In 1931 the Barstows established the William and Françoise Barstow Foundation, to be administered by the New York Community Trust for charitable and educational purposes. After Mr. Barstow died, Mrs. Barstow set up a second foundation with the New York Community Trust for similar philanthropies.

WHEN HE WAS only twenty-one, William Slocum Barstow made a characteristically bold and prophetic decision: against almost everyone's advice, he took part in a revolution. It proved to be one of the greatest scientific revolutions of all time, the large-scale application of electric power to modern life. And because of his daring foresight, Barstow became one of the country's leading electrical engineers, a profession that did not even exist when he was a student. In fact, when the Alumni Association of the Columbia Engineering Schools asked him years later to send biographical data for its records, he reminded it pointedly that he had graduated from Columbia's liberal arts, not its engineering school, and that "all of my engineering education was obtained with Mr. Thomas A. Edison and his companies."

This incomparable education came about because he took a gamble in his senior year. A chemistry major, he at first had planned to do graduate work in chemistry. But only a few years prior to this, a self-educated midwestern telegraph operator named Thomas Alva Edison had invented the first truly practical electric light and had then set up the world's first electric light power plant right in the same city, New York, where young Barstow was studying. In Barstow's senior year this same Edison invented something he called a "kinetoscope" that electrically moved pictures across a screen. Fascinated by all this, Barstow decided to switch from chemistry to the new field of electricity. He had a hunch it would become the great industry of the future. His Columbia professors tried to dissuade him, reminding him that there was no electric industry and advising him that it was unlikely one would develop.

But Barstow had the courage of his convictions. For $8 a week he took an apprentice's job with the Edison Machine Works in Schenectady, N.Y. (it was later to become General Electric). Within a few months he was in the field, testing and supervising the construction of Edison plants in New York and New Jersey. He worked in the testing department and on underground and station construction. At this time, Mr. Edison decided to move his New Jersey laboratory from Menlo Park to West Orange, and he picked young Barstow to supervise the installation. This was the beginning of a close friendship between the two men that was to last until Edison's death. Reminiscing on those days, Mr. Barstow later commented: "There was no such thing as electrical engineering then; it was not taught in the colleges and little was known of the subject; the Edison Machine Works issued loose-leaf pamphlets every week explaining new developments and these constituted the principal text-books then available."

Mr. Barstow was appointed electrical engineer of the Edison Illuminating Company in 1889 and became its general superintendent and then its general manager. Under his supervision the company was one of the very first to install substation distribution. Sent to Europe to study the leading engineering companies there, he got interested in storage battery development and introduced into the

U.S. the first central station storage-battery system. He worked with Mr. Edison in completing and expanding Edison's inventions and then went on to invent, patent, license and sell inventions of his own: the Barstow Booster System, feeder regulation of railway systems without resistance; a two-rate meter system of charging for electric energy; electric-clock switches; and a method of charging storage batteries. He also designed and installed the Symplex low-tension arc lamp, the first system of arc lighting, using direct current of 110 volts.

After this he drew up plans, which were adopted, for increasing the rail facilities of the Brooklyn Bridge and its electrification. And in 1892 he designed and installed in a station of the Brooklyn Edison Company the first multi-phase driven central station system in the U.S., whereby a three-phase alternating current of 25 cycles was converted through substations ten miles away into a 5,000-volt direct current for street lighting. He also designed a 110 to 220-volt direct current for the Edison three-wire system, 133-cycle single-phase alternating current and 60-cycle two-phase alternating current.

IN 1901, for the second time in his life, Mr. Barstow showed daring and foresight. He resigned from the Edison Company to strike out on his own as a consulting engineer. As such he designed and installed a high-speed railway system in the Willamette Valley, Oregon. He continued to help Mr. Edison, developing a direct-current watt-hour meter for him, but, foreseeing the expansion of water power in the U.S., he concentrated on hydroelectric and steam systems and became an authority on them. This in turn led him to study the whole developing field of public utility financing and management and to become expert in it. As engineer, he installed hydroelectric and steam stations in Oregon and New York; as financier he organized two firms that dealt with the problems and profits of utilities: the firm of W. S. Barstow & Co., Inc., which acted as financial and operating manager of public utilities, and the General Gas & Electric Corporation, a utility holding company that developed and operated a large group of utilities in eight Eastern states. In relation to this corporation, Mr. Barstow was president of 30 electric light, power and gas companies and a director of nearly 50 more.

