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DEATH OF DR. REUBEN GOLD THWAITES, SECRETARY AND SUPERINTENDENT OF THE WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The death of Dr. Reuben Gold Thwaites on October 22, 1913, at his home in Madison, Wisconsin, came as a great surprise and shock to all historical students of the Mississippi valley and the west, to whom the name of Dr. Thwaites has long been a household word.

For more than a quarter of a century Dr. Thwaites has labored in the field of western history and through his remarkable industry, energy and great executive ability, he has accomplished wonderful things. When in 1886, Dr. Thwaites was called upon to preside over the Wisconsin State Historical Society, it was already a great and flourishing Society, Library and educational force, built up largely through the efforts of Lyman C. Draper, and Mr. Thwaites had enjoyed the friendship of Mr. Draper and was well acquainted with his hopes, plans and policies, and so was well equipped for carrying on his work. In 1886, when he entered upon this work, Reuben Gold Thwaites was thirty-three years of age, an active, energetic, virile young man. The work of the Wisconsin Historical Society became his life-work. His previous labors had been but a preparation for this great field and he became a commanding force, an authority on western history, and the Society which he represented became the inspiration and model for other historical societies. Dr. Thwaites was the author and editor of many historical books, among the principal of which are: The Wisconsin Historical Society Collections, of which he was the editor, beginning with Volume Eleven; the Jesuit Relations; and Narratives of Early Western Travel.

In 1882 he married Miss Jessie Inwood Turville, who with one son, Dr. Frederick W. Thwaites, survives him.

In 1900 Dr. Thwaites gave the Illinois State Historical Society its first annual address. This address was most helpful to the young Society, and was much appreciated by its early officers and members.

Dr. Thwaites was president of the American Library Association in 1900, a member of the American Historical Association, a member of the American Antiquarian Society, and many other historical and scientific associations. He was an honorary member of the Illinois State Historical Society.