GROVE KARL GILBERT

Grove Karl Gilbert was one of the most eminent geologists of the world. As he was a native of Rochester and an honorary member of this society, the Academy of Science has special pride in his life and work.

Dr. Gilbert was born in Rochester, May 6, 1843. His father was the well-known portrait painter, Grove Sheldon Gilbert. For many years the family lived in the little house at the intersection of Culver Road and Merchants Road, but Karl was not born there. He had six brothers and sisters. The usual want of thrift and acquisitiveness in men of the artistic temperament held in the case of the father, and it appears that the family was poor and that Karl had to obtain some help for his course in college. He graduated as Bachelor of Arts at the university in 1862.

Following his graduation he taught for one year as principal of the schools in Jackson, Mich. He then returned to Rochester and until 1868 was assistant to Henry A. Ward. This work on the geologic and zoologic material of Ward’s establishment probably determined his future scientific career. Many thousands of the labels in the University Geological Museum, which was the famous Ward collection, carry the pen-work of young Gilbert.

In 1869 he began, on the Ohio Geological Survey, under Professor J. S. Newberry, his geologic work. That this work was deliberate choice appears from the “Historical Sketch” by Newberry, in the report for 1869 (page 9), where we read:

Of the other members of the corps, Messrs. Gilbert and Sherwood were geologists who had devoted much time to practical geology in New York and Pennsylvania, and who, for the purpose of adding to their experience, volunteered their serv-

1 Memoir presented to the Rochester Academy of Science.