

WYCKOFF DIES; A SOCIOLOGIST

11/51

(The Register's Iowa News Service.)

GRINNELL, IA. — Garrett P. Wyckoff, 80, professor emeritus of sociology at Grinnell college and internationally-known for Red Cross and other public service, died in a hospital here Wednesday of a blood clot on the brain, after a long period of failing health.

Born in Fairview, Ill., Professor Wyckoff was graduated from Grinnell college in 1894. In 1934 the school gave him the honorary degree of doctor of laws.

Studied Abroad.

At intervals until 1904 he studied at Columbia university, the University of Chicago, the University of Wisconsin, and in London, Berlin, and Paris.

His teaching career began at Grinnell in 1894 in the then pioneering field of social sciences. He was on leave from 1918 to 1920 to do Red Cross work in this country and abroad.

In 1919-20 he was organizer and director of the League of Nations Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland, and in 1920 he organized the Czechoslovakian Red Cross at Prague. In 1922 the Czech government decorated him with the Order of the White Lion.

To Tulane U.

After returning from abroad he left Grinnell in 1921 to go to Tulane university, New Orleans, La., as professor of sociology until 1937.

In 1927 he founded the Tulane school of social work and served as its director until 1932.

He came back to Grinnell to teach sociology for four more years, until his retirement in 1941.

Professor Wyckoff also taught for short periods, usually summers, at other institutions, including the State University of Iowa in 1913 and 1914, at Northwestern university in 1922, and at Charles university, Prague, in 1919-20.

Sage Fellow.

A fellow of the Russell Sage foundation (bureau of social research) in 1910-11, Professor Wyckoff also was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the American Sociological society and American Economic association.

While at Tulane, he was chairman of the Louisiana state library commission, and in 1926 he organized the first New Orleans Community Chest.

In 1949 Professor and Mrs.



Garrett P. Wyckoff,
Social Science Pioneer.

Wyckoff supplied the funds for a comprehensive survey of the social, educational, and recreational needs of the city of Grinnell, through the Greater Grinnell committee.

Model Survey.

This survey's results became a model for community improvement projects throughout Iowa and elsewhere.

Other benefactions included special funds for Grinnell college for study in human relations and for field trips for sociology and economics students.

Professor Wyckoff is survived by his wife. The couple had no children.

Memorial Service Is
Held Sunday For
Garrett P. Wyckoff

Memorial services marked by dignity and beauty were held in Herrick chapel at the college on Sunday afternoon for Garrett P. Wyckoff, professor emeritus of sociology, who passed away on Wednesday at the age of 80 years. The service was attended by a large company of friends. Elbert Morse Smith, college orator, opened and closed the exercises with appropriate organ selections. Professor Emeritus J. D. Stoops, a friend of many years, offered a beautiful prayer and Rev. Leland W. Mann read with feeling the comforting words of the Twenty-third Psalm.

There were two speakers. Professor Earl D. Strong spoke of Professor Wyckoff as a man and as a friend, laying special stress on his outstanding qualities of wisdom, gentleness and tolerance. President Samuel Nowell Stevens in his talk dealt with Professor Wyckoff as an educator, pointing out particularly that the outline which he drew up for the establishment of a school of social work at Tulane university, had been generally accepted by similar schools as they have been founded.

He also referred to the outstanding work which Professor Wyckoff did abroad for the Red Cross after World War I. "Professor Wyckoff," said President Stevens, "will be a continuing symbol of the things for which this college should stand." Rev. Royal J. Montgomery closed the service with prayer and pronounced the benediction.

G. P. Wyckoff Rests In Shade Of The Trees

Services for Distinguished
Educator In Herrick
Chapel, Sunday, 3 p.m.
11/5/



Professor G. P. Wyckoff

After 80 fruitful years, Garrett Polhemus Wyckoff, professor emeritus of Sociology at Grinnell college, died at 6:22 a.m. Wednesday of a cerebral thrombosis. He had been a hospital patient for four days. Although frail in health since his retirement from active teaching in 1941, he and Mrs. Wyckoff had lived in Grinnell in quiet serenity, surrounded by the friends of many years.

Memorial services will be held Sunday at 3 p.m. in Herrick chapel. Details of the program are still being arranged. Friends may phone the Smith funeral home.

Professor Wyckoff was one of the men who helped to build Grinnell. His services to the college from which he graduated in 1894 cannot be measured by any yardstick. His students found in him a stimulating teacher. The college commanded to the fullest degree his loyal allegiance and during World War I his activities were on an international scale. It is hard to measure the contribution of such a life, not only to the college but to the community in which he lived for so many years.

Professor and Mrs. Wyckoff had observed their golden wedding anniversary in June of 1949.

Education

Garrett Polhemus Wyckoff was born at Fairview, Ill., Oct. 4, 1871, the son of Garrett Polhemus and Ann Field Wyckoff. The family moved to Iowa and settled in Gilman, where Garrett grew up, receiving his early education in the Gilman schools. He attended Grinnell college, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1894. In 1934 he was honored by his alma mater with the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. His graduate study included three years at Columbia university and three years at the university of Chicago. He also attended lectures at the uni-

(Continued on page 7.)

Prof. Wyckoff --

(Continued from Page 1)

versity of London, Berlin university, the Paris Musee Social and the university of Wisconsin. He spent one year as a Russell Sage Foundation Fellow in the New York School of Social Work.

A Happy Marriage

On June 29, 1899 he was united in marriage in Gilman with Florence Sutherland, who survives him. Professor and Mrs. Wyckoff were lovers all their life long and the fellowship which death has interrupted was singularly close and harmonious. For many years the Wyckoff home has been a beacon light of culture and hospitality in whose genial warmth many guests have found joy and refreshment.

