



## VIGNETTES IN COASTAL PLAIN GEOLOGY

GILBERT DENNISON HARRIS  
(1864-1952)

G.D. Harris was born in Jamestown, New York, on a farm overlooking Chautauqua Lake amid the abundant Devonian fossils of the area. He graduated from Cornell University in 1887 and then joined in succession, the Arkansas Geological Survey, the Louisiana Geological Survey, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Geological Survey of Texas. In 1894 he returned to Cornell University where he remained until his retirement in 1934. During his early work on the Tertiary beds of the Gulf Coastal Plain he realized the need for a rapid means of publishing paleontological papers, which resulted in his acquiring a small printing press from which he began issuing the *Bulletins of American Paleontology*, printing and binding it with his own hands. With retirement he founded the Paleontological Research Institution, dedicated to research in Paleontology and endowed liberally from his personal estate. Although he is best known for his numerous papers on the Eocene fossils of the Gulf Coast, he also published many papers on the geology of Louisiana salt domes, gas fields, and ground water. His most lasting contribution, however, was his legacy of students including Katherine V.W. Palmer, Axel A. Olsson, Kenneth E. Caster, and Arthur C. Veatch, among many others. (From A.A. Olsson, 1954, Proceedings Volume of the Geological Society of America, Annual Report for 1953)