

Isaac Phillips Roberts

First Director of the College of Agriculture and Professor of Agriculture

July 24, 1833 — March 17, 1928

Isaac Phillips Roberts was born at East Varick, New York, July 24, 1833. He became Professor of Agriculture in Cornell University in 1873. Was made first Director of the College of Agriculture in 1896 and retired Professor Emeritus in 1903. He died at San Francisco, California, March 17, 1928.

For thirty years Isaac Phillips Roberts was the exemplification of Agriculture in Cornell University. He taught the subject wisely, managed the farms successfully, directed the students in their many activities with sympathy and good judgment, bore the difficulties of a pioneer period with courage and unfailing hopefulness, and was a trusted counselor and leader with his colleagues. He was admired and trusted by the farming people of the State, and became an acknowledged master throughout the country of the subjects associated with agricultural education. In the period when the rural subjects were unorganized pedagogically and when the way was not plain, he planned the work clearly and definitely for agriculture and had always in mind the welfare of the farming people; and in so doing he made a basic and enduring contribution. He lived to see his faith justified and established. His memory will occupy a large place in the history of the University.

For these reasons and for all the associations that cluster around such an upright and devoted life, the members of the Board of Trustees and of the University Faculty now place on record this expression of their profound regret at Professor Roberts' death and extend to his family and friends their heartfelt sympathy.

Source: Fac. Rec. p. 1544 Adopted by the Trustees and Faculty of Cornell University May, Nineteen Hundred And Twenty-Eight