

# Fred Elmer Gladwin

*September 3, 1877 — November 16, 1940*

Fred Elmer Gladwin was born in New York Mills, near Utica, New York, on September 3, 1877, but spent most of his boyhood days in Rochester. He attended the Brockport Normal School and was graduated from the University of Rochester in 1904. Soon after his graduation he was appointed head of the department of biology in the Dallas (Texas) High School. He filled this position until 1907, when he became a nursery inspector for the Western New York district for the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. In 1909, he was appointed special agent of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station and put in charge of the Vineyard Laboratory at Fredonia, New York, which came into being that year. Later he was made associate in research at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, and in 1936 was made chief in research in pomology, a position he held at the time of his death. His entire period of service with the Station, however, was spent at the Vineyard Laboratory which now occupies an important place in the grape industry. Professor Gladwin was also a veteran of the Spanish-American War.

Although Professor Gladwin had not taken any advanced university work, he had a broader training and a wider experience than most men. At the university he secured a general education, while at the normal school he learned the fundamentals of pedagogy. This training, combined with his experience in teaching biology in Texas, and his association with farmers and nurserymen while an inspector in the State Department of Agriculture and Markets, fitted him well for his contact with the public. Professor Gladwin was industrious, keen of observation, conscientious, and sensitive, and very discerning of all natural phenomena. No one in the country had a broader grasp of the grape industry and its problems than he. His work with fertilizers, cover crops, green manure crops, rootstocks, and pruning, and his thorough acquaintance with general cultural practices made him an authority in his field. He was much in demand as a speaker before audiences of growers in every grape growing region in the country. He was also the author of many popular and technical publications on grape growing. One of his greatest contributions to the grape industry was his demonstration, in 1914, that nitrogen deficiency was the most important limiting element in the growing of grapes in Chautauqua County soils. In his study of winter injury of the grape he demonstrated his ability to correlate and interpret miscellaneous facts. In the breeding of grapes, Professor Gladwin was able to combine a rare understanding of grape varieties with a practical appreciation of what the grape industry needed, so that from a relatively limited seedling population there appeared through his

efforts the now popular Fredonia, Van Buren, and Westfield varieties. Several other of his seedlings are showing considerable promise and these will be named and introduced if further tests prove them worthy of trial.

Merely to enumerate his professional attainments would be to overlook the fact that he had a warmth of personality and sincerity and modesty of purpose which gained him countless friends and admirers and innumerable believers in the soundness of his recommendations and opinions. His advice and sound counsel were sought not only in the agricultural field but in the community in which he lived. For many years he was a member of the school board of Fredonia. He was interested in every worthwhile undertaking in the community and was willing to serve in any way he could. This he did until the day of his untimely death.

Cornell University has lost an able worker, the grape growers a wise counselor, Fredonia a good citizen, and his hosts of friends a genial, loyal, and lasting friendship which they will always cherish.