

Ulysses Prentiss Hedrick

January 15, 1870 — November 14, 1951

Ulysses Prentiss Hedrick died in the Clifton Springs Sanitarium on November 14, 1951, following a long illness. He was born on a farm near Independence, Iowa, on January 15, 1870. He married Amy Willis Plummer, who survives him, in Corvallis, Ore., on June 27, 1898. Other survivors include a son, Major Ulysses Prentiss Hedrick, Jr., a daughter, Mrs. Guy S. Greene; four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Doctor Hedrick graduated from Michigan State College in 1893 with the B.S. degree and received the M.S. degree from that institution in 1895. Hobart College conferred the Sc. D. degree upon him in 1913 and Utah State College in 1938. He was the recipient of many honors in the field of horticulture, including the George Robert White medal bestowed upon him by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1925 for “eminent service in horticulture” and the Wilder medal awarded by the American Pomological Society in 1929 for his publications and fruit breeding work.

Doctor Hedrick was a member of Sigma Xi, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society for Horticultural Science of which he was president in 1913, the American Pomological Society, a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, and a director of the New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association since its initiation in 1918. He was the first president of the New York State Horticultural Society upon the formation of that society by the union of the New York State Fruit Growers Association and the Western New York Horticultural and of the State Historical Association. In 1930 the National Grange, at its annual meeting, made him a seventh degree member of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

Following various appointments with Michigan State College, Oregon State College, and the Utah State College, Doctor Hedrick came to the Experiment Station at Geneva in 1905 as head of the Department of Horticulture. In 1921 he was named Vice Director of the Station and in 1928 Director. He served in that capacity until his retirement in 1938, when he took up residence in Geneva and devoted his time to writing.

Active in many phases of horticultural research, Doctor Hedrick was best known for his contributions to the breeding of new fruits and for his writings on horticultural subjects. He supervised the preparation of monographs on grapes, plums, cherries, pears, and the small fruits and on sweet corn, peas, beans, and the cucurbits. He edited “Sturtevant’s Notes on Edible Plants” and was the author of “Cyclopedia of Hardy Fruits”, “Manual of American Grape Growing”, and “Systematic Pomology”. He was also the author of numerous articles in scientific journals

and of several Experiment Station bulletins. From 1922 to 1937 he served as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Pomology and Horticultural Science*, published in London. In 1933 he was commissioned by the New York State Agricultural Society to write "The History of Agriculture in the State of New York".

Since retirement his writing included a partly biographical account of his early life in Michigan under the title of "The Land of the Crooked Tree", "Grapes and Wines from the Home Vineyard", and "Fruits for the Home Garden". His last work, published shortly before his death, is entitled "A History of Horticulture in America to 1860."

At Geneva, Doctor Hedrick's memory is enshrined in "Hedrick Hall" by action of the Board of Trustees of Cornell University which authorized the naming of the building which houses the Divisions of Pomology, Vegetable Crops, Plant Pathology, and Seed Investigations, following Doctor Hedrick's retirement. Much of the landscaping around the Station grounds is also tangible evidence of his interest in things horticultural, for the beautification of the grounds was of major concern to him during his term as Director.

In his writings and his scientific contributions, Doctor Hedrick has left a lasting impression on fruit growing in New York State and in the United States. His colleagues at Geneva and Ithaca and throughout the nation will remember and honor him as a distinguished scientist, scholar, historian, and gracious gentleman.

J. D. Lockett, L. H. MacDaniels, Richard Wellington