

Wilbur Armistead Nelson (1890-1969)

Wilbur Armistead Nelson was born in Nashville, Tennessee, February 14, 1890, the son of William Cowper and Mary Lou (Armistead) Nelson. He died suddenly in Charlottesville, Virginia, January 6, 1969. Services were held from the graveside at Holly Memorial Gardens, Albemarle County, Virginia on January 8, 1969. He is survived by his wife, Beatrice Ward Nelson; two sons, Thornton Nelson of Birmingham, Alabama, and Dr. Armistead Nelson of Nashville, Tennessee, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Nelson was graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1910 and received his M.A. degree from Stanford University in 1915. He was an assistant geologist with the Tennessee Geological Survey from 1911 to 1914; economic geologist with the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway from 1914 to 1916; mining geologist Paga Mining Company, 1916 to 1918; State Geologist of Tennessee from 1918 to 1925; State Geologist of Virginia from 1925 to 1928; corcoran professor and Head of the Department of Geology, University of Virginia from 1925 to 1959 when becoming Emeritus.

He was president of the Association of American State Geologists in 1925; Virginia commissioner of the Virginia-Maryland Boundary Commission, 1928-1930; director of the Mining Division, War Production Board, 1941-1945; a fellow of the Geological Society of America and of the American Geophysical Union; a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Mining and Metallurgical Society, Society of Economic Geologists, the Virginia Academy of Science; the Tennessee Academy of Science; the Society of the Sigma Xi; Phi Beta Kappa; Sigma Gamma Epsilon; and an honorary member of the Association of American State Geologists.

He was a member of St. Paul's Memorial Church, the Torch Club, the Stamp Club, the Colonnade Club, Farmington Country Club, and the Cosmos Club.

As a consulting geologist, Mr. Nelson specialized in dam foundations and was consultant for fourteen dams in the eastern United States. Other interests included structural geology, examination of mineral properties, mine examinations, and the structure of the Blue Ridge Mountains. He took an active part in the establishment of the Great Smokey National Park, the Shenandoah National Park, and the Blue Ridge Parkway that connects them.

Among his publications are the following:

Clay Deposits of West Tennessee: Tennessee Geol. Survey Bull. 5, 118 p., 1911.

The Fernvale iron ore of Davidson County: Tennessee Geol. Survey, Res. Tenn., vol. 1, p. 44-57, 1911.

A new manganese deposit in Tennessee: Tenn. Geol. Survey, Res. Tenn. vol. 1, p. 220-228, 1911.

Notes on lead in Tennessee: Tennessee Geol. Survey, Res. Tenn. vol. 2, p. 100-117, 1912.

Lignite and lignitic clay in West Tennessee: Tennessee Geol. Survey, Res. Tenn. vol. 2, p. 157-160, 1912.

The Monteagle wonder cave (Grundy County, Tenn): Tennessee Geol. Survey, Res. Tenn. vol. 2, p. 294-306, 1912.

(Kirkpatrick, F. A.) Tests on the clays of Henry County, Tennessee: Tennessee Geol. Survey, Res. Tenn. vol. 2, p. 406-423, 1912.

The Tennessee coal field south of the Tennessee Central Railroad: Tennessee Geol. Survey, Res. Tenn. vol. 3, p. 26-49, 1913.

Mineral products along the Tennessee Central Railroad: Tennessee Geol. Survey, Res. Tenn. vol. 3, p. 137-160, 1913.

Two Natural Bridges of the Cumberland Mountains (Tennessee): Tenn. Geol. Survey, Res. Tenn. vol. 5, p. 76-80, 1915.

