

Alton McCaleb Harvill, Jr. (1916-2008): A Necrology and Tribute

Robert A. S. Wright

Virginia Botanical Associates, Inc.
1861 Greenbrier Circle
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

ABSTRACT

Alton M. Harvill, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Biology at Longwood University, died on February 21, 2008 at age 91. Dr. Harvill was most certainly the foremost authority on the Virginia flora, specializing in documenting the geographical distribution of plants. At Longwood University, he established the Harvill-Stevens Herbarium, a collection of approximately 75,000 specimens considered one of the finest and most significant systematic collections of vascular plants in the mid-Atlantic region. As a memorial tribute, this paper summarizes his personal and professional history and lifetime accomplishments, and provides a complete list of his scientific publications.

Key words: A. M. Harvill, Jr., Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Virginia botany, Virginia Botanical Associates.

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Alton McCaleb Harvill, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Biology at Longwood University, died on February 21, 2008 at age 91 in Cape Carteret, North Carolina, surrounded by his beloved caretakers, Sarah Kreitowitz Maddox and her daughter, Tiffany K. Bergeron. He is interred in the Westview Cemetery in Farmville, Virginia. He was preceded in death on January 29, 1988 by his devoted wife, Barbara Jean Hopkins Harvill, originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dr. Harvill was most certainly the foremost authority on the Virginia flora, specializing in documenting the geographical distribution of plants. He was the chief author of the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Part I, Pteridophytes through Monocotyledons* (Harvill et al., 1977), *Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Part II: Dicotyledons* (Harvill et al., 1981), *Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Second Edition* (Harvill et al., 1986), and *Atlas of the Virginia Flora, III* (Harvill et al., 1992). A long-time systematic collector of plants from across Virginia, he established the Harvill-Stevens Herbarium at Longwood College (now Longwood University, LU), a collection that is considered one of the finest and most significant assemblages of vascular plant specimens in the mid-Atlantic region. He left behind many loyal friends in local and regional botanical circles formed through years of dedicated research in botany, and

particularly on the flora of Virginia.

EARLY LIFE

Alton McCaleb Harvill, Jr. was born on November 20, 1916 in Russellville, Logan County, Kentucky, to Alton M. Harvill, Sr. and Della Doss Harvill. He had one sister, Thelma Harvill.

Dr. Harvill grew up in Princeton, Kentucky and as a youth enjoyed working with plants in his father's greenhouse. He was educated in the Princeton public school system and graduated in 1934 from R. E. Butler High School. Dr. Harvill then attended Murray State Teachers College for two years. After completing some classes at the University of Idaho, he finished his undergraduate work at the University of Kentucky (UK), receiving his B.S. degree in 1939 (Fig. 1). He immediately re-enrolled at UK to pursue graduate work; then, taking a break, he worked for a year at a plant operated by U.S. Steel Company in Pittsburg, California. Dr. Harvill returned to Lexington, Kentucky and completed the M.S. requirements in the summer of 1941 under the direction of Professor B. B. McInteer.

Dr. Harvill's Master's thesis, *The Compositae of Kentucky*, documented several state records at that time including *Aster lateriflorus* L. Britton var. *angustifolius* Wiegand (from Whitley County), *Solidago bootii* Hooker (McCreary County), *Vernonia fasciculata*

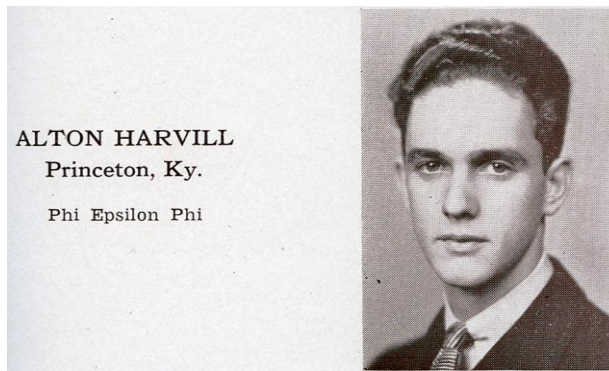


Fig. 1. Alton M. Harvill, Jr., photographed as a college junior in the 1938 *Kentuckian*, the University of Kentucky Yearbook. Provided with permission by Matthew A. Harris, UK Archives Records Program Assistant.

