

Robert Byron Hinman

September 16, 1888 — July 25, 1943

Robert Byron Hinman was born at Colborne, Ontario, Canada, on September 16, 1888. After he was awarded the Bachelor's degree in Scientific Agriculture at the Ontario Agricultural College in 1915, he was Farm Bureau Agent in the Ontario Department of Agriculture until 1920. During part of this time he served overseas in the Canadian Army in World War I. He received the M.S. degree at Iowa State College in 1920 and in the same year came to Cornell University where he served as Instructor in the Animal Husbandry Department. He was made Assistant Professor in 1921 and Professor of Animal Husbandry in 1937. In 1926 he received the Ph.D. degree at the University of Wisconsin. His thesis work was a study of the effects of chronic alcoholism in relation to the inheritance of acquired characters. He continued this work at Cornell.

Professor Hinman was in charge of the teaching and research work in beef cattle and meats. His sound judgment earned him the respect of animal husbandmen throughout the country and his knowledge in these fields of endeavour caused him to be appointed on many professional committees. He firmly believed that the agriculture of New York State would benefit by a more diversified type of farming and he did much missionary work, with success, on the raising of beef cattle and the home slaughtering of meat. Many of his students are carrying on with this good work throughout New York and neighboring states.

Hinman was also interested in the development of animal breeding work in the College. He was instrumental in bringing the Robert C.M. Auld collection of books and manuscripts on this subject to our Library while his own extensive and valuable collection of books has become the treasured possession of the Animal Husbandry Department. By the desire of his wife and family it forms the R. B. Hinman Memorial Collection. He retired on June 30, 1943, and passed away on July 25, 1943, after a long illness.

These are but the bare facts of his life. Those who knew him well were aware of many years of pain and increasing disability bravely borne. His readiness to help student or colleague with any difficult problem endeared him to all and his enthusiasm was infectious. His fund of anecdotes, seldom repeated, and carrying a wealth of experience and apt interpretation, were part of the educational equipment which he used to such good purpose. But those who knew him best sometimes noted that his expression showed how keenly aware he was of the irony of his wit if it were applied to his own circumstances. We honored him for it and for his constant effort to prevent his troubles from warping his judgment and from impairing his usefulness. We honored him for his fortitude and mourn the loss of a brave colleague.