

OBITUARY

JAMES TROOP

JAMES TROOP, one of America's earliest teachers of entomology, died at the home of his daughter in Urbana, Illinois, on October 14, at the age of 88 years, just three months after the death of his wife at Lafayette, Indiana, his home for 57 years.

Professor Troop was born on March 14, 1853, at Bennington, New York. He graduated from Michigan Agricultural College in 1878, where he was an associate of such notable scientists as Clarence P. Gillette and Liberty Hyde Bailey. The next year he spent in doing post-graduate work at Cornell University and the winter following in study at Harvard. In 1880 Professor Troop returned to Michigan Agricultural College to become a member of the horticultural staff, and received his master of science degree there in 1882.

Troop came to Purdue University in the fall of 1884, retaining his connection with this institution to the day of his death, more than fifty-seven years. When he came to Purdue as head of the department of horticulture and entomology, there was only one other teacher on the agricultural faculty. In addition to entomology and horticulture, he taught forestry, botany and veterinary science. After 28 years as head of horticulture and entomology, the combined department was divided and Troop took over the headship of the entomology department, which he held until 1920, when he became professor emeritus.

From 1899 to 1907 Troop was state entomologist of Indiana, in which position he had charge of regulatory work, including nursery inspection. From 1896 to 1901 he was secretary of the Indiana Horticultural Society, of which he was president in 1933.

Because Professor Troop was a pioneer in the field of horticulture and to a large degree responsible for the development of this industry in Indiana, he was affectionately known as the "Grand Old Man of Indiana Horticulture." Many of the achievements in this field in Indiana may be attributed to his foresightedness and pioneer work.

As a teacher Troop was outstanding, as evidenced by the facts remembered and fond recollections expressed by his many former students.

Aside from his official duties with Purdue University, Professor Troop was active for many years in university and community affairs. He was a charter member of the Purdue Chapters of Alpha Zeta, and Acacia fraternity. He was past commander of the Lafayette Commandery of Knights Templars, of which he was also prelate for thirty-three years. He was active in church circles, being superintendent of the Baptist Church Sunday School and deacon of the same church for many years.

Professor Troop is survived by a daughter Helen, wife of Professor O. H. Sears, of the University of Illinois, and two grandchildren, Marjorie and Gordon Sears.

J. J. DAVIS

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

NORMAN JACKSON HARRAR

January 7, 1902–October 16, 1941

ON October 16, 1941, Dr. Norman Jackson Harrar, chairman of the Chemistry Department of Franklin College, at Franklin College, died of pneumonia. Sulpho-compounds and blood transfusions offered by his students failed to bring about recovery, probably because of his poor health of several years standing.

Harrar was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on January 7, 1902, and had his early education in that state. Completing his undergraduate studies, he was awarded the B.S. degree with a major in chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh in 1922. Shortly thereafter he went to Colorado and from 1924 to 1927 served as an instructor in chemistry at the Colorado State College in Fort Collins. The year 1927–28, he served as an assistant in chemistry at Pennsylvania State College and was awarded the M.S. degree. Returning West that fall, he served as an assistant in chemistry at the University of Colorado until 1930, at which time he was awarded the Ph.D. degree. During the following two years he was an assistant professor of chemistry at Washington and Lee University at Lexington, Virginia; since 1932 he has served as professor and head of the chemistry department at Franklin College. In 1935 he was chairman of the Indiana Section of the American Chemical Society and in 1937 was chosen as a councilor representing the Indiana Section in the national organization. Following the lead of professional chemists in Pennsylvania, the executive committee of the Indiana Section studied the need of an incorporated organization of the chemists of the state. As a result of this study, the "Indiana Chemical Society" was incorporated in 1939 and Harrar was chosen as its first president. As stated in the constitution, the purpose of the society is "to encourage in the broadest and most liberal manner the advancement of chemistry as a science and as a profession in the state of Indiana, especially in fostering public welfare and education in matters involving chemistry in all its branches and its applications, aiding the development of industry and promoting the health, happiness, and prosperity of the people of the State of Indiana."

Although Dr. Harrar's principal interests were centered in his teaching, he, nevertheless, kept up an