

= Lyman Hall ( academic ) =

Lyman Hall ( February 18 , 1859 ? August 16 , 1905 ) was a professor and president of the Georgia School of Technology ( now called the Georgia Institute of Technology , commonly referred to as Georgia Tech ) . He is perhaps best known for bringing what is now the School of Materials Science & Engineering to Georgia Tech . Hall 's administration also introduced degrees in electrical engineering and civil engineering in December 1896 , textile engineering in February 1899 , and engineering chemistry in January 1901 . Hall died in 1905 , reportedly due to the stress of fundraising for a new chemistry building which now bears his name .

= = Early life = =

Born in 1859 in Americus , Georgia , he attended Mercer University in Penfield , Georgia . He was admitted to the United States Military Academy in 1877 , and graduated in 1881 . Due to a physical disability , he was unable to have a military career ; instead , he taught mathematics at the Georgia Military Academy in Kirkwood , Georgia for two years and subsequently at the South Carolina Military Academy in Charleston , South Carolina ( now known as " The Citadel " ) from 1883 to 1886 . He was then a professor at the Moreland Park Military Academy before Georgia Tech recruited him .

= = Career = =

In 1888 , Captain Lyman Hall was appointed Georgia Tech 's first mathematics professor ( and consequently head of the school 's mathematics department ) . He had a solid background in engineering due to his time at West Point and often incorporated surveying and other engineering applications into his coursework . He had an energetic personality and quickly assumed a leadership position among the faculty . At the first faculty meeting on October 5 , 1888 , he was elected secretary . On June 25 , 1895 , Professor Hall was invited to speak to Georgia Tech 's board about the school 's needs . While there were no recorded minutes , subsequent board actions suggest that he recommended the construction of on @-@ campus dormitories to reduce disciplinary problems , and a more proactive recruitment of students .

Previous president Isaac S. Hopkins tendered his resignation in May 1895 because he had been elected president of the First Methodist Church of Atlanta and he could not do " justice to both to the school and the church " . While several successors were considered , Samuel M. Inman proposed that the decision be postponed . Georgia Tech 's trustees correspondingly elected Hall as the chairman of the faculty ( acting president ) From January 1 , 1896 to July 1 , 1896 . On June 24 , the trustees elected him the institute 's second president .

As president , Hall was noted for his aggressive fundraising and improvements to the school , including his special project , the Aaron S. French Textile School . In February 1899 , Georgia Tech opened the first textile engineering school in the Southern United States , with \$ 10 @,@ 000 from the Georgia General Assembly , \$ 20 @,@ 000 of donated machinery , and \$ 13 @,@ 500 from supporters . It named the A. French Textile School , after its chief donor and supporter , Aaron S. French .

Lyman Hall 's other goals included enlarging Tech and attracting more students , so he expanded the school 's offerings beyond mechanical engineering ; the new degrees introduced during Hall 's administration included electrical engineering and civil engineering in December 1896 , textile engineering in February 1899 , and engineering chemistry in January 1901 . Hall also became infamous as a disciplinarian , even suspending the entire senior class of 1901 for returning from Christmas vacation a day late .

Lyman Hall died on August 16 , 1905 during a vacation at a New York health resort . His death while still in office was attributed to stress from his strenuous fund raising activities ( this time , for a new Chemistry building ) . Later that year , the school 's trustees named the new chemistry building the " Lyman Hall Laboratory of Chemistry " in his honor .

= = Lyman Hall building = =

Erected in 1905 and named in his honor , The Lyman Hall Laboratory of Chemistry at Georgia Tech is commonly referred to by students as " Lyman Hall " or simply " Lyman " , due to the common mistaken impression that the word " Hall " is a mere descriptor . It now houses the Bursar 's Office after being completely gutted in 1988 , but the quote from geologist Sir Archibald Geikie 's 1905 published work remains on the front of the building : " In the first place I would put accuracy . "

The 1903 to 1906 school announcements describe the architecture of the building in great detail :

The Lyman Hall Laboratory of Chemistry , which is in the shape of a T , is of brick with limestone trimmings , and is two stories in height , with a full basement . Each floor has an approximate area of 5 @, @ 600 square feet . The lecture @-@ rooms , stock @-@ rooms , library , offices , gas analysis laboratory , photographic and spectroscopic rooms occupy the front , and the laboratories the rear wing . Especial care has been given to lighting and ventilation , the laboratories being lighted on three sides . For the removal of noxious gases , they are amply provided with hoods , each of which has a separate flue leading to a tight wooden fume @-@ box loaced just under the roof . This box communicates with the outer air , and can be provided with forced draught if necessary . The Chemical and Physical laboratories have been fitted up with reference to practical work , and such addition will be made from time to time as may be required for experimental research . The apparatus and appliances are of the newest and best forms , and will be increased as occasion may demand .

The building is located within the Georgia Institute of Technology Historic District , and it is included in the 12 @-@ building area listed on the National Register of Historic Places .