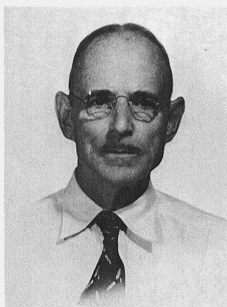


Paul Victor Siggers, 1889-1977

Arthur F. Verrall



Dr. Paul Victor Siggers died July 2, 1977, at his home at Blackbeard Farm near Queenstown, Maryland.

Born in Washington, D.C., July 19, 1889, he was a graduate of the University of Michigan; he received his MS degree from the University of Wisconsin and his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. A 13th descendant of the Elder Brewster, he was a

member of the Descendants of the Mayflower and the Sons of the American Revolution. He was also a member of Sigma Xi and Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church in Centerville, Maryland.

Dr. Siggers is survived by his wife, Clemencia; a daughter, Yolanda Siggers Caputo; and a sister, Mary Calvert.

During World War I, he served in the Corps of Engineers and after the war remained in Paris to do graduate work at the Sorbonne. He then worked on diseases of tropical fruits for United Fruit in Costa Rica and Standard Fruit in Honduras.

In 1928, Dr. Siggers became a forest pathologist in the Bureau of Plant Industry, U.S. Department of Agriculture and was stationed at the Southern Forest Experiment Station in New Orleans, Louisiana. After World War II, he moved to the Southern Station's Harrison Experimental Forest near Gulfport,

Mississippi. He was the first pathologist at the Southern Station; initiated the research project on southern pine diseases; and remained in charge until his retirement in 1952.

At New Orleans, Dr. Siggers first studied brown-spot needle blight of longleaf pine. He found and named the perfect stage of the causal fungus, *Scirrhia acicola* (Dearn.) Siggers; perfected fungicidal control in nurseries and plantations and control by the use of fire in natural regeneration; discovered a brown-spot resistant longleaf pine seedling that is still used in genetic research; and added materially to our knowledge of the biology of *S. acicola*. The control measures were of vital importance to the longleaf pine forest industry and, along with his other research, laid the basis for future research on the disease.

At the Harrison Experimental Forest, he concentrated on a study of fusiform rust of loblolly and slash pines. As in the case of brown-spot, fusiform rust remains a serious problem in forest management but Dr. Siggers' researches laid a foundation for the current research effort to understand this disease and its control.

Dr. Siggers also started the research on a number of other diseases of southern pines, including littleleaf of shortleaf pine and black root rot of pine seedlings in nurseries—in fact, his researches have importantly influenced much of the later research on most southern pine diseases.

Dr. Siggers was a quiet, unassuming man; a dedicated scientist; and a keen observer who was held in high regard by all his coworkers.