

## Rush Porter Marshall, 1891 - 1973

J. R. Hansbrough



Rush Porter Marshall was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 14 November 1891, and died in Hamden, Connecticut, 18 July 1973. In the intervening 81 years Rush lived a very active and productive life in research and administration of research on the cause and prevention or control of tree diseases, especially those that reduce the

utility of shade and ornamental trees. He was recognized as one of the foremost authorities in America on the protection of shade trees from injurious agents.

Rush received the Bachelor of Science degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1914, Master of Science from the University of Wisconsin in 1924, and Doctor of Philosophy from Yale University in 1929. At Wisconsin he was a student of L. R. Jones, and at Yale of G. P. Clinton, two well-known professors of plant pathology. His academic studies were interrupted by World War I, culminating in two years, 1918-1919, with the American Expeditionary Forces in France. When he was mustered out of the army, he enrolled as a special student in late 1919 and 1920 at the University of Toulouse. In later years, he spoke with pleasure of his courses there in wine-making, in which he became quite proficient—much to the gratification of his friends.

After a few months in 1914 as a plant quarantine inspector with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, he joined the Division of Forest Pathology, Bureau of Plant Industry, for which he worked until 1946, except for his military service. His early research dealt with chestnut blight and white pine blister rust, but by 1927 when he reported to Yale University as Pathologist-in-Charge of the newly established field office of Forest Pathology in New Haven, Connecticut, he had started his research on the preservation and care of shade trees. In 1948, in collaboration with Alma M. Waterman, he authored the very popular USDA Farmers' Bull. 1987, "Common Diseases of Important Shade Trees".

In 1947, Rush left the Department of Agriculture to become the Director, Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories, Stamford, Conn., a position he filled with distinction until his retirement in 1960. From then, until his death, he remained as Consultant to the Laboratories.

While with the USDA, Rush wrote 28 scientific articles in technical journals or as government bulletins, twenty of which he was the sole author. After 1947, he published about 50 papers on the care of shade trees in Scientific

Tree Topics, a periodical issued by the Bartlett Laboratories, and a much larger number of shorter articles in the Bartlett house organ, Tree Topics. These periodicals were widely distributed among companies and individuals engaged in shade tree care and undoubtedly did much to improve the caliber of work in this field.

Rush was Research Associate, Osborn Botanical Laboratory, Yale University, 1927-1946. He was Chairman, Commission on Tree Management and Roadside Development, Highway Research Board of the National Research Council, 1951-1960. He was a member of the National (now International) Shade Tree Conference (Sec'y-Treas., 1929-1933, Vice Pres., 1934, Pres. 1935) and was then elected to Honorary Life Membership. He was also very active in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association (Treas., 1936-1941 and Vice Pres. in 1949) and the Westchester Tree Protective Association. In addition, he was a member of the New Jersey Federation of Shade Tree Commissions, American Association for the Advancement of Science (Fellow), American Phytopathological Society, Mycological Society of America, Connecticut Academy of Science, Botanical Society of Connecticut, Connecticut Forest and Park Association and the Sleeping Giant Park Association. Rush was elected to membership in Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Alpha, and Pi Kappa Alpha. He was a life-long member of the Mount Pleasant Masonic Lodge in Washington, D.C.

In addition to his many other accomplishments, Rush was an expert photographer, an artist in recording on film, people, places, and things. One of my clearest recollections of him is the way in which he caught the beauty and the damage to trees and shrubs of a terrible ice storm in Connecticut about 1940. His close-up shots of buds, twigs, branches, and whole trees capsuled in glittering ice were truly remarkable. On the other hand, his photography of the breakage caused by the enormous pressure from the ice were heart-rending. Had these pictures been in color, they would have been worthy of recording by any national magazine. Although Rush knew his film, his camera, and his subject matter, he never guessed at exposures. He would invariably use a light meter to determine not the light at the lens but the light reflected from the subject. All would-be photographers would be wise to follow his example.

Rush was married in 1935 to Lillian Merz. They had one daughter, Maryan, now living in Lynchburg, Virginia. His widow is living at 44 Pickwick Road, Hamden, Conn. but may eventually join her daughter in Virginia.