

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Frederick Jackson Turner

A brief Associated Press dispatch carried the news that Professor Frederick Jackson Turner had died unexpectedly at his home in Pasadena, California, on Monday, March 14, 1932.

Probably no other such announcement would carry as much grief to the hearts of historians of the West. He was respected by all and deeply loved by those who knew him personally.

As historian, he leaped into national fame in 1893 when the *Annual Report of the American Historical Association* published his paper, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History." It was reprinted by the University of Chicago, 1899, in *The Fifth Yearbook* of the National Hebart Society. Graduate students flocked to Professor Turner's seminars at the University of Wisconsin.

His fellow historians sought to honor him. He was elected President of the American Historical Association in 1910 and in that same year he was called to the Faculty of Harvard. After fourteen years more of devotion to his beloved history of the West, he was made Professor Emeritus. His strength had begun to wane but not his spirit. He moved to a new home near the Huntington Library where he could prepare for publication more valuable works in American history. His industrious search for fundamental sources and his elucidation of them when found have given his work a status that will attract other historians for untold time.

In that essay at the beginning of his fame, he quoted "The Foreloper," which became known as Rudyard Kipling's "Lost Poem." He suggested that the present writer search for the complete poem. An appeal to Mr. Kipling brought from his secretary (1907) this statement: "Mr. Kipling has asked me to say that the lines to which you refer are his, but he cannot remember when or where they were published or what the rest of the poem is." The search was continued and the complete poem, when found, was published in *The Century Magazine* for April, 1909, and later in *The Bookman*, the *New York Times* and elsewhere. Professor Turner got a thrill out of that literary adventure.

He visited the Pacific Northwest in 1914, dividing the summer session as a visiting professor with the University of Oregon and the University of Washington. His commencement address—"The West and American Ideals"—attracted much attention. It was in line with the work to which he was devoting so much of his life. That

address, delivered at the University of Washington on June 17, was published in the *Washington Historical Quarterly* for October, 1914.

During that summer's visit a dinner was given in his honor at the New Washington Hotel, Seattle on July 8, by local historians and a group of prominent citizens. Always a lover of the out-of-doors, he participated in two well remembered excursions of The Mountaineers, a special week-end outing to Hood Canal, and a trip to Snoqualmie Pass to help in the dedication of the Club's Lodge then being completed in that vicinity. His companions of those happy days will cherish fine memories and will now share in the sorrow over his passing.

Geographic Names Decisions

Reports numbered 12, 13 and 14 have been received from the United States Geographic Board covering the meetings December, 1931, and January and February, 1932.

In the first one there was but one decision affecting the State of Washington. A peak that had been called "Bald" in the Mount Baker Forest, Whatcom County, was changed to Mount Blum, the explanation stating: "Named in honor of John Blum, airplane pilot, who accomplished exceptional work on fire patrol, during 1930-1931, particularly over the Mount Baker National Forest and who was killed in 1931 in an airplane accident near Snoqualmie Pass.

Similarly, there was but one decision for the State of Washington in the Report for the meeting of January 15—Prouty Peak in the Kanaksu National Forest, Pend Oreille County. The decision says: "Named for Henry Prouty, who was one of the first settlers in this region, and who located several mining claims on this peak."

There was no Washington decision in Report No. 14. In all three reports there are interesting decisions for Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Colorado and California.

Jefferson County Historical Society

Hon. Richard W. Condon has called attention to the organization recently of the Jefferson County Historical Society. The *Port Townsend Leader* has published resolutions by the Chamber of Commerce favoring such an organization and naming a committee to forward it. The committee from Port Townsend and other parts of Jefferson County includes the following: Frank W. Hastings, Lote B. Hastings, Horace Tucker, A. F. Learned, James G. Mc-