

THE VISITOR

Devoted to the Interests of Agricultural Education in Minnesota Schools

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DR. ASHLEY V. STORM

This issue of *THE VISITOR* is dedicated to the memory of Ashley Van Storm in recognition of his life of service to education and in appreciation of his leadership in bringing about better rural living through his activities as teacher, administrator and friendly counsellor.

Thirty years ago this month, January, 1914, Dr. Storm initiated and published the first issue of *THE VISITOR*, a pioneer publication devoted to the interests of Agricultural Education.

For eleven years after I came to the University, Dr. A. V. Storm was in charge of the Divisions of Agricultural Education and Agricultural Short Courses. We frequently discussed the problems of agricultural education at length and we spent hours together in planning short courses. We truly came to know each other well.

I have never known a more conscientious man than Dr. Storm. He tried to explore every angle of a problem and no detail was trivial to him. He took great pride in arranging a program so that it was "just right." He had almost unbounded enthusiasm for the annual Farm and Home Week. He planned far ahead for each session and he scarcely ate and slept while a Farm and Home Week program was in progress. I think his attachment to this particular activity was traceable largely to his interest in and love for rural people. He had a Jeffersonian faith in farmers and farmers' wives. He was happiest when ministering directly to their wants and needs.

Dr. Storm was a loyal person. He took careful stock of those things for which he was accountable and he never overlooked or by-passed the persons to whom he was directly responsible. He had a clear conception of his own principles and ideals and he was always loyal to them.

Withal he was a strong character and through his strength of character, his spirit to serve and his personal charm, he drew men and women to him. Often in my travels both in and out of Minnesota I met persons who inquired about Dr. Storm and who sent kindly greetings to him. This was positive testimony that he had been a beneficial influence in their lives.

W. C. COFFEY, President,
University of Minnesota

VISITOR

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THE STAFF

A. V. STORM

G. F. EKSTROM

A. M. FIELD

L. H. HARDEN

A. M. FIELD, Editor

When I was a superintendent of schools in the State of Minnesota I always felt that Dr. Ashley V. Storm was my sincere friend. I considered him to be one of the persons who stimulated me most professionally. Dr. Storm was at his prime at a time when vocational agriculture was being introduced and developed in the high school program of studies but his interests and his contributions were as wide as education itself. His optimism, energy, friendliness and professional attitude were contagious in conference as well as on the platform.

Dr. Storm had experience as a rural teacher, principal and superintendent of schools which covered nearly thirty years of his professional life before he entered college work. This experience gave to his Minnesota leadership, as a professor of agricultural education from 1912 to the date of his retirement, an understanding insight of what the schools were and a constructive, practical ideal of what they should become. He made a contribution to Minnesota schools that is still felt.

W. E. PEIK, Dean

College of Education, University of Minnesota

Out of the vale of the past comes the pleasant memory of A. V. Storm, witty, alert, kindly, capable, with vision for the future and respect for the past. He was an enthusiastic proponent of adult education as was shown by his aggressive interest in the development of Short Courses in the University Department of Agriculture. He was of the "Old School" in the better sense of the term. He was ever conscious of the fact that this University was ready to serve the needs of the people. He was ready to make adjustments or adaptations to meet situations which were outside of the established or accepted routine.

He was delightful as a speaker or a presiding officer, having an unusual sense of the fitness of things and the temper of the crowd. It was truly said of him, "He was one who made things move in lines of constructive education."

