

Obituary

ALEXANDER T. MACLEAN

ALFRED J. RILEY

1887 . . . Alexander T. Maclean . . . 1950

The death of Alexander T. Maclean on May 15, 1950 at the age of 62 was a profound shock to his many friends throughout the United States and Canada.

He was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on July 8, 1887, and began his insurance career at an early age. He studied mathematics under Roderic M. Nichols of Glasgow University and was coached in the fundamentals of actuarial science by "Willie" Robertson of "Robertson and Ross" fame. While in the employ of the City of Glasgow Life Insurance Company, he completed his examinations for Fellowship in the Faculty of Actuaries, in 1909. He came to the United States in 1910 and passed the examinations for Fellowship in the Actuarial Society of America before he was 25 years old. Not long thereafter he was appointed to the Examination Committee of the Society, on which he served several times, and to the Committee on Papers and the Committee on Actuarial Studies. He was elected to the Council of the Actuarial Society of America several times. He was admitted to Fellowship in the American Institute of Actuaries in 1921.

During his career, Mr. Maclean wrote several important papers and participated in the discussion of many others, both at Society and Institute meetings, demonstrating his sound, practical outlook and wide range of interests. One of the first papers he wrote, "Valuation with Allowance for Initial Expense," was presented to the Faculty of Actuaries in 1914 and remained for many years the main actuarial reference for students to the preliminary term method of valuation and the modifications thereof.

After a six-year period of association with the Home Life Insurance Company of New York, Mr. Maclean joined the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company of Springfield, Massachusetts, on September 1, 1916, where his extraordinary talents were recognized by successive advancement to Assistant Actuary on October 25, 1916; Associate Actuary, April 26, 1922; Actuary, January 26, 1927; Second Vice President and

Actuary, January 25, 1928; Director, January 16, 1929; Vice President, January 22, 1936; Member of Finance, Agency, and Death Claim Committees, January 22, 1936; and President, January 24, 1945.

He was impressed with the beneficence of life insurance and realized at an early age the importance of coordinating actuarial and agency efforts. The fieldmen of his company derived pleasure and profit from his appearances at their meetings because of his ability to strip a subject of its technicalities and explain it in words of one syllable, as it were, and with a rare sense of humor. He insisted upon prompt and adequate attention to inquiries of policyholders and fieldmen, and one who was able to measure up to his rigid standards in this respect in carrying out an assignment for him could take satisfaction in a job well done.

Mr. Maclean took an active part in the proceedings of the Life Insurance Association of America and the American Life Convention, and served on various committees of these organizations. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Executive Committee of the American Life Convention, the Joint Committee on Federal Income Taxation of Life Insurance Companies, and the Joint Committee on Valuation of Assets. Outside of the insurance business, he was interested in many community welfare projects and only those close to him knew how really generous he was. To name a few of his affiliations, he was a director of the Springfield Chapter of the American Red Cross, a trustee of the Springfield Hospital and, during World War II, was Chairman of the British War Relief Society for Western Massachusetts, his very effective efforts on behalf of the latter organization being formally recognized by the presentation to him of His Majesty's Medal by the British Government.

His recreations were golf and bridge, in which both his partners and opponents enjoyed his unique spirit of camaraderie. How he found time to do it no one knows, but he was able to digest a tremendous amount of reading matter, his tastes being catholic and running the gamut from mystery to biography.

Mr. Maclean is survived by his wife, the former Amy Catherine Hodgkins, an unusually gracious lady, whom he married in 1916, and by his brother, Joseph B. Maclean, a former president of the Actuarial Society of America.

1891

Alfred J. Riley

1950

Alfred J. Riley, born September 20, 1891, died at his Florida home on February 13, 1950. He was educated in the schools of Newark and East Orange, New Jersey. As a boy of 17 he entered the employ of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company. Under the guidance of Mr. Papps, then Actuary of the Company, he became interested in actuarial work. He became an Associate of the Actuarial Society in 1918 and a Fellow in 1921. He later became a Fellow of the American Institute of Actuaries.

His entire working life was spent in the employ of the Mutual Benefit. He was appointed Assistant Mathematician in 1922 and for 11 years was active in the actuarial affairs of the Company. In 1933 he was transferred to the Department of Underwriting, being appointed Underwriting Executive. As such he, in collaboration with officers of the Medical Department, had direct charge of the Company's underwriting.

Although his health failed in 1946, he continued working until the summer of 1948, and then decided to accept sick leave and move to Florida where he felt the more equable climate and lessened activity would be beneficial. Such proved to be the case and up to within a few weeks of his death he seemed to be in better health than he had been for the past few years. A rather sudden attack of sickness in January was a prelude to the final sickness leading to his death in February of this year.

Mr. Riley was a man of varied interests. In addition to his membership in the Actuarial bodies, he was prominent in the formation of the Home Office Life Underwriters' Association and served as Treasurer of that body for many years. He was an enthusiastic Mason and served as Master of his lodge. He was deeply conscious of his duties to the church, having been a member of Christ Episcopal Church of Glen Ridge and Bloomfield, New Jersey, for many years. During his membership he served a term as vestryman.

He was a chess player of considerable ability and during his summer vacations, especially, played the game with others of the camp colony where his vacations were spent. Those of us who knew him in his lighter moments will recall the pleasure which he derived from a game of cards. All in all, his professional interests, with his recreation and the responsibility of a large family, made his life a full one.

His Company will miss his able guidance in actuarial and underwriting lines. Those who were connected intimately with him will miss him as a friend.