Michaux (Ballard County), and *Iva ciliata* Willdenow (Ballard County), the latter record based on a previously misidentified herbarium specimen. In all, Dr. Harvill processed collections representing 219 species from 57 genera and 10 tribes of this plant family (Asteraceae). Unfortunately, most, if not all, of Dr. Harvill's M.S. thesis voucher specimens were lost in the November 1948 fire that destroyed the early herbarium collections and large botanical library first established at UK by Frank T. McFarland and others¹ (Jones, 2005).

After receiving the M.S. degree, Dr. Harvill attended classes at the University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS) at Douglas Lake, Michigan. He then received a UMBS assistantship at the University of Wyoming (UW) and briefly curated the Rocky Mountain Herbarium at UW prior to entering military service on March 12, 1942.

Dr. Harvill enlisted in the U. S. Army for the duration of WWII plus six months as a private at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, and was assigned as a service-unlimited warrant officer's assistant². He also served as a medical lab technician and was posted mostly in Alaska where he began to amass a large collection of mosses. He was discharged with the rank of Technician Fifth Grade on October 9, 1945.

In March 1946, Dr. Harvill returned to the University of Michigan (UM) to complete additional coursework and begin research to support his dissertation. In June 1948, under the tutelage of Dr.

William Campbell Steere, UM Botany Department Chairman (Crum, 1977), he finished his dissertation, *A Phytogeographic Study of Alaskan Mosses*. Other members of his dissertation committee were Professors Harley H. Barlett, Dow V. Baxter, Carl D. LaRue, and William R. Taylor. In his dissertation, Dr. Harvill acknowledged assistance from several bryologists, including Drs. A. L. Andrews, Seville Flowers, Winona H. Welch, and Mr. E. B. Bartram, all of whom guided Dr. Harvill through some difficult lichen genera. It is likely that Dr. Harvill was a contemporary of Howard A. Crum, another of Steere's students at UM, who became a renowned bryologist. Crum attended UM from 1947 to 1951 and after graduation, followed William Steere to Stanford University for a three-year post-doctoral appointment (Buck, 2002). Crum also taught bryology classes at UMBS, so it is possible that he and Dr. Harvill interacted there or at UM while Harvill was finishing his terminal degree and Crum was starting his graduate studies.

Prior to finishing his terminal degree requirements, Dr. Harvill published two papers on Alaskan mosses, and after receiving his doctorate, he published three more papers on mosses while teaching at the University of Alabama (UA) from 1948 to 1953. In July 1949, Dr. Harvill found what he believed to be a new species of moss in virgin hardwood forest in King Cove, Lawrence County, Alabama, naming it *Diphyscium cumberlandianum* (Harvill, 1950)³.

After his appointment at UA ended, Dr. Harvill conducted rubber research in Liberia in 1953-54 on a 10,000 acre plantation. He returned to the U.S. in 1955; then, after a grand tour of Europe, settled into a teaching position at River Falls State College (RFSC, now University of Wisconsin-River Falls). Feeling an urge to travel, Dr. Harvill and his wife, Barbara Jean, left RFSC in the fall of 1956 for Cairo, Egypt, where he operated a "one-man biology department" at the American University at Cairo (AUC). Mrs. Harvill served as the Administrative Assistant to AUC president Raymond McLain.

At AUC, Dr. Harvill chiefly taught courses without a textbook, and was said to be extremely well organized as an instructor. In addition to other duties, he taught an undergraduate course in genetics, and upon learning the students wanted an advanced course, petitioned the

¹ <http://www.ca.uky.edu/Forestry/herbarium.php>.

² The National Archives World War II Army Enlistment Records (1938-1946) website, <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&rid=5409141>.

³ In 2000, Z. L. K. Magombo annotated the type specimen *Harvill*, 5464, at the Gray Herbarium (barcode 00060529) to *Diphyscium mucronifolium* Mitten. Source: [<http://kiki.huh.harvard.edu/databases/specimensearch.php?mode=details&id=65909>]. Schofield (2007) incorporated Magombo's revision (2003) into the *Flora of North America Volume 27* treatment for *Diphyscium*.