This might have confused some men, but an acquaintance of Mr. Barstow's wrote of him: "In him you could find no disturbing hustle and bustle — he always moved like a piece of well-oiled machinery, and every move was calculated with studied precision."

As the 1920s waned, this calculation and the foresighted judgment that had characterized Mr. Barstow led him to sell for some $50 million the two firms he had founded—doing so exactly six months before the 1929 crash and great depression.

So when many another man lost his fortune, Mr. Barstow did not. This enabled him to organize a smaller New York firm that became Barstow, Campbell & Co. and to become a philanthropist. Philanthropy suited his nature, for he was an unselfish and generous man, the sort of person who, when he was informed that a member of his own firm actually was making more money than he, replied that this was splendid. And when he retired he made very generous gifts to the members of his staff. He also was most appreciative

of whatever someone else did for him and, never pompous or affected, was a somewhat reserved yet naturally friendly person of whom a close friend has said: "I never knew a finer man."

WITH HIS WIFE in 1931 he established the William and Françoise Barstow Foundation in the New York Community Trust for charitable and educational purposes, the first of what was to become two Barstow funds. And he never forgot the man who launched his career: at Menlo Park in New Jersey he built the Edison Tower, a 131-foot steel shaft in Mr. Edison's memory, topped with a three-ton enlarged replica of Edison's incandescent lamp. Also in Edison's honor, in 1918 he helped organize, and was later president of, the Edison Pioneers, a group of Edison's first associates and old-time employees. He arranged with Henry Ford to move Edison memorabilia to the Dearborn Institute in Michigan, and was both secretary and treasurer of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies. At Mr. Barstow's death in 1942, at the age of 76, the then president of the Edison Pioneers wrote: "To know Mr. Barstow was to admire him; to know him well was to love him."

Mr. Barstow was a trustee of Adelphi Academy in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he had matriculated in 1883. He also was given an honorary Doctor of Science degree by Columbia, where he had graduated in 1887 and been a Commencement Speaker, and where he also had been a member of Delta Upsilon and the Tennis Club. And although he had not attended Stevens Institute of Technology, he became one of its trustees and was made an honorary alumnus and awarded a Doctor of Engineering degree.

Mr. Barstow wrote for many engineering journals, lectured on electric power to both scientific and lay audiences, was a president of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, was a fellow of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and was a member and often an officer of all the leading engineering and electrical associations. Yet somehow he found time to tinker in a mechanical workshop he had on his estate, to go yachting, to do some sailfishing from his winter home in Hobe Sound, Florida, to attend the opera avidly, and to play an organ in his Long Island mansion. This home was in Kings Point, Long Island, a community he founded and of which, from 1926 to 1940, he was the first mayor. In a way this carried on a family tradition: an ancestor of his also was a village pioneer—William Barstow of Yorkshire, England, came to Plymouth, Mass. in 1635 and later helped found Hanover, Mass.

MANY OF MR. BARSTOW'S benefactions were made with, and furthered by, his wife, who was ten years his junior and outlived him. She was Françoise Melanie Duclos of New Brunswick, N. J., the daughter of a prominent New York architect. She was very active in Episcopal Church and women's club affairs and donated generously to some 46 charities that included many for children and for the technical training of underprivileged youth. She also was particularly interested in Vermont, especially the Chittenden area, where the Barstows had a summer home and

where, as a hobby, Mrs. Barstow made over an old farmhouse into an inn that has since become quite well known.

A number of the Barstows' benefactions were associated with their only son, Frederic, a Columbia man and amateur aviator who had a silver fox ranch in Chittenden and also traveled in the South Seas. Frederic's health was undermined by service overseas in World War I, and he died of pneumonia in Honolulu in 1931 when he was only 35. In his memory his parents built the Frederic Duclos Barstow Memorial School in Chittenden, Vt. It was the first "union" school in the state and is still unique—a central school operating across town boundaries and serving three neighborhood communities. It is administered by a board of school directors operating under a joint contract among three towns. Mrs. Barstow was actively interested in this school until her death in 1958. When, a year later, a second Barstow foundation was established in the New York Community Trust according to her will, help to the school was provided for, and continues to be given along with contributions to numerous other educational and philanthropic interests of the Barstows.

The New York Community Trust is a publicly supported community foundation that provides centralized management for many charitable funds. New York's major banks serve as trustees. Trustee for the Barstows' Foundation No. 1 is Citibank, N.A. Trustee for Foundation No. 2 is the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York.