

Willard Rouse Jillson

Dr. Willard Rouse Jillson, fifth and sixth State Geologist (1919-1932) of Kentucky, passed away on October 4, 1975, at Louisville, Kentucky. Funeral services were held on October 7 at the Presbyterian Church in Frankfort, Kentucky. Burial was in the historic Frankfort cemetery, where Daniel Boone is buried.

Dr. Jillson was born on May 28, 1890, in Syracuse, New York. After completing his schooling, he worked for about 2 years in the Midcontinent region before heading for the booming oil and gas fields of eastern Kentucky in 1917. In 1919 he was appointed State Geologist. In 1924 he was appointed first Commissioner of Kentucky parks and planned and developed several state parks.

A prolific author, he is credited with some 300 geological publications, spanning more than 5 decades.