

Henry Walker Hand: 1870-1932

BY WITMER STONE

HENRY WALKER HAND, a Corresponding Member of the Club since 1900 died suddenly on September 14, 1932, in Camden, N. J., while on his way to consult his physician in Philadelphia.

He was born in Cape May Co., N. J., in August, 1870, and almost his entire life was spent in Cape May, where he was employed at first as a pharmacist and later in the U. S. Post Office service rising to the highest position in the Civil Service.

Hand was descended from Shamgar Hand, one of the original settlers of Cape May County who owned land there prior to 1696, and was very proud of his lineage and always full of reverence for the old whaling and seafaring legends of the shore. His father and uncles were all sea captains and Walker in his early years was largely engaged in the fishing and oyster trade of Delaware Bay and was thoroughly familiar with boats and the seafaring life.

Throughout his life he was an ardent sportsman but bitterly opposed to useless destruction of wild life. Becoming acquainted with the writer in the late nineties he furnished valuable information on birds, fishes, mammals, etc. for the past forty years and after joining the D. V. O. C. took a deep interest in the smaller land birds which had not before appealed to him. Many were the delightful trips that we took together over the marshes and through the woods of Cape May always enlivened by his reminiscences and anecdotes. He became acquainted with many of the members of the Club and extended a hearty welcome to all who visited the Cape.

Walker Hand was a friend in all that the word implies and a naturalist of no small attainments.