

Memorial of Samuel Weidman October 11, 1870—September 22, 1945

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Dr. Samuel Weidman, a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America, died September 22, 1945, after a long illness. He was born in Reedsville, Wisconsin, on October 11, 1870; his parents were Alexander and Eleanor McIlvaine Weidman. He received a B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1894, having completed his course with honors. He attended the University of Chicago from 1896–97 and received his Ph.D. degree in geology from the University of Wisconsin in 1898. From 1894–97 he was a field geologist with the U. S. Geological Survey during the summer months. In 1898 he joined the staff of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Wisconsin as assistant geologist. Initially he was paid \$800 per year plus expenses while in the field. He had previously done field work on The Volcanic Rocks of the Fox River Valley, and his first task was to write up this work. He also began field studies in the region of Wausau and Merrill, Wisconsin. After a few years he was assigned to study the Baraboo district, Wisconsin, following discovery of large deposits of iron ore near North Freedom, in the vicinity of the Baraboo quartzite ranges. When that study was completed, he began a survey of the agricultural use of potash feldspar, and this work led to his increasing interest in soils. Although he was now in charge of Areal Geology for the Wisconsin Survey, he actually spent much of his time on soils studies. His assistant in 1908, F. T. Thwaites, is quoted as having told the University of Wisconsin Geology Club, in a talk made in 1954, that Weidman was a nice man but had some peculiar ideas on geology, as well as being color-blind. They used bicycles in the field and at crossroads Weidman would say "off we go East" and then turn West. He produced a large number of reports during his long association with the Wisconsin Survey (1898–1918).

In 1918 Dr. Weidman decided to go into con-

sulting work as a mining and economic geologist. There is no information in the records about this part of his career, but late in 1919 he was inquiring about a teaching position at the University of Oklahoma. In 1920 he joined their staff as Associate Professor of Geology. He was promoted to the rank of Professor in 1925 and served in that capacity until 1940 when he reached retirement age and became Professor Emeritus. During his tenure at the University of Oklahoma, his principal academic and professional contributions led to a better understanding of the lead and zinc deposits of the Mississippi Valley region. He was a fine teacher and some of his students have gone on to distinguished careers. His work in mineralogy included descriptions of a new variety of pyrochlore that he named marignacite and of a lithium-rich mica that he named irvingite (now a variety name), as well as the discovery that hudsonite (variety of hastingsite) is an amphibole, not a pyroxene as first designated.

Dr. Weidman was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, of the American Association for Advancement of Science, and of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, as well as of MSA. He served as president of the Oklahoma Academy of Science in 1924, and he was secretary of the Wisconsin Clay Manufacturers Association from 1909–19. He was a member of the Association of American Geographers, American Association of University Professors, the American Institute of Mining Engineers, and Sigma Xi. In 1899 at Madison, Wisconsin, he married Miss Adda J. Westenhaver, a graduate of the School of Music at the University of Wisconsin. They had three sons, Samuel Henry, John M., and Robert H. Weidman, and six grandchildren. A portrait of Dr. Weidman and his bibliography are included with a Memorial by Charles E. Decker, published in the Geological Society of America's Proceedings Volume, 1945, pp. 275–277. One paper not listed there is: Weidman, Samuel (1895). On the quartz keratophyre and associated rocks of the north range of the Baraboo bluffs. *University of Wisconsin Bulletin No. 2*, 22 pp.

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