

Edgar Harper Wood

August 13, 1872 — May 11, 1961

Edgar Harper Wood was born near Topeka, Kansas, August 13, 1872. While he was yet a boy his father, William H. Wood, became foreman of the wood shop in Sibley College and moved his family to Ithaca.

Edgar Wood entered Sibley College in 1888, received the M.E. degree in 1892, and continuing as a graduate student was awarded the M.M.E. degree in 1893.

After serving in various positions, he was appointed principal of the Manual Training High School in Dayton, Ohio, in which position he served three years.

He returned to Cornell University in 1899 as instructor in mechanical drawing and was promoted to Assistant Professor in Machine Design in 1907. When the Department of Mechanics was instituted as a part of Sibley College in 1910, he was appointed Professor and head of the Department. He held this position until August 1937, when he retired because of poor health and was appointed Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering.

He was the author of *A Textbook of Mechanics* and, with the late Professor John H. Barr, co-author of *Kinematics of Machinery* and *Strength of Materials*. He was a member of Sigma Xi and the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education.

On July 10, 1907, he married Miss Bertha E. Lucas of Ithaca, with whom he celebrated their Golden Anniversary; she died in 1959 after a long illness. There were no children of this union. Professor Wood survived his wife by less than two years, dying May 11, 1961, in Ithaca.

He was an inspiring teacher, a trusted adviser, and a sound thinker. A hard worker in the interest of the University, he labored mightily in promoting and maintaining Sibley College as one of the important engineering institutions of the country. His mental vigor, always prodigious, remained clear and intact until his death. Modest and self-effacing, he gave to others much of the credit which rightly belonged to him. Never physically robust, he was an invalid during the last few years of his life.

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