



William Bullock Clark (*Maryland*)

Jeffrey Halka (*Maryland Geological Survey*)

At the inaugural meeting of the AASG in 1908, William Bullock Clark had served as state geologist of Maryland for 12 years. Elected state geologist in 1896, he served until his death in 1917. Clark combined to an unusual degree thorough training, a broad outlook, exceptional leadership skills, outstanding organizational skills, and exceptional interpersonal skills. He was born in Brattleboro, Vt., on December 15, 1860, and died unexpectedly at

his summer home at North Haven, Maine, on July 27, 1917. He graduated from Amherst College in 1884, specializing in geology, and received his Ph.D. in 1887 from the University of Munich. While in Europe, he did field work for geological surveys in Prussia and Great Britain.

Employed by Johns Hopkins University in fall 1894, he became professor of geology and chairman of the geology department in 1894. In 1888, Clark was appointed assistant geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. His chosen field was the Coastal Plain of the Atlantic Seaboard, and he prepared a bulletin on the Eocene deposits of America and monographs on Mesozoic and Cenozoic echinodermata of the United States.

Clark was not a cloistered scientist and readily placed his knowledge at the service of the public. In 1892 he was appointed director of the State Weather Service, in 1896 elected as state geologist, in 1906 became executive officer of the State Board of Forestry, and in 1910 was appointed as a state roads commissioner.

Clark was equally active in professional societies: among others, the National Academy of Sciences (chairman of the geology section), American Philosophical Society, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Mining and Metallurgical Society of America, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Geological Society of America (councilor and treasurer), and Association of American State Geologists (president).

During his tenure as state geologist, the Survey published county topographic, geologic, forestry, and soil maps; county reports (featuring sections on physiography, geology, mineral resources, soils, climate, hydrography, magnetic declination, and forests); systematic reports (e.g., Eocene, Miocene, Cretaceous, and Devonian); volumes featuring sections such as "Report on Resurvey of the Mason and Dixon Line," "The Geography of Maryland," and "The Surface and Underground Water Resources of Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia." Overall, the Survey published 30 reports and 57 county maps and two state geologic maps from 1896 through 1917.

“In all these numerous and diversified efforts for betterment of the State of his adoption, Professor Clark has shown untiring energy, unselfish zeal and devotion...” (Mathews, 1918).