

## John Burton Hotchkiss

Educator and Advocate

Quote: ...”the deaf teacher has from the start special knowledge of the peculiar difficulties of acquiring language through the eye along which it takes the hearing teacher years to acquire, if he acquires it at all...(the Deaf child) can easily see the possibilities of his own development and is thereby encouraged to effort and prevented from being quickly discouraged by failure...” (1898)



DR. JOHN HOTCHKISS  
The oldest deaf professor at the College

[Photo left from Gallaudet University website, photo right from *The Silent Worker* (1919)]

Born: 22 August 1845  
Seymour, New Haven, CT

Died: 3 November 1922  
Washington, DC

Buried: Rock Creek Cemetery  
Washington, DC



(photos © paulofannandale from findagrave.com)

#### Family of origin:

Miles and Eliza (Cadwell) Hotchkiss,  
Became Deaf age 11 (some documents say 9).

#### Contributions/Relationship to the Deaf Community:

Beloved Professor at Gallaudet College (University)  
One of the founders and editors of the *Silent World* (DC )  
Editor of Alumni Corner of the *Buff and Blue*  
First president of the Gallaudet Alumni Association  
Football Coach at Gallaudet College (University)  
1924: Gallaudet College names its athletic field in his honor  
Involved with NAD as signed interpreter/translator of presentations (1889) and on  
the Committee on Eugenics, Endowment Committee, the Hartford Monument  
Committee and others.

#### Schooling:

American School for the Deaf, graduating 1865  
1865-1869: Gallaudet College (BA)  
1874: Gallaudet College (MA)  
1904: Gallaudet College (Honorary Doctoral degree)

#### Professional Experiences:

Began as a tutor after graduation and became English, Philosophy and History

professor at Gallaudet (starting in 1887)–worked for 53 years at Gallaudet National Deaf Mute College (Gallaudet University)

Personal information:

1887: Married Marian Chadwick (Hearing) from Salem, MA had two daughters, Helen (born: 1893) and one who died in infancy. As well as John B. Hotchkiss Jr (born: 1888)

Original documents/Films by John B. Hotchkiss:

Hotchkiss, John B. (1869). Valedictory address: Delivered at the first commencement of the National Deaf Mute College. *American Annals of the Deaf*, 14, (4), 252-255.

Hotchkiss, John B. (1870). Articulation for Semi-Mutes. *American Annals of the Deaf*, 15 (3), 136-149.

Hotchkiss, John B. (1878). The Opening of the New Building of the National Deaf Mute College. *American Annals of the Deaf*, 23 (2), 119-126.

<http://dspace.wrlc.org/doc/bitstream/2041/67594/AADDvol23no2display.pdf%23page=53>

Hotchkiss, John B. (1886). Jared Augustus Ayres (obituary). *American Annals of the Deaf*, 31 (3), 210-215.

Jenkins, Weston, and Hotchkiss, John B. (1898, January). Deaf Artists and Sculptors, *Silent Worker*, 10 (5), 65-69.

<http://dspace.wrlc.org/view/ImgViewer?url=http://dspace.wrlc.org/doc/manifest/2041/32050>

Hotchkiss, John B. (1898, June). The Work of Gallaudet College. *Silent Worker*, 10 (10), 147, 149.

Hotchkiss, John B. (1908, December). May Martin Stafford (obituary). *Silent Worker*, 21, (3), 48.

Hotchkiss, John B. (1913). "Memories of Old Hartford" National Association of the Deaf Moving Picture Project.

Hotchkiss, John B. (1919, October). Gallaudet College. *Silent Worker*, 32 (1), 4-5.

References:

Burch, Susan. "Hotchkiss, John Burton." In Burch, Susan, ed. *Encyclopedia of American Disability History*. New York: Facts On File, Inc., 2009. *American History Online*. Facts On File, Inc. <http://www.fofweb.com/activelink2.asp?ItemID=WE52&iPin=EADH0342&SingleRecord=True> (accessed May 6, 2014).

Gallaher, James, E. (1898). Representative Deaf Persons of the United States. Chicago: James E Gallaher Publisher.

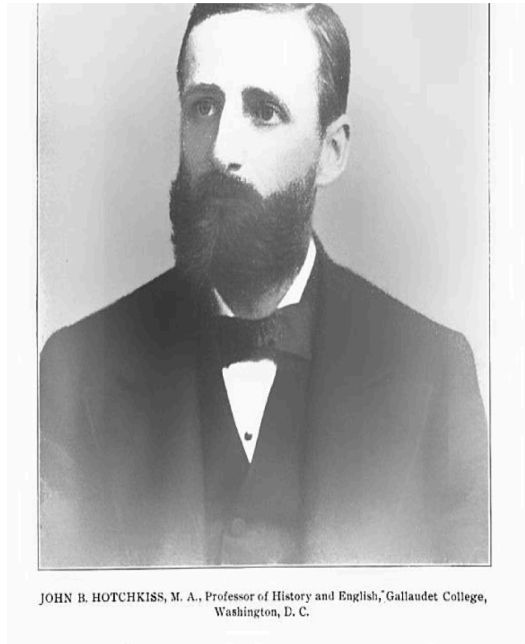
Memorial to Dr. John Burton Hotchkiss (1923, January) *Silent worker* 35 (4), 126.

Miscellaneous: Dr. John Burton Hotchkiss. (1922). *American Annals of the Deaf*, 47 (5), 439-440.

Tributes to the memory of Dr. John Burton Hotchkiss (1923, February) *Silent Worker*, 35 (5) p. 176-78.

Other Documents, Information, Pictures

[Below picture from Gallagher 1898)



[Below: Hotchkiss's BA Diploma from Gallaudet University website]





[below from Kelly Stevens (1923)]:

John Burton Hotchkiss learned in its purity the language of signs, the heritage of the Hartford School from France, as taught at the School by Laurent Clerc. This language he in turn bequeathed to generation after generation of students who flocked to Gallaudet. These signs, correct in etymology and sanctioned by tradition, the pupils of the Doctor took with them to give pleasure and profit to themselves and the deaf among whom they worked. Thus every gathering place of the Deaf in America felt Dr. Hotchkiss' teaching.

[Below from Gallaudet University Archives, John Hotchkiss is the bearded man in the 3<sup>rd</sup> row doffing his hat]



BELOW: Andrewjeski, Mrs. F. A. (1923, January). Dr. John Burton Hotchkiss (poem).  
*Silent Worker* 35 (4), 147.

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DR. JOHN BURTON HOTCHKISS

BY MRS. F. A. ANDREWJESKI

*Happy, cheerful, loyal, man,  
Built upon the Godlike plan,  
Always doing something good,  
For his human brotherhood;  
Memory, with her magic spell  
O'er the years shall fondly tell  
How his glorious active mind  
Loved and wrought for all mankind.*

These lines so aptly describe the life and character of our late departed John Burton Hotchkiss, and express the esteem in which we hold him. We think they should be carved on his tombstone, and committed to memory by all who love him, and by his friends who may pass by his grave.

But, who among the hundreds he has taught can say they do not love him and revere his memory? Who among them can say he did not, at one time or other, do some kindly service? His position among the deaf is indeed unique—a most respected counselor, a greatly beloved friend, and a highly honored teacher—what a title for any man!

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