

Frederick Josiah Spry

October 18, 1888 — December 17, 1958

Frederick Josiah Spry, the son of Josiah and Elizabeth (Joel) Spry, was born in Plymouth, Pennsylvania. He became an orphan at an early age and by hard work in the coal mines was able to finance his college education. He was graduated from Lafayette College, now Lafayette University, with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree in 1914.

Professor Spry began his professional career as a maintenance-of-way engineer with the Lehigh Valley Railroad and was stationed successively at Easton and Sayre, Pennsylvania, and Auburn, New York. His service to the railroad was interrupted by a period of service in the U.S. Army during World War I. Following his work for the railroad, Professor Spry served as assistant city engineer in Auburn, New York.

He came to Cornell University as an instructor in the School of Civil Engineering in 1923 and was awarded the Master of Civil Engineering degree in 1929. Following this event, he was promoted in due time through the several ranks in the university to that of Associate Professor of Civil Engineering.

His service to his country during World War II was as civilian instructor in geodetic surveying in the Navy V-12 program at Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, and in similar programs at Cornell. He was secretary of the faculty of the School of Civil Engineering from 1950 until his retirement in June, 1956, as a Professor Emeritus.

Professor Spry also served on the staff of the Cornell Summer Survey Camp from 1924 through 1958. He was director of this camp in 1949. In his later years, he also served on the summer surveying camp staff at Manhattan College and at Alfred University. He especially enjoyed his work at these camps and remembered for a long time afterwards the details of many happy incidents that occurred at each camp.

He used his summers to keep in touch with the nonacademic part of engineering by working on various projects, such as power house construction-surveying near Hawley, Pennsylvania; pipeline surveys for the Herkimer Water Commission; public health inspection for the New York State Department of Public Health; and numerous projects in Ithaca sponsored by the City Engineer's Office and the Water Department.

Professor Spry was active in both professional and civic organizations. He was a member of the American Society of Photogrammetry, the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, the American Society for Engineering Education, and the American Association of University Professors. He was a life member of the American Society

of Civil Engineers and a charter member of the Ithaca Section of this Society. He was a Licensed Professional Engineer and Licensed Land Surveyor in the State of New York.

He served a term as president of the Central New York Section of the American Society of Photogrammetry and was on its executive committee for several years. At the time of his death, he was editor of the Newsletter for the section.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca and served as a deacon and as an elder. He was Scoutmaster of the Boy Scout Troop sponsored by his church for 10 of his 25 years of activity in the Boy Scout movement.

Professor Spry was married to Mary Williams in Plymouth, Pennsylvania, on August 27, 1919. He is survived by his widow, a son Frederick J. Spry, Jr., and a granddaughter.

As a teacher Professor Spry took a great interest in each individual student. Many generations of students have affectionate memories of Professor Spry as a friend and confidant. His friendly greeting, interest in all who came into contact with him, and fatherly advice for those who solicited it earned him the love and affection of all who knew him—students, friends, and co-workers alike.

A. J. McNair, G. B. Lyon, John Perry