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Edward Avery Richmond (1887-1970)

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DR. E. A. RICHMOND

Edward Avery Richmond

1887-1970

Edward Avery Richmond was born June 10, 1887 at Brockton, Massachusetts, and he lived his life in a manner that convinced all who knew him that he was the finest type of New England gentleman. He devoted considerable time during his last 25 years to studying the fauna and flora of Horn Island, which lies off of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Through Doctor Richmond's work the species of living organisms of Horn Island are better recorded than those of any island on the South Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the United States.

Avery or Ned Richmond, as he was known to his various associates, had a long and varied professional career as an entomologist and botanist. Between 1913, when he was teaching assistant at Cornell, and 1957, when he retired as foreign plant quarantine inspector of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, he served in the Medical Corps during World War I and the Chemical Warfare Service during World War II; was a county agent at Massachusetts State College; an industrial chemist and an industrial field entomologist and crop protection inspector. Interspersed among these activities were various teaching posts at Dartmouth College, New York University, Columbia University, Simmons College, and Rhode Island State College.

For a good many of his adult years Doctor Richmond's talents were utilized by the U. S. government, first at the Japanese Beetle Laboratory (1924-29), and later as foreign plant quarantine inspector (1945-56). His numerous published works include "Studies on the biology of the aquatic Hydrophilidae" (1920), several articles on the Japanese beetle (1927, 1929, and 1931); "M*P, a safe and effective spray for insects" (1932); and "Mosquito survey of Horn Island, Mississippi" and miscellaneous newspaper articles.

During the period from February 26, 1944 to February 4, 1945 Doctor Richmond was stationed on Horn Island as health officer with the U. S. Army. It was during this time that he became interested in the wildlife he found existing there and decided to observe and record the animals and plants of the island. Not being sponsored by any organization, the expense and time devoted to his study were his own personal contributions. He was still in the Army during the first year; later, realizing the value of it to the region, I was glad to have Doctor Richmond accept an invitation to live and work at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.

Later in connection with this work, facilities at the U. S. National Museum and at the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia were placed at his disposal. He made good use of

the records of marine fauna of Mississippi which have been maintained in manuscript form since 1950 in a reference collection at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.

Doctor Richmond received his B. S. from Dartmouth College in 1912, an M. A. from Cornell University in 1924, and his Ph.D. degree from Massachusetts State College in 1930. In addition to his previously listed teaching posts, he lectured at colleges throughout the east coast.

In the early 1930's he did extensive work in the control of pests in the Cape Cod cranberry bogs and also invented a trap to eliminate Japanese beetles.

Doctor Richmond's second marriage was to Leona Watland Terrell of Washington, D. C., in November of 1952. At the time of his retirement from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, he was stationed at McGuire AFB, N. J., and they made their home in Moorestown, N. J., where they continued to live until his death on July 14, 1970.

His personality found social expression outside the field of science and he was a Mason, a Shriner, and a Rotarian, as well as a deacon in the Congregational Church. He also held memberships in the American Entomological Society, Entomological Society of America, Phi Kappa Psi, Acacia and Sigma Xi.

E. A. Richmond was a dollar-a-year man at this Laboratory for nine years beginning in 1959, and his contributions to the biology of Mississippi were considerable. His papers on that subject are cited herewith:

Richmond, E. A. 1962. The flora and fauna of Horn Island, Mississippi. *Gulf Research Reports* 1(2) : 59-106.

———. 1968. A supplement to the flora and fauna of Horn Island, Mississippi. *Ibid* 2(3) : 213-254.

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