
Albert F. Crider (*Mississippi*)

Albert F. Crider was state geologist of Mississippi from 1906 to 1909 and attended the founding meeting of the Association of American State Geologists in Washington, D.C. During his 3 years as state geologist, bulletins were published on cement materials, clays, lignite, and forestry. A "Provisional Geologic and Topographic Map of Mississippi" was bound into Bulletins 1 through 3, all published in 1907. This map, at a scale of 1 inch equals 13 miles, was a refinement of the 1905 map of Eckel and Crider. Crider was based in Biloxi, Miss., and covered the state from there. His reports were published in Jackson, the state capital.



In 1903 Crider had been assigned by the USGS to work with the Geological and Industrial Survey organized at Mississippi A&M College. The Geological and Industrial Survey was created to fill the needs of a state geological survey in the absence of state support and legislation. He worked with E.C. Eckel in geology and M.L. Fuller in water resources.

Crider was a native Kentuckian, the third son of William B. Crider and Martha J.A. Crider of Marion, Crittenden County, Kentucky, where he was born on January 13, 1873. He received the A.B. degree in geology in 1902 and B.S. degree in geology in 1903 at what is now the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He was hired by the U.S. Geological Survey as assistant geologist in 1903. He did field investigations on clays of western Kentucky and Tennessee, mineral resources of Mississippi, and groundwater of the Coastal Plain for the USGS. He was influenced by his association with L.W. Stephenson on the geology of the Coastal Plain. He became chair of the geology department at the University of Mississippi in 1906. He then became director of the Mississippi Geological Survey. In 1912 he returned to Kentucky as assistant state geologist under Joseph Hoeing, state geologist. His energies during the 4 following years were devoted to an intensive study of coal and tar sands; his bibliography reflects the zeal with which he attacked this topic.

The rising tide of petroleum geology, sweeping through the nation in 1916, attracted his attention. He began a career in petroleum geology that lasted for almost 30 years. His start in the oil business was with Atlas Oil Co. (later the Palmer Corp.), located in Tulsa, Okla. From 1916 to 1920, he did

geologic investigations in the Midcontinent for Atlas Oil. He was credited with mapping the Jennings Field in Pawnee County, Oklahoma. Of greater significance was his observations in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, where he recorded evidence for an oil play west of Homer. The manager for Palmer Oil stated that Crider was solely responsible for his company's highly favorable acreage position in the prolific and highly profitable Homer Field. Following his success at Homer, Crider—now known far and wide in the industry as “Doc”—stepped into a position with the Dixie Oil Co. in Shreveport, where from 1920 to 1929 he served that organization, directing work in the development of “chalk-rock” oil and in prospecting the then-new Glen Rose and Travis Peak zones of Caddo Parish, Louisiana. From 1929 to the end of his career, Crider maintained a consulting office in Shreveport. The high regard in which his work was held is evidenced by the fact that though past retirement age, he was retained by Sohio Petroleum, a relationship that lasted until March 15, 1945, only 6 months preceding his death.

Albert Crider was united in marriage with Rosa Rhee Kevil on November 15, 1905. The couple had a son, Foster Kevil Crider (who became a geophysicist), a daughter, and four grandchildren.

Crider, the geologist, will be remembered because of the association of his name with the Wilcox Group of the Gulf Coast Tertiary section; the group name, which seems destined to retain its place in North American stratigraphy, was introduced in his early bulletins on Mississippi geology. He was an early president of the Shreveport Geological Society. His name is inscribed on the bronze plaque in AAPG headquarters giving the names of the founders of that society, which was founded in 1917.

Crider, the man, was held in high esteem as a citizen of Shreveport. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church. He maintained connections to his native state of Kentucky and was devoted to his adopted state of Mississippi. He was chosen to represent the University of Kentucky at the dedication of the new Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge in 1926.

Biography adapted from Moody (1946) and Socolow (1988).