

## SMITH FUNERAL IS TOMORROW

Retired Tech Professor,  
Nationally Known,  
Dies at Age 62

### HONORARY BEARERS

All But One Are Members  
Of Faculty—Was  
Native of Barre

Honorary bearers announced last night for the funeral tomorrow of Dr. Harold B. Smith, retired head of the department of electrical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, who died yesterday morning, include Louis Wing, Buffalo, a classmate, Prof. Howard P. Fairfield, Prof. Albert S. Richey, Prof. Francis J. Adams, Prof. Carl D. Knight, Prof. Hobart H. Newell, Prof. Harold A. Maxwell and Prof. Clarence A. Pierce. With the exception of Mr. Wing, all are members of the faculty.

The funeral will be at 10 o'clock, tomorrow morning, in the Parish house of the First Unitarian church. Rev. Dr. Maxwell Savage, the pastor, will officiate. The body will be cremated and the ashes buried in Glen Valley cemetery, Barre.

He had been in poor health for several years, which compelled his retirement from the Tech faculty in 1930. He was 62 years old.

#### Valuable Research

Professor Smith ranked among American scientists as one of the most profound thinkers and practical experimenters in the electrical field. His research in insulation of high potential currents was of inestimable importance in the development of long distance power transmission. The insulators which he produced during his career at Worcester Polytechnic Institute made him famous in his profession. In connection with this work he designed transformers which produced currents of tremendous voltage, and these in themselves constituted an important contribution to the practical application of electricity for industry and the good of the people in their everyday life. The place he held among electrical engineers was expressed in his election as president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, highest honor they could pay him, and by degrees of doctor of engineering conferred upon him by Worcester Polytechnic and Purdue University.

Harold Babbitt Smith was born in Barre, May 23, 1869, the son of Samuel Francis and Julia Asenath (Babbitt) Smith. He was of the sixth generation from Capt. Joseph Smith, who led the Sudbury minutemen at Lexington, and of the ninth generation from Richard Smith, who settled in Ipswich in 1640.

He prepared for college at the Barre High school, and graduated from Cornell in 1891 with the degree of mechanical engineer.

#### In Western Schools

He was professor of electrical engineering and head of the department of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, in 1892, professor of electrical engineering at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., from 1893 to 1896 and professor of electrical engineering and head of the department of Worcester Tech until his retirement.

A very important part of his career was his association with the electrical manufacturing industry. In 1893 he was head designer and electrical engineer of the Edison Co. of Springfield, and was electrical engineer, designer and consulting engineer for the Westinghouse Electric Manufacturing Co., Pittsburgh, from 1905 until illness compelled him to relinquish all his activities. He gave his services in the World War, to serve as consulting engineer of the special board of the Navy on anti-submarine devices from 1917 to 1919. He was likewise an associate member of the Navy Consulting board. From 1904 to 1911 he was treasurer of the Smith & Rice Co., wholesale lumber manufacturers.

His degrees of doctor of engineering were conferred upon him by Purdue and Worcester Polytechnic in 1929.

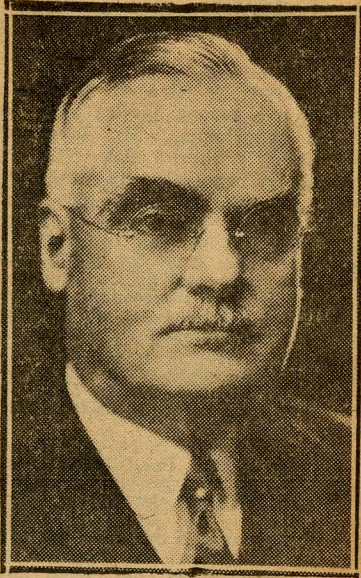
#### Institute Director

Professor Smith was a director of the American Institute of Electric Engineers from 1919 to 1926. Its vice president, 1926-1928 and its president 1929-1930. He was a member of the Sigma Xi, Beta Kappa Pi, and American Society of Mechanical Engineering, honorary member of the Tau Beta Pi and Pi Gamma Mu and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was chairman of International Group Jury of Awards in Electric Lighting at the St. Louis Exposition of 1904. He was a member of the Worcester Economic club, Cornell club of New England and Cornell club of New York. He attended the First Unitarian church. His summer home was in Princeton.

