

MEMORIAL OF ELBRIDGE CHURCHILL JACOBS

ROBERT K. DOTEN, *The University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont.*

Elbridge Churchill Jacobs, former State Geologist of Vermont and a member of the faculty of the University of Vermont for nearly fifty years, died of a cerebral hemorrhage at Burlington, Vermont on December 12, 1957 at the age of 84.

He was born at Ogunquit, Maine on February 15, 1873. He attended the Portsmouth, New Hampshire high school and went on to get his B.S.



ELBRIDGE CHURCHILL JACOBS

1873-1957

degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1896 and his M.A. degree from Columbia University in 1897. For the next two years he served as an assistant in the department of Mining and Metallurgy at M.I.T. and was then appointed an instructor in Chemistry and Mineralogy at the University of Vermont in 1899. He was advanced to assistant professor in 1901 and to full professor in 1904. In 1924 he was instrumental in establishing a department of Geology at the University and was appointed Professor of Geology and Mineralogy to head up this newly formed department. He became Professor emeritus in 1944, but continued to teach geography to the United States Air Force Detachment at the university until the end of World War II.

He was appointed State Geologist for Vermont in 1933 and retained this position until he retired from it in 1946. During this period he published six biennial reports to which he was the principal contributor.

The year 1933 was also noteworthy in that it marked the beginning of observations at the University of Vermont Seismograph Station. This station was established through cooperation of the University of Vermont and the National Research Council and came into being very largely through the efforts of Professor Jacobs. He was the director of the station from its establishment until it was dismantled in 1957. He also became curator of the mineral and geologic collections of the university in 1933.

During the flood control work undertaken by the U. S. Corps of Engineers in western Vermont in 1929 following the disastrous floods of 1927, he served as consulting geologist.

Professor Jacobs' published works deal largely with the geology and mineral resources of Vermont. His first paper was a study of the talc deposits of Vermont published in the ninth Report of the Vermont State Geologist in 1914 and his last, a book entitled "The Physical Features of Vermont" published by the Vermont State Development Commission in 1950. He was particularly interested in the chemical aspects of geology, and a number of his papers carry original rock and mineral analyses made by him. In his later years, he did much field work in connection with the structure of the northern part of the Green Mountains; only part of which he was able to complete and have published.

He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Geological Society of America, and the Mineralogical Society of America; a member of the American Association of University Professors, the American Geophysical Union, the Polar Society, and the Seismological Society of America.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Jessie Louise (Chapman) Jacobs; a

daughter, Mrs. G. H. Klinck; and two grandsons, John and Daniel Klinck of Washington, D. C.

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