

The Fifty Year History
of the
Washington Section - AIEE
1903 - 1953

There is very little information available of the early years of the section and its founding. From bits of information gathered the following is pieced together to form a picture of the formation of the section and its acceptance by the Institute as a recognized branch as it was called in 1903.

The Institute Transactions of 1904 shows Washington as having on January 1, 1902 twenty eight members and on April 20, 1904 forty four members and one AIEE student. Ten meetings were held since October 1902 with an average attendance of fifty eight. Thirteen original papers were presented since 1902.

From this information it is apparent that the small group of members and associates residing in the District of Columbia gathered in the fall of 1902 to form a club and held their meetings in the George Washington University located at 15th and H Streets, N. W. on the present site of the Woodward Building. They filed application for branch status and were formally admitted as a branch on April 9, 1903. Since its organization and for several years after the papers presented were prepared by the members and local people as the branch had little or no funds to defray the expenses of outside speakers.

It was probably through the influence of Dr. F. A. Wolff, Jr. that the meetings were held in the George Washington University. From information obtained from Prof. L. D. Bliss and Mr. Proctor Dougherty the spark plug of the organization was Mr. Philander Betts.

There is no record indicating any special occasion celebrating the founding and chartering of the Branch. The records show only that the Branch was founded in April 9, 1903. This was the ninth Branch to be formed. The order in which the other eight Branches were chartered is as follows:

Branch #1 - Minnesota	April 7, 1902
Branch #2 - Pittsburgh	October 13, 1902
Branch #3 - Ithica	October 15, 1902
Branch #4 - Urbana	November 25, 1902
Branch #5 - St. Louis	January 14, 1903
Branch #6 - Schenectady	January 26, 1903
Branch #7 - Boston	February 13, 1903
Branch #8 - Philadelphia	February 18, 1903
Branch #9 - WASHINGTON	April 9, 1903

The following members and associates resided in Washington in 1902.

January 1, 1902
District of Columbia
Members

W. C. Allen - Dist. Bldg., Elec. Engr. of Gov't. of District of Columbia
Philander Betts, 3rd - Bu. Y&D, Mech. & Elec., Eng. Bu. Y&D
L. D. Bliss, Principal, Bliss Electrical School
Eugene A. Byrne, U. S. Pat. Office, Principal Examiner Elect. Chem. & Metallurgy
J. J. Crain
O. T. Crosby, Potomac Light & Power
F. G. Dieterich, Solicitor of Patents & Mech. Expert
R. A. Fessenden, Spec. Agent, Weather Bureau - A. - 10/21/90
M. - 12/16/90
Frank L. Freeman, Dr. Attorney at Law, Solicitor of Patents, Elec. Expert - A. - 5/7/89
M. - 9/3/89
N. M. Hopkins, Electro. Chemist & Electro. Chem. Engr., Inst. at Columbian University
E. B. Ives, % War Dept., Signal Officer, U. S. Vol. - A. - 4/2/89
M. - 5/15/94
W. S. Jackson, 4th Asst. Examiner, Pat. Office
Joseph Lyons, Patent Solicitor
Philip Mauro, Councillor at Law in Patent Cases
G. C. Maynard, Smithsonian Inst. Elec. Engr.
C. H. Morgan, Pat. Office 4th Asst. Examiner U. S. Patent Office
Samuel Reber, Army Hdqtrs., Lt. Col. U.S.A.
J. E. Roller, U. S. Navy, Lt. Commdr.
E. B. Rosa, N. B. of Stds., Physist
Edgar Russel, War Dept., Capt. Signal Corps
D. W. Shea, Catholic Univ. Prof. of Physics
Chas. L. Sturtevant, Pat. Attorney
W. H. Tapley, G.P.O. - Electrician
F. E. Town, Treas. Dept. - Civil & Elec. Engr., Supervising Architects Office
Wm. Wallace

F. A. Wolff, Jr., Columbian University - Prof. Physics & Elec. Eng.
Cocoran Scientific School
Columbian University and in
Office U.S. Stand. Weights
& Measures

G. K. Woodworth, Asst. Examiner Patent Office
Wm. David Gharky, Elec. Engr. Clement & Gharkey - A. - 5/21/95
M. - 2/26/96

In 1903 the following are listed as members and associates
of the Washington Branch:

Members

1. Alexander Graham Bell - A.-4/15/1884
M.-10/21/1884
2. Philander Betts - Elec. Engr., Potomac Power Co. A.-3/25/96
M.-1/25/99
3. Frank L. Freeman, Solicitor of Patents,
Elec. Expert A.-5/7/89
M.-9/3/89
4. Geo. C. Maynard, Elec. Engr., Smithsonian Inst. A.-4/15/84
M.-12/9/88
5. Samuel Reber, Major U.S.A. War Dept. A.-9/20/93
M.-1/22/96
6. Edward B. Rosa, Physicist, Nat. Bu. Standards A.-2/17/97
M.-5/18/97
7. Daniel W. Shea, Prof. of Physics Catholic
University A.-12/20/93
M.-6/20/94

