

# John Hall Barron

*June 28, 1883 — August 10, 1943*

John Hall Barron, Extension Professor of Field Crops, Emeritus, in the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, died August 10, 1943, at his farm home near Dansville, New York, after a long and trying illness. For thirty-three years he strove for the betterment of New York agriculture and he lived to see the maturity of many of his plans and hopes.

Professor Barron was born June 28, 1883, at Tuscarora, New York. He was educated in the Nunda High School, and received the B.S.A. degree from Cornell University in 1906. Following his graduation he was a member of the Department of Agronomy at the Pennsylvania State College for two years, after which he went back to his farm in Western New York for three years. In 1911 he was appointed County Agricultural Agent in Broome County, New York, the first of such agents to be employed in the Northern States.

In 1936, in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of county agricultural work in Broome County, a bronze plaque was cast and placed on the wall of the County Court House in Binghamton. It is a fitting tribute to the ability and vision of John Hall Barron.

Following his two years of pioneer work in Broome County, John Barron was appointed Extension Professor of Field Crops in the State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, a position which he held until his retirement as Emeritus Extension Professor on February 28, 1943.

For a man who spent so much of his time and energy in the field, Professor Barron had many contacts of a technical nature. He was a member of Sigma Xi, The American Society for the Advancement of Science, and The American Society of Agronomy. He also held membership in Epsilon Sigma Phi and Sigma Phi Sigma. His publications included both bulletins and journal articles and, while not numerous, they showed a wide range of interest. Although Professor Barron was unable to engage in technical research himself, he possessed a keen appreciation of fundamental investigation of all kinds.

Those who casually met John Barron perhaps never realized, unless they heard him speak, the enthusiasm of the man for his chosen work or his tenacity of purpose. Nor would they, because of his modesty, at first catch his spirit of loyalty and sacrifice. Born and raised on a farm and educated in a rural community, he understood farm folk. He knew that to them his message was vitally important. To them, his duty was clear. As a result, John Barron was

one of the most popular and effective extension specialists ever to represent Cornell University, possessing in his prime a reputation and a following in New York State of which anyone would have been proud. And underlying it all was a mellow good fellowship and a spirit of helpfulness that won friendship as well as respect. John Barron, the man, will be remembered as long as the advice of John Barron, the specialist, is treasured.

During his life, Professor John Hall Barron devoted himself with singleness of purpose, backed by an unusual capacity for hard work, to the solution of the agronomic problems of New York State farmers. His understanding of the livestock problems was broad and practical, and his contributions to the production of more and better feed crops did much to improve livestock feeding practices in New York. In working with these various problems he carried his solutions to the field with a clarity and earnestness that won him a host of followers and friends. The imprint of his work on the economic welfare and agricultural interests of New York will endure for years.