AUC Dean to allow him to teach it. Students were described as having started off shakily at first, but in the end were very grateful for the experience and proud of their achievements. Dr. Harvill remarked on his amazement that all 200 students in his class finished the course. Dr. Harvill often talked about his stint at AUC. Though of short duration, it was one of his favorite academic experiences. He indicated in a February 1988 letter to the AUC administration that his post from 1956-1957 was “the most interesting and satisfying position he had ever held.”

When the British and French invaded Egypt in late 1956 triggering the Suez War, the Harvills and other AUC staff were evacuated in November to Geneva, Switzerland. Mrs. Harvill toured Europe for two months while furloughed with other AUC staff and spouses. She also toured Rome for several days, took a brief teaching position in an American Girls School in Athens, Greece, and also worked in the U.S. Air Force library there (*Campus Caravan*, 1957). Shortly after the Suez War broke out, both of Dr. Harvill’s parents suffered heart attacks, and he returned to Kentucky, but left again for Egypt in late December 1956 in time to teach the second semester.

The Harvills were reunited at AUC on April 4, 1957. Upon Mrs. Harvill’s return from Athens, there was much local fanfare and the AUC newspaper, the *Campus Caravan*, published an article with captioned photograph (Fig. 2), detailing the event in which she was described as being the first staff spouse to return to AUC following the military aggression in Egypt.

The Harvills returned to Kentucky so Dr. Harvill could teach at Murray State College from 1957 to 1961



Fig. 2. Barbara Jean Harvill and Alton M. Harvill, Jr. on the campus of the American University in Cairo, Egypt on the day of her furlough return on April 4, 1957 from Athens, Greece, following the Suez War evacuation in Egypt in November of 1956. Republished here by permission of Stephen Urgola, University Archivist, AUC from the *AUC Campus Caravan* newspaper, April 1957.

and be close to his convalescing parents. Through his connections at Murray State, Dr. Harvill spent the summer of 1962 at Oxford University and in July 1962 was awarded a NATO Advanced Study Institute grant, “North Atlantic Biota and Their History” to study in Reykjavik, Iceland. The Cuban Missile Crisis cancelled that opportunity and in December 1962, Dr. Harvill accepted a research position with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Washington, DC to conduct vegetation studies for the National Intelligence Survey (NIS).

The people and ideas to which Dr. Harvill was exposed at the NIS during 1962 had a profound influence on his future career direction and research interests. Dr. Harvill attributed his career-long interest in phytogeography to Dr. Henry K. Svenson, who was employed as a botanist by USGS until his retirement in 1966⁴. Dr. Harvill frequently referred to his experiences with Dr. Svenson in conversations, and cited Svenson’s work and plant collections (particularly of eastern Virginia) as critical for modern vegetation interpretation (Harvill, 1973, 1984). Feeling considerable gratitude for his earlier training at the USGS in Washington, Dr. Harvill dedicated the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Second Edition* (Harvill et al., 1986) to his long-time mentor, Henry K. Svenson, “who started it all”.

Military uncertainties and frequent travel led Dr. Harvill once again to return to teaching. In the fall of 1963, he accepted a professorship at Longwood College (now Longwood University, LU) where he taught numerous undergraduate courses in natural sciences, mentored students, and conducted personal research. During his tenure at LU, Dr. Harvill began to concentrate on vascular plants instead of bryophytes, and in 1965, he became involved with the Virginia Academy of Science (VAS) and the Virginia Flora Committee (VFC). However, when Dr. Harvill arrived at LU, the VAS had no direct “botany-focused” group within the Virginia Academy of Science (VAS) Biology Section. The idea of a separate and autonomous VAS Botany section was first discussed in May 1966 at the annual VAS meeting at James Madison College (now JMU, Harrisonburg, VA) (Morrow, 1970).

