



Henry Barnard Kummel (*New Jersey*)

Irving G. Grossman (*New Jersey Geological Survey*)

Henry Barnard Kummel was the first president of AASG, although in 1908 that position was referred to as chairman. He served as president for the first 4 years of AASG's existence (1908–12). He then served 2 more years as vice president (1913–14). He was obviously dedicated to AASG and seeing this fledgling organization off to a good start. He was born in Milwaukee, Wis., on May 25, 1867. His undergraduate studies at Beloit College led to an A.B. degree in 1889. He remained in Beloit College Academy for 2 years

as instructor and moved to Harvard University, where he served as assistant in the department of geology. He earned his A.M. degree there in 1892.

The following summer, he was employed by Professor R.D. Salisbury, of the University of Chicago, in mapping the glacial deposits of northern New Jersey. His work led to a fellowship in geology at the University of Chicago. While attending the University of Chicago, Kummel met and later married Charlotte F. Coe. Theirs was a happy marriage and it produced two daughters. Three years later, he received a Ph.D. for his thesis, entitled "Lake Passaic—An Extinct Glacial Lake."

From 1896 to 1899, Kummel was an assistant professor of physiography at Lewis Institute in Chicago. During the summer months he mapped the Triassic formations of central and northern New Jersey, the professional work for which he is best known. Kummel's geologic mapping was done on foot, bicycle, horseback, or with horse and buggy. He became thoroughly familiar with the surficial and bedrock geology of all parts of New Jersey. Among his many reports published from 1908 to 1914 are five folios co-authored as part of the Atlas of New Jersey. His bibliography lists 47 titles.

When John C. Smock retired as state geologist in January 1902, Kummel succeeded him. Despite heavy administrative duties, he found time to supervise the preparation and publication of many geologic reports.

In 1906, a group of seven state geologists had organized the Association of State Geologists of the Mississippi Valley. When an enlarged ASGMV met in Washington, D.C., with the U.S. Geological Survey in 1908, it voted to include all the states and metamorphose into the Association of American State Geologists. The chairman of the conference, Henry Kummel, was elected president. He was reelected in 1909 and 1910. He subsequently served on the Executive Board in 1912 and 1913.

Kummel's activities were numerous and varied. He was a founding member of the Society of Economic Geologists and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1937, he was the representative of the AASG on the National Research Council. From 1897 to 1901, he was associate editor of the *Journal of Geography*. In 1931, he was elected vice president of the Geological Society of America.

Kummel retired in June 1937, having served as state geologist for 35 years, longer than anyone before or after. He had also served concurrently as director of the state Department of Conservation and Development for 15 years.

In 1934, widower Kummel (his wife had died in 1933) married Anna Goets Williams, an old friend. Kummel died in Trenton on October 23, 1945. The wide esteem in which he was held is attested by those who attended his funeral, including two former governors of New Jersey and representatives of many state and national organizations.