

Walter Oscar Gloyer

January 29, 1886 — September 28, 1960

Walter Oscar Gloyer, Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, died unexpectedly at his home in Geneva on September 28, 1960

Born in Milwaukee January 29, 1886, Professor Gloyer graduated from Wisconsin University in 1909 and received his Master's degree in 1910. He entered upon a career of research in botany and plant pathology as related to agriculture and was one of a group of pioneers in those fields of endeavor. He was appointed a member of the Department of Botany, which later became the Department of Plant Pathology, at the Experiment Station in April 1912. He retired as Associate Professor of Plant Pathology May 31, 1946, and was made Professor Emeritus June 24, 1946.

In his early years at the Experiment Station, Professor Gloyer dealt chiefly with apple diseases, notably apple blotch and blister canker, and later with crown gall and hairy root. Other investigations in these early years included seed potato treatment for control of *Rhizoctonia* and potato leaf roll. He also studied diseases of clematis, delphinium, gladiolus, and aster.

Professor Gloyer's studies on cabbage seedbed diseases and the control of *Rhizoctonia* and club root of cabbage with mercuric chloride were among the first to be conducted along these lines.

In later years, Professor Gloyer turned his attention to cherry and prune diseases, apple scab, hard shell of beans, and the development of improved varieties of red kidney beans. An exhibit in the Station museum depicts some of the findings in his bean breeding project, as well as other phases of his research on cabbage and aster diseases.

Toward the close of his professional career, Professor Gloyer devoted much of his time to investigations of cabbage yellows and particularly to the development of yellows-resistant varieties of cabbage.

Professor Gloyer published the findings in his wide range of research projects in Experiment Station bulletins and scientific journals. His experience and practical approach to control practices proved of immense value to New York farmers in the control of plant diseases with consequent improvement in the yield and quality of many agricultural products in the state.

Professor Gloyer was a kindly man and at the time of his death was referred to in the local newspaper as a "good neighbor and friend to neighborhood children." In fact, one of his major projects after retirement was teaching

the boys in the neighborhood the rudiments of baseball and football, and the heart attack, which resulted in his unexpected death, was thought to have been due possibly to overexertion in removing, for the safety of the children, a damaged tree from a play area in the neighborhood.

Professor Gloyer is survived by his wife, Alice May Sinclair Gloyer, and a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Skuta. He will long be remembered as a dedicated and untiring scientist and as a good neighbor.

James M. Hamilton, Richard Wellington, J. D. Luckett