AN APPRECIATION: GEORGE HARRISON TURNER 1877-1970

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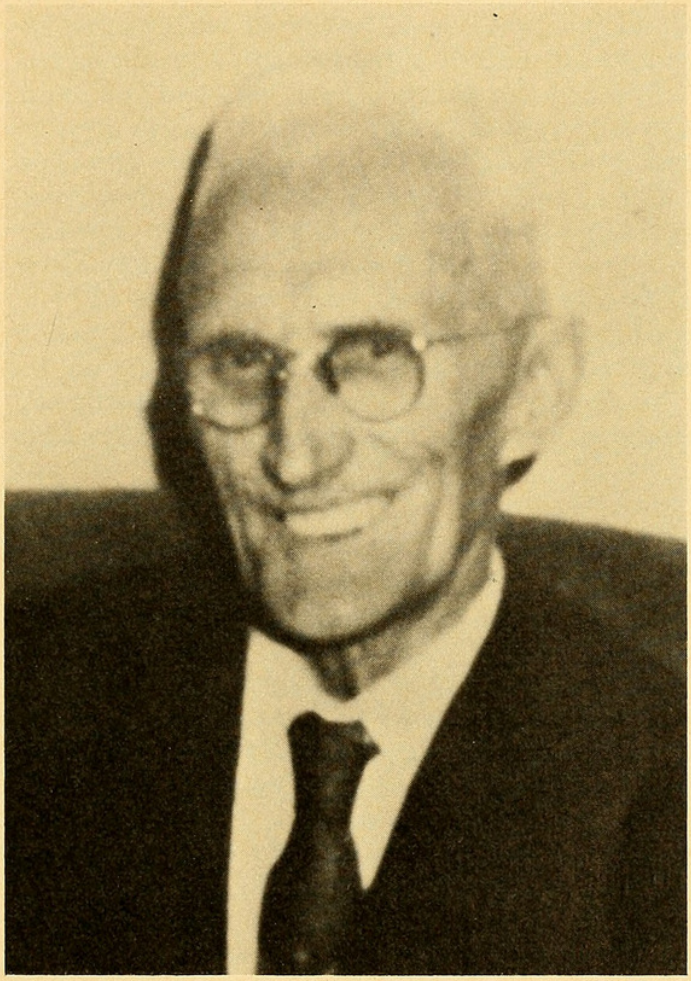
Canadian botanists are not an abundant species and the passing of none should occur without an appreciation of their contribution. Among the



pioneers of western Canadian botany, George Harrison Turner enjoys an honourable eminence. His collections over 60 years, mainly in the province of Alberta, were in excess of 12,000 and included both vascular and non-vascular plants. The collections were made predominantly from 1930 onwards, and Dr. Turner was still adding to their number when he was past 90 years of age. He provided, along with Dr. W. C. McCalla and Dr. E. H. Moss, the essential material for the latter's 'Flora of Alberta', published in 1959. Dr. Turner's collections of vascular plants are now deposited in the University of Alberta herbarium and the non-vascular plants were donated to the University of Calgary. His duplicates, however, were widely distributed and his collections are to be found in all the major herbaria of North American.

G. H. Turner was born in Baie Verte, New Brunswick, on June 26, 1877. Following attendance in public schools, he entered Mt. Allison University and graduated with a B.A. in 1899. He went on to McGill University and obtained his medical degree in 1903. In 1904 he moved to Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, engaged in the practice of medicine, and remained there for the rest of his life. He died on September 13, 1970. His wife, the former Florence Yould, whom he married in 1906, predeceased him in 1949. Two daughters were born to the Turners and both are living today.

Dr. Turner was an able and enthusiastic botanist, who had a long list of correspondents across the continent. He was always ready to give assistance where he could and his help to others was by no means the least of his notable contributions to botany. Dr. Turner had a long standing association with *The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club* and was made an Honorary Member in April, 1959 in recognition of his contribution to Canadian botany.

Publications of G. H. Turner

Turner, G. H. 1947. Alpine plants in the Pigeon Lake district of Alberta. Canadian Field-Naturalist, 61: 126.

Turner, G. H. 1949. Plants of the Edmonton district of the Province of Alberta. Canadian Field-Naturalist, 63: 1-28.

Turner, G. H. 1949. *Salix petiolaris* in the Edmonton district. Canadian Field-Naturalist, 63: 82-84.

Moss, E. H., and **G. H. Turner.** 1961. Bryophytes from the Edmonton region, Alberta. Canadian Journal of Botany, 39: 1177-1193.

Packer, J G. 1973. "An Appreciation: George Harrison Turner 1877-1970 [Obituary]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 87(2), 187–187. https://doi.org/10.5962/p.343754.

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