

Henry Shaler Williams

— *July 31, 1918*

The death of Professor Henry Shaler Williams having occurred in the last summer vacation when the University was not in session and the Faculty had no opportunity to adopt resolutions, it was voted to concur in the following resolutions of the Board of Trustees adopted August 3, 1918, and to record the same in the minutes of this Faculty:

The Trustees of Cornell University learn with great sorrow of the death of Professor Henry Shaler Williams, Emeritus Professor of Geology in this University.

It is now nearly forty years since Professor Williams became a member of the teaching staff of this institution. During the long period of his services as teacher, from which he retired in 1912, he endeared himself to his students by his unselfish devotion to them; and during the longer period of his association with his colleagues in the Faculty and with members of the Board of Trustees he won their affection and respect by his sterling qualities as a man and his attainments as a scholar.

As a teacher he was very conscientious; he was especially strong as a teacher in his laboratory, where his close personal attention and his constructive criticism gave his students a training of incalculable value.

As an investigator he attained a very high rank. His studies of Devonian paleontology, of the geological history of organisms, and of the evolution and geographical and geological modification of the fossil faunas stand out as important contributions to the literature of these subjects. He was honored by election to the more important American and foreign geological societies.

Although his devotion to his students and his attainments as an investigator gave him eminence, yet to those of us associated with him he will be remembered especially because of his personality. His sweetness and gentleness of character and his thoughtfulness of others won him the love of all who were so happy as to know him. We mourn the loss to the world of a teacher and a scholar and our loss of a friend.

Source: Records, p. 1042, February 12, 1919