Dr. Harvill’s commitment to this new section yielded a rapid and fundamental change in the direction and accelerated pace of floristic studies in Virginia

⁴ Henry K. Svenson was a student of Dr. Merritt Fernald at Harvard University, and worked at the USGS from 1954 to 1966; see Wordpress.com’s CCMNH Blog website, <http://ccmnh.wordpress.com/2010/02/07/insect-catching-plants-particularly-of-cape-cod-by-dr-henry-k-svenson/>.

botany, as he and others in the VAS re-energized previous efforts, initiated on February 16, 1926 by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPISU) Professor A. B. Massey, to complete a state flora manual for Virginia (Lewis, 1934; Staggers, 1968: 66).⁵

In 1967, VPISU Biology Department Chairman Robert A. Patterson became very interested in Dr. Harvill's project focus, and tried to relocate him from Longwood to VPISU to facilitate the stalled state flora manual project, as Professor Massey had retired in 1959 (Roane, 1981, 1992). This effort was unsuccessful primarily because of Dr. Harvill's overriding interest in the Coastal Plain habitats, which were more easily reached from Farmville, Virginia.

Dr. Harvill's research effort increased, and dissemination of findings became important. He is believed to have been responsible for the 1967 founding of VAS's *Newsletter of the Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science*,⁶ which at that time was the primary medium for dissemination of botanical news pertinent to Virginia. Dr. Harvill served as editor for volumes 1 and 2 of this new publication in 1967 and 1968. He served as a member of the VFC from 1967 to 1973 and from 1969-1971, he also served as its Chairman. Additionally, Dr. Harvill and Dr. Stewart Ware (College of William and Mary) were co-editors of *The Newsletter* for volumes 3 through 8 from 1969 until October 1974, when editorship was taken over by Professor Howard Smith (University of Richmond).

In December, 1968, the *Richmond Times Dispatch* published a feature article (Orndorff, 1968) heralding an enthusiastic revival of interest in Virginia botany and estimated that more than 3,000 species of vascular plants inhabited the state. Dr. Harvill was quoted as stating "the Virginia Flora Committee's efforts are serving as a lens of sorts, bringing to a focus both new and old talent in botany for particularly significant

purposes." He also said "vegetation is not only our most important natural resource, but is renewable. It is necessary to understand the biological and physical conditions necessary for renewal. We need people who know what is important to conserve and how."

From 1964 through 1973, Dr. Harvill published two to six papers every year on flora and biogeography of various locales in Virginia in journals like *Rhodora*, *Castanea*, *Virginia Journal of Science*, and *Jeffersonia*, even as he wrote his book, the *Spring Flora of Virginia* (1970). Dr. Harvill served as Councilor to the VAS in 1970, and on May 7, 1970, he presented his findings on the significance of disjunct distribution patterns in Virginia at the first provisional VAS Botany Section meeting in Richmond, with Dr. Stewart Ware presiding as the Botany Section Chairman.⁷ Dr. Harvill expanded the ideas in the 1970 VAS presentation into a paper published in *Castanea* in 1972. Dr. Harvill also gave an invited presentation on the "Flora of Virginia" to the Smithsonian Institution Botany seminar series in Washington, DC.⁸

Dr. Harvill's substantial productivity and his service on the VFC led to his being elected a Fellow in the VAS in 1971, the same year in which the Botany Section was permanently established at the VAS (Flory, 1973).

THE ATLASES OF THE VIRGINIA FLORA

Major planning for the State Flora Manual took place at Lynchburg College on October 20, 1973 under VFC Chairman Dr. Gwynn W. Ramsey (Lynchburg College). At this meeting, the VFC formed the Virginia Flora Manual Subcommittee and elected Dr. Alton Harvill, Jr. as editor-in-chief, with Dr. Miles Johnson (Virginia Commonwealth University) and Dr. Edmund Berkeley (University of Virginia) as associate editors for planned publications. The concept for the proposed "Atlas of the Virginia Flora" was patterned after the *Atlas of the Flora of the Carolinas* (Radford et al., 1965). Detailed discussions were formalized at the VFC meeting held on November 2, 1974 at Piedmont Junior (now Community) College in Charlottesville, and research and writing responsibilities were assigned to VFC members and others. Funding was later approved by the VAS Council largely through the efforts of Dr. Perry Holt and Dr. Robert Patterson (VPISU).⁹

⁵ Following the circulation of a letter of interest to the VAS officers from Professor Massey, at the fourth annual meeting of the VAS at the University of Virginia, Professor Massey presented a paper calling for a plan for a complete flora for the State of Virginia. The VAS proffered a \$50 grant to the Biology Section, and it commissioned the four-man Committee on the Botanic Division of the Biological Section to undertake the work. This group became what is known today as the Virginia Flora Committee (VFC) (Lewis, 1934; Massey et al., 1950: 67; Staggers, 1968; Roane, 1981, 1992).