Associates

8. Walter Cummings Allen, Elec. Engr. Dis. of Col. A.-6/24/98
9. Wm. Ericson, Insp. Elec. Dept. Dis. of Col. A.-1/23/03
10. Louis Denton Bliss, Principal Bliss Elec. School A.-7/12/00 - *
11. Eugene A. Byrnes, Ph.D. Byrnes & Townsend,
Pat. Lawyers A.-5/21/01
12. Edward E. Clement, Pat. Attny, and Elec. Expert A.-5/18/97 - *
13. Albert Edgar Dieterich, Solicitor of Patents A.-1/23/03
14. Fred G. Dieterich, Solicitor of Patents & Mech.
Expert A.-7/18/09
15. Proctor L. Dougherty, Treas. Dept. Elec. Engr. A.-12/19/02
16. Frank Hall Eastman, Salesman, Wash. Office,
Crocker Wheeler A.-5/19/03
17. Orange A. Estes, Chesapeake & Potomac Tel. Co. A.-1/3/02
18. John H. Finney, Mgr. Southern Office, Pittsburgh
Reduction Co. A.-9/26/02
19. Harry Williams Fuller, Gen. Mgr. Wash. Rwy. &
Elec. Co. A.-6/19/02
20. Clarence Mortimer Hall, Teacher of Physics &
Elec. Manual, Training School No. 1 A.-3/28/02

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| 21. | James Hamilton, Pat. Law Specialist | A.-11/23/98 |
| 22. | George Herbert Harries, Vice Pres., Wash. Rwy. & Elec. Co. | A.-6/19/03 |
| 23. | Nevil Monroe Hopkins, M.S. Inst. in Chemistry and Electro Chemistry, Columbian U. | A.-11/20/95 |
| 24. | David Janney Howell, Sec. Treas. & Mgr., Welch Water, Light & Power Co. | A.-9/25/03 |
| 25. | Richard M. Klein, Elec. Expert Bu. of Equipment, Navy Dept. | A.-7/28/03 |
| 26. | Raymond A. Klock, Asst. Elec. Engr., U.S. Signal Corps Signal Office | A.-3/27/03 |
| 27. | Robert Miller Lee, Draftsman, U.S. Army Ordnance | A.-6/19/03 |
| 28. | Harold Lomas, Wash. Mgr., Crocker Wheeler Co. | A.-5/19/03 |
| 29. | Joseph Lyons, Patent Solicitor with Gustav Bissing | A.-6/24/98 |
| 30. | Thomas F. J. Maquire, Elect. Expert Aid, Bu. Y&D | A.-8/22/02 |
| 31. | Phillip Mauro, Counsellor-at-Law in Patent Causes | A.-12/21/92 |
| 32. | Frederick Reichenbach, C. & P. Telephone Co. | A.-5/19/03 |
| 33. | Clarence Erle Reid | A.-5/19/03 |
| 34. | Edgar Russel, Capt. Signal Corps, U.S.A. | A.-11/22/01 |
| 35. | Lindley Edgar Sinclair, Gen. Supt. Potomac Electric Power Co. | A.-7/28/03 |
| 36. | Wm. Arthur Smethurst, Smethurst & Allen | A.-5/19/03 |
| 37. | Chas. L. Sturtevant, Pat. Attny. | A.-12/20/93 |
| 38. | Walter H. Tapley, Electrician, G.P.O. | A.-10/25/92 |
| 39. | Leonard D. Wildman, Capt. U.S. Signal Corps | A.-3/27/03 |
| 40. | Frank A. Wolff, Jr., Prof. Physics & Elec. Eng., Columbian University and in Office U. S. Standard Weights & Measures | A.-12/27/96-* |
| 41. | Geo. K. Woodworth, Asst. Examiner, U.S. Patent Office | A.-2/17/97 |

* - Known Charter Members

The names of the charter members are not recorded but from a program of the local celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Institute the following men were indicated as charter members of the Washington Branch:

Louis Denton Bliss
Edward E. Clement
Frank A. Wolff, Jr.

Since Mr. Philander Betts was named the spark plug of the organization and Mr. Reber and Mr. Rosa were active in the National organization it is probably safe to say they also were charter members.

Mention is made in the 1904 transactions to a reply from Mr. Philander Betts to the question "Is there sustained interest in Branch meetings?" Mr. Betts replied - "We are glad to say that the interest in the meetings is well sustained and the prospects for the future **are** bright. In order to keep up a general interest we have had to introduce new subjects and we feel that our proceedings in this respect is accountable for the sustained interest in the meetings."

While the membership of the Washington Branch in 1903 was 44 the National membership was as follows:

Honorary Members	-	2
Members		417
Associates		1810
Total May 1, 1903	-	2229