J. O. CHRISTIANSON

Director, Agricultural Short Courses

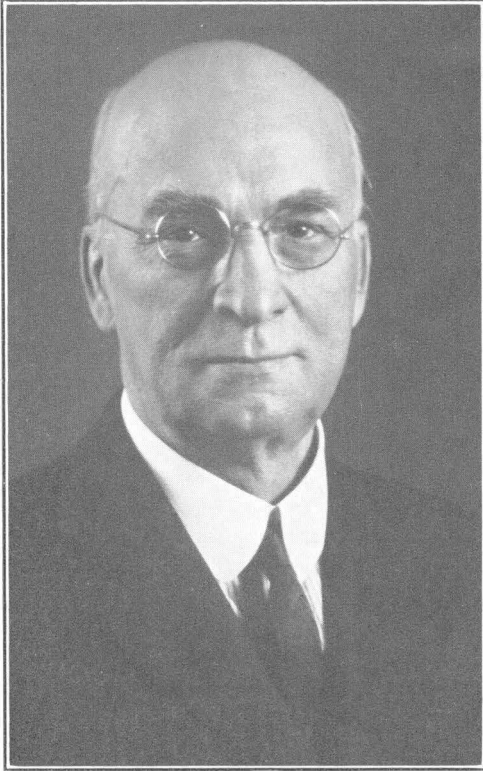
University of Minnesota

I will remember Dr. Storm always as a fine and gracious gentleman, deeply and sincerely interested in the welfare of farm boys and girls. Through the years that he served in Minnesota, I kept in very close touch with him and always benefited from his advise and counsel on agricultural education.

A. V. Storm was one of the pioneers in constructive agricultural education.

R. K. BLISS, Director

Extension Service, Iowa State College



ASHLEY V. STORM, 1861-1943

We who knew Dr. A. V. Storm and now mourn his passing, may well agree with the superintendent who said of him in his early Iowa days, "Storm was always a dynamic and picturesque figure;" and with President Coffman, under whom he served during his last days of professional maturity in Minnesota, who said of him that his entire tenure had been characterized by an "attitude of professional zeal and idealism and optimism." To me, with all this, he will remain a tall and stalwart, wide-awake and gracious, gentleman of the old school and the new.

Not least memorable among the enduring firsts to Dr. Storm's credit is the little pamphlet for teachers he established when education in vocational agriculture was in its infancy, and the title he chose for it, *THE VISITOR*. Things heard and read are not always believed; but good things studied on the spot in action cannot be denied. Dr. Storm heard and read; but, also, he himself was a visitor. And to him, visiting was not a oneway street. The good visitor not only gets, but he also gives. Dr. Storm had heard and read about our Massachusetts "School and Home Farm Cooperation" concept and program, first published and put into effect in 1908; and, about the time he was moving from Iowa to Minnesota, he accepted my long-standing invitation to verify the implications and applications of our fundamental philosophy on the spot. We called, not only at schools, but also, with instructors, at farm backdoors, barns, and fields, across the state. Our days were long; and we traveled in my car, a new one with the motor just being eased into service. One night, with a storm brewing, on a long upgrade mid-state leading to one of our first high school agricultural departments in Petersham, the radiator boiled; and when I stopped at a farm house in the inky darkness, we had no little trouble finding the needed water and in locating the hot radiator cap. When Dr. Storm had seen enough to satisfy him that our concept and program had all the merits he had heard of and read about, and he was about to take his train for home, his handclasp was not empty. He left in my palm this small flashlight in a nickel case which I now hold in my left hand as I pen these lines. He had not only been alert to all of the problems we had analyzed, but he had left me this practical aid toward the solution of one of them. In this gift and in the title of that always interesting and often challenging pamphlet, *THE VISITOR*, I have found a parable which appears to me to reveal two of the memorable traits—careful getting and practical giving—of the exemplary character of this great educator.

R. W. STIMSON, State Supervisor
Agricultural Education, Massachusetts

My association with Dr. A. V. Storm dates back to our Nevada City, Iowa high school days when we were farm boys riding to and from school from our respective farm homes. We completed the high school course in 1882 and the next field in common was country school teaching which soon led, in his case, to high school teaching and superintendency, and in my case to graduation from the Iowa State College. Our work was in closely related fields of service for over twenty years.

Through all the years of his outstanding service, he never failed to measure up to the highest standards. He was not only a teacher and director in educational work; he was a creator of his ideals and efficiency in education. He was

more than a teacher and leader. He had the rare faculty of imparting vision and inspiration in his work. This was manifested in the achievements of those who came under his contact and direction.

CHARLES F. CURTISS
Dean Emeritus, Division of Agriculture
Iowa State College

Dr. A. V. Storm and I became acquainted many years ago when he was the Superintendent of Schools at Storm Lake, Iowa, and I was "a struggling young lawyer." He became vitally interested in agriculture and especially in its development in a scientific and progressive manner.

