
OBITUARY

ABB LANDIS

1856—1927

Abb Landis, a Fellow of this Society since 1915, died at Nashville, Tennessee, December 9, 1927. He was born in Bedford County, Tennessee, on August 9, 1856, and was the son of Major A. L. Landis, a planter and large slave owner whose estate was lost during the Civil War.

Mr. Landis was graduated from the University of Nashville in 1875, Vanderbilt University in 1876, and Cumberland Law School in 1879. After practising law for several years he became, in 1883, the owner of the *Nashville Banner* in the columns of which he waged a vigorous battle against the political abuses of his day, more especially the convict lease system. In 1889 he became interested in fraternal insurance and the rest of his life was devoted to efforts to substitute sound actuarial principles for the falacious ones which were prevalent during that period in the financial structure of fraternal societies.

He was the author of several books on the actuarial aspects of the fraternal insurance system and, as a lawyer, had argued important fraternal cases in the courts, including the United States Supreme Court. He was influential in the construction and graduation of the National Fraternal Congress Table of Mortality, and in the drafting of the "New York Conference" fraternal law. While he was not personally known to many of the members of this Society, there was probably no better known person connected with fraternal insurance in America. Mr. Landis was a skilled technician, a forceful and picturesque speaker, and his great services in connection with the readjustment of many fraternal societies can only be justly appreciated by those who have had some practical acquaintance with the human difficulties which those problems involve.

S. HERBERT WOLFE

1874—1927

General S. Herbert Wolfe, one of the original founders and charter members of this Society died on December 31, 1927 after a short illness.

General Wolfe was educated in the public schools at New York and Baltimore and the College of the City of New York. He was graduated from college as an electrical engineer. In 1893 he entered the employ of the Actuarial Department of the Netherland Life Insurance Company which was then starting to do business in this country and soon came under the notice of Mr. William D. Whiting, at that time the consulting actuary of the Connecticut Insurance Department. On Mr. Whiting's death, General Wolfe became the actuary of the Connecticut Insurance Department and, as such, made numerous examinations of some of the large Connecticut institutions.

He had been in consulting practice since 1895 and his work attracted national attention, especially among state insurance departments. No large actuarial problem has arisen in a number of years in which General Wolfe was not interested in one way or another.

When the World War started, he was commissioned a Captain in the Reserve Corps and took charge of the insurance in connection with the construction of cantonments. In June, 1917, he was sent to Canada to observe the way in which the Canadian Government was caring for the dependents of its soldiers and on his return, in conjunction with Federal Judge Julian Mack and Samuel Gompers, the War Risk Insurance Bill was written. Before the Bill was finally passed, General Wolfe, who was at that time a Captain was sent to France to organize the War Risk Insurance Bureau abroad in contemplation of the passage of the act in this country. He remained abroad until January 1918 and on his return was the official representative on the War Risk Bureau. He later became Chief of Staff to General Herbert M. Lord and Assistant Director of Finance of the United States Army. By the time the war was over, he had advanced to the grade of Colonel and in 1921 was appointed Brigadier General in the Officers Reserve Corps. General Wolfe received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Cross of the Legion of Honor and the Masonic Peace Medal issued by King George of England.

He was the author of numerous articles on insurance and of "The Examination of Insurance Companies" and "Wolfe's Inheritance Tax Calculations."

He was a member of the Council of this Society in 1916 and again in 1919 and had contributed to the *Proceedings*.

General Wolfe's remarkable ability, fine character and pleasing personality are well known to all members of this Society. Most of us were so fortunate as to enjoy his close personal friendship. His sudden death takes from us an outstanding actuary, a sterling gentleman and a loyal friend.

THOMAS P. KEARNEY

1892—1928

Thomas P. Kearney was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1892 and died in Denver, Colorado, February 11, 1928. He began his insurance career when a young man in Hartford with the Travelers Insurance Company.

In 1913, he moved to Colorado, continuing to work in the field of casualty insurance, and when the Compensation Act of Colorado became effective in 1915, he joined the staff of the State Compensation Insurance Fund.

Mr. Kearney continued with the Fund until the time of his death except for a period of about two years during which he was connected with the Denver general agency of the Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company. In 1915, he became Manager of the Fund. In November 1921, he became a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society by examination.

Tom Kearney was an insurance man of sound instincts. It is cause for deep regret that he has left us too soon to have completed his full contribution to the business.

JOSEPH HOOKER WOODWARD

1882—1928

Joseph Hooker Woodward, was born in Hartford, Connecticut on March 7, 1882. He was graduated from Yale in 1903 and was a student at the Harvard Law School for the following year. After entering the employ of the Travelers Insurance Company he was appointed the Actuary of the Connecticut Insurance Department in 1906. Receiving the appointment of Actuary of the New York Department in 1908 he held this position until 1914 when he received the appointment of Chief Actuary for the New York State Industrial Commission. He was also active

in 1914 in the organization of the Compensation Inspection Rating Board and served as a treasurer of the Board in the early period of its life. Subsequently he served as Associate Actuary of the Guardian Life Insurance Company from 1918 to 1920 and as Assistant Actuary of the Equitable Life Assurance Society from 1920 to 1922. He then became one of the founders of the firm of Woodward, Fondiller and Ryan, Consulting Actuaries, in which profession he remained until his death.

In 1907 he became a Fellow by examination of the Actuarial Society of America, which organization he served as a member of the Council from 1913 to 1916 and again from 1919 to 1922. He contributed a number of papers to the *Transactions* of the Actuarial Society of America.

At the time of the organization of the Casualty Actuarial Society in 1914 Mr. Woodward had achieved great prominence in the casualty actuarial profession and had contributed technical papers which evidenced his keen interest in that field. It is not surprising therefore that as a charter member he was active in the organization work as is shown by the Minutes of the first meeting in connection with the drawing up of the Constitution, the establishment of a library and the setting up of the examination system. He served as a member of the Council from 1915 to 1916, as Vice-President from 1916 to 1918, and was elected the third president of the Society from 1918 to 1919. A perusal of the *Proceedings* shows that he was a most active member in connection with the contribution of original papers.

He was also a Fellow of the American Institute of Actuaries, a member of the Fraternal Actuarial Association, a member of the committee of actuaries appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury to advise with reference to War Risk Insurance in 1917, and a member of the American Mathematical Society.

To few men has come the opportunity to serve in so many fields of actuarial endeavor. Mr. Woodward had at one time or another served in both public and private employment, in consulting work, had dealt with problems in life insurance, in numerous branches of casualty insurance, in fraternal insurance and in the field of pensions. Arising out of this broad experience he gave freely of his time and energy to the advancement of the

actuarial profession in the preparation of numerous papers. His passing is a distinct loss to the profession.

Mr. Woodward had a wide acquaintance with actuaries and executives in all the branches of insurance, many of whom he counted among his personal friends. He was always ready to assist the younger men in the profession with words of advice and instruction. His untimely death on May 15, 1928 from pneumonia after an illness of a few days came as a severe shock to all those who were privileged to know him.