⁶ This publication was renamed the "*Newsletter of Virginia Botany*", then was shortened to "*The Newsletter*". Beginning with Volume 6 (1972), it was again renamed "*Jeffersonia, A Newsletter of Virginia Botany*" and thereafter to "*Jeffersonia*" in 1974.

⁷ *The Newsletter* 4(2) (1970).

⁸ *The Newsletter* 4(4): 38 (1970).

⁹ As reported in the *Minutes of the Meeting of the VFC*, published in *Jeffersonia* 8(3): 12-13 (1974).

The finance plan called for the VAS (Publications Committee) and VPISU (Virginia Agricultural Research Station) to each fund one-half of the \$3,500 budget, and for the two-phase report (monocots and dicots) to proceed through the publications committee of the VAS, with printing to be performed by the VPISU Press or the University of Virginia Press. A deadline of May 1, 1975 was established for preparation of the text sections to be entitled Introduction, Physiography, and Plant Communities. For various reasons, these efforts failed to materialize.

THE VIRGINIA BOTANICAL ASSOCIATES

The Virginia Botanical Associates, Inc. (VBA), an organization of mostly academic botanists, was formed by Dr. Harvill in late 1974 to assemble individuals with similar interests in Virginia's flora¹⁰. The VBA grew gradually as individuals (who demonstrated this interest through their field collections) were invited into the group.

Following Mrs. Harvill's untimely death in January 1988, Dr. Harvill established the Barbara J. Harvill Memorial Fund for Botanical Research (BJHMF) to provide small research grants to interested individuals without institutional support for advancing knowledge of botany. The VBA was formally recognized as a nonprofit charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service on December 18, 1989 to administer the BJHMF and to carry out the mission of the VBA.

Dr. Harvill, in collaboration with his hand-picked VBA research colleagues Charles E. "Mo" Stevens and Dr. Donna M. E. Ware, published the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Part I, Pteridophytes through Monocotyledons* (Harvill et al., 1977). Many years in the making, this work compiled all documented herbarium records for ferns, fern allies, and monocots amassed from Virginia by VBA members and others and from regional and national herbaria over a period of many years from the mid-1960s onward.

From 1979 to 1981, Dr. Harvill published two more papers: an important work incorporating more recent data on the distributional patterns of the southwest Virginia flora (Harvill, 1979), which was a sequel to previous publications (Harvill, 1969, 1973), and a brief report on two new *Juncus* species in Virginia (Harvill, 1981).

Dr. Harvill also re-focused much energy and attention on updating the monocot records, as well as formulating the basis for the second volume on

the dicots, *Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Part II, Dicotyledons* (Harvill et al., 1981), coauthored with VBA members Ted Bradley and Charles Stevens. This document synthesized studies based on the examination of more than 300,000 specimens and incorporated new distributional data from additional state herbaria that had not been previously studied.

RETIREMENT YEARS

Dr. Harvill formally retired as Professor Emeritus at Longwood University in 1983. This event permitted him to focus solely on his studies of Virginia botany. He spent much of his first 17 years after retirement pursuing numerous phytogeographical interests, refining ideas, filing papers, filling in distributional maps, and corresponding with a staggering number of botanical researchers, authors, and colleagues from around the world (Fig. 3). In 1984, Dr. Harvill started collaborative work for the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Second Edition* (Harvill et al., 1986) and published an important phytogeographical article in *Sida* (Harvill, 1984).

Much of the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora Part II* work and his later publications, were made possible through grants from the Longwood Research Committee and the Longwood Foundation.