He recognized agriculture as the great basic industry of the nation and was fascinated with the tremendous possibilities of its scientific study. He had a desire to prove by actual demonstration the falsity of the statement that "anybody can be a farmer." His paramount desire was to make it possible for the men and women on the farms to broaden their vision, to avail themselves of scientific information, to have better homes and better farms, and better advantages for their children. To this great task he devoted himself with great ability and unbounded energy.

It has been said that "He who makes two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before is a public benefactor." Dr. Storm in a very remarkable degree was such a benefactor. He had a gift of leadership and organization possessed by few and his ability in this respect will be felt for years to come.

I would also testify to his delightful companionship. He loved his fellow men and was always companionable and gracious at home and abroad.

In the full ripeness of years he has turned the prow of his frail bark out upon that boundless sea that has never yet borne the shadow of a returning sail. We are comforted in the assurance that he has found anchor in a harbor of perfect peace.

F. F. FAVILLE
Code Editor and Supreme Court Reporter
Des Moines, Iowa

Dr. Ashley V. Storm did work on the Peabody campus after he was a mature teacher. I came in contact with Dr. Storm during this period. He was one of the most sympathetic, understanding, and lovable characters I have ever known.

During his stay on the campus I think Dr. Storm had as much influence as any person who was ever here, either on the faculty or in the student body, for a similar period of time. We believe that he was one of the best friends Peabody College ever had, and all our faculty felt his friendly influence while he was here.

We deeply regret Dr. Storm's passing but feel that his influence lives on.

S. C. GARRISON, President
George Peabody College for Teachers
Nashville, Tennessee

I first met Dr. Storm when he came to Dayton, Iowa in the fall of 1883 to take charge of its public schools. I did not return to school at the opening of that year, but in a few weeks I started, impelled by the enthusiastic reports of attending pupils. I at once became another ardent admirer of our principal's character and teaching ability. His introduction of a number of new and interesting practices did much to create and hold the pupils' interest and prompt them to do their very best. The patriotic songs and memory gems that he had us learn have enriched my life and endeared Dr. Storm to me. His initiative and pleasant but forceful manner gained him the complete support of his pupils. These qualities have continued through his successful career.

After school began in 1884, he talked to me and another boy about attending the college at Ames. He also conferred with our parents, and the outcome was that we went I. A. C., as the college was then called.

Dr. Storm soon went elsewhere continuing his educational work, inspiring hundreds of young people and gaining for himself greater and well-merited success.

In 1915 when our daughter was graduated from the Dayton, Iowa high school, Dr. Storm delivered the commencement address. He was then a member of the faculty of the University of Minnesota. There were many friends in Dayton who were happy to see and hear Dr. Storm who had advanced so far during the thirty years since he had charge of the Dayton public schools.

I know that the great number of men and women who fortunately came under his influence during his many years as an educator will agree with me that he was a man of outstanding quality, ability, and force. He was always the right man in the right place. His memory will be cherished by many for many years.

I am happy to have had his friendship and offer this tribute to his memory.

E. M. LUNDRIN
Webster City, Iowa

When a stranger comes from newspaper work into the agricultural faculty of a college to set up work in journalism for agricultural division students, he is in the position of the "feller who needs a friend." That was my situation when I first came to know Dr. A. V. Storm at Iowa State College in 1911 and Dr. Storm was such a friend. It was characteristic of him that he should be interested in any educational work that was new or different; but also, it was characteristic of him that he should be friendly; he always went out of his way to be helpful.

Perhaps that may have been partly due to the fact that he himself was a pioneer in the field of agricultural education, carrying on the preparation of students in agriculture for the career of teaching that subject. He laid the foundations at Iowa State most excellently and when he left there later he left a sound structure which was adequate to support the developments in the future.

However, as for me, I think mostly of him as a man in his fine relationships with others—in his family, in his community, in the college, in the world outside. He was true to high personal and professional ideals. A good man to know, a good man for counsel and a good man for action when things needed doing. I knew him and was enriched by knowing him.

F. W. BECKMAN, Editor
The Knoxville Journal, Inc.

In 1885, I enrolled in the annual four-week teachers' institute or summer school in this county and met Mr. Storm who was then the principal of a school in one of the smaller towns of this county but was employed as an instructor in the institute. His energy and earnestness were contagious.

