

George Edward Romaine Hervey

November 18, 1894 — November 23, 1962

George Edward Romaine Hervey died in Geneva, New York, November 23, 1962. He was an entomologist and had been a member of the staff of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva since 1929. He was born at Round Hill, Nova Scotia, November 18, 1894.

George Hervey first became affiliated with Cornell in 1924. He then accepted an extension assistantship in the Departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology in the Spray Information Service—a fruit and vegetable pest control advisory service—and was stationed, initially, in Dutchess County. For the next three years he spent alternating six-month periods in the field (in Wayne and Niagara counties) and at Cornell pursuing graduate work. He was awarded the Ph.D. degree in entomology in 1930.

In 1927 Professor Hervey was employed as a special agent of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to head a research program on the European corn borer, which had assumed new importance at the time. He resigned this post in 1929 to accept a staff appointment in the Department of Entomology of the Experiment Station at Geneva. He remained at this unit of Cornell until his retirement, April 1, 1960, having passed successively through the ranks of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor (1945), and Professor (1949).

Dr. Hervey served with the Canadian Army during World War I. His tour of duty spanned five years, most of which time was spent in the mud and misery of trench warfare in Belgium and France. That he served with distinction is attested by his winning of the coveted Military Medal. He left the service with the rank of lieutenant.

Following the war, Dr. Hervey enrolled at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and then after two years entered the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, where, in 1923, he received the B.S.A. degree.

Dr. Hervey met his future wife, the former Laura Ray, when the two were employed by the Niagara County Extension Service; she was the home demonstration agent. They were married October 5, 1929. Besides his wife Dr. Hervey is survived by a son Romaine, a daughter Mary (Mrs. Charles Smith), and four grandchildren.

George Hervey's career at Geneva was centered in research work on the insect problems of vegetable crops. His findings provided the basis for many pest-control practices, which ranged from the evaluation of new insecticides to basic biological studies on the insect vectors of bacterial and virus plant diseases of various crops. He made an important contribution to the literature on the response of insects to light, employing the European corn

borer as the test species. Row-crop farmers are in his debt for his development of an inexpensive, low-gallonage, tractor-mounted spraying machine. Dr. Hervey had a questing mind and a dedicated interest in his work that kept him abreast of new developments in his field. Thus in the years of his retirement he was actively pursuing the possibilities of employing virus diseases instead of chemicals for pest control. George Hervey's research efforts were always well planned and executed. He was his own severest critic in regard to his findings, and they never received his endorsement until, in repeated tests, their validity was proved. This standard won for him an enviable reputation for soundness and reliability, not only among his colleagues, but among the growers and agricultural interests he served so well.

Dr. Hervey was a member of the Entomological Society of America and the honorary societies of Gamma Alpha and Sigma Xi.

George Hervey had an unusual capacity for making and keeping friends. He was a kindly, unpretentious person. In later years his interests became largely restricted to his work, to his home and family, and to his many friends. True to his English heritage, he became strongly addicted to the gentle art of gardening. This interest was reflected in the beauty of the flowerbeds under his care and in the productiveness of his kitchen garden. The Hervey home was a friendly place. It attracted a steady flow of visitors. It was, in fact, a veritable mecca for Experiment Station "alumni" who for any reason returned to Geneva for a visit. George Hervey will be missed by many.

Edward H. Glass, Edward H. Smith, Paul J. Chapman