

WILLIAM CLIFFORD MORSE, 1874-1962

W. C. Morse was born October 28, 1874, in Ohio and took his undergraduate work at Ohio State University, then obtained a Master's degree at University of Chicago and a Ph.D. at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He taught at Ohio State, at Washington University (St. Louis), at Mississippi State, and at University of Mississippi.

He headed the Department of Geology at Mississippi State from 1928-1934, at which time he was made head of the Geology Department at University of Mississippi and State Geologist of Mississippi. He held this dual position until his retirement in 1958, and was Director Emeritus of the Mississippi Geological Survey from 1958 until his death on March 2, 1962.

Doctor Morse was a Christian gentleman and a scholar of the highest type. His outstanding ability both as a scientist and educator earned for him the respect and admiration of all who knew him. His fellow members of the Association of American State Geologists remember his retiring genteel manner, when on occasion, he would address the membership—his remarks reflecting his own characteristic brand of dry humor. His progressive outlook probably is best exemplified by the fact that he was the only state geologist ever to purchase a helicopter for use in connection with his geologic research.

Doctor Morse's leadership, his integrity, and his technical precision provided inspiration to his colleagues throughout the years. He was truly one of God's noblemen, and the world has become a better place in which to live because of his contributions.

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