As a testimonial to his continued productivity, service, and publication accomplishments, Alton M. Harvill, Jr. received the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science from the Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation in 1988. While recovering from a bout of Lyme disease, on May 17, 1991, Dr. Harvill presented a masterful synopsis of Virginia phytogeography as a keynote speaker at the Wintergreen Resort's Spring Wildflower



Fig. 3. Dr. Alton M. Harvill, Jr. working in the Harvill-Stevens Herbarium, Longwood University, May 1995. Photo by Gwynn W. Ramsey.

¹⁰ http://www.vaplantatlas.org/index.php?do=about:virginia_botanical_associates.

Symposium. The presentation, entitled “Plant Geography of Virginia: The Last 25,000 Years”, fully described the vegetational history of the late Pleistocene and Holocene epochs in only 30 minutes. This research, with input from VBA members and others, laid the foundation for his three short essays entitled “Behind the Remarkable Floristic Diversity in Virginia (Sketch of the Plant Geography)”, “The Origin, History and Distribution of the ‘Coastal Plain’ Flora”, and the “Epilogue” that appeared in *Atlas of the Virginia Flora, III* (Harvill et al., 1992). These papers, based on plant studies firmly rooted in herbarium holdings, synthesized the state of knowledge of Virginia floristics at that time.

Dr. Harvill remarked that he was “the king of all drudgery” being swamped with all the text and details of the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora, III* by day and at night toiling through the processing of large volumes of voucher specimens¹¹. A 1993 article in the *Richmond Times Dispatch* stated that at 76 years of age, Dr. Harvill was putting in 50 or more hours a week in the LU herbarium, doing “something useful” (Orth, 1993). Dr. Harvill worked tirelessly for six years after retirement to reduce the backlog of specimens in his care. This effort resulted in an unsurpassed collection of approximately 75,000 herbarium specimens of Virginia material (with Charles E. Stevens) now at LU¹². Field botanists, ecologists, and other scientists and students in Virginia and elsewhere are the beneficiaries of his very productive work in laying the groundwork for the ultimate production by later workers of a manual of the flora of Virginia (now well underway as the Flora of Virginia Project)¹³.

Dr. Harvill was particularly fond of engaging colleagues in discussions about the importance of the valuable palynological work of A. J. Craig (1969) at Hack Pond in Augusta County, Virginia, and J. T. Hack’s dynamic landscape equilibrium concept formulated upon geomorphological observations in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia (Hack, 1973, 1975). Dr. Harvill was once made nearly speechless at an annual VBA board of directors meeting upon receiving a final report and publication (Kneller & Poteet, 1999) resulting from a BJHMF grant award for palynological research at Spring Pond in Augusta County, Virginia by Columbia University graduate research assistant

Margaret Kneller¹⁴, later calling the results of her work “thoroughly astonishing”.

Dr. Harvill frequently remarked in conversations on how important the Southwestern and Midwestern plant migrations were to the Virginia flora. Researchers familiar with the Virginia flora were to expect “the next big thing” to occur in western Virginia¹⁵. Dr. Harvill was also frequently heard extolling Douglas Ogle’s re-discovery of Lloyd Carr’s station (Carr, 1965) of *Senecio millefolium* in The Cedars region of Lee County, Virginia after it was “taxonomically lost” to science. Mr. Ogle’s re-establishment of this species (Ogle, 1991) was greatly appreciated by Dr. Harvill. Doug Ogle was a VBA member who contributed numerous plant records to the various *Atlases* between 1977 and 1995, and was a coauthor of the second and third editions.

In 2000, due to health problems, Dr. Harvill officially retired from oversight of the VBA, and passed responsibilities to Dr. Ted Bradley (president, George Mason University) and Dr. Donna M. E. Ware (vice-president, College of William and Mary), both of whom are now also retired from the VBA.

ENDOWMENTS

Dr. Harvill used his early career earnings to invest in the stock market, and later converted some of the accumulated funds into student scholarship endowments at AUC and LU. In March 1990, in appreciation of AUC’s impact on his career, and as a memorial following the death of his beloved wife, Dr. Harvill established the Alton M. and Barbara J. Harvill Scholarship Fund to support an American student seeking funding to study abroad at AUC regardless of major. The scholarship was established as a testament to the Harvills’ great respect for the mission of AUC and its importance to Egypt and the Middle East.

