

## EARL JEROME GRIMES.

Russellville, Indiana,  
January 15, 1893.

Williamsburg, Virginia.  
December 15, 1921.

It seems to us, who cannot comprehend, that the most tragic irony of fate is for a young man to step into the Great Unknown just as he is beginning to realize his life's ambitions after conscientious and tireless effort to reach that goal. Thus came the untimely death of one of our younger members, Earl Jerome Grimes, December 15, 1921, at Williamsburg, Virginia.

Earl Jerome Grimes was born at Russellville, Indiana, January 15, 1893, the son of Charles F. and Izzie Anderson Grimes. To his parents he owed his simplicity of taste, his integrity, and his directness of speech as well as manner.

Even while in the grammar schools of the town of his birth he came under the influence of two of the members of this Academy, W. S. Blatchley and Charles C. Deam. In C. T. Malan, superintendent of the Russellville Schools, Mr. Grimes had a friend and confidant to whom he often presented the problems that arose in the early part of his career.

By the time he graduated from high school, in 1911, he had prepared a noteworthy collection of the flowering plants of Putnam County, as well as collections of reptiles, bird eggs and insects. Through his communion with the out-of-doors and through the help and encouragement given by those who appreciated the promise Mr. Grimes held, he developed into a keen and accurate observer, as well as a precise technician.

On graduating from high school, Mr. Grimes was forced to temporarily lay aside his ambition to go to college because of failing eyesight. Therefore, he entered the employment of the Department of Geology of the State of Indiana. Here, for two years, he was engaged in soil surveys conducted by that Department in co-operation with the Federal Bureau of Soils. In 1914, having accumulated sufficient funds by frugal living, and with his eyes improved, he entered Purdue University. Intermittently during the period from 1914 to February, 1916, he worked for the Federal Bureau of Soils and then entered the University of Illinois. Here, with the exception of the summer of 1917, he worked continuously until his graduation in 1918. For the excellence of his work at Illinois, Mr. Grimes was awarded "Final Honors", "Special Honors in Agriculture" and was elected to Sigma Xi.

May 28, 1918, a few days before graduation, Grimes enlisted in the army, going to Camp Taylor, Kentucky, two weeks later. He was commissioned second lieutenant of infantry August 26, and was selected for immediate foreign service. In September he sailed for France with the 84th Division. On the way across he contracted influenza which prevented his being sent to the front.

After the Armistice was signed he was made instructor in agriculture in the United States Army School at Le Mans. Later he went to

London as a United States Army Student at the Imperial College of the University of London. There he spent four months, and also did some work at the Rothamsted Experiment Station.

June 26, 1919, he married Miss Eileen Jessie Whitehead, also a botanist and a member of the graduating class of the University of London.

Returning to America in July, Mr. Grimes was honorably discharged from the army in August and soon after was appointed Associate Professor of Botany in the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg, Virginia. Here, until the time of his death, he conducted courses in General Botany, Taxonomy, Bacteriology, Plant Physiology, Plant Pathology, and Soils. Even his spare time he put to use in the field and made what is perhaps the largest and most complete collection of Virginia plants ever gathered. With this collection he has left his characteristic full and accurate notes so that the material may readily be worked up for publication.

In addition to being a member of the Indiana Academy of Science, which he joined in 1908, Mr. Grimes was also a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Bacteriologists, Sigma Xi, and a charter member of the Association of Virginia Biologists. In his honor the students of biology at the College of William and Mary have joined his name with that of a great botanical collector of colonial days as the name of the biological society Mr. Grimes helped found—The Clayton-Grimes Biological Club.

In his death there passed an inspiring and sympathetic teacher, a tireless worker, a keen and accurate observer, a great botanist in the making.

Patient, persistent and determined, his brief span of life was one of achievement despite obstacles. It serves as a means of awakening us to the possibilities of human power—an inspiration to effective exertion.

#### LIST OF PAPERS BY E. J. GRIMES.

- Grimes, E. J.*—New and Notable Members of the Indiana Flora. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sc. 1911, pp. 285-289 (1912).
- Hurst, Lewis A., and E. J. Grimes*—Soil Survey of Tipton County, Indiana. 37th Ann. Rept. Dept. Geol. Ind. 1912, pp. 37-66 (1913).
- Hurst, Lewis A., and E. J. Grimes, R. S. Heslar and H. G. Young*—Soil Survey of Hamilton County, Indiana. 37th Ann. Rept. Dept. Geol. Ind. 1912, pp. 67-98 (1913).
- Grimes, E. J., and E. H. Stevens*—Soil Survey of Warren County, Indiana. 39th Ann. Rept. Dept. Geol. Ind. 1914, pp. 145-189 (1915).
- Grimes, E. J., and Wendell Barrett*—Soil Survey of Starke County, Indiana. 40th Ann. Rept. Dept. Geol. Ind. 1915, pp. 156-199 (1916).

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