

Obituary

JOHN REAGAN ABERNETHY
HENRY C. GERWIG, JR.
CHARLES D. RUTHERFORD

1903 . . . John Reagan Abernethy . . . 1953

John Reagan Abernethy, an Associate of the Society, died suddenly at his home in Dover, Arkansas, on April 11, 1953, apparently of a heart attack, while asleep.

Mr. Abernethy, of Scottish ancestry and the son of a Methodist minister, was born July 9, 1903 in Westervill, North Carolina. He received an A.B. degree from Trinity College (now Duke University) with highest honors in mathematics; an A.M. degree from the University of North Carolina; and a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Michigan. He also studied at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

Mr. Abernethy devoted full time to actuarial work for a few years only. During that period he served with the Jefferson Standard, the Nordisk and Dansk Livsforsikring in Denmark, the Maccabees, as Actuary for the Life Insurance Company of Detroit, and for the Central Life Insurance Company of Illinois. Although he did consulting actuarial work to the time of his death, he devoted most of his time to teaching mathematics. He was head of the Department of Mathematics at Arkansas Polytechnic College for the five years preceding his death.

In 1938 Mr. Abernethy won the Triennial Prize awarded by the American Institute of Actuaries for his paper entitled "Juvenile Mortality Experienced by Fraternal Benefit Societies." He was a member of a number of educational and mathematical societies and the first president of the Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Mr. Abernethy was also devoted to community affairs. He was depended upon for many things, always giving generously of himself to all who needed his help. He will be greatly missed by his many friends.

Sincerest sympathy is extended to his devoted wife, who so capably assisted him, and to his family.

1914 . . . **Henry C. Gerwig, Jr.** . . . 1953

Henry C. Gerwig, Jr., an Associate of the Society, died at his home in Peekskill, New York, on April 6, 1953 after a prolonged illness.

He was born in Pennsylvania on March 25, 1914 and studied at New York University. He joined Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in 1936 and spent most of his business career in its Actuarial Division.

During World War II he saw army service overseas in the Asiatic-Pacific area, stationed at Harmon Field, Guam, and Hickam Field, Hawaii, at various times. He was awarded the campaign ribbon for that area with a bronze star.

Henry was a great lover of hunting and fishing and spent many hours out of doors in these pursuits. With this he combined an active interest in photography. During his confinement he raised money for charity by photographing all hospital visitors whom he could get within the range of his lenses.

Henry had a friendly, cheerful disposition which did not desert him during his long illness. He is survived by his wife, a daughter and two sons. His passing is a tragedy to his young family and a great loss to his many friends and business associates.

1893 . . . **Charles D. Rutherford** . . . 1953

A Fellow of the Actuarial Society of America since 1918 when he completed his examinations at the age of 25, Charles D. Rutherford, F.I.A., F.S.A., Associate Actuary of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, died in Montreal on the first of May, 1953, on the eve of his 60th birthday.

Born in Scotland in 1893, Mr. Rutherford was educated at Daniel Stewart's College, Edinburgh. Coming to Canada in 1910, he joined the Sun Life's actuarial department the same year. He immediately began his studies for the examinations of the Actuarial Society of America and the Institute of Actuaries of Great Britain and had soon gained both fellowships. He was appointed Assistant Actuary of the Sun Life in 1923 and Associate Actuary in 1932. During the past few years he had particular jurisdiction over the Company's group insurance business in which branch he was considered an authority, having made a special study of group insurance, group annuities and pensions. He was also highly regarded as a consultant on corporation pension plans.

Mr. Rutherford was a man of wide literary interests and a brilliant mathematician. His achievements in the actuarial world will be outstanding testimonials for a long time to come. A frequent contributor to the discussions of the Society, he was for many years a member of the Committee on Group Annuity Mortality and was well known for his work in connection with the preparation, in 1929, of Rutherford's Annuity Tables. He showed a keen interest in the affairs of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in Montreal of which he was an elder. Despite many years of declining health his devotion to his work kept him active until only a short time before his death.

Mr. Rutherford was unmarried and is survived by two sisters.