

## CLARENCE ABIATHAR WALDO.

HAMMOND, NEW YORK,  
JUNE 21, 1852.

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT.  
OCTOBER 1, 1926.

A.B. Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, 1875; A.M. 1878; Ph.D. Syracuse University, 1894.

Instructor in Mathematics and Registrar, Wesleyan University, 1877-81.

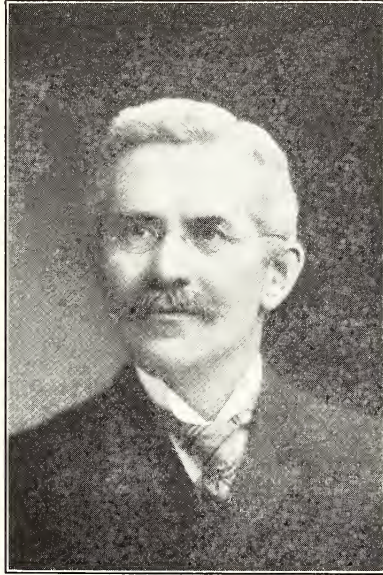
Professor of Mathematics, Rose Polytechnic Institute, 1883-91.

Acting President, Rose Polytechnic Institute, 1885-86 and 1888-89.

Professor of Mathematics, DePauw University, 1891-95.

Professor of Mathematics, Purdue University, 1895-1908.

Thayer Professor of Mathematics and Applied Mechanics, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, 1908-1917; Professor Emeritus, 1917-26.



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This record shows that 25 years of Professor Waldo's life were spent in Indiana. It is doubtful, if within that period, any other college professor impressed himself so strongly upon the educational and religious life of the State. While this may have been due in part to the fact that he was connected with three of the institutions of the State, giving him an exceptionally wide acquaintance with college faculties and college student bodies, it was far more largely due to his personality, courteous and genial manner, enthusiasm in his work, keen interest in the work of

others, and willingness to bear burdens in the furtherance of any good cause. He thus lost no opportunity of coming into intimate and sympathetic touch with those of like purposes and ideals. These associations not only enriched his own life, but they also made him a wise adviser and counselor of others.

The wide range of his interests and the scope of the tasks which he set for himself may perhaps be best shown by the organizations with which he was connected.

Fellow of American Association for Advancement of Science; Vice-President, Section D (Mathematics) 1902-03; Secretary of Council, 1903-04.

Fellow of Indiana Academy of Science; President, 1898; Editor of Proceedings, 1896 to 1898.

Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education; Editor of Proceedings, 1901, '02, and '03.

Indiana College Association; President, 1893.

North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; Mathematical Society of America; American Association of University Professors; National Geographic Society; Phi Beta Kappa; Sigma Xi; and Alpha Delta Phi.

The notations, which I am sure are incomplete, show that he was an active, working member in these associations, and the offices which he held in them show him to have been as effective as active. He never, so far as I can recall, missed any of the meetings of this Academy. By his formal contributions, by his participation in discussions, by his counsels in the Executive Committee and by his sheer joy in good fellowship he did much to mould the Academy into its present form.

Nor did Professor Waldo cease working after he had retired from active university duties. We find him in 1917 and 1918 working on four Exemption Boards in New York City, a patriotic service. Later, conducting a City (New York) Survey for the League of Churches, and acting as Emergency War Secretary for the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church. To those of us who knew him intimately these continued labors seemed but another proof of his amazing energy and willingness to serve. In these fields he doubtless made contributions as marked and rendered service as faithful and outstanding as in his teaching years.

While Professor Waldo published notable text-books and scientific articles and was in constant demand as a lecturer, he was at heart a *teacher*. To his students he gave his best and his best was marvelously good. That he himself felt he would be remembered as a teacher is shown by the following extract from a personal sketch of his life prepared at the request of a friend:

"My greatest contribution to education has been my intimate contact with thousands of young men during their college period. These are now scattered everywhere over the United States, yet always my earnest and devoted friends. These are my intellectual children whose ideals I have helped to form. *As a teacher of men I will be best known and remembered.*"

That Professor Waldo measured his life work correctly is clearly shown by the following extracts from letters from former students:

"He was one of the few strong men who have profoundly influenced my life." A graduate of Rose Polytechnic.

A former student of DePauw University wrote him: "It is now thirteen years since I had Determinants under you at DePauw and in all that time I have had no occasion to use them until today. \* \* \* Today I had a problem in which Determinants proved a short cut worth the using. That after a few days of class drill, followed by a dormant period of thirteen years I am still able to use the method with facility is such a tribute to the skill with which the principle was laid down, that I pass the bouquet along to you."

At his funeral a former Purdue student exclaimed,—“Professor Waldo simply made me”.

Such tributes might be multiplied indefinitely, and we may feel sure that Professor Waldo valued more highly the love and affection of his thousands of "intellectual children" than he would have valued great wealth. The peculiar feature of Professor Waldo's teaching lay in the fact that he not merely *imparted instruction*, but that he also *imparted character*.

And this was doubtless due to the fact that Professor Waldo was of a deeply religious nature. Righteousness, cleanness, the fine integrities of life appealed to him strongly and constantly. In his every public utterance this basic note rang out clearly and strongly. In the communities in which he lived he was both an intellectual and moral force. He worked in and loved the church. He worked in and loved the Y. M. C. A. Secretary Stacy writes,—“He never knew the inspiration and help he was to me as a young secretary. I am sixty now myself but I have never lost my appreciation of his life and work.”

Professor Waldo travelled extensively. He was, after graduation, a student at the Universities of Leipsic and Munich. Later, he conducted many parties on extended European tours.

In his university relations Professor Waldo was more than a teacher. His interest in student life led him to an intelligent and comprehensive study of intercollegiate athletics and as a result a great mass of work fell to his lot, because of his intimate knowledge of this much-discussed problem. He was a member of the Faculty Athletic Committee in every institution with which he was connected; he was Arbitrator of the Big Ten Conference from 1901 to 1912, and Arbitrator of the Ohio Conference Colleges from 1903 to 1905. In this capacity he made far-reaching decisions and prepared many extended and important reports. His work did much to put intercollegiate athletics upon a clean and sportsmanlike basis. The present status of intercollegiate athletics is largely due to his painstaking and conscientious work.

It is perhaps out of place in this connection to speak of the home life of Professor Waldo, and yet those of us who knew it, realize how strong a factor it was in enabling him not merely to become the man he was, but also to accomplish what he did. He was married to Abby Wright Allen, August 2, 1881. Their only living child Alice Goddard Waldo is now a teacher in the Low-Heywood School at Stamford, Con-

necticut. Both wife and daughter entered into Professor Waldo's work in an effective and stimulating way, making possible by their sympathetic co-operation the vast amount of work he was able to accomplish.

A fine life purpose, finely and loyally carried to its fullest fruition is the memory that abides with us. I regret that the bibliography attached is incomplete, because of lack of time to secure needed data. It is hoped that at a later date these defects may be remedied.

Text-book of Descriptive Geometry, 1888. D. C. Heath & Co., Determinants.

Theory of Equations.

A Family of Warped Surfaces, 1904. Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science.

Technical Education. 1889. Proceedings of North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The Oberammergau Passion Play. 1901.

The Control of Athletics, 1903. Proceedings of North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The Bible and Astronomy, 1908.

Religion and Education, 1915.

The Number Concept.

Calculus and Civilization.

Eruptions of Vesuvius.

Problems and Services of the Engineer.

The College and Athletics.

The London City Government.

The London Underground System.

Great Bridges of the World.

Athleticism vs. Asceticism.

STANLEY COULTER,  
Lafayette.