

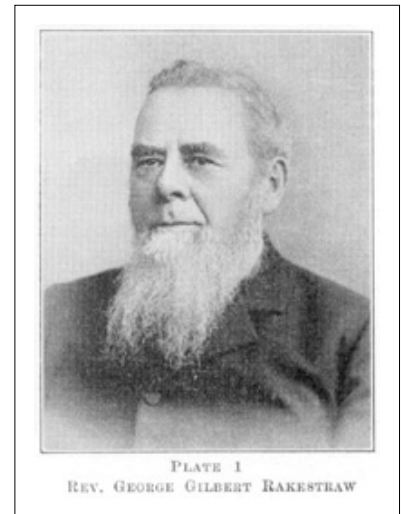
# Micromounters Hall of Fame

## Rev. George Gilbert Rakestraw “Old Timer” Inducted in 1981

The co-founder of micromounting!

Beginning in the late 1870's the Rev. Rakestraw, concurrently with G. W. Fiss, introduced the art, science and hobby of micromounting.

During his pastorate, in 1878 Rakestraw became interested in the minerals from the famous Cornwall, Pennsylvania, mines. He first used jewelers' ring boxes to mount mineral specimens. Later, he had rectangular paper boxes, covered and lined with dull black paper, made to his specifications. This box allowed larger specimens to be mounted and afforded better protection, handling and storage. Both the rectangular and the one-inch-square paper boxes with black paper liners and white label on the lid became known as “Rakestraws.”



In 1888, after a lecture before the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Rakestraw showed a series of micromounts which aroused such enthusiasm that several members who were present later began their own micromount collections.

In 1897 he sold many of his choice micromounts to C. S. Bement. The greater part of Rakestraw's collection, about 800 mounts, is held by Robert Hesse of Glendale, Pennsylvania; another 400 mounts, which may be duplicates, are held by Paul Seel. He took pleasure, as did Fiss, in giving micromounts to interested persons, thus establishing a precedent of sharing which has become a hallmark of the micromounter.

Rakestraw's personal collection was, in fact, held by his great great grandson, named MacDonald. It was donated to Harvard by the family in 1999.