

THE STATION NEWS

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Geneva, N.Y.

THE ENTIRE Station group feels a sense of personal loss in the death on last Saturday of George A. Smith. Altho Mr. Smith had been in poor health for some time, news of his death came as a distinct shock to most of us, and in extending our sympathy to Mrs. Smith and to other members of his immediate family we are but expressing our own sorrow at the loss of one of our group whom we held in high esteem. By his kindly, unassuming ways Mr. Smith won the immediate respect and friendship of all those who came in contact with him and his memory will be long cherished by those who had the good fortune to number him among their friends.

MR. SMITH was born on a farm near Burlington, Otsego County, on September 29, 1842. When eighteen years of age, he embarked on a successful career as a butter and cheese manufacturer which extended over a period of twenty-eight years. It was his success in this work that attracted the attention of the Albany authorities and led to Mr. Smith's selection as one of the first State instructors for cheese makers. This led to work in the farm institutes and from that to close cooperation with the Station in its efforts to aid the cheese industry, and finally to an appointment to the newly created position of Dairy Expert on the staff of the Experiment Station in 1898. From that time until his retirement in November, 1921, Mr. Smith exercised a tremendous influence on the practical phases of New York dairying.

FOR SEVERAL years Mr. Smith directed the Farm Institute work of the State, the forerunner of the present extension work of the College. In 1893 he directed the dairy exhibit for New York at the Chicago exposition; and in 1901 was in

charge of the State dairy display at the Buffalo exposition. He was long identified with the New York State Fair Commission and held an honorary life membership in that Commission. The present dairy building on the State Fair grounds was secured largely thru his efforts and he always regarded the State Fair as a great opportunity to spread the doctrine of better farming, particularly better dairy farming. Incidentally, the special staff committee on the State Fair exhibit had counted on a conference with Mr. Smith this summer to discuss ways and means of making State Fair exhibits effective.

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AT A special Staff meeting held Monday morning the following memorial was drawn up by a committee composed of Dr. Van Slyke, Dr. Hedrick and Mr. Parrott:

The members of the Staff of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, are called to mourn the death of our friend and former associate, Mr. George A. Smith.

Mr. Smith has long been recognized as one of the pioneer, progressive workers of the dairy industry in New York State. Born at Burlington, N. Y., in 1842, he was reared on a farm. In 1860 he began the successful career of cheesemaker and became one of the recognized leaders of the industry in Central New York. In 1888 the State Dairy Commissioner decided to appoint dairy instructors to visit the cheese factories in the State and work with the cheesemakers, in order to secure a more uniform product of higher excellence. Mr. Smith was selected among the first of these instructors. In connection with this position, he assisted in the work of the Farm Institutes, as a speaker on dairy subjects. In 1898 he was promoted to the directorship of Farm Institutes and carried on this work with marked success. In 1898 he was called to the newly created position of Dairy Expert on the staff of this Station. This call was directly the result of his association as expert cheesemaker with the extension research work connected with cheesemaking

which the Station began in 1891. This position he held until his retirement in November 1921. During his services of 23 years here, Mr. Smith actively engaged in the experimental study of dairy problems in several lines. Besides cooperating in cheese and butter investigations, he was in charge of the Station herd of dairy cows, in connection with which striking results were achieved in the complete elimination of tuberculosis from the herd by the application of practical, constructive methods.

For many years Mr. Smith was in the management of dairy exhibits at the N.Y. State Fair. In recognition of his efficient experience, he was, in 1900, made a member of the State Fair Commission for eight years. He was active in making a success of the dairy exhibit of N.Y. State at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893; and was placed in official charge of the Station's dairy exhibit at the Buffalo Exposition in 1901.

Mr. Smith's activities as a member reach far back in the history of the N.Y. State Dairymen's Association, of which he was president for four years (1900-4).

Owing to the wide reach of his activities in the State for so long a period of service, Mr. Smith had a personal acquaintance with individual farmers, especially dairymen, to an extent experienced by very few men. His friends were many. No one knew him but to respect him. He was known as a man of safe, conservative judgment, and was often consulted for advice in matters in which he had expert knowledge. In all his ways, he was quiet, composed, and unassuming; always friendly and sympathetic.

It was given to Mr. Smith as to very few men to experience so long a life of vigorous and helpful activities in so varied relations, and to see so many useful results which his efforts aided in bringing about.

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DR. BREED was delegated to represent the Staff at the burial services at Ilion, but was prevented from going, due to ill health. Mr. Parrott served as the official representative of the Staff.

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"Mr. Smith was the finest man to work for that I ever knew. In all the twelve years that I was associated with him I never heard him say a cross word or show any impatience." -- Casey.

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"Mr. Smith's wealth of experience and wide familiarity with the dairymen and dairy conditions in this State gave him a particular advantage in meeting the practical problems of the dairy industry which no one can possibly be found qualified to furnish." -- Dr. Thatcher in the Fortieth Annual Report, announcing Mr. Smith's retirement.

"THE THING that impressed me most about George A. Smith was the fact that he was a man with a host of friends and no enemies. This was true in spite of the fact that his was a life of accomplishment that brought him into contact with a type of activities that frequently result in active differences of opinion. His record of achievement is one of which we are very proud." -- R. S. Breed.

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"I WAS first brought into intimate acquaintance with Mr. Smith in 1891 thru his being chosen for cooperative work in the Station's extension study of cheese-making. I was always impressed with his sincerity, conscientiousness, devotion to the work in hand, and open-mindedness. His modesty and uniform geniality, combined with his other fine qualities, gave him a likable personality, which was evidenced by the large number of warm friends he possessed."-- L. L. Van Slyke.

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THE NEWS was fortunate in receiving from Dr. Jordan, in time to include in this issue, the following appreciation of Mr. Smith:

The death of George A. Smith marks the passing of a good man. He lived an honored and useful life.

Through many years he exerted a wide-spread influence in the agriculture of New York. He was known by the farming people over the entire State, and he was given their confidence to a remarkable degree.

The loyal and earnest support which he gave to the Experiment Station thruout the twenty-five years during which he was a member of its staff was a source of real strength to the institution. His associates prized his friendship and they will hold him in grateful and lasting memory.

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"FOR NINE years I worked under the direction of Mr. Smith and found him to be a faithful friend, indeed, always ready to give a helping hand whenever he was called upon." -- Wm. Lydon.

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"I WORKED with Mr. Smith from 1904 to 1921 and found him to be a great instructor and very helpful to me in the dairy work. He liked his work and always took pleasure in helping the farmers solve their problems. In the death of Mr. Smith I feel that I have lost a dear friend and companion." -- M. J. Murray.

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MRS. CLAYTON is expected to arrive in Geneva today, Wednesday, and will begin work on the photographic record of the Staff at an early date. Mrs. Clayton hopes to complete the record early in May.

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MR. AND MRS. TAYLOR have returned from an extended trip thru the South. Mr. Taylor reports finding more winter weather in Geneva this spring than they had all winter in Florida.

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MISS EDSON, who is visiting her sister, Mrs. Breed, sustained a painful laceration of the face in a fall today.