

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**CLARENCE TRUMAN GRAY**

Clarence Truman Gray was born in Russel, Kansas, November 22, 1877, and died in Austin, Texas, May 20, 1951. His father, Bingham Gray, and mother, Evangeline Anderson Gray, had gone West a year earlier from their home in Indiana. They entered a homestead, but succeeding droughts forced them to abandon it, so they went back to Indiana and located on Bingham Gray's father's farm near Gosport.

Clarence, the eldest of four children, two boys and two girls, was then seven years old. He attended a small one-room country school and later graduated from the Gosport High School. His great-grandfather, Daniel Anderson, was a Methodist circuit rider and established churches in the community, some of which are still active. He traveled on horseback. Professor Gray was proud to possess the Bible dictionaries, copyrighted in 1813 and dated 1827, which his grandfather carried in his saddlebags on his journeys.

Professor Gray's mother was very religious and was interested in an education, but received very little since her father objected to wasting that time and money on a girl. When her son showed an unusual interest in going ahead with his schooling, she encouraged him and made many sacrifices so that he might have that of which she had been deprived.

Clarence Gray began his teaching career in a one-room country school near his home and was rounding out his fifty years in the profession when he died. His early program was largely one of teaching in the winter and attending college in the summers. Later he was able to borrow money and spent a few winters at Indiana State Teachers' College at Terre Haute, where he graduated in 1902; and at The State University of Indiana where he majored in mathematics and received his A.B. degree in 1905. He did his graduate work in the University of Chicago, receiving his M.A. in 1911 and his Ph.D. in 1916. His doctoral thesis, an experimental study of reading habits, was written under the direction of Professors C. H. Judd and W. F. Dearborn. In this connection he invented and built an ingenious apparatus for studying eye-movements in

reading. Later he reproduced this in the laboratory of the University of Texas where it is still being used in experimental work.

Professor Gray was fundamentally a teacher and the classroom was his first love; but administration and research were the inevitable accompaniments of successful teaching. As Chairman of his Department from 1926 to 1948, he worked unceasingly for the good of all, seeking to promote the broader aspects of educational psychology as the newer branches developed. His vision was long, and his judgment was sound. His attitude was unbiased and tolerant. His counsel will be sorely missed by his colleagues, and his influence will be long lasting.

As a psychologist Professor Gray maintained the scientific attitude. His work was experimental and statistical in nature and was widely recognized. He became a Fellow of the American Psychological Association in 1916. His first book, Deficiencies in Reading Ability was published in 1922. This was followed a few years later by a set of readers for the elementary grades. Later he was co-author of a textbook in statistics for education and psychology. His research and writings were always precise and definite; his thinking was of the pattern of a scientist. He was as much interested in the discovery of new information as in its application to educational situations. His work in the field of reading earned him acceptance on a nation-wide basis. During the latter years of his life, he was engaged in preparing a manuscript on the history of educational psychology. It is hopeful that his colleagues will complete this work.

During the spring semester of 1947 Professor Gray served as Acting Dean of the College of Education. His choice for this distinction received the whole-hearted approval of his colleagues, who trusted his fairness and relied upon his judgment. In this position, he displayed the same patience, wisdom, and constructive leadership that had marked his service as department chairman.

One of Professor Gray's important contributions to the development of the School of Education here was his leadership in the establishment and promotion of Mu chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. He had been previously associated with the founding chapters at Indiana and Chicago

universities, and was keenly interested in starting and maintaining Mu chapter on a high scholastic plane. To an unusual degree, he embodied in his own person the watchwords of the organization - leadership, research, and service.

The University of Texas owes much to Professor Gray for his many services to the General Faculty; in particular as chairman or member of many important administrative and policy-making committees. His advice in all of these connections was generally welcomed and heeded.

No resume of the career of Professor Gray would be complete without special mention of his hobbies. Professor Gray took unusual interest in handwork and in collecting glassware. At different times in his life he devoted his spare moments to woodwork, to stonework, to weaving and to collecting unique specimens of glassware. He became interested in woodwork while principal of an Indiana High School, which had a department of manual training. The skills learned here were later on transferred to restoring old furniture.

Professor Gray also became skilled in weaving and working with limestone. As a result numerous stone bird baths and benches came to grace his lawn and a variety of tablecloths napkins, and spreads to decorate his home. Professor Gray seemed equally interested in all of these leisure time activities, but his best-known activity was collecting glassware. In this he took the same scholarly interest that characterized his professional career. He assembled a fine library and corresponded with eminent collectors of glassware. He gave numerous lectures on glassware before various clubs in Texas and a number outside of Texas as well.

Professor Gray was primarily interested in collecting glass specimens of striking color and design. His collection of 995 pieces represents almost every type of glassware and all parts of the world. Outstanding among his collection is a complete set of Westward Ho glassware. Each of the 36 pieces is embellished with unique designs of a deer, a buffalo, a log cabin, and an Indian. Outstanding also is his collection of Lacy Sandwich glass. The entire collection is a worthy monument to the zeal and scholarly efforts, which characterized his life.

As a teacher, Professor Gray's qualities were closely bound up with his kindly nature as neighbor and citizen. Those who knew him associated him with the home he built in simple colonial style on West Avenue. Here he grew the native shrubs and flowers collected on his tours and fishing trips over Texas. And here he and Mrs. Gray entertained successive generations of students and faculty on their extensive well-lighted lawns. With his interest in pioneer life in the West and the Colonial East he toured historical scenes watching with an expert's eye for objects of interest. This was no mere collector's craze, but was born of sympathetic knowledge of the arts by which folks of earlier times sought to enrich their lives and satisfy their love of beauty. The genial man of quiet humor thus extended his personality beyond neighborhood sociability to a patriotism and humanity deeply rooted in the understanding of people and their works of homely art.

The relation of a scholar to his colleagues in an institution of learning is an index of inner personality. As a professor and acting dean on several intervals, Professor Gray sustained the high dignity and grace, which should mark the scholarly mind. Courtesy, consideration and appreciation of his fellow faculty members and colleagues, in the department characterized his attitude at all times. He was neither obsequious nor condescending, neither pushing nor subservient. No undue ambition disrupted the department over which he presided. His conduct evoked the abiding respect and admiration of all who worked with and alongside him.

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