

Frank Alwyn Marston
1885 – 1972



Frank A. Marston was an engineer's engineer. Always a gentleman, friendly, conscientious and having a sense of pleasant dignity. His passing on February 22, 1972 marks the end of a full life and a busy career.

He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts on September 21, 1885, the son of Charles F. and Abby M. Marston. He attended grammar and high schools in Worcester from which he entered Worcester Polytechnic Institute, graduating in 1907 with the degree of B.S. in Civil Engineering. In 1960 the Institute awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Engineering.

In 1907 young Marston entered the employ of the Boston engineering firm of Metcalf & Eddy and began an association which was to continue until his retirement in 1966. He was made a partner of the firm in 1920 and was a senior partner at the time of his retirement. His work was mainly in relation to public water works and wastewater disposal systems, for which he received wide recognition and the highest honors of his profession.

He was Consulting Engineer to the New York Board of Water Supply from 1937 through 1966, and Chairman of the Board of Engineers (on wastewater disposal) for the District of Columbia from 1954 through 1964. Major projects with which he was connected include a wastewater treatment plant, large diversion sewers, and investigation and report on a sewerage system for the District of Columbia; sewers and a treatment plant for Louisville, Ky.; and reconstruction of water pumping stations and a new water filtration plant for Wilmington, Del. He also participated in some two hundred other projects of various types and sizes in his nearly 60 years of practice. He gave expert testimony in a number of court cases and also served on boards of arbitration.

In addition to his work in sanitary engineering, Mr. Marston had a deep interest in the field of soil mechanics and foundations. This interest led him in

1925-1926 to attend a series of lectures on soils mechanics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and again in 1936 to attend another such series at the Harvard Graduate School. Still following the same interest, he attended in 1948 the 2nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering in Rotterdam. He was a member of the executive committee of the ASCE Soil Mechanics and Foundation Division for seven years, four as chairman.

Mr. Marston was active in a number of professional societies and associations. He joined the Boston Society of Civil Engineers in 1909, served as its president in 1927-1928, and was made an Honorary Member in 1960. Over the years he authored some thirteen papers which were published in the Journal.

He joined the American Society of Civil Engineers as a Junior Member in 1910, became an Associate Member in 1917, a Member in 1920, a Fellow in 1959, and was President in 1959-1960. In addition to his membership in BSCE and ASCE, Mr. Marston was a Life Member in ASTM, AWWA, APWA, NEWWA. He was a member of the American Institute of Consulting Engineers, a Diplomate of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers, a member of NSPE and MSPE, NEWPCA, International Association for Hydraulic Research, International Society of Soil Mechanics & Foundation Engineers, and United States Committee on Large Dams.

Mr. Marston was registered as a Professional Engineer in fourteen states, the District of Columbia, and the Province of Ontario.

A resident of Wollaston, Mass. he was active in community affairs there. He joined the Colonial Savings and Loan Association of Wollaston as a director in 1930, was elected president in 1941, and president emeritus in 1966. He was a man of strong religious convictions, being a 50-year member of the First Baptist Church in Wollaston and serving as Moderator for 30 years. He was also a collector of stamps and a member of both the American Philatelic Society and the Society of Philatelic Americans.

Mr. Marston married Bertha Wheeldon of Worcester, Mass. in 1911. Mrs. Marston passed away in 1952. He is survived by two sons, Alwyn F. of Weymouth, Mass., and Philip L. of Essex, Conn., and two daughters, Mrs. Ruth Alice Dexter of Cranford, N.J. and Mrs. Priscilla Stewart of Gloucester, Mass. He was devoted to his children and they in turn held him in love and high respect.

Frank A. Marston was dedicated to his profession, practiced a high standard of ethics and insisted on quality workmanship. In return he enjoyed a rewarding career, the high esteem of his engineer colleagues, a fine reputation and a host of friends.

Edwin B. Cobb