as an instructor at Cornell in 1926–27 and joined the faculty at Washington and Lee University the following year. Interest in sedimentation and sedimentary petrology developed during his early graduate training, and this became the field to which many of Stow's finest scientific contributions would be made. Field and laboratory study of the Oriskany sandstone was the subject of his doctoral dissertation. In 1931 he received his Ph.D. from Cornell and remained a loyal alumnus of that institution for the rest of his life.

He was married on July 1, 1932, to Grace W. Hammond of Washington, D. C. The wit and humor of both combined to the delight of all who knew them for the 25 years they were together. She survived Mar only five years. Gracie was a source of continual encouragement and help in all his professional activities. She is remembered as a creative, vivacious

<sup>1</sup> From a memorial by W. T. Thom, Jr., in the *Proceedings of the Geological Society of America.*



*Marcellus H. Stow*

person with an acutely humorous outlook and a "joie de vivre" that helped make the Stows a popular and much-loved couple.

Promoted to an associate professorship of Geology at Washington and Lee in 1932, Dr. Stow was advanced to the Robinson Professorship in 1937. He was acting head of the department from 1934 to 1937 following the death of Dr. Henry D. Campbell and was named head of the department in 1937. The Geology Department gained national recognition through Stow's research efforts and through the success of his students who today occupy positions of importance in universities, research organizations, industry, and government. He became an esteemed member of the Washington and Lee faculty, valued as a popular teacher, a member of numerous university committees, and for his research and service to the community. During these years Stow's research interests turned to the Cordilleran region, and in 1933 he joined a group of other geologists including R. T. Chamberlin, W. T. Thom, Jr., and W. H. Bucher who were working together in Montana and Wyoming. Stow developed and applied methods of sedimentary petrology to determine the source and age of sedimentary formations in the basins of the Middle Rocky Mountains. He was one of the charter members of the Yellowstone-Bighorn Research Association when it was chartered in 1936. He served as a member of its first council, and was President from 1939 to 1941 and again in 1944-45.

Mar Stow was a public-spirited scientist who gave generously of his time and effort to his state and to the nation. He served as a member of the executive committee of the Southern Association of Science and Industry (1942-1957), a member of the Board of Directors of the Southern Research Institute, a member of the advisory boards of the Virginia Fisheries Laboratory and the Virginia State Museum Commission. He was a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on the Virginia Economy, and consulted for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Development in 1956-57 on the reorganization of the Virginia Division of Mineral Resources. Soon after he joined the Washington and Lee faculty Stow became an active member of the Virginia Academy of Science and one of the Academy's most dedicated supporters. In 1941 he was appointed chairman of the Academy's James River Project Committee. Later he edited and contributed to the report of this committee—"The James River Basin—Past, Present, and Future." He was President of the Academy in 1942-43 and chairman of the Academy's Long Range Planning Committee from 1950 until his death. Stow and his students were frequent contributors to the geology section. A series of papers dealing with the distribution of heavy minerals in various Appalachian streams in notable among these contributions.

As his students left for war following Pearl Harbor, he requested leave to become Deputy Director of the War Production Board's Mining Division, a position he held until the end of the war. Stow's interest in economic aspects of geology was increased during the war years, and he wrote a number of papers in this field during the last decade of his life. He became interested in the occurrence of radioactive minerals and consulted for the Atomic Energy Commission in 1953 and 1954.

The breadth of Marcellus Stow's interests and his devotion to the development of science is demonstrated by his participation in state and national scientific organizations. He was a fellow of the Geological Society of America, the Mineralogical Society of America, and The American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Sigma Gamma Epsilon, Phi Kappa Phi, the Cosmos Club of Washington, D. C., The American Association of Petroleum geologists, American Geophysical Union, American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers, Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, Virginia Academy of Sciences, Washington Academy of Sciences, Society of American Military Engineers, and life member of Yellowstone-Bighorn Research Association, Inc.

Impressive as the above credentials are, he will be remembered more by those who knew him as a warm, kind, and generous friend who whistled and walked with a lively step, and who always saw the humorous side of a life he loved and lived with high purpose.

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## MEMORIAL OF BRONSON F. STRINGHAM

July 28, 1907-May 30, 1968

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Professor Bronson F. Stringham died during the night of May 30, 1968, from heart failure. He was then 60 years old but had suffered a severe heart attack about three years earlier, from which he had recovered sufficiently to resume his duties at the University of Utah. He was teaching his usual classes in mineralogy and optical mineralogy, and in addition he was assisting at a seminar on rock alteration two nights a week. He had