

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
LEROY ABRAMS
(1874-1956)

Leroy Abrams was born at Sheffield, Iowa on October 1, 1874 and died at the Hospital at Palo Alto on August 15, 1956, being but a few weeks short of rounding out a life span of 82 years. He had been associated with Stanford University as a student and member of the faculty and as Professor Emeritus, except for a very short period elsewhere, for nearly sixty years.

He received the degree of A.B. from Stanford in 1899 and the degree of M.A. in 1902. He was Acting Professor of Botany at the University of Idaho for the academic year of 1899-1900 and a fellow at Columbia University in 1904-1905, receiving the degree of Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1910. He was appointed as systematic botanist at Stanford in 1900 and as Instructor in 1902. During the years of 1905 and 1906 he was Assistant Curator of Plants at the United States National Museum, but thereafter he was continuously at Stanford until his retirement in 1940 when he became Professor Emeritus, this service apparently being interrupted by but one sabbatical leave. During this time he was Assistant Professor of Botany from 1906 to 1911, then Associate Professor until 1920 and thereafter Professor. From 1934 until 1940 his duties included those of Director of the Natural History Museum. His only activities during that time that were not connected with the University were those of a lecturer in Botany at the University of California in 1915 and as a field assistant of the United States Department of Agriculture in 1918. Following his retirement from the University he lived quietly at his home on the Stanford Campus.

He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of the New York Botanical Society and of the California Academy of Sciences and a member of the American Botanical Society and of Sigma Xi.

As an author, apart from several shorter works, his most important contribution is "An Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States," published by the Stanford Press. Of this, three volumes have appeared and the fourth, which he was not able to complete, is being completed by his colleagues.

Abrams was a very modest, retiring and unusually kindly man who seems to have been strongly influenced by and to have in a degree deliberately molded himself after his former teacher and colleague Professor W.R. Dudley, the first Professor of Botany at Stanford, for whom the Dudley Herbarium, of which Abrams was later curator, was named.

In 1909 he was married to Letitia Patterson, a 1901 graduate of Stanford who survives him. They had but one child, a daughter Margaret, and those of us who knew him well alone can know how deeply his later years were saddened and darkened by her death in the 1930s from cancer.

Because of his retiring disposition Abrams was probably not widely known among his fellow members of the Stanford faculty, even in his own day, but among his students during his later active life he was affectionately known as "Father," a name that originated with him in a little joke of his own about "Father Abraham," and which was continued by his students as a

faithful expression of their feelings toward him. His colleagues in the Natural History Museum, of which he was Director from 1934 until his retirement, will likewise remember him with deep affection.

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