

Charles Merrick Nevin

September 12, 1892 — March 24, 1975

Charles Merrick Nevin, professor emeritus of geology, died in Ithaca on March 24, 1975. He was born in Helton, Pennsylvania, on September 12, 1892, the son of William Scott and Lida Merrick Nevin. As a boy he became interested in geology, and when the time came to enter college, he knew what he wanted to do, settling on Pennsylvania State College, where there were several geologists under whom he wished to study. He received the B.A. degree in 1916 and then came to Cornell for graduate work in the Department of Geology under the late Heinrich Ries. He was awarded the M.S. in 1922 and the Ph.D. in 1925. Dr. Nevin began a long and productive teaching career while still a graduate student. In 1936 he was appointed to the rank of professor, and from 1939 to 1944 he served as chairman of the department. After retirement in 1952 he served a term as visiting professor at Kansas State University.

Professor Nevin was well known as a rigorous but sympathetic teacher, specializing in advanced courses in structural geology and sedimentation. For many years he conducted a very popular course in geology for students from the state colleges at Cornell, giving them the fundamentals of the earth sciences. He organized and taught field courses for geology majors and graduate students at the department's Henry Shaler Williams Field Geology Camp at Spruce Creek, Pennsylvania, and thus contributed significantly to one of the most important parts of the geologist's training. Many of his graduate students have gone on to distinguished careers in the academic and professional worlds.

His research was mainly in the field of economic geology, in which he published papers on the origin of petroleum, sedimentary processes, the sand, gravel, and molding-sand deposits of New York, and structural geology. His highly successful textbook, *The Principles of Structural Geology*, was published in 1931 and issued in new editions in 1936, 1942, and 1949. From the time he came to Cornell he was a consultant on many problems of economic geology. He was a member of the Geological Society of America, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Society of Economic Geologists, Sigma Xi, and Phi Kappa Phi.

Professor Nevin is survived by his wife, Ruth Naomi (Coats), whom he married in 1924, and by two sons, Scott, of Albion, Indiana, and Brian, of Ithaca.

John W. Wells