

Earle Volcart Hardenburg

November 30, 1889 — December 4, 1950

Earle Volcart Hardenburg, Professor of Vegetable Crops at Cornell University, died at his home in Ithaca on December 4, 1950. Though he had suffered a severe illness in 1946, his passing was unexpected. After dinner with his family, he was at his desk with work before him when the end came, which, we may believe, was as he would have wished it. He is survived by his wife, the former Aline Crandall of Brocton, and by five children and four grand-children.

Professor Hardenburg was born November 30, 1889 and grew up on the farm of his parents F. Denton and Elizabeth Burroughs Hardenburg at Brocton, New York. A devoted Cornellian for over forty years, he graduated from the College of Agriculture in 1912, received the Masters degree in 1915 and the Doctorate in 1919. Upon graduation he became instructor in Farm Crops with special interest in potatoes and dry beans, which engaged his major attention throughout his career. He was appointed assistant professor in 1919. In 1921 he was transferred to the Department of Vegetable Crops where he was advanced to professor in 1926.

Quiet and unassuming in manner and never assertive of self, Professor Hardenburg diligently mastered the knowledge of his chosen field. By reading and experimentation, by visits with farmers and by work with his own hands, he combined in unusual degree the qualifications for research and for teaching both in class room and in extension service. His broad knowledge and tempered judgment won wide respect and he was called upon frequently to speak at meetings and to judge exhibits in many states and in Canada. His thinking was orderly and his writing was clear and helpful as evidenced in his own books "Potato Production" and "Bean Culture" as well as in "Land for the Family" of which he was a joint author and in his many bulletins, scientific papers and popular articles.

Always ready to serve his colleagues and the farmers of the state, he was one of the founders and first secretary of the Empire State Potato Club. He served as treasurer and president of the American Potato Association. Only a few days before his death he was elected an honorary life member of this society. He was affiliated with Alpha Zeta and Sigma Xi fraternities and the American Society for Horticultural Science and was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

But it was in personal relations that "Hardy" will be best remembered. On an occasion when he received special recognition from the Empire State Potato Club, one of our leading growers said of him "There is hardly a farmer

in the state who has not benefitted from Dr. Hardenburg's efforts or who cannot count him as a friend." Setting for himself the highest of standards, he was always ready to be helpful to students and to colleagues, to farmers and to his community. He gave himself unstintingly to his church and had served almost constantly on its boards. He was long an officer of the Wesley Foundation, serving students on the Campus. He was active in Masonry and had served as district chairman for the Boy Scouts of America.

Those who knew Professor Hardenburg will not soon forget his sterling integrity, his utter sincerity, his gentle kindliness. He has left us a priceless heritage to be cherished and to be passed on to those who follow.

A. J. Heinicke, R. G. Wiggans, Paul Work