

Leonard Alexander Lawrence

November 4, 1881 — August 10, 1947

The death of Leonard Alexander Lawrence on August 10, 1947 brought to a close a career of forty years of successful teaching at Cornell. Born at Calais, Maine, on November 4, 1881, he was for the first twenty-three years of his life a resident of that state. He was graduated from the University of Maine in 1904 with the degree of Bachelor of Science obtained in the course in Civil Engineering. During his college career he engaged in long distance running and established an intercollegiate record in the two-mile race which stood unbeaten for seven years. His participation in collegiate athletics while a student led to a life time interest in college sports.

After spending three years practicing his profession by doing mine surveying in western Pennsylvania, he came to Cornell in the Fall of 1907 as an instructor in the College of Civil Engineering. In 1916 he was promoted to assistant professor and in 1944 to the grade of associate professor.

His main interest was in surveying and his teaching was largely devoted to that branch of civil engineering. Outdoor life always appealed to him. Teaching at the Cornell Summer Survey Camp, as he did for many years, was a source of great pleasure to him.

During the First World War, he taught for a time in the Aviation School at Cornell. In 1941 he spent the summer vacation months at Huntsville, Alabama, where he had charge of field surveying parties for the engineering firm of Whitman, Requardt and Smith, who were the engineers for a large chemical warfare plant. He was also for a time a field engineer for the Cornell Athletic Association during the construction of Schoellkopf Field.

In spite of the fact that his health had not been the best for a year or two, he was anxious to teach at the summer survey in 1947. He had completed his work at the first session of the Survey with his usual efficiency, and returned to his home for the two day recess between sessions. During the night before the opening of the second session he suffered a fatal heart attack and died in his sleep.

He was a member of the Phi Kappa Sigma and Acacia fraternities and of the Masonic Lodge. He was also a member of a number of honorary societies, among which were the Spiked Shoe, Quill and Dagger, and Pyramid.

As a teacher Professor Lawrence will long be remembered for his kindly interest in students and their personal problems. His colleagues will long remember him as one who was never too busy to help anyone in need. Both students and faculty have lost a kindly, unselfish and self-effacing friend.