

George Abram Everett

April 15, 1875 — September 15, 1958

George Abram Everett, Professor Emeritus of Extension Teaching, died in a Montreal, Canada, hospital September 15, 1958, following an operation. His home since retirement had been in Potsdam, New York.

The son of Luther and Martha (Abram) Everett, he was born on a farm at Fort Jackson, St. Lawrence County, New York, on April 15, 1875. He had five sisters and a brother, Dr. Frederick Everett, who was a graduate of the Cornell Medical College.

At Potsdam Normal School he took the four-year academic course. Entering Cornell University with a state scholarship in 1895 he received his A.B. degree in 1899 and his L.L.B. degree in 1901. After being admitted to the bar in the fall of 1901 he started practice in Potsdam. In September of 1902 he was called to Cornell as an instructor in public speaking. From 1904 to 1906 he taught English at the Lawrenceville Academy, Lawrenceville, New Jersey, going from there to a similar position in the Flushing High School, Flushing, New York. He returned to the Public Speaking Department at Cornell in 1909 as Assistant Professor. In 1912, he was called to the College of Agriculture by Dean L. H. Bailey to institute a course in oral and written expression as Professor of Extension Teaching. He remained in this position until his retirement June 30, 1943.

Professor Everett was considered an exceptionally stimulating teacher by his colleagues as well as by the thousands of students fortunate enough to study speech under his tutelage. One of his chief contributions as a teacher was the work done with contestants on the Eastman Stage, a prize speaking contest held during Farm and Home Week. Some judgment of the standards he achieved can be drawn from an excerpt taken from a letter written to former Dean Calloway by Andrew D. White: "I have always considered the Eastman Stage as one of the best things that Cornell University has acquired and it has given me great pleasure to be present at its contests Again and again I have insisted both privately and publicly that it usually has merit above most college and university prize contests and debates."

As a boy, Professor Everett had attended a grade school with many students of French Canadian descent. Here he learned the peculiar nuances of this dialect which he used so effectively in reading the poems of Drummond and other writers who used the French Canadian dialect. For many years he delighted faculty and student groups with these readings. Anyone fortunate enough to have heard him read Drummond's "My Old Bateaux," would have had an unforgettable experience. He was an expert dry fly fisherman and had "wet a line" in most of the best water in

Northern New York and in Quebec. His canoe paddles which he fashioned by hand from wild cherry, were truly works of art in wood.

He was married to Anna E. McEwen of Madrid and Ogdensburg, New York, in 1907. The Everetts had two children, Martha, A.B. and Phi Beta Kappa, Cornell, who died in 1951, and Richard who died as a young man after a serious illness of many years' duration. Professor Everett was a member of the Presbyterian Church, the Republican Party and the Masons. He is survived by Mrs. Everett, who is making her home in Potsdam.

His students will always remember his warm and friendly personality, his intellectual interests, his strong convictions, and his peculiar ability to spark the hidden potentials of expression that so often were dormant in most of them.

G. E. Peabody, G. S. Butts, C. H. Freeman