He wrote many monographs as contributions to transactions of societies and engineering publications.

Doctor Smith married for his first wife, Laura Bertha Smith, in Ithaca, N. Y., in 1894. His second wife is Persis Helen Smith. Besides his wife, he leaves three children, Persis Nancy and Margaret Stuart Smith, and a

## Career Ends



DR. HAROLD B. SMITH

*N. Y. Herald Tribune*

2-10-32

# Prof. H. B. Smith, Noted Electrical Engineer, Dies

Retired Head of Worcester  
Polytechnic Dept. Once  
President of U.S. Institute

On Naval Board in War

Was Descendant of Leader of  
Sudbury Men at Lexington

*Special to the Herald Tribune*

WORCESTER, Mass., Feb. 9.—Professor Harold Babbitt Smith, retired head of the department of electrical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and former president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, died here this morning. Professor Smith, who had been in ill health for several years, was sixty-one years old.

Professor Smith was born in Barre, Mass., a descendant of Captain Joseph Smith, who led the Sudbury men at Lexington, and of Richard Smith, who settled at Ipswich, Mass., in 1640. He was educated at Cornell University, where he received the degree of Mechanical Engineer in 1891, after which he took post-graduate study at Cornell.

He became professor of electrical engineering at the University of Arkansas in 1892. In 1893 he went to Springfield, Mass., as head designer and electrical engineer of the Elektron Manufacturing Company.

After a few months at Springfield he was appointed professor of electrical engineering at Purdue University, where he remained until 1896 as director of the school of electrical engineering. In 1896 he joined the faculty of Worcester Polytechnic Institute as professor of electrical engineering and head of the department, retiring in 1930.

Professor Smith was electrical engineer, consulting engineer and designer of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company at Pittsburgh since 1905. He was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, the Institution of Electrical Engineers of Great Britain, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. At the St. Louis Exposition in 1904, he was chairman of the International Group Jury of Awards in electrical engineering.

During the World War, Professor Smith was an associate member of the Naval Consulting Board, and consulting engineer with the special board of the United States Navy on anti-submarine devices. He wrote extensively for engineering publications and traveled in Europe, Africa and the Orient. Professor Smith's fraternities were Beta Theta Pi, Sigma Xi and Tau Beta Pi.

*N. Y. Times*  
2-10-32

THE NEW

## DR. HAROLD B. SMITH, EDUCATOR, IS DEAD

For 35 Years Was Head of  
Electrical Engineering at  
Worcester Polytechnic.

### ON WESTINGHOUSE STAFF

Aided Company in Research—Held  
Many Patents and Was Former  
Head of Engineers' Group.

WORCESTER, Mass., Feb. 9 (AP).—  
Dr. Harold B. Smith, for thirty-five  
years head of the Department of Elec-  
trical Engineering of Worcester Poly-  
technic Institute and former presi-  
dent of the American Institute of  
Electrical Engineers, died here this  
morning. He was 62 years old.

He had been in poor health for sev-  
eral years. He retired from the in-  
stitute faculty in 1930.

He was a member of the Worcester  
Economic Club, Cornell Club of New  
England and Cornell Club of New  
York.

Professor Harold Babbitt Smith  
was one of the nation's leading elec-  
trical engineers. He was president  
of the American Institute of Electri-  
cal Engineers in 1929-30. Since 1905  
he had been an engineer on the re-  
search staff of the Westinghouse  
Electric and Manufacturing Com-  
pany.

Born in Barre, Mass., on May 23,  
1869, he was the son of Samuel Fran-  
cis and Julia Asenath Babbitt Smith.  
He was graduated from Cornell Uni-  
versity as a mechanical engineer in  
1891 and engaged in post-graduate  
studies there for two years. In 1892  
he became Professor of Electrical  
Engineering, in charge of the depart-  
ment, at the University of Kansas.

