

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**EARL ROBERT CORNWELL**

On Saturday, January 31, 1948, The University of Texas lost, in the death of W. Earl Robert Cornwell, Bursar, one of the most useful, the most faithful, and the most beloved members of its administrative staff. Coming to the University in September, 1909, as a member of the Auditor's Office staff, he had served the University for over thirty-eight years. Starting as Bookkeeper, he was advanced to the position of Assistant Auditor in February, 1915. Following the death of Mr. Charles B. Winn, Auditor, on August 8, 1915, W. Cornwell served as Acting Auditor until November, 1915. In September, 1931, he was promoted to the position of Bursar, in which capacity he served up to the time of his death.

Mr. Cornwell was born at St. Lawrence, Jefferson County, New York, on July 9, 1884. Both of his parents died when he was quite small, and he was reared by his maternal grandparents. During his boyhood, he lived successively at St. Lawrence, New York; Petersburg, Virginia; Suffolk, Virginia; and Newport News, Virginia. His formal education was limited to attendance in public schools of Petersburg, Suffolk, and Newport News,

Coming to Austin at the age of sixteen, Mr. Cornwell went to work in a drug store owned by his uncle, Morris Cornwell. Later he was employed as a member of the staff of the State Treasurer, where he obtained valuable experience, which was later to stand him in good stead on the University staff. During a part of this period, he served also as a member of the famous Austin Rifles, Company E, First Texas Infantry, commanded by Captain Joe Gilbert.

Mr. Cornwell was married on December 11, 1912, to Miss Julia Estill and is survived by her, by their two sons, Earl Cornwell, Jr., of New York City, and Allie Edward Cornwell, of Austin, by their daughter, Mrs. W. H. Howard, of Burbank, California, and by three grandchildren, Julia Margaret Howard, William H. Howard, Jr., and Michael Howard.

Mr. Cornwell was a member of the First Methodist Church and an active leader in its work. He was a member of the church choir throughout the entire period of his membership; and from

1936 to 1946, he served as Chairman of the Music Committee. During the last twenty-five years of his life, he served also as a Steward of the church. His church activities were ever characterized by loyal, faithful adherence to high ideals of Christian service and an abiding interest in the welfare of his fellow man.

Seldom has the University been privileged to have the services of one who for such a long period (over thirty-eight years) has given to the performance of his duties, official and unofficial, so completely of his time and talent. Modest, gracious, tactful, he endeared himself to students and faculty alike. Conscientious to the extreme, he often went out of his way to see that duties assigned to him were thoroughly done. His work, for example, included the administrative details of the University group life insurance policy. Many were the hours he spent telephoning members who had forgotten to attend to the renewal of their policies, because of his personal interest in preventing an unwitting lapse of the individual's Insurance. He also spent much time persuading reluctant members of the staff to keep their life insurance in force; and in numerous cases, their grateful families later benefited from these efforts. With the enactment of the Teacher Retirement Act, he was charged with the details of its administration for the University; and in his characteristic manner, he labored zealously to see that the rights of each person concerned were correctly defined and fully understood by that person. His colleagues and friends alike will always cherish the memory, of his life-long example of "service above self."

Scott Gaines  
E. J. Mathews  
H. T. Parlin

Charles H. Sparenberg  
C. D. Simmons, Chairman

Filed with the Secretary of the General Faculty by Mr. C. D. Simmons, Chairman, Special Committee on the Earl Robert Cornwell Memorial Resolutions, August 13, 1948.

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M.K.D. Manager