Samuel W. McCallie (Georgia)

Professor Samuel W. McCallie was appointed state geologist and director of the Georgia Geological Survey following the death of Professor Yeates on February 18, 1908. After coming to the Georgia survey in 1893, he published a number of important publications under the supervision of Yeates. He also published a number of bulletins after he was appointed director. In many ways, he followed the general plan of the survey previously established by Yeates: that is, the system of completely covering the state as far as possible for each commercial mineral, one at a time. By this method, whoever wished to mine a mineral commodity could take the report of that specific mineral, and with the assistance of the state geologist, attempt to locate and establish a new mining industry. This system obviously was modified by public demand. In some cases, a commercial mineral would be industrially replaced by some other mineral or artificial product; thus, no succeeding or follow-up report was made. On the other hand, minerals such as clays, which were steadily becoming more important, were periodically reexamined, calling for later and more modern reports.

Also, by this time, the urban population of Georgia began to require considerable surface and groundwater for municipal water supplies. From the beginning, McCallie recognized that water and knowledge of water resources were among the most important factors for the development of industry and for the preservation of health and economic standing of the state.

Mr. McCallie stands out among other state geologists of this country in having accomplished much with very little. There were times when he did not know whether or not he would have a budget sufficient to operate a survey, and unpredictable events often made it difficult for the Survey to continue. Mr. McCallie died on October 26, 1933.