

[Hulett, Edwin Lee]

WHOLE NORTH COUNTRY MOURNS DEATH OF DEAN HULETT
FUNERAL IS FROM GUNNISON MEMORIAL CHAPEL THIS AFTERNOON
Beloved Friend, Devoted And Able
Educator-Administrator, Fine American Passes On

The death Sunday morning of Dean Edwin Lee Hulett comes as a great sorrow to his host of friends throughout Northern New York and to that great family of over 5,300 St. Lawrence alumni who are now "scattered afar in many lands." The Dean had arisen as usual and had enjoyed his breakfast with Mrs. Hulett. He then went back upstairs to shave. A moment later Mrs. Hulett heard him call and upon reaching the second floor found him lying unconscious. To his wife, relatives and friends comes the realization that the end freed him of the fetters of illness with which he had been contending the past year and a half, a condition foreign to his many years of intensely active life and to which he had found it difficult to accept and become adjusted.

The funeral is held this afternoon as he would want it, from Gunnison Memorial Chapel, one of the many buildings which came to grace the campus during his incumbency, and which like all the others was constructed under the supervision of his always watchful eye and devoted interest. His friend and fellow worker, Dean John Murray Atwood, of the Theological School officiates, assisted by his pastor, Rev. Hugh S. Tigner, who is one of his former students. Burial will be in the Heuvelton cemetery.

Dean Hulett was associated with St. Lawrence University for more than 40 years. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Hulett, and was born at Heuvelton April 30, 1870. In 1896 he graduated from the Potsdam State Normal and became the first principal of the Brushton High School, serving there from 1896 to 1902. He then entered St. Lawrence and in 1903 received his college degree.

In 1903, the year of his graduation he became an assistant professor of chemistry at the institution and Mrs. Hulett became librarian of the college. Two years later he became head of the chemistry department, and in 1912 registrar of the college in addition to his duties as a professor. In 1915 he was appointed Dean of the college and served in that capacity until his retirement on Oct. 18, 1941. At that time he was made Dean emeritus and a life member of the Board of Trustees of the University, posts which he held at the time of his death. In 1925 he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by his alma mater. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and of Phi Beta Kappa, honorary scholastic fraternity.

Dean Hulett ranks as one of the great builders who came to give their lives to the development of the University during its first fourscore years. He was North Country, by birth and by tradition. He loved the land of his

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fathers, and its boys and girls who came to study and work under him. It was Dr. Almon Gunnison, who as President of St. Lawrence, discovered in the young Bushton principal those traits he felt were needed on the faculty at St. Lawrence in the program which lay ahead. Dr. Gunnison had come here to build "the Greater St. Lawrence."

Through his influence the Huletts left their home in the smaller community and came to Canton where both became students at St. Lawrence. That was quite an undertaking for a young couple, to re-chart the course of their lives, to continue their education after marriage, and to enter upon a new work.

Hundreds of students can testify to the unusual gift Dean Hulett possessed as a teacher of chemistry. But Dr. Gunnison had need of one who was more than a teacher. While he was out securing money for new buildings, new endowment, and new projects he left the academic leadership in the able hands of Dean Henry Priest and the duties of campus management he began turning over more and more to his young chemistry professor.

One means of interesting North Country young people in St. Lawrence was the interscholastic track meets, and the North Country championship football games. Dr. Gunnison turned these matters over to Professor Hulett. The Weeks Athletic Field was just built. Its cinder track was the equal of any in the state, thanks to the oversight of Dr. Robert Dale Ford during its construction. Under Professor Hulett these interscholastic contests became great events. The march of North Country boys and girls to the doors of St. Lawrence was greatly increased.

In the construction of the State School as a department of the University, the erection of the Weather Bureau building, the coming of Carnegie Hall and the Cole Reading Room, Dean Hulett had a personal hand in the building of them all, for he was on the alert to see that they were properly and adequately constructed. As a scientist he was by instinct both a practical man and a man mechanically bent. Therefore, these building programs, and he was a vital factor in such programs for forty years, were as meat and drink to him.

