

WILBER STOUT, 1876-1961*

Wilber Stout, State Geologist of Ohio from 1928 to his retirement in 1946, died at his home in Rock Mill, Ohio, on May 20th. During the 34 years he was connected with the State Geological Survey, he made outstanding contributions to the knowledge of Ohio geology and its mineral resources.

Wilber Stout was born in Chester, Ohio, on August 21, 1876, but spent his childhood and attended grade school at Sciotoville. He received a degree in engineering from Ohio State University in 1914 and a professional degree in ceramic engineering in 1931. Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio, awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science in 1936.

During his early manhood, Wilber Stout taught country school and worked as a chemist for the Columbus Iron and Steel Company. His connection with the Ohio Geological Survey dates from 1912.

Many aspects of Ohio geology received Wilber Stout's attention. His bibliography of nearly 50 papers includes reports on such subjects as clay resources, oil and gas reserves, coal formations, brines, and water conservation. Among his many regional studies were those on Muskingum, Columbiana, and Vinton counties as well as those on southern and eastern Ohio.

Upon the death of John Bownocker in 1928, Wilber Stout was appointed State Geologist of Ohio, the position he held until his retirement. Over the years, Dr. Stout came to be recognized as the leading authority on ground water in the state, and, when the Ohio Water Supply Board was created in 1941, Dr. Stout was made its first chairman. His report (Bull. 44, Ohio Geol. Surv., 1944) on "Geology of Water in Ohio" is a classic in ground water literature.

No one man has had a greater influence on the mineral industries of Ohio. Wilber Stout devoted his life to geology and to the conservation of his state's water and mineral resources. His many contributions to the welfare of Ohio stand as a lasting memorial.

Wilber Stout was a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and a member of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, Society of Sigma Xi, Natural Gas Association of the United States, and the Ohio, West Virginia, and Indiana Academies of Science.

After his retirement in 1946, Dr. and Mrs. Stout settled in Rock Mill at the headwaters of the Hocking River. His last paper, published in the *Ohio Journal of Science*, was a popular account of the geology of the river gorge at Rock Mill.

* *Editor's note:* Ralph J. Bernhagen has kindly supplied this biographical note on one of his predecessors on the Ohio State Geological Survey.