

GEORGE HARRISON TURNER, M.D., 1877-1970

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It was with real sorrow that I learned of the passing away in hospital on September 13 of Dr. George Turner. A medical practitioner for most of his life he was also a knowledgeable and gifted botanist who collected extensively in central Alberta.

Dr. Turner was born on June 26, 1877, in Baie Verte, New Brunswick. He attended Public School there from 1883 until 1894 and then went to Mt. Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, where he obtained a B.A. degree in 1899. He received the M.D. C.M. degree from the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University in 1903 after which he interned for a year at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. He moved to Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, in 1904 and practised medicine there until 1967, carrying on a limited practice even after his retirement. His wife was Florence

Mary Yould, whom he married in 1906 and who died in 1949.

His interest in botany began while he was attending Mt. Allison University where he was especially influenced by Professor Andrews. In Alberta he early got in touch with Dr. W. C. McCalla whose enthusiasm and proficiency were a great inspiration to him. Other Alberta botanists with whom he had close contact were A. H. Brinkman of Craigmyle and Dr. E. H. Moss of the Department of Botany at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. His vascular plant studies were encouraged by Mr. Herbert Groh, Dr. H. A. Senn and Dr. B. Boivin at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa and also by Dr. E. Porsild at the National Museum of Canada. A friend of long duration was Dr. F. J. Hermann of the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D.C.



Photo by C. D. Bird

Dr. G. H. Turner (left) and Dr. E. H. Moss discussing botany on a field trip near Fort Saskatchewan, August 13, 1960.

In recent years Dr. Turner received help on identifications in the course of corresponding with the bryologists Dr. H. Crum, Dr. H. Conard and Dr. F. J. Hermann, and the lichenologists Dr. J. W. Thomson, Dr. M. E. Hale, Jr. and A. W. Herre. He was noted among his botanical correspondents for his unstinting helpfulness for often going to great lengths in his field work to procure research materials for them.

I had close contact with Dr. Turner from 1960 until he died. A particularly memorable occasion was a field trip with him and Dr. E. H. Moss on August 13, 1960, to a number of boggy areas near Fort Saskatchewan.

Dr. Turner deposited his original collection of about 12,000 specimens in Alberta herbaria with the vascular plants going to the University of Alberta and his nonvascular plants, mainly lichens and bryophytes, going to the University of Calgary. Extensive numbers of duplicate specimens

have been deposited at the Central Experimental Farm and the National Museum of Canada in Ottawa, and at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Michigan.

Dr. Turner is survived by two daughters, Mrs. W. A. Johnstone and Mrs. H. R. McIntyre, and by five grandchildren.

Publications of G. H. Turner

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

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

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

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



Photo by Mrs. W. A. Johnstone

Dr. G. H. Turner in his garden in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, 1968.