



THE INSTITUTE OF  
ELECTRICAL AND  
ELECTRONICS  
ENGINEERS, INC.



**BERKSHIRE SECTION**

**IEEE**

**LIVING HISTORY**

**December 1984**

**IEEE**  
**1884 - 1984**

**Berkshire Section**  
**1904 - 1984**

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**Pittsfield, Mass.**

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## **Preface:**

**This Living Hi story of the Berkshire Section of IEEE was initiated in the 100th year of the existance of the engineering societies AIEE, IRE and now the IEEE, and concurrently the 80th year of the Berkshire Section.**

**Our local section was formed on March 25, 1904. The section has been involved in an active program schedule ever since. However, our records show the 1920's and 1930's to be banner years with an attendance as high as 850 to a sin le meeting titled "In Unknown "Baffin Land" and over 1500 to hear Amelia Earhart speak on air adventures.**

**The archives of our local section were poured over by the committee members and items were selected for their possible interest to our members and others. This list of items is not meant to be complete or all inclusive. Sane items were chosen because of their peculiar nature, i.e. "Baffin Land", others were chosen because of their historical interest and still others were included because of their technical nature.**

**Twenty years fran now, this "Living" history can be added to. expanded or rewritten on the 100th anniversary of' the Berkshire Section. That is why this is called the "Living" history because it is not meant to die in sane archive file but to be added to, expanded or rewritten as time demnds.**



**1904-05**  
**F. A. C. Perrine**



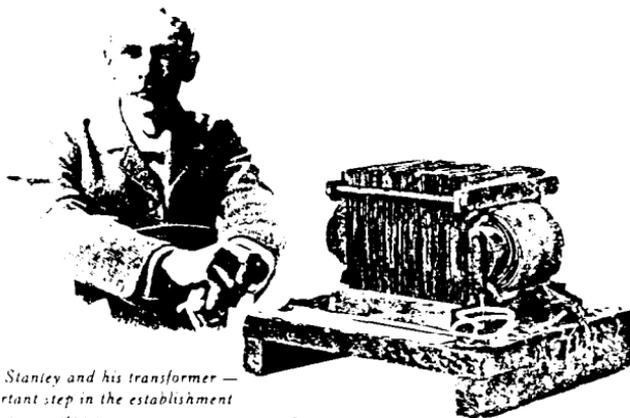
**1984-1985**  
**Carroll Kane**

## WILLIAM STANLEY

IEEE records show that William Stanley became an Associate of the AIEE on December 6, 1887, a Member on October 26, 1898 and a Fellow on May 20, 1913. As one of our prominent early AIEE members, Stanley left his mark on Berkshire County. He started his own business in the winter of 1890/1891. The Stanley Electric Manufacturing Company (see photo page 55) in Pittsfield was later to become the Pittsfield Works of the General Electric Company

Similar to the founder of the Apple Computer William Stanley started college (with the Yale class of 1881 to study Law as encouraged by his father) only to leave in his freshman year to take up the study of electricity by himself. He had been involved in the nickel-plating business with Hiram Maxim since 1879 and had rapidly become his principal assistant. In 1881 Stanley left and became an assistant to Edward Weston. In 1882 he joined the Swan Electric Light Company where he stayed for about one year He then became involved with Mr. Westinghouse. In 1883 and 1884 he worked at developing a general system of distribution using alternating currents. In the spring of 1885 he took ill and moved to Great Barrington, Mass. where with his own funds he set up a plant at which alternating currents at 500 volts were generated and distributed in the town through the medium of transformers.

The success of this initial installation attracted numbers of engineers and investors in May 1886 and is attributed as being largely responsible for the electrical achievements that followed in AC electrification.



*William Stanley and his transformer — an important step in the establishment of AC power systems*

THE  
EARLY  
YEARS

November 1917

**Professor W.L. Cathcart** spoke on the subject of "The War by Land and Sea" to about 800 at the temple.

January 1918

"Illumination of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition" was the subject of **W.D. Ryan** at the Masonic Temple with about 550 present.

April 1918

**Lieut. Colonel C.E. Brigham** presented "The Role of the Coast Artillery in the Present War" to 100 at the Wendell.

**February 1919**

**Consulting chemist Dr. Ellwood B. Spear** from Cambridge Mass. spoke on the "Problem of Gas Warfare" to 125 at the New American.

February 1920

**Dr. H. T. Stetson** spoke on "Solar Physics" to about 50 at the Park Club.

**November 1920**

"The Twentieth Century's Contribution to Our Knowledge of the Atom" was presented by **Dr. R.A. Millikan** to about 300 at the Park Club.

**November 1921**

**Dr. C.P. Steinmetz** expounded "Einstein's Theory of Relativity" to about 350 at the G.E. Auditorium

March 1922

**Mr. T. Nelson Dale** presented "The Geologic History of Graylock" to about 350 at the Y. H. C. A.

**December 1922**

"In Unknown Baffin Land" by **Capt. J.B. MacMillan** brought out 850 to the Masonic Temple.

January 1923

**Professor V. Karapetoff presented a "Musical Lecture and Recital" at the High School to about 350 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and "Resonance and Oscillation" at the G. E. Auditorium to about 150 on the 4<sup>th</sup>.**

March 1923

**"India" was the subject of Professor B. C. Gupta at the G-E Auditorium to about 250 present.**

November 1924

**Mr. Guiseppe Faccioli presented "Transient Phenomena", the effects of sudden disturbances in an electric power system**

March 1926

**Pittsfield on the air for the first time in it's history when AIEE broadcasts the very first words, "We are broadcasting tonight From the Wendell Hotel, in Pittsfield Mass. at the AIEE's annual banquet".**

November 1926

**The National Institutes President, Mr. C. C. Chesney, entertained the local membership with his talk on "A 9500 Mile Trip Through Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon, Washington, and Western Canada," at the Masonic Temple. Cost to non-members was 50\$. Membership card admitted a lady guest as well**

**November 1926**

**Commander Ellsberg's talk on "Rising of the S-51 Submarine," illustrated by motion pictures and slides brought this response. "You have made Jules Verne look like a piker".**

1926/1927

**The Pittsfield Section was singularly honored this year in the election of Cummings C. Chesney, one of its members to the National Presidency of the institute.**

**May 1927**

A Regional Convention was hosted by the Berkshire **Q&S** of AIEE at the Maplewood Hotel on May 25

**November 1927**

Floyd Bennett the famed aviator was the speaker at the Masonic Temple. His subject was "To The North Pole and Back Again". About 1000 attended this presentation.

**December 1927**

Foreign Legion Major tells story of Legion "As Is" in an absorbing AIEE talk. Major Zinovi Pechoff gives true story of Host Romantic Organization in the world.

**March 1928**

Dr. Tehyi Hsieh, the "Teddy Roosevelt" of China talked about China at the Masonic Temple.

**December 1929**

Lt. Samuel P. Hills of the U. S. Army Air Corps spoke on "Sane Interesting Recent Aeronautical Developments".

**May 1930**

Associate of late Charles P. Steinmetz announces retirement at AIEE 25th Annual Banquet. Guiseppe Faccizii became a member of the staff of consulting engineers for the company.

**August 1930**

C.C. Chesney made a presentation speech of a memorial of a William Stanley X-Ray Roan at the Great Barrington Hospital. One of the trustees of the hospital was L.F. Blume a retired chairman of the Pittsfield Section of AIEE.

**November 1931**

E. L. Manning of the GE Research Lab spoke on "Electrical Research" to a crowd of 950.