



WILLIAM SMITH SAYER.

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Mr. Sayer was born on a farm, called the "Sayer Homestead," near Wayne, DuPage county, Illinois, January 13th, 1876. From childhood to his "Academy days" he passed on the farm. He received no other schooling during the first ten years of his life than that furnished by a companionable, intelligent mother, who directed his studies. After his tenth year, he attended the country school till he entered the "Elgin Academy" in 1892. Three years later, he graduated from the Academy and entered Beloit College.

His college days proved a formative stage in his career by developing within him a taste for the association of a college, friends, study, culture—all the features which are constituents of a college atmosphere—and a basic and intuitive love for his home. His home became the retreat for his college chums, his mother, their foster-mother. Both college and home were linked together in his mind and in his life, as inseparable supports to action. Throughout his career, these two factors were prominent, even foremost. His graduation from Beloit occurred in 1899. Ambition of a noble type was aroused in him, and instigated by his parents, he undertook special work in the University of Chicago, choosing bacteriology and chemistry for his chief lines of study. In 1901 he was placed in charge of a laboratory at Grafton, Illinois, by Dr. E. O. Jordan; for the purpose of examining the waters of the Chicago Drainage Canal. With the discontinuance of this work in January, 1902, he returned to the University to pursue the course of study, he had begun, until the autumn of 1902. At this time, he quit the University, but before leaving he had completed all of his work, except the thesis, for his doctorate degree. He entered the employ of the Kennicott Water Softener Company as a chemist. He remained with this firm for four years, and in the spring of 1907 he was called to the Bacteriological Laboratory of the Michigan Agricultural College to undertake research work. His attention was at first centered upon the "Keeping Qualities of Butter," and, conjointly with Dr. Otto Rahn and Miss Bell Farrand, issued the results of the first year's investigations in bulletin form from the Experiment Station.

All of his training directed his tastes into the field of soil investigations. It became possible for him to satisfy his desires with the departure of Prof. Walter G. Sackett for Fort Collins, Colorado. Mr. Sayer picked up the thread where Mr. Sackett dropped it, and centered all of his force in this work.

Mr. Sackett also turned over the office of Secretary-Treasurer of The Michigan Academy of Science to him at the same time, with the consent of the council. At the annual meeting of the Academy, he was again made Secretary-Treasurer, as a recognition of his faithful and efficient services.

While canoeing on the Red Cedar river, a sport very fascinating to him, on the 30th of April, 1909, he was thrown into the river and

drowned. Two weeks later, his body was found and buried from his home in "Little Woods Cemetery," Wayne, Illinois.

Mr. Sayer was careful to painstaking, very systematic, and patient. No truth was too homely for him; he wished no garnishments to cloak the facts. Therefore, what he did was honestly done and what he said was true, so far as he could determine. Such were the strong characteristics of the man.

W. J. BEAL,
CHARLES E. MARSHALL,
Committee.

CHARLES FAY WHEELER.

Charles Fay Wheeler was born June 14, 1842, at Mexico, Oswego county, New York; died at George Washington Hospital in Washington, D. C., March 5th, 1910, and was buried in Arlington Cemetery.

He graduated from the Academy at Mexico, near where he was born, and enlisted in October 1861, as a private in Company B, Seventh Regiment of the New York (Black Horse) Cavalry; was mustered out in March 31, 1862. He again enlisted August 20th, 1862, in Company F. 147th Regiment of New York Infantry, to serve three years but was discharged March 21st, 1863, by reason of disability.

Unable to work, he lived in the woods, fields and marshes for a year or more and with Gray's Manual of Botany studied plants and to a great extent regained his health. In 1866-67 he spent one year in the Medical Department of the University of Michigan. He then settled in Hubbardston and for 22 years conducted a drug and book store, spending much of his time among his beloved plants. On March 4th, 1869, he was married to Catherine T. Holbrook of Oakham, Mass.

During all these years as a merchant he continued his study of the local flora in which he became very proficient, devoting much time also to reading valuable botanical works.

In the spring of 1889, Mr. Wheeler with Professor L. H. Bailey, then Professor of Horticulture at the Agricultural College, two students and the writer, the party spent two weeks in a botanical trip, passing across the state from Harrisville in Alcona county to Frankfort in Benzie county. During his stay in Hubbardston, he had collected a herbarium of over 7,000 plants which later became the property of the Agricultural College. In 1889, he was elected instructor at this College, taking studies enabling him to graduate in 1891 with the degree of B. S., which College granted him the honorary degree of D. Sc. in May 1907. He became assistant Professor, in all spending eleven years before accepting a position in the United States Department of Agriculture where he soon found his place in identifying plants for several departments of the Government in Washington.

While at the Agricultural College, he spent much time in collecting plants for the herbarium in which he was intensely interested. Previously, in company with Erwin F. Smith, they published a Flora of