In 1893, Professor Smith became  
head designer and electrical engineer  
for the Elektron Manufacturing Com-  
pany of Springfield, Mass. In the  
same year he became Professor of  
Electrical Engineering at Purdue  
University and director of its school  
of electrical engineering, remaining  
there until 1896, when he took up his  
post at Worcester. In 1893 he also  
practiced privately as a consulting  
engineer.

In 1905 Professor Smith became en-  
gineer and designer for the Westing-  
house company, holding those posts  
until 1913, when he became a con-  
sulting engineer for the company.  
An innovator in the development of  
high-voltage power transmissions and  
equipment, Professor Smith carried  
on long research having to do with  
advanced conceptions of dielectric  
phenomena and stress distribution.  
He held many patents. He was also  
concerned with the design of direct-  
current generators and motors and  
alternating current transformers.

At the St. Louis Exposition in 1904  
Professor Smith was chairman of  
the International Group, Jury of  
Awards in Electrical Engineering.  
In 1917-18 he was an associate mem-  
ber of the Naval Consulting Board  
and consultant of the special board  
of the navy on anti-submarine re-  
search. He traveled extensively in  
the interest of his profession in  
Europe and wrote many technical  
papers.

Professor Smith became an asso-  
ciate member of the American Insti-  
tute of Electrical Engineers in 1891,  
a member in 1901, a fellow in 1913,  
a director in 1920, vice president in  
1924 and president in 1929. He was  
chairman of the sections committee  
in 1924-27 and at various times was  
a member or head of other commit-  
tees.

He was a member of the American  
Engineering Council, 1930-32, and be-  
longed also to the American Society  
of Mechanical Engineers, the British  
Institution of Electrical Engineers,  
the Society for the Promotion of  
Adult Education, American Associa-  
tion for the Advancement of Science,  
Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, Beta Theta  
Pi and the Society for the Promotion  
of Engineering Education.

Professor Smith was twice married.  
His first wife, the former Miss Laura  
Bertha Smith of Ithaca, whom he  
married in 1894, died some years ago.  
In 1911 he married Miss Persis H.  
Smith of New York. Their mari-  
riage ended in a divorce in 1930. He  
is survived by three children, Miss  
P. Nancy, Miss Margaret S. and  
Richard S. Smith, all of New York.

A funeral service will be held at  
the First Unitarian Church of  
Worcester tomorrow morning at 10  
o'clock. Burial will be in Worcester.

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# HAROLD B. SMITH, ENGINEER, DEAD

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**Worcester Tech Professor  
Was 62 Years Old.**

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**LONG A LEADER IN HIS CALLING**

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**Served as President of Institute  
of Electrical Engineers.**

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WORCESTER, Mass., Feb. 9 (A. P.).—Dr. Harold B. Smith, 62 years old, for thirty-five years head of the department of electrical engineering at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a former president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, died here today.

He had been in poor health for several years. He retired from the Tech faculty in 1930. He was born in Barre on May 26, 1869. He was graduated from Cornell in 1891 as a mechanical engineer.

He was professor and head of the department of electrical engineering at the University of Arkansas in 1892, professor of electrical engineering at Purdue University from 1893 to 1896 and professor of electrical engineering and head of the department at Worcester Tech until his retirement.

Prof. Smith was a director of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers from 1919 to 1926, its vice-president from 1926 to 1928 and its president from 1929 to 1930. He was a member of Sigma Xi, Beta Kappa Pi and the American Society of Mechanical Engineering, honorary member of the Tau Beta Pi and Pi Gamma Mu and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was chairman of the international group jury of awards in electric lighting at the St. Louis Exposition of 1904.

He was a member of the Worcester Economics Club, the Cornell Club of New England and the Cornell Club of New York.

# DR. HAROLD SMITH DIES IN WORCESTER

Was Former President of American Institute of Electrical Engineers

MANY YEARS AN EDUCATOR

WORCESTER, Mass., Feb. 9 (A).—Dr. Harold B. Smith, sixty-two, for thirty-five years head of the department of electrical engineering of Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a former president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, died here today.

He had been in poor health for several years. He retired from the institute's faculty in 1930. He was born in Barre, May 26, 1869. He was graduated from Cornell in 1891 as mechanical engineer.

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