

## Eugene S. Schultz, 1884-1969

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Eugene S. Schultz, a longtime member of the Society and a pioneer authority on potato diseases, died October 23, 1969, in Paoli, Pennsylvania. His death brought to a close a long and distinguished career in pathology. He served for 37 years in the USDA Agricultural Research Service. He retired as principal pathologist in 1954, but maintained a working interest as a collaborator until 1968. During his career, Dr. Schultz spent 54 consecutive summer seasons doing research on potato diseases under field conditions on Aroostook State Farm, Presque Isle, Maine.

Dr. Schultz was born May 14, 1884, in Palm, Pennsylvania, the son of Levi Gerhard Schultz and Elizabeth S. Schultz. He was a descendant of early German settlers, the followers of Caspar Schwenckfeld von Ossig who came to this country in 1734 in search of religious freedom. He was farm-reared in a home where self-discipline, academic pursuits, and the performance of one's daily duties were early taught him as sustaining ideals for life. He was a graduate of Perkiomen Academy, Pennsburg, Pennsylvania. He obtained the B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Wisconsin in 1913 and 1915, and the Ph.D. degree from Columbia University in 1917.

In 1919 Dr. Schultz married Dr. Selina S. Gerhard, noted theologian, church historian, and author-editor of the 19-volume *Corpus Schwenckfeldianorum*, the definitive work incorporating the doctrines of Schwenckfeld that was published in 1961. Mrs. Schultz preceded Dr. Schultz in death by only 3 months.

Eugene Schultz pioneered in the early studies on the identity, behavior, and transmission of virus diseases. His early work on the nature and behavior of mosaic disease of potatoes demonstrated that the mosaic condition in potato was caused by several viruses rather than a single virus. He discovered that these viruses, along with leafroll and spindle tuber viruses, were all distinct, transmissible entities rather than maladies attributable to senescence, physiological deterioration, or adverse soil and temperature conditions. He early recognized that potato viruses can be carried in a masked condition, which led him to use a single, diagnostic variety for virus identification and immune classification. Through his research, he also demonstrated that potato varieties can be immune to aphid infection with a virus but hypersensitive in reaction to grafts.

He developed a scion-graft technique that facilitates the detection of X-immune varieties in seedling progenies. His research helped to bring about major advances in quality of seed potatoes.

Accomplishments of this long service and fruitful work are to be found in more than 60 scientific publications on the identification, description, nature of, transmission, and control of virus and other important potato diseases. These investigations furthered not only fundamental research on potato diseases, but contributed valuable information to the National Potato Breeding Program and foreign improvement programs in developing disease-resistant varieties. In 1922, Dr. Schultz founded a virus collection as a known source of virus-diseased material. This collection exists to this day and is known as the Schultz Virus Collection.

In recognition of his contributions to agriculture, Dr. Schultz was awarded the Maine Potato Industry Award in 1952 and the Superior Service Award of the USDA in 1953. He also held Honorary Life Membership in the Potato Association of America. He was a member of Sigma Xi fraternity, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the Torrey Botanical Club, the Washington Academy of Sciences, a former member of the Washington Board of Trade, and a distinguished member of the Society of the Descendants of the Schwenckfeldian Exiles.

To know and work with Eugene Schultz was to be associated with a man of great kindness and old-fashioned gentility, and a person possessed of a generosity of spirit, one in whom there was no malice. Where need existed, Dr. Schultz was always the main contributor with a charity and largess that was never mentioned. Even in his retirement years, one could always count on "Doc" for long hours of patient work. He would lend a hand for screening large populations for disease resistance. In these hours, one came to know and absorb the philosophy of a man to whom no chore was too hard, no day's work too long, no recording of the data too tiresome, and no problem treated other than with directness and precision.

Dr. Schultz is survived by his son, Eugene A., a daughter, Mrs. John M. Nash, and six grandchildren. He is also survived by a sister and three brothers. He is buried in the church cemetery that adjoins the Schwenckfelder Church in the town where he was born and reared.

We mourn Dr. Schultz' passing. He leaves to all his associates a legacy of his scientific contributions and enduring memories of his friendship and help.