

Thereupon the presentation of papers was taken up. A. R. Crook read a paper as follows:

DR. AMOS WILLARD FRENCH: IN MEMORIAM.

As far as the writer is aware Dr. French of Springfield is the first member of the Academy to be removed from our number by death. Many may remember him as the gentleman with white hair and beard, evidently the veteran among those present at the organization meeting of the Academy in Springfield, December 1907, who spoke of the value of scientific work and expressed the hope that the Academy might be a means of increasing the influence of science in the State.

At the time of his death he was nearly eighty-eight years of age, was the oldest alumnus of Washington University, St. Louis, and the oldest practicing dentist in the United States. Many residents of Springfield had never employed any other dentist.

To me he was an interesting personality especially because of youthful interest in things, in men and in ideas. Intellectually he was emancipated from many of the bonds which restrain thought and discourage mental progress and hence he retained a receptive and creative attitude of mind which was intellectually life giving. From early times he was interested in many things outside of his profession. Among his particular friends were A. H. Worthen, who, as State Geologist or Curator of the State Museum for thirty years, left his impress on the geology of the region; and Major J. W. Powell, first widely known for his exploration of the Colorado River, and later as the Director of the U. S. Geological Survey. With such friendships, French naturally was greatly interested in geology, and gave much time to its study, collecting a fine geological library and bringing together an extensive assemblage of minerals and rocks. Thought on geological subjects and discussions of related questions gave him great pleasure and, as is often the case, the result of such first-hand information and contact with actual facts enabled him to free his mind of many of the

clouds which darken reason and to see clearly in paths where his contemporaries darkly grope.

The record of his life reads:

Born at Brighton, New York, July 24, 1821. Died at Springfield, Illinois April 27, 1909. Graduated at Washington University (Missouri Dental College) 1867. Married Sarah T. Foster 1851. His four daughters grace the communities in which they reside. Member of Board of Trustees and of Building Committee of Springfield City Library; Secretary of the Capitol Building Co., which built the first street car line in city. Interested in building the Leland Hotel and Watch Factory. One of six founders of the Bettie Stuart Institute and till the time of his death, President of Board of Trustees. Active in meetings of dentists, in a Springfield scientific society, in the State Historical Society, and in college gatherings. A public spirited citizen, a fine gentleman, a man whose loss even the most recent of his acquaintances sadly deplore. With sorrow we record his death.

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