Grinnell Connection

Professor Wyckoff's connection with Grinnell in an official capacity began immediately after his graduation with duties as a high school teacher and also a teacher in the college academy. For a brief period he left Grinnell to become professor of Greek in Redfield college, but then returned to begin his long association with the college faculty during which his life touched so many generations of college students. The connection thus established continued during 28 years, 7 of which were spent as associate professor of Sociology, 17 years as acting professor of Political Science and professor of Economics and 4 years as professor of Sociology.

Challenging Opportunity

Professor Wyckoff left Grinnell in 1921 to be confronted by a challenging opportunity at Tulane university in New Orleans, where he spent 17 years and where he founded a school of Social Work. Since his retirement on account of failing health he has lived quietly in Grinnell but though his health was feeble his mind was active and it should be remembered that it was money given by Professor and Mrs. Wyckoff which prompted the Community Survey, whose beneficial results are still being evidenced.

The Wyckoffs also provided the college with the Wyckoff fund for special study in human relations, and among their other benefactions was financing of special field trips for sociology and economics students in the fall of 1948.

With The Red Cross

During World War I Professor Wyckoff's activities with the Red Cross reached international proportions. Starting as an assistant director in the Gulf Division of the Red Cross he became director of the Pennsylvania-Delaware Division and showed such distinguished ability that he was sent overseas to become commissioner of organization for the League of American Red Cross societies with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, where he spent a fruitful year. He relinquished this position to become director of the Czechoslovakian Red Cross and wider opportunities were opening before him when he voluntarily retired to resume his work as an educator. In recognition of his services he was decorated with the Order of the White Lion, one of the highest honors in the gift of the Czechoslovakian government.

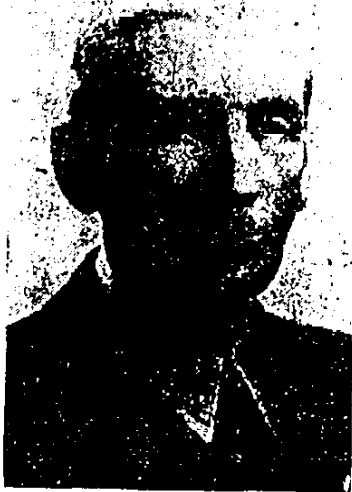
Interest In Agriculture

Professor Wyckoff trained social workers for over thirty years, maintaining at the same time an interest in agriculture which led to his appointment as agricultural economist and adviser for the USDA.

Professor Wyckoff possessed a serene and winning personality, leavened with a quaint sense of humor. Students who sat in his classes found him an inspiring teacher. His contributions to his college and his town, as a teacher and a citizen, were inestimable.

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H-R Nov 1, 1951



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Thursday, March 25, 1954

Strong Pays Tribute To Wyckoff, Main In 'Builders' Lecture

Presenting the fourth in a series of college chapel services on "The Builders of Grinnell", Prof. Earl D. Strong spoke Wednesday morning on the general theme "The Middle Years".

His talk dealt especially with Prof. Garrett P. Wyckoff and President J. H. T. Main and was marked by sympathetic appreciation of two great figures in the history of the college.

A graduate in 1894, Professor Wyckoff began his connection with the college as teacher of a variety of subjects but his interest was peculiarly along the line of sociology and the established the first organized department of social studies on the college campus.

Four Categories

Professor Strong divided professor Wyckoff's contributions to the building of Grinnell into four categories—material, academic, spiritual and personal. He was the inspirer, said Professor Strong, of a true spirit of Applied Christianity among his students.

His interest extended also to his home community and he was instrumental in the organization of the Social Service League in Grinnell.

Red Cross Expert

At the opening of World War I he became associated with the Red Cross and made such an outstanding record as director of the Gulf division that after the war he was sent to Czechoslovakia to organize and modernize Red Cross operations there, a work in which he was so successful that he received a decoration from the government and an offer to head up similar work on a worldwide basis, an opportunity which he declined to return to his teaching duties in Grinnell.

After three years he accepted an offer from Tulane university in New Orleans to set up a school of Social Studies there and here he remained for 20 years. In 1929, in failing health, he returned to Grinnell and resumed his place on the faculty until his retirement in 1941.

He spent the rest of his long life, over 50 years, in his home across from the campus, a loved and honored figure.

Editorial A Memorial Window

12-15-54
In a recent sermon in the Congregational church the pastor Rev. Leland W. Mann, explained the symbolism of the rear window in the new church building, given by Mrs. G. P. Wyckoff in memory of her husband, the late Professor Wyckoff.

The window reflects the wide interests of Professor Wyckoff, whose sympathies and activities extended far beyond the confines of a college classroom.

Professor Wyckoff was an educator in the widest sense of the word. His activities were far-reaching, and gained international proportions during his service with the Red Cross during World War I and during the months following, resulting in his receiving decorations from foreign governments.

He was a good citizen of Grinnell. Among other things he financed the survey a few years ago as a result of which many projects of benefit to the community were launched and he was always forward-looking and sympathetic with any movement in the direction of community betterment.

It is most fitting that attendants in the church, as they enjoy the rich coloring and attractive design of the window, should keep ever in mind that it commemorates the life and activities of a man who, unostentatiously and without display accomplished much in making Grinnell a better town.

The memory of Professor Wyckoff should be kept green in Grinnell.—A. L. F.

Transcript of sermon includes more inf.
See card index