When death struck to take Dean Priest, and ill health forced the retirement of President Gunnison, the Board of Trustees reposed increasing duties on the head of the Chemistry Department. With his colleagues, Dr. C. K. Gaines and Professor G. R. Hardie, he served on the administrative committee which bridged that gap of three years in which there was no college president. In 1915 he was elected Dean of the College, a position he held until advanced to Dean Emeritus in October, 1941, when he retired.

During World War One it was he who secured the Student Army Training Corps and represented the University in that program. Upon his shoulders

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fell the brunt of administrative responsibilities during the college's war days, and later during the period of reconstruction. Throughout those booming, building days of the 1920s still larger confidence was placed in him when the Million Dollar Campaign brought about an enlargement of the campus and a construction program which extended from 1924 to 1932. The beautification of the campus, like his love for oriental rugs, became an absorbing hobby for him. Every tree and every shrub was of personal interest. He planted scores of them with his own hands, and heeled them in with the weight of his own body. The long line of maples leading from Park street to Carnegie Hall were selected and planted under his personal supervision.

However, this field of plant management and campus care was conducted as a side issue to his more important duties connected with the administration of the academic side of college life. One could almost count the members of the faculty when he arrived in 1903 on one hand. There were Dean Priest, Dr. C. K. Gaines, Professor Hardie, Professor Foster, Dr. R. D. Ford, and in 1904 Professor Mary Freeman joined the faculty. Herring Library, the Theological School, the original college building "Richardson Hall," the old wooden gym and the President's residence comprised the campus group of buildings. The student body numbered not much over one hundred. Athletics were just arriving. The curriculum consisted largely of the old fundamentals. Psychology, sociology, nutrition, and a host of other subjects were something still to come. Dean Priest gave up teaching physics to spend a year in preparation so that he might teach logic and philosophy, just prior to his death in 1913. There were only two fraternities and two sororities on the Hill and only one of them owned its own name.

Such was the start and all that which came during the Dean's forty years bore the imprint of his help and efforts as much as it did of any other individual. He served under five different presidents of the institution, a record none other has exceeded. Dr. G. K. Gaines alone can lay claim to a more fulsome association, though he has been emeritus during the incumbency of Presidents M. H. Jencks and Laurens H. Seelye.

Dean Hulett had the satisfaction of remaining in active service almost to the very end. In fact, he was actually still in the harness, though illness forced his retirement as dean in the fall of 1941. He was a determining factor in securing the Army War Maneuvers headquarters at the University in 1940, and was still chairman of the House and Grounds Committee of the Board of Trustees at the time death claimed him.

St. Lawrence has made acknowledgement of his great service and his life-long contribution in public manner. In 1925 the honorary degree conferred came as a complete surprise to him. Upon his retirement as Dean in 1941 he was elected a Life Member of the Board of Trustees.

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He is survived by his wife, the former Minnie Dollar of Heuvelton, whom he married February 5, 1896. He is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Arthur (Sarah) Morris, of Ogdensburg and Mrs. Thomas V. (Fannie) Dollar, of Heuvelton, and one brother, Ralph H. Hulett, of Ogdensburg. Another sister, Mrs. Marian Schneider of Frankfort, died about ten days ago.

Active pall-bearers at the funeral of Dr. Edwin Lee Hulett in Gunnison Chapel at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday, September 1, will be Dr. O. Kenneth Bates, Lewis T. Cook, Dr. John L. Buys, Lee Hunt,, John P. Smith and W. Lee Dorn, all members of the St. Lawrence University faculty.

Honorary bearers will be Dr. Ward B. Priest, Dr. Charles M. Rebert, Dr. R. Harman Ashley, Dr. Albert B. Corey, Dr. Henry Reiff, Clarence H. Gaines, Williston Manley, Dr. Herbert A. Bloch, Dr. [?] S. Robins, Dr. Frederick W. Storrs, Dr. Edson R. Miles, Dr. Richard Eddy Sykes, Dr. Harwood M. Schwartz, George H. Bowers, Dr. Harold F. B. Speight, members of the University Board of Trustees and members of the Board of Administration of the University.

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Transcribed on 11 Apr 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY