

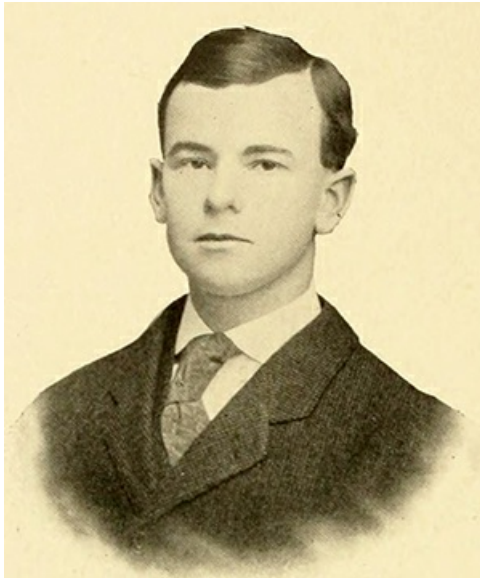
Pogue, Joseph Ezekiel, Jr. ^[1]

Pogue, Joseph Ezekiel, Jr.

by J. Carlyle Sitterson, 1994

6 June 1887–17 Dec. 1971

See also: [Pogue, Joseph Ezekiel, Sr](#) ^[2].



Joseph Ezekiel Pogue Jr.'s yearbook photograph from 1906. Image from the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

^[3]Joseph Ezekiel Pogue, Jr., geologist, petroleum engineer, and economist, was born in Raleigh, the son of [Joseph Ezekiel](#) ^[4] and Henrietta Kramer Pogue. After preparatory education in Raleigh, he entered [The University of North Carolina](#) ^[5] and was graduated with A.B. (1906) and M.A. (1907) degrees. An honor student, he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year; the university yearbook, the *Yackety Yack*, said of him: "He was a scholar, a ripe one and a good one." He was a member of Sigma Xi and Alpha Tau Omega social fraternity. Pogue was awarded the Southerland Fellowship in chemistry for a year of graduate study; his master's thesis on the Cid Mining District in [Davidson County](#) ^[6] received the Kerr Prize and was later published in the *North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey* (1910). Between 1906 and 1907 he also worked as an assistant geologist for the [North Carolina Geological Survey](#) ^[7]. Continuing graduate study at Yale University, he earned the Ph.D. degree in geology in 1909.

Also in 1909 Pogue joined the Smithsonian Institution as assistant curator and remained there until 1913, except for a year as a special student at the University of Heidelberg in 1911. After a year (1913–14) as an associate geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, he joined the faculty of Northwestern University as an associate professor (1914–17). He returned to the Smithsonian in 1917 as a mineral technician and in 1918 was named assistant director of the Bureau of Oil Conservation in the U.S. Fuel Administration.

Pogue married Grace Needham, of Washington, D.C., on 17 Apr. 1919. After [World War I](#) ^[8] he joined the Sinclair Oil Corporation, but in 1921 he established his own consulting engineering firm and for the next fifteen years was active in petroleum explorations in the United States and abroad.

In 1936, when Winthrop W. Aldrich, then head of the Chase National Bank, decided to establish a petroleum department in the bank, he brought Pogue in as a vice-president of Chase to organize and head the new department. From 1936 until his resignation in 1949, Pogue was a key figure in an increasingly important area of the bank's interests. He knew the petroleum field and the people in it as few men did; as one colleague put it: "He was an unreplaceable liaison between the oil industry and the financial community."

During [World War II](#) ^[9] Pogue served the government in a number of capacities relating to the petroleum industry, among them assistant to the chairman, Petroleum Industry War Council; member of the National Oil Policy Committee; and adviser to the Economic Committee, Petroleum Industry War Council. Although he no longer held a full-time position with the Chase National Bank after 1949, he remained a valued consultant on petroleum matters until 1957. During this period he served for ten years (1949–59) on the board of directors of Gulf Oil Company.



A 1906 engraving of Joseph E. Pogue Jr.'s father, Joseph Senior. Image from Archive.org. ^[10] Throughout his career, Pogue maintained a keen interest in the advancement of knowledge in his profession. He was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and a member of the American Statistical Association, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, American Petroleum Institute, American Economics Association, American Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, American Society of Automotive Engineers, and American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

He published numerous books and articles on geological subjects and various facets of the petroleum industry, including *The Turquoise* ^[11] (1915), *Prices of Petroleum and Its Products during the War* (1919), and *Economic Structure of the American Petroleum Industry* (1936); he was coauthor of *Energy Resources of the United States* (1919) and *Capital Formation in the Petroleum Industry* (1952). His articles appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*, proceedings of the American Statistical Association, proceedings of the Smithsonian Institution, bulletins of the National Museum, *American Journal of Science*, *Journal of Geology*, *National Geographic*, *Scientific Monthly*, and other periodicals.

The University of North Carolina awarded Pogue an honorary doctor of science degree in 1963, when he was cited as "a geologist and mineralogist of international distinction." Devoted to the university, he was a regular and generous contributor and he made the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ^[5] the principal beneficiary of his large estate. Dr. and Mrs. Pogue had no children and his widow, Grace Pogue, who had come to share his love for the university, left the residual estate to the university upon her death on 8 Mar. 1973. Their \$11 million dollar gift was the largest ever received by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1930 Mrs. Pogue had established a student loan fund at the university in honor of her husband. He once described her as his "Secretary, Statistical Assistant, and General Advisor . . . a financial expert in her own right."

During the 1960s the Pogues maintained three homes—one on Park Avenue in New York City, one at Port Jefferson, N.Y., and the third at Mountain Lake, Lake Wales, Fla. Both Dr. and Mrs. Pogue died in Florida, where in their later years they lived almost year-round.

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