To honor Dr. Harvill, LU established the Alton Harvill, Jr. Scholarship in 1998. Administrated through the Admissions Office, this renewable annual scholarship is offered to an incoming LU freshman Biology major, and is based on academic merit.¹⁶ More recently, a group of anonymous donors calling themselves the “Friends of the Harvills” established a

¹¹ Personal correspondence to the author dated August 29, 1991.

¹² <http://www.longwood.edu/news/newslines/mar08/faculty.htm>.

¹³ <http://www.floraofvirginia.org>.

¹⁴ Dr. Kneller, a paleoecologist, is now a lecturer at the John Cabot University, Rome, Italy.

¹⁵ This prediction came to fruition with the publication of “The flora of dolomite and limestone barrens in southwest Virginia” (Ludwig, 1999), among others.

¹⁶ <http://www.longwood.edu/Sciences/biolscholarships.htm>.

funded endowment in honor of Alton and Barbara Harvill to honor their “incalculable contribution to our scientific knowledge of Virginia’s flora”¹⁷. This fund is used by the VAS Botany Section to select a winner(s) from among student papers presented to the Botany Section at annual VAS meetings, with preference given to graduate students reporting on research in plant taxonomy.

IN MEMORIAM

When Alton Harvill, Jr. passed away in 2008, Virginia lost a phytogeographic mastermind. Moreover, an era in botanical research came to a new beginning. In his career, Dr. Harvill published a total of 46 journal or newsletter articles (41 on vascular plants, five on bryophytes), three book reviews, and five books. The list of Dr. Harvill’s publications is presented as Appendix 1.

Dr. Harvill was adept in bolstering confidence in young biologists who were fortunate enough to come under his influence. He was equally able to encourage those with difficult research and professional problems and was quick to help out those who needed assistance. Those who knew him held his friendship in high esteem and are better individuals and better scientists as a result of their relationship with him. The members of the Virginia Botanical Associates and much of the regional botanical community will forever cherish Alton McCaleb Harvill, Jr. in our hearts. We miss him.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following persons were instrumental in the acquisition of historical and biographical information for the preparation of this document: Jacob Glenn (Shapiro Library, University of Michigan), Rachael Dreyer, (Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan), Karen Jania (Access and Reference Services, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan), Gordon Hogg (Special Collections Director, King Library, University of Kentucky), Jason Flahardy (Yearbook Archivist, University of Kentucky), Matthew Harris (Records Program Archivist, University of Kentucky), Kate Black (Appalachian Collections Archivist, University of Kentucky), Dawn DeLeon (Development Officer, American University of Cairo, New York, NY), Linda Davis-Ore (AUC Student Affairs, New York, NY), Stephen Urgola (AUC Rare Books and Special Collections Library, Cairo, Egypt),

Sarah K. Maddox (A. M. Harvill, Jr. Caretaker), Thomas F. Wieboldt (Curator of Vascular Plants, Massey Herbarium, Virginia Tech), Lydia Williams (Greenwood Library Archives and Records Manager, Longwood University), Erika Acevedo-Gonzalez (Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Longwood University), Gwynn W. Ramsey (Lynchburg College), and Donna and Stewart Ware (College of William and Mary). Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

LITERATURE CITED

Buck, W. R. 2002 (New York Botanical Garden). Howard A. Crum (1922-2002) obituary announcement, Botanical Electronic News, No. 289, May 26, 2002. <http://www.ou.edu/cas/botany-micro/ben/ben289.html>.

Campus Caravan. 1957. “American staff wives to return.” AUC student newspaper, April 7-13, 1957. American University of Cairo, Egypt.

Carr, L. G. 1965. Floristic elements in southwestern Virginia: a phytogeographical consideration. *Castanea* 30: 105-145.

Craig, A. J. 1969. Vegetational history of the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. Pp. 283-296 *In* S. A. Schumm & W. Bradley (eds.), United States Contributions to Quaternary Research, Geological Society of America Special Paper 123.

Crum, H. A. 1977. William Campbell Steere: An account of his life and work. *The Bryologist* 80: 662-694.

