DEDICATION

Leonard F. Kellogg
Iowa State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester
Part of the Forest Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester/vol77/iss1/6

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ames Forester by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Bracketed cleanly between the 1898 establishment of the Division of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture and that of the Forestry Division in the Department of Interior in 1901 was the birth, on February 4, 1900, of Leonard Field Kellogg. Only ten months after his birth, the Society of American Foresters was chartered. The man and the profession and the century have grown apace.

Leonard’s parents, Leonard Field and Caroline Perry Kellogg, were New England-English stock people who settled in Marshalltown, Iowa. The elder Leonard Kellogg, Canadian born, was a dentist by profession with only passing interest in the out-of-doors and the beauties of nature but he enjoyed travel with his family. Summer visits to Eldora Lake in Colorado and once a winter trip to Florida gave the young Leonard the opportunity to see the country and taste the excitement of train travel at a time when much history of the United States and the conservation movement was still fresh or yet to be made.

Brought up with three sisters and a brother in the strict but pleasant Baptist household of a professional man in a small but prosperous mid-western city, Leonard had ample time to explore woods and fields along the Iowa River and develop a life-long enthusiasm for photography, ornithology and a deep-rooted appreciation for the feel of nature. By a happenstance that may have been significant in directing Leonard Kellogg’s life, Dr. Ira Gabrielson, later to be Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service and a world-authority on conservation also lived in Marshalltown where he taught high school biology from 1912 to 1915 and was patrol leader of the local Boy Scout troop to which Leonard belonged. The enthusiasms of this 25-year old teacher and naturalist were an active catalyst to those already present enthusiasms of the 15-year-old Leonard.

That other significant happenstance of youth in Marshalltown was that the future Mrs. Leonard Kellogg, Edith A. Lockwood, also lived there and shared school experiences from kindergarten to high school. Historic honesty prompts both to say that this made no appreciable impact on either at the time.

Despite Leonard’s obvious interest in conservation the subtle but usual pressure for a son to emulate a father’s interests prompted him to enroll in Chemistry at the University of Chicago in 1918. After all, there were barely 1200 foresters to be found in the United States and up to this time these professionals had been chiefly occupied with laying the foundations of their profession rather than publicizing it. Obviously forestry was not then a commonly thought of activity.

But two years at Chicago, with a stint in the Student Army Training Corps brought to an end after two months by the Armistice, prompted Leonard to transfer to the School of Forestry, University of California,
where he graduated with honors in 1924. During the years at Berkeley there were periods of professional temporary employment including rodent control in Oregon in 1921 with the U.S. Biological Survey; timber survey and cruising in the Sierra Nevadas in 1922 with the U.S. Forest Service; work spotting the big monorail loading cranes in the shipping sheds of the Pacific Lumber Company at Scotia, California in 1923 and during that same year working as scaler and timber sale supervisor in and around the logging camps of the Stanislaus National Forest, and finally collecting volume table data for the Forest Service in 1924.

Upon graduation from the University of California in 1926 Leonard accepted permanent employment with the Forest Service on the Shasta National Forest doing timber sales and land exchange work. But wishing to learn more of the expanding profession of forestry, he enrolled in 1927 in the graduate school at Yale and received his Master of Forestry degree from there.

After graduation from Yale, Leonard turned his attention to research and was hired by the Central States Forest Experiment Station of the U.S. Forest Service at Columbus, Ohio. In 1928 he was promoted to Assistant Silviculturist and here he began his widely respected work in plantation management. It was this work that was to yield the astonishing total of 60 published articles, notes and bulletins. His major enthusiasm and greatest contribution lies with his knowledge of black walnut and its management. His work on this, though never published in its entirety, has been a source of information for many during the last 15 years.

The years from 1927 to 1946 that were spent in the Ohio Valley were probably Leonard Kellogg's most cherished ones. The vast area within the research jurisdiction of the Central States Experiment Station allowed him to travel widely from the hill forests of Kentucky to the prairies of western Iowa.

Increasingly in the late thirties the work of the Central States Station sent Leonard into Iowa. The war years of the early forties with the critical demand for walnut and all forms of hardwood lumber established considerable contact between him and the Forestry Department of Iowa State University. The relationship between Professor George Hartman, then professor of wood utilization and later Department Head, and Mr. Kellogg was particularly warm due to work in the Teepee or Timber Production War Project set up by the War Production Board. It was not surprising, then, that Kellogg was transferred to Ames, Iowa, in 1946 to help in the establishment of the Ames Branch of the Central States Forest Experiment Station.

In 1948 when C. B. MacDonald retired as Department Head of Forestry at Iowa State, George B. Hartman was called back from Louisiana to take over the Department of Forestry. Alan Goodspeed, Professor of Forest Management, transferred to the University of West Virginia and Leonard Kellogg was asked to fill the vacancy in the Department to teach mensuration and forest management.

Thus, in the fall of 1948, Leonard Kellogg parted with the Forest Service after two decades of most valuable contribution and at the age of 48 took up the task of university teaching in a time when all facilities were vastly overcrowded, schedules of instruction were solidly packed and the average student was a veteran of at least three years of military service. These were challenging and trying times to develop new skills but with his dominant characteristic of painstaking care for detail and his vast knowledge of the profession of forestry his courses from the beginning were meticulously planned and taught.

Perhaps it has been in the Summer Camp phase of instruction that Professor Kellogg has contributed the most to undergraduate teaching. During his time he has instructed students in silviculture and forest biology in no less than 15 camps and has directed three of these. His encyclopedic knowledge of the early history of settlement and logging and his obvious enthusiasm for orienting students and himself in the time continuum of each area of camp have been of inestimable value. His woodsmanship — an uncanny ability to reconstruct terrain and to orient precisely to the ground; his knowledge and appreciation of all birds, animals and plants around him, wherever he is, has established a respect for the land in the minds of his students and colleagues that will not be matched again. The ability to juxtapose man with his environment in the forest is a talent now held by all too few.
So from student days, through the fine days of his teaching, forty-five years have passed and forestry and society have been the better for Leonard Kellogg being a forester. Strict, scrupulously honest, conservative, realistic and always dedicated to natural things one cannot know this good man without thinking of Henry David Thoreau who said it best of all: "Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in. I drink at it; but while I drink I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is. Its thin current slides away, but eternity remains. I would drink deeper; fish in the sky, whose bottom is pebbly with stars."

— by G. W. Thomson and D. W. Bensend

On February 15, 1990 my good friend and valued colleague died after some three years of declining health. After the death of his beloved Edith in 1985, Leonard continued to live in Ames with periodic visits to the families of daughter Virginia Kellogg-McCarty in Lubbock, Texas and son Perry in Loveland, Colorado.

To the very end his mind was clear and his memory and opinions undimmed. I consider myself fortunate, and all of Leonard’s many friends rewarded, by having had the opportunity to know this kind and knowledgeable man.

— George W. Thomson
Professor Emeritus
March 1990
Ames Forester

Ned Klophenstein plants the first legal genetically improved tree in the U.S.