- The Tennessee coal field south of the Tennessee Central Railroad: Tennessee Geol. Survey, Res. Tenn. vol. 6, p. 155-183, 1916.
- Description of oil and gas areas in Tennessee and conditions affecting new areas: Tennessee State Geol. Survey, Bull. 25, p. 49-66, 1921.
- Volcanic ash bed in the Ordovician of Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama: Geol. Soc. America Bull. vol. 33, no. 3, p. 603-615, 1922.
- Geologic map of Tennessee, Third Edition: Tennessee State Geol. Survey, 1923, scale 1:500,000, 1923.
- Appalachian bauxite deposits: Geol. Soc. America, Bull. vol. 34, no. 5, p. 525-539, 1923.
- Reelfoot—an earthquake lake (western Tennessee): National Geog. Mag. vol. 45, no. 1, p. 95-114, 1924.
- The oil horizons of Kentucky, northeastern Mississippi, and Tennessee: Am. Assoc. Petroleum Geologists, Bull. vol. 8, no. 5, p. 621-651, 1924.
- Mascot Tennessee, zinc area: Mining and Metallurgy, vol. 5, no. 214, p. 469-471, 1924.
- Ducktown, Tennessee, copper district: Am. Inst. Min. and Met. Eng., Trans. vol. 71, p. 299-303, 1925.
- The southern Tennessee coal field included in Bledsoe, Cumberland, Franklin, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, Putnam, Rhea, Sequatchie, Van Curen, Warren, and White counties: Tennessee Dept. Educ., Div. Geology, Bull. 33-A, 239 p., 1925.
- The coals and geology of the Herbert Domain: Tennessee Dept. Educ., Div. Geology, Bull. 33-C, 54 p., 1925.
- Geology and Evaluation: Sci. Monthly, vol. 21, no. 3, p. 312-316, 1925.
- Topography and geology of the coal field (of Tennessee): U. S. Bur. Mines, Tech. Paper 356, p. 1-4, 1926.
- Geologic map of Virginia: Virginia Geologic Survey, 1928, scale 1:500,000, 1928.
- (Mathews, Edward B.) Report on the location of the boundary lines along the Potomac River between Virginia and Maryland: Baltimore, 48 p., 1928.
- Some aspects of the geology of the Coastal Plain of Virginia. World Ports, vol. 9, p. 1023-1035, 1931.
- Topography of the former continent of Appalachia (from geologic evidence) in the surface and subsurface exploration of continental borders: Am. Geophys. Union Trans. 21st. ann. mtg. pt. 3A, p. 786-796, 1940.
- Geology and mineral resources of Albemarle County: Virginia Div. Mineral Resources, Bull. 77, 92 p., 1962.

- The Tennessee coal field south of the Tennessee Central Railroad: Tennessee Geol. Survey, Res. Tenn. vol. 6, p. 155-183, 1916.
- Description of oil and gas areas in Tennessee and conditions affecting new areas: Tennessee State Geol. Survey, Bull. 25, p. 49-66, 1921.
- Volcanic ash bed in the Ordovician of Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama: Geol. Soc. America Bull. vol. 33, no. 3, p. 605-615, 1922.
- Geologic map of Tennessee, Third Edition: Tennessee State Geol. Survey, 1923, scale 1:500,000, 1923.
- Appalachian bauxite deposits: Geol. Soc. America, Bull. vol. 34, no. 5, p. 525-539, 1923.
- Reelfoot—an earthquake lake (western Tennessee): National Geog. Mag. vol. 45, no. 1, p. 95-114, 1924.
- The oil horizons of Kentucky, northeastern Mississippi, and Tennessee: Am. Assoc. Petroleum Geologists, Bull. vol. 8, no. 5, p. 621-651, 1924.
- Mascot Tennessee, zinc area: Mining and Metallurgy, vol. 5, no. 214, p. 469-471, 1924.
- Ducktown, Tennessee, copper district: Am. Inst. Min. and Met. Eng., Trans. vol. 71, p. 299-303, 1925.
- The southern Tennessee coal field included in Bladsoe, Cumberland, Franklin, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, Putnam, Rhea, Sequatchie, Van Curen, Warren, and White counties: Tennessee Depr. Educ., Div. Geology, Bull. 33-A, 239 p., 1925.
- The coals and geology of the Herbert Domain: Tennessee Dept. Educ., Div. Geology, Bull. 33-C, 54 p., 1925.
- Geology and Evaluation: Sci. Monthly, vol. 21, no. 3, p. 312-316, 1925.
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- Geologic map of Virginia: Virginia Geologic Survey, 1928, scale 1:500,000, 1928.
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