

# Sidney Gonzales George

*August 8, 1878 — July 21, 1940*

The sudden passing away of Professor George at his home, 118 East Falls Street, on July 21, 1940, was a severe shock to his many friends and associates, since few knew that all was not well with him. Succeeding the late Professor Irving Porter Church, Professor George had been head of the Department of Mechanics of Engineering since 1916 and his death is a heavy loss to the School of Civil Engineering, the more so because it follows so closely the death of Professor Ernest Rettger of the same department.

Sidney George was born in Astoria, Oregon, on August 8, 1878, the son of Thomas Crosslett and Anna Christine George. He was educated, however, in the East and began his career as a teacher at the age of seventeen after completing three years of academic and teacher's training at the Frewsburg Union School at Frewsburg, New York. He taught two years in country schools at Sherman, Dentons, and Oak Hill, New York, and then took four years at the Fredonia (New York) Normal School, including two and one-half years more of teacher's training with practice teaching. He then entered Cornell University as a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences, in 1901, but after one year transferred to the College of Civil Engineering, from which he was graduated in 1905 with the degree of Civil Engineer.

Appointed instructor in Civil Engineering upon his graduation in 1905, Professor George served Cornell continuously until his death, except during the year 1907-08, when he was engaged in active practice as an engineer. He was made Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering in 1908, and Professor of the Mechanics of Engineering in 1916. He also taught in summer sessions and in summer camps conducted by the School of Engineering.

His practical experience included one summer, 1905, as draftsman on the New York State Barge Canal at Delta and Hinckley, New York; part-time estimating for the late Professor Charles Lee Crandall on the construction of Goldwin Smith and Rockefeller Halls during the two years of his instructorship; one summer, 1906, on inspection for the United States Reclamation Service at Corbell, Wyoming; one year, June 1907 to January 1908, and April to October 1908, as resident engineer on sewerage works at North Olean, New York; and one summer, 1909, on surveys at Painted Post and Rome, New York, with Knight and Hopkins, Consulting Engineers; and another two months, February and March 1908, as draftsman on the New York State Barge Canal at Rochester, New York.

He was consultant on the design of piers for a bridge at Elmira, New York, and on the sewerage works for North Olean, New York. With the late Dr. Rettger, he designed the Warfield Web Plate Car and wrote the book "Mechanics

of Materials,” which was published in 1935. He also wrote occasional articles for the “Cornell Civil Engineer” and other engineering magazines.

On June 14, 1906, one year after his graduation, Sidney George married Miss Lou Hovey of Ithaca, who, with two of their three children, survives him.

Professor George was an excellent and valuable teacher. His methods naturally followed those of Professor Church under whom he was trained as student, instructor, and assistant professor; both men were noted for clarity of presentation and for getting students to do their own thinking. Professor George was strongly conservative but always courageous in the presentation of his opinions, and will be sorely missed as a wise counselor by both his colleagues and students. He will also be missed as a citizen, especially in Masonic circles in which he was active. But, of course, most of all will he be missed in his own family circle in which he took such quiet comfort and pleasure.

Professor George was a member of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, of Tau Beta Pi, and the local civil engineering society Rod and Bob; and an honorary member of the Cornell Society of Engineers.