

## MEMORIALS PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON NECROLOGY

### THOMAS B. GORDON

Lexington, Kentucky  
June 30, 1897

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
October 10, 1940

Thomas B. Gordon was born June 30, 1897 at Lexington, Ky. He served with the Oklahoma State Board of Agriculture as Plant Quarantine Inspector for several years. He graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1917, and from there went to Amherst College in Massachusetts where he was instructor in military training. Since he had always been interested in plants, he resigned from this position and became Hay and Grain Inspector with the United States Department of Agriculture and served in this capacity for a number of years. In 1920 he came to Oklahoma, and obtained the Master of Science degree in botany from Oklahoma A. and M. College in 1928. A year prior to his death he married Mrs. Ruth C. Henning, by whom he is survived.

### LEROY LONG

Lincoln County, North Carolina  
January 1, 1869

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
October 27, 1940

Dr. LeRoy Long, surgeon, late head of the LeRoy Long Clinic of Oklahoma City, devoted many years to the development of medical science in Oklahoma and occupied a prominent place in medicine and in science. As president of the Oklahoma Academy of Science for 1930 he performed distinguished service for this organization. He is survived by his wife, Martha Downing Long, and his two sons, surgeons, Dr. LeRoy Downing Long and Dr. Wendell McLean Long.

Early instruction in the classics and higher mathematics was received from private tutors, after which Dr. Long attended the Louisville Medical College. From this institution he received the M. D. degree with first honors in 1893. Following his graduation he was demonstrator of genito-urinary diseases in the College during the years 1894-1895. The next medical school with which he became associated was the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, of which he was dean and professor of surgery from 1915 to 1931.

Dr. Long served terms as president of the Indian Territory Medical Association (also its secretary), of the Oklahoma State Medical Association, the Oklahoma City Academy of Medicine, and the Oklahoma County Medical Association, as well as of the Oklahoma Academy of Science. In addition, he was from 1911 to 1915 a member of the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Examiners. In 1918 he was a major in the Medical Reserve Corps of the United States Army and in 1923 became a lieutenant colonel. He was at one time commander of General Hospital No. 56.

His interest and activity in national scientific organizations gave him national prominence as well as in Oklahoma. He was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the Western Surgical Association, as well as a member of the American Medical Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association for the Study of Golter, and l'Association des Medecins de Langue Francaise de l'Amerique du Nord.

His abilities also brought him recognition in Europe where he was welcome as a distinguished colleague in numerous laboratories and clinics.

Topics of special interest to Dr. Long were those dealing with the harmful use of cathartics after abdominal operations, acute non-tuberculous ilio-psoas abscess, prevention of post-operative intestinal incompetence, and traumatic rupture of bile ducts.

### GEORGE CHARLTON MATSON

Strang, Nebraska  
February 4, 1873

Tulsa, Oklahoma  
January 3, 1940

George Charlton Matson died at his home in Tulsa on January 3, 1940. His interest in all branches of geology and his meritorious work in both these and related sciences secured for him a widespread recognition and respect; and his passing left vacant a place which few are qualified to fill. His wife, Beula Edwards Matson, and three children, Thomas, Mary Barbara and George, Junior, survive him.

During his early life in Nebraska, Mr. Matson endured with his parents the hardships and severe conditions that are the lot of those who take part in the settling and development of a new country. It was in this environment that were bred the characteristics for which he was so well known; his kindness and consideration, his honesty, sincerity of purpose and industry were all necessary for survival during the settlement of this plains country.

Following undergraduate work at Doane College, Nebraska, he attended the graduate schools of the University of Nebraska and Cornell University. He was assistant in geology at Cornell and there received his Master of Science degree in 1903. During the succeeding year he served as instructor in geology at the University of Illinois. A graduate fellowship permitted him to continue his studies at the University of Chicago, from which university he later obtained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

In 1906 Mr. Matson joined the United States Geological Survey, and it is in the publications of this survey that reports of many of his carefully conducted geological investigations are to be found. He also contributed numerous articles to technical journals and was author of special publications dealing with phosphates of Florida and oil and gas resources of Louisiana and Texas. After serving with the Geological Survey for eleven years, he accepted a position as geologist with the Gulf Oil Corporation, and later was chief geologist for several different oil companies, namely Mexican Gulf Oil Company, Gulf Refining Company of Louisiana, Gypsy Oil Company, and South American Gulf Oil Company. From 1922 to 1929 he was vice-president of the Schermerhorn Oil Company and consulting geologist. Following this he retired and devoted his attention to consulting work and his own interests.

In 1931, Mr. Matson became a member of the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences and remained active until the time of his death. He also held memberships in the Geological Society of America, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Tulsa Geological Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Geological Society of Washington and the Washington Academy of Science.

The work of Mr. Watson in serving his community, commensurate with that in the field of science, is less well known, but it is by this work that he will continue to live for the many who knew him. For the kindness, consideration and honesty he extended to friend and stranger alike he enjoyed true friendship and respect, the highest awards in human relationships that a community can bestow.

**JOSEPH WHITEFIELD SCROGGS**

Greenfield, Missouri  
October 26, 1852

Norman, Oklahoma  
November 23, 1940

Dr. Joseph Whitefield Scroggs, minister, educator and author, will be remembered as a colorful figure in the history of the University of Oklahoma and the State. Coming here for the first time in 1879, he devoted a great many years to the growth and diffusion of knowledge throughout the state and to the promotion of public welfare in general. He is survived by three sons, Maurice D., Wendell and Schiller, and one daughter, Mrs. Gladys Hawthorne.

In 1875 Mr. Scroggs graduated from Lafayette College, Pennsylvania, with the A. B. degree and entered upon a period of teaching and administration in the public schools of Missouri which lasted four years. He came to the Cherokee Nation in 1879 as a missionary educator and was soon thereafter ordained to the ministry of the Congregational Church. In the small town of Vinita in the Indian Territory he founded the Worcester Academy, was pastor of the Union Church, and was founder and editor of one of the first newspapers in the territory which was later to become Oklahoma. After an absence of twenty years, during which time he was engaged in teaching in Arkansas and Kansas, he returned to the Territory in 1904 as professor of philosophy and education at the Kingfisher College. In 1902, he had received the Doctor of Divinity degree from Washburn College of Topeka, Kansas, and he returned to receive his M. A. degree from Lafayette College in 1910.

During his years of teaching and preaching to the people of rural districts he became increasingly aware of a need for an extension education division in Oklahoma. It was while he was at Kingfisher that he launched his efforts toward the founding of an organization such as this, and in 1913 when he obtained from the legislature a \$10,000 grant he came to the University of Oklahoma as co-director with Dr. A. C. Scott of the newly created extension division. In time he was recognized as one of the four leading university extension workers in the United States. He retired as head of the division in 1927, but continued to serve as editor of extension publications.

An unusually versatile man, Dr. Scroggs is recognized as one of the outstanding men in the history of education in Oklahoma, and the public services which he rendered are many and varied. He was from 1930 until his death secretary of the Oklahoma Foundation of Public Welfare, and it was he who originated the Oklahoma plan of community institutes. In addition to his participation in the activities of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, he was a member of the National University Extension Association, the National Academy of Visual Education, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Oklahoma Educational Association (an honorary life member), the Oklahoma Memorial Association, the American Spelling Reform Association and Phi Beta Kappa. He was author of various educational brochures and nineteen debate bulletins on current topics, as well as of *Songs of Lafayette, Oklahoma Community Songs, Complete Living, Problems of Personal Development, Cancellation of Inter-Allied Debts, etc.*