

George M. Schwartz, 1892-1980

George Melvin Schwartz, former Director of the Minnesota Geological Survey, died in Minneapolis December 23, 1980, at the age of 88.

He was born September 23, 1892, on a farm in Byron Township, Wisconsin. He obtained BA and MA degrees in geology in 1915 and 1916 at the University of Wisconsin, and a doctorate in 1923 at the University of Minnesota. George Schwartz first worked professionally as a geologist for the Wisconsin Geological Survey, then successively for the Copper Range Company on Keweenaw Peninsula, the Minnesota Geological Survey, and, for a short time during World War II, the U.S. Geological Survey. He became an instructor at the University of Minnesota in 1919 and retired as a full professor in 1961. He was appointed Director of the Minnesota Geological Survey in 1947, and served as Director until his retirement. His 142 scientific and technical papers in geology can only partly attest to his contributions to the profession and to the state of Minnesota. Few geologists will be remembered with more warmth and appreciation by students, colleagues, and fellow citizens.

George M. Schwartz was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, the Mineralogical Society of America, an honorary Fellow of Société Géologique Belgique, and a member of the Society of Economic Geologists. He was president of the Society of Economic Geologists in 1958 and Counselor of the Geological Society of America from 1955 to 1957.

George M. Schwartz is survived by his wife, Ruth; two sons, George M. Jr., and John Katonville, M.D.; daughter, Ruth Schwartz; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. It was only in the last two or three years that his advanced age prevented him from frequent attendance at seminars and lectures in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Minnesota.

His passing is noted with honor and respect by all of us.

Matt Walton