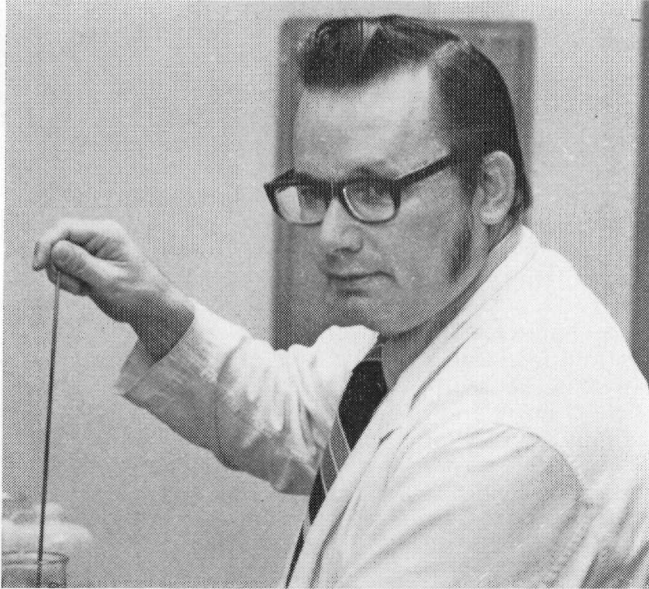


David Knoblton Webb, Jr. 1928-1973



David Webb was born October 19, 1928, in Chillicothe, Ohio, to Naomi Limle Webb and David K. Webb, Sr. He was raised in Chillicothe, a town steeped in the history of early Indian cultures and in the founding of Ohio as a state. In that setting and with his family's love of early folklore it was only natural that Dave developed a deep and lasting interest in all things historical, especially those involving his beloved Chillicothe and Ohio.

He graduated from high school in Chillicothe in 1947. In 1948 he enlisted in the United States Army and was assigned to the Corps of Engineers. Dave liked army life during the first few years and "re-upped" to serve a total of five years. During this period of his life he attended engineering schools in surveying, construction, and soil mechanics. He quickly became a skilled surveyor and was assigned as a party chief in the laying out and construction of airfields and other military installations during a tour of duty in France.

Following his discharge from the army in 1953 Dave attended Texas Western College for about a year, intending to become an engineer. However, he returned home in 1954 to work as a surveyor for a local engineering firm while he attended the Chillicothe Branch of Ohio University. His interest in soil mechanics, rocks, and the out-of-doors nudged him into geology, which was to become his life work. He soon transferred to the Ohio University main campus, where he served as a teaching assistant in geology. In the summer of 1957 Dave worked for the Ohio Geological Survey as a field assistant in a study of the geology of Athens County. This was his first contact with the organization he was to serve for the major portion of his professional career.

One of Dave's outstanding traits became obvious during his attendance at Ohio University. That was the very scholarly and methodical thoroughness with which he approached any task. This thoroughness was to win him the Phi Beta Kappa key while he was at Ohio University. After receiving his B.S. degree there in geology in 1957 he went to the University of Illinois and received an M.S. in 1959 and a Ph.D. in 1961. During his tenure at Illinois, where he held an N.S.F. fellowship, he quickly earned the respect of both faculty and students.

Dave joined the Division of Geological Survey in 1961 as a clay mineralogist. Because of his ability to organize, his knowledge of his science, and his thoroughness he moved up in the Survey, becoming Head of the Regional Geology Section in 1966 and Assistant Division Chief in 1968. He held the latter post at the time of his death.

He held memberships and was active in several professional organizations. Among them were the American Institute of Professional Geologists, American Quaternary Association, Clay Minerals Society, Mineralogical Association of Canada, Mineralogical Society of America, Ohio Academy of Science (Fellow), Ohio Geological Society, and Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists. Honorary society memberships included the Society of Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Phi (scholarship). He was a member of the Phi Kappa Tau social fraternity.

All those who knew Dave recognized him as both a scholar and a gentleman. To those who knew him intimately he was a very warm, kind, and genuine friend. Dave was always willing to lend a helping hand on anything from a geologic matter to a routine chore that needed to be done. He loved fun and especially liked to surprise people with unusual gifts or good-natured horseplay. This was Dave's way of expressing his deep feeling for his friends and associates.

He was an inveterate collector of rocks, rock products, Indian artifacts, guns, books, and anything unusual. Dave had the knack of always having just what someone needed for a display or for giving a talk. His collection of color slides on geology, nature, and historical sites provided a vast resource for anything from a formal talk on clay research to an account of the history of Ohio's early iron districts. He loved to paint and sketch and was good at both.

One of his greatest interests came late in his life: he became Editor-in-Chief of this *Journal*. Although he put together only two issues before his untimely death, he had developed a deep interest in the *Journal* and found great personal satisfaction in being its editor. Dave was an extremely modest person by nature, but just before his death he expressed his pride in *The Ohio Journal of Science* and in the part he was playing in its publication.

Dave crowded many interests into his life and frequently lamented the fact that there were so many things to do and so little time in which to do them. There was less time than he realized. Dave suffered a fatal heart attack while hiking with friends in Hocking County's beautiful Clear Creek valley early Sunday morning, September 2, 1973. He is survived by his wife, Thelma Jane Webb, his mother, four brothers, three sisters, and many friends.

HORACE R. COLLINS, *Chief*
Ohio Division of Geological Survey

In April the editorship of *The Ohio Journal of Science* officially passed to David K. Webb, Jr., who was also the Assistant Chief of the Ohio Division of Geological Survey in Columbus. Dave showed a natural bent for editing and was doing a magnificent job when, early in September, he was struck by a fatal heart attack. This has been a terrible shock to all who knew him, and he will be greatly missed. In this difficult period Geological Survey staff members Mrs. Jean Simmons Brown and Mrs. Jean J. Miller, on whom he had drawn to help him, have carried on the major part of the editorial work, contributing valuable service in his memory.

Because of his great service to the scientific world of Ohio as Editor of the *Journal*, as an active contributor to The Ohio Academy of Science, and as a concerned scientific investigator in the state, it seemed only fitting to dedicate the first page of this issue of the *Journal*, on which he had worked so hard, to his memory.

JANE L. FORSYTH, *Past Editor*