

George Maurice Jex Sweeney

Maurice Sweeney was the creator of the Faculty of Law in Durban — but he was more than that; he was also a great teacher and a great person. I have never met a single one of his past students who did not remember him with affection and admiration. He was greatly loved for his humour, his warmth and his dedication to his students. After he retired he joined the Faculty in a temporary capacity and it was then that I, his successor in Durban, came to understand fully his prodigious qualities. Retired professors are not frequently a 'success' when a new Head has taken over, but Maurice was one of those rare exceptions. His wisdom, kindness and willingness to help knew no bounds. We shall miss him greatly.

A.S. MATHEWS



PROF. G.M.J. SWEENEY

Photograph: P.R.O. University of Natal

George Maurice Jex Sweeney — Professor of law, longstanding member of the academic community, mountaineer, cartographer, father, friend, gentle man!

This smiling equable doyen of the law school in Durban, did much of the early pioneering of the Drakensberg peaks and together with Reg Pearse produced the first detailed maps of the Drakensberg. Many virgin peaks were conquered and many new routes opened along the way. He helped shape and guide the Natal Mountain Club (subsequently the Natal Section of the Mountain Club of South Africa) first as an early member and then successively as secretary, president and gold badge recipient and finally as honorary life vice-president and trustee.

His always smiling, always gentle and yet always incisive expositions on legal or mountaineering matters, remain indelibly with us. Together with Snib — wife, mother, dedicated teacher; and son George (who inherited Maurice's long lean frame and gentle good humour) we miss him and remember him with affection and respect.

Mountaineers, from generations yet to come, will still sing his verse of an old Natal mountaineers' song —

Old Maurice Sweeney was a hardy mountaineer
And also a leader of repute,
Throughout the mighty Drakensberg in chimney and on krantz
You can still see the imprint of his boot!
Old climbers, bold climbers!
These were names known to fame in days of yore,
May they ever be glorious
'Till the sun shall shine in the heavens no more!

S.H. RIPLEY

