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# The Beginning of Higher Education in Forestry

The Cornelian Council Bulletin

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## The Beginning of Higher Education in Forestry

Reprint from The Cornellian Council Bulletin  
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

The beginnings of education in forestry in the United States were made at Cornell University when, in 1898, it started the first university instruction in this subject in America, and probably the first in the Western Hemisphere.

The New York State College of Forestry established at Cornell was the first instance of a commonwealth starting an institution of collegiate rank to advance education and research in this science or profession of paramount importance to the whole body of the people. Even though the school was suspended in 1903, it remains a fact that the forestry building, now known as Fernow Hall, when it was dedicated in May, 1914, was the first building erected at any institution of learning for the specific housing of forestry class-rooms and laboratory.

To those beginnings, and particularly to the first Dean of Forestry, the late Dr. Bernard E. Fernow, the profession of forestry in the United States owes much.

The curriculum of professional instruction that Dr. Fernow set up has become the basis of the standardized curriculum that is followed more or less closely by all the leading forest schools of this country today.

It was under the auspices of Cornell that Dr. Fernow started the Forestry Quarterly, the professional periodical of the foresters now called the Journal of Forestry. And Dr. Fernow's books, published while he was at Cornell, gave impetus to the production of the series of books and other technical works on forestry which have since grown to considerable proportions.

In 1898, when Dr. Fernow began his work at Cornell, the forestry idea was still new to this country. Perhaps as important a contribution as the instruction that was given under his direction was his insistence on the development and maintenance of professional standards by foresters. His efforts helped in no small degree to give forestry the high technical standing that it has attained.

The old College of Forestry was suspended in 1903, as the result of controversies over details of management of the College forest in the Adirondacks. But the graduates

of that early school have proved themselves to be leaders in the profession of forestry, both in this country and in Canada. The giving of Dr. Fernow's name to the forestry building at Cornell in 1922, was no mere gesture. It constituted a well-merited recognition of his notable achievements in the public service in education, and in the advancement of forestry as a profession in the United States.

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### EIGHTH WONDERS OF THE WORLD

Jeff—"There will be no outside reading in this course."

Perk—"There will be no class on the last day of the quarter."

McLaren taking L. A. 121c.

Greef staying awake in class.

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### ANNUAL EVENTS

Fall Campfire.

Show at Ag. Barbecue.

Winter "shin-dig."

Shorty Correll hangs his pin.

Spring Banquet.

Spring Campfire.

Larsen sits on tack.