

MEMORIAL OF JAMES F. MORTON

O. IVAN LEE, *Jersey City, New Jersey.*

James F. Morton, Curator of the Paterson Museum since 1925, died at St. Joseph's Hospital in that city early on the morning of October 7, 1941, from injuries received the previous evening in near-by Totowa Borough, where he was struck by an automobile. His tragic death was a shock to his own community and to the metropolitan area where he had many friends and acquaintances due to his activity in civic, social, literary and scientific circles.

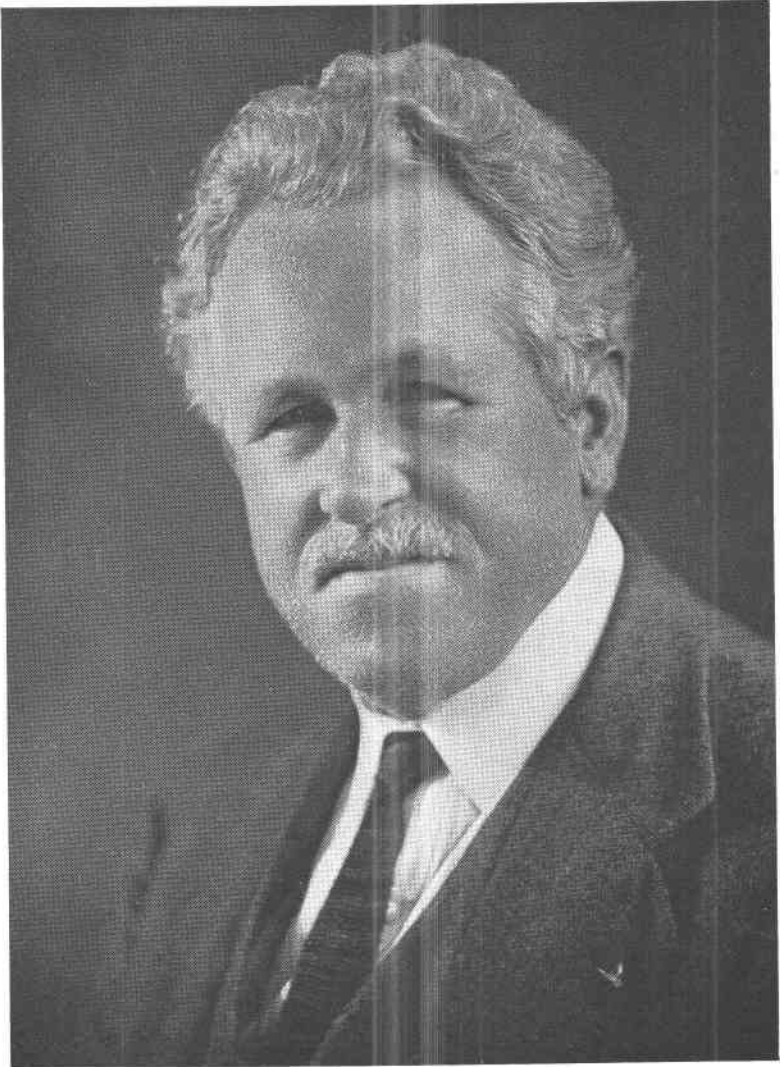
He was a direct descendant of an old American family which has lived here since the landing of the Pilgrims in the year 1620. Mr. Morton's grandfather, Rev. Samuel Francis Smith (1808-1895) was the author of the words of the song "America." Born in Littleton, Massachusetts, on October 18, 1870, Mr. Morton was the son of the late James Ferdinand Morton and Caroline Edwards (Smith) Morton. His father was at one time the principal of Phillips Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire.

He received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Harvard from which University he was graduated with "cum laude" in 1892. He was an outstanding student while in college. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Alumni of New York and was largely responsible for the establishment of inter-collegiate debate. Later he became a member of the New York and Massachusetts bars.

Mr. Morton also attended and graduated from the Curry School of Expression. For several years he traveled extensively and gained considerable prominence as a lecturer speaking on various social and literary topics. During his youth he also spent considerable time in France which enabled him to use the French language fluently.

The exceptionally wide scope of his interests is evidenced by his being a member of the National Amateur Press Association, of which he was a former president; former vice-president of the Esperanto Association of North America (a group which seeks to establish a universal language); a former president of the Thomas Paine National History Association; and a leader in the American Association of Museums, American Forestry Association, and the Science League of America.

Mr. Morton was an ardent advocate of the single tax plan, and the author of the two books on the subject, "The Philosophy of the Single Tax" and "Single Tax Review." In another book entitled "The Curse of Race Prejudice" he championed Negro rights. He was a member of many societies and clubs including: The Harvard Club, Blue Pencil Club, Institute of American Genealogy, Genealogical Society of New Jersey, League of Nations Non-Partisan Association, Paterson Manu-



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1870-1941

script Club, Rocks and Minerals Association, and others. His love of natural science and history developed a deep appreciation for minerals. For many years he was a Fellow of The Mineralogical Society of America, and a highly esteemed member of The New York Mineralogical Club. Although nearly 71 years of age, he was remarkably active and energetic and very fond of walking and visiting mineral localities far and near. His accounts of the results of these excursions were always characterized by great factual clarity and by the refreshing enthusiasm of a born collector.

As Curator of the collections under his care, he had expanded them until the Paterson Museum had attained an enviable national reputation. When the International Geological Congress met in Washington in 1933, its members signified their desire to visit three museums possessing mineralogical specimens of special interest to them—the Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Paterson Museum. Three hundred delegates made the pilgrimage and were amazed at the richness and scope of the mineralogical exhibits. A group of specimens from Franklin especially impressed them, while the Paterson minerals, of which Mr. Morton had listed more than 57 species, were deemed of surpassing interest.

In years to come, many visiting mineralogists will study the Museum collection with pleasure and profit, and marvel at and admire the splendid specimens there assembled and displayed, but the genial charm and the quiet cultured discourse of its late custodian will be sadly missed but long remembered by those who were privileged to know him best.

Mr. Morton is survived by his wife, the former Pearl K. Merritt, as well as by two brothers, Frank, of South Sudbury, Massachusetts, Nelson, of Melrose Highland, Massachusetts, and one sister, Mrs. Mary Ziegler of Gates Mills, Ohio.