

Selim N. Tideman

THERE is one family name in the annals of Georgism that has gathered distinction through three generations, and that is the name of Tideman. It is a Swedish name, pronounced Teed-a-man, and most of the family's early contribution was made in Chicago, but there is evidence that its influence may extend to both coasts.

It was a pleasure to have among the hosts of the HGS annual conference in Chicago in 1969, Selim N. Tideman and his wife, the former Electa Austin, a brilliant musician who entertained with piano music at the opening reception. Now Selim, whose home was in Evanston, has slipped away leaving, besides his wife, five children, sixteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A brother, George T. Tideman and sister, Nelly Schaefer, survive. All have the profound sympathy of everyone who has known this family through the years.

All members became imbued with enthusiasm for the Henry George School in its formative years in Chicago. A brother, Henry Tideman, was especially active in many capacities and made his home available to visiting Georgists for years. Informality reigned and lasting friendships were formed. His son, Selim's nephew, is Robert Tideman, vice president of the San Francisco HGS. Recently Robert's son, Nicholas, a professor of economics at Harvard University, was granted a leave of absence to accept an appointment to the staff of President Nixon's Council of Economic Advisors.

Selim Tideman, who died on December 3rd, arrived in the U.S. (Chicago) at age 12 from Sweden. He studied engineering and became an electrical contractor. Besides inveterate Georgist interests he enjoyed membership in the Scottish Rite and other Masonic bodies, the Chicago Engineers Club, the National Society of Arts and Letters and the First Congregationalist Church in Wilmette, where the funeral service was held.

Upon retirement in 1932 he became a consulting engineer. He served with the Public Works Administration under Secretary of the Interior Ickes both in Washington, D.C. and Chicago. During World War II he was a consulting engineer on major defense plant projects. We honor him and his timeless legacy.

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