Mr. Storm took a personal interest in me. During a brief conversation, Mr. Storm advised me to secure a physics and study it. In accordance with this suggestion, I purchased a copy of Steele's Physics and I studied it diligently. That text did much for me. It led me to a college course and later as teacher for thirty years of natural science in Tobin College, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Mrs. Findlay and I were part of a group conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Storm to Los Angeles in 1899 to attend the National Teachers' Association. Our car made frequent stops so we were together for ten days, and came to know Mr. and Mrs. Storm intimately.

Mr. Storm exhibited good judgment in selecting his wife, Elizabeth Hayler, from among the most successful teachers of this county. In the Hayler family were four famous teachers. Together Mr. and Mrs. Storm were a great team. They were an inspiration to all who were fortunate enough to come within their influence. Van Storm's was a busy, effective, worthwhile life.

C. V. FINDLAY

Member, State Senate of Iowa

At the recent annual breakfast meeting of the Ten-Year Teacher Trainers in Vocational Agriculture, in Chicago, the men present paid tribute to their friend Dr. A. V. Storm, who had passed away in October. It wasn't just a perfunctory recognition. Every man present knew of the significant contribution Dr. Storm had made to agricultural education. He was a pioneer, a man ahead of the crowd and therefore often alone. He was a friend of the rural youth, a friend of man. He gave his life to his convictions—to the cause he loved.

After a brief review of his life and contributions to agricultural education, the men in attendance at the meeting stood for a minute in silent tribute to their friend who had passed on and left them.

CARSIE HAMMONDS

Secretary, Ten-Year Teacher Trainers, 1943

Dr. A. V. Storm was loyal to his work, to the college and to his students. He was a tireless worker and a thorough student.

As a teacher, he was alert and dynamic. No student of his could ever loiter; none wanted to. As a fellow worker and faculty companion, he was always a man of fine judgment, just and sincere, loyal in action.

Dr. Storm was very human. He liked people. He was a great educator and a true friend.

His memory will live always in the minds and hearts of hundreds of his former students. His life, his clear philosophy of living, and the success of his labor will linger on in the thoughts of those who knew him best.

VICTOR E. NYLIN

Director of Agriculture

State Teachers College, Platteville, Wisconsin

Dr. Storm was great because he properly appraised "life." He had a rich endowment and a rare intellect, the correct foundation for the only life worth living.

He gave every one an inspiration and faith. He possessed qualities for this and radiated these virtues everywhere.

He honored the writer by action and words of praise in his recommendation to an advanced position, forgetting his own interests, in his passion to give a part of his life to me.

Dr. Storm saw the value of education as that "unseen something inexplicable, but which we unconsciously come into possession of by constant contacts with the great in character."

We readily forget the technical. We may never have occasion to call it into action. It is transient, but the emotional joys which take their lodgment in the very soul are the values in which one finds no language to express. They were mine in this treasured friendship of Dr. Storm.

Four years with him inspired and enriched my life in a faith which reached into eternity, and silently breathes this thought, "If there is no great future life wherein this unsatisfied craving for greater things may be fully realized, then that is the only seeming error man has ever found in God's great evolution."

J. LORENZO ZWICKEY
International Lyceum Lecturer

Dr. A. V. Storm will be remembered as one of the staunch pioneers in Minnesota education. He served in the field of general education and helped in laying the early foundation for vocational education. His vision and concept of the appropriate relationship between the two was a substantial contributing factor in bringing well-rounded education to the state of development it has reached today.

My personal contact with Dr. Storm was not extensive but included one incident which reflects one of the fundamental reasons for his thorough understanding of what education should mean. During the first year of my teaching experience in a small high school in southern Minnesota, Dr. Storm, with one or two representatives from the State High School Board, visited the school. The visitors spent some time in each department of the school. The manual training shop seemed to be of particular interest. As Dr. Storm watched a boy working intently upon a piece of furniture, he asked him for whom he was making it. The boy's reply was that he was making it for his mother. Dr. Storm's comment was, "That is a fine thing for a young man to do; and after years go on, that mother will come to mean more and more to you."

This glimpse of human understanding serves to give us a key to this great educator's grasp of the real values to be woven into education if it is to be worth while.

DEAN M. SCHWEICKHARD
State Commissioner of Education, Minnesota