



HAROLD LATTIMORE ALLING
1888-1960

MEMORIAL OF HAROLD LATTIMORE ALLING

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Harold Lattimore Alling, former Vice-President of our society, passed away at his home in Pittsford, New York on July 27, 1960. Though he had been hospitalized with cancer for several weeks, he was able to review a part of the manuscript of his latest papers two days before he died.

The son of Joseph Tilden Alling and Rose Lattimore, he was born in Rochester, New York on February 7, 1888. His grandfather on his mother's side, Samuel Allan Lattimore, was Professor of Chemistry in the University of Rochester for forty-two years. His father was for many years Chairman of the University's Board of Trustees.

After graduation from Rochester's East High School, he entered the University of Rochester where he first became especially interested in physics, taking advanced work in addition to all of the available courses. At the suggestion of his grandfather, Professor Lattimore, he diverted his chief interest to geology and in 1915 he received his B.S. degree from the university with honors in geology.

The Alling family used to spend their summers at their camp near Keene Valley in the Adirondack mountains. It was quite natural, therefore, that, with the stimulating guidance of Professor H. L. Fairchild, Harold Alling's first published paper would be on glacial lakes and other glacial features of the central Adirondacks.

One summer he learned that Professor James Kemp of Columbia University was doing field work near Keene so he volunteered his services as Professor Kemp's field assistant. This association firmly established a lively and lasting interest in the geology of the Adirondack region. It also influenced him to enter Columbia University for graduate work. There he studied under Professors Kemp, Berkey, and Colony obtaining his A.M. degree in 1917 and his PhD. in 1920.

From 1917 to 1920 he served as geologist for the New York State Museum. During the first world war, he was engaged in the investigation of war materials under the direction of the National Research Council. A thorough survey of the Adirondack graphite deposits was made in the course of this work in the summer of 1917. The results of this study were published as a bulletin of the New York State Museum in 1918.

The graphite studies could have adequately served for his doctorate at Columbia University but he had become intensely interested in the physical chemistry of the feldspars. Thus the mineralography of the feldspars became the topic of his doctorate.

In 1920 Dr. Alling returned to the University of Rochester as instructor in geology, advancing to assistant professor in 1923 and becoming professor in 1924, and chairman of the Geology Department from 1924 to 1946. He retired in 1953. He had a large part in the planning of the geology wing of the Chester Dewey Building on the River Campus of the University which was opened to students in the fall of 1930. Many of the good features of this building were soon sought for incorporation in geology departments elsewhere in the country.

Dr. Alling was an inspiring teacher. He had the facility of using simple, everyday examples to get a point across. He was especially generous with his time and knowledge in helping graduate students and often aided them financially. He was a tireless researcher in the field and in the laboratory. His contributions to geologic literature number over 45 papers and books. He was an enthusiastic photographer and made hundreds of photomicrographs of minerals and rocks that often illustrated his publications.

From 1931 to 1940 Dr. Alling was a Director of Ward's Natural Science Establishment, Inc. To this post he brought wise counsel and suggestions for the development of teaching aids. Along the latter was a series of geomorphological models which are being used in teaching elementary geology in all parts of the world.

He was a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America and served as its Vice-President in 1936. He was a Fellow and Life Member of the Rochester Academy of Science serving as Secretary in 1920-1921. From 1927 to 1932 he was Chairman of the Feldspar Committee of the National Research Council; Trustee of the Natural Science Association of the Catskills, 1945-1949; and Director of the Alling & Cory Co., 1938-1945; Fellow, American Geophysical Union.

His scientific affiliations were numerous. He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Geological Society of America, and the New York Academy of Science. He was a member of the Seismological Society, the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, New York State Geological Association (President 1932, 1941), American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, the Geochemical Society, and the Rochester Section, American Chemical Society, and the New York State Archeological Society. He was a member of Psi Upsilon and Sigma Xi.

On August 23, 1922, he married Merle Kolb who survives with three children, Joanna Tilden (Mrs. James D. Secrest), Rosamund Lattimore (Mrs. Philip J. Secrest) and Norman Larrabee Alling.

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