Flory, W. S. 1973. The Early Seventies. Chapter 7, pp. 37-44 *In* H. J. Staggers & W. S. Flory. A History of the Virginia Academy of Science, Part II. *Virginia Journal of Science* 24(1). <http://www.vacadsci.org/history/chap7.pdf>

Hack, J. T. 1973. Stream-profile analysis and stream gradient index. *Journal of Research of the U.S. Geological Survey* 1: 421-429.

Hack, J. T. 1975. Dynamic equilibrium and landscape evolution. Pp. 87-102 *In* R. C. Flernal (ed.), *Theories of Landform Development*. State University of New York Press, Binghamton, NY.

Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1950. *Diphyscium cumberlandianum*, a pre-Pliocene relic with Paleotropical affinities. *The Bryologist* 53: 277-282.

¹⁷ “Gift to the Virginia Academy of Science establishes Botany Award”, *Virginia Scientists* 18(1): 5 (January 2009).

- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1973. Phytogeography of the Virginias and the equilibrium concept of landscape. *Castanea* 38: 266-268.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr., C. E. Stevens, & D. M. E. Ware (with contributions by E. Berkeley, D. C. Bliss, & P. M. Mazzeo). 1977. Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Part I, Pteridophytes through Monocotyledons. Virginia Botanical Associates, Burkeville, VA. 59 pp.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr., T. R. Bradley, & C. E. Stevens (with contributions by M. F. Johnson & G. W. Ramsey). 1981. Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Part II: Dicotyledons. Virginia Botanical Associates, Farmville, VA. 148 pp.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1984. On the history of Coastal Plain species on the Cumberland Plateau and Highland Rim. *Sida* 10: 290-294.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr., T. R. Bradley, C. E. Stevens, T. F. Wieboldt, D. M. E. Ware, & D. W. Ogle. 1986. Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Second Edition. Virginia Botanical Associates, Farmville, VA. 135 pp.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr., T. R. Bradley, C. E. Stevens, T. F. Wieboldt, D. M. E. Ware, D. W. Ogle, G. W. Ramsey, & G. P. Fleming. 1992. Atlas of the Virginia Flora, III. Virginia Botanical Associates, Burkeville, VA. 144 pp.
- Jones, R. L. 2005. Plant Life of Kentucky: An Illustrated Guide to the Vascular Flora. University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. 834 pp.
- Kneller, M., & D. Poteet 1999. Late-Glacial to early Holocene climate changes from a central Appalachian pollen and macrofossil record. *Quaternary Research* 51: 133-147.
- Lewis, I. F. 1934. History of the Committee on the Richmond Flora of the Virginia Academy of Science. *Claytonia* 1: 3-5.
- Ludwig, J. C. 1999. The flora of dolomite and limestone barrens in southwest Virginia. *Castanea* 64: 209-230.
- Massey, A. B., & the Virginia Flora Committee. 1950. Botany. Pp. 63-90 *In* Virginia Academy of Science, James River Project Committee, The James River Basin Past Present, and Future. Richmond, VA. 843 pp.
- Magombo, Z. L. K. 2003. Taxonomic revision of the moss family Diphysciaceae M. Fleischer (Musci). *Journal Hattori Botanical Laboratory* 94: 1-86.
- Morrow, L. O. 1970. History of the events leading to the formation of a VAS Botany section. *Jeffersonia* 4: 14-15.
- Ogle, D. 1991. *Senecio millefolium* Torrey and Gray revisited in The Cedars of Lee County, Virginia. *Castanea* 56: 215-219.
- Orndorff, B. 1968. "3000 plants under study: botany in state enjoys revival of interest." *Richmond Times Dispatch*, p. E1, December 1, 1968.
- Orth, K. 1993. "Herbarium at Longwood blossoms in Harvill's care." *Richmond Times Dispatch*, Virginia Vignette, p. B6, March 22, 1993.
- Roane, C. W. 1992. "Arthur Ballard Massey, 1889-1981." Virginia Tech Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation website, <http://cnre.vt.edu/fisheries/temp/massey.html>.
- Roane, M. K. 1981. Arthur Ballard Massey, 1889-1981. *Jeffersonia* 12: 17-18.
- Radford, A. E., H. E. Ahles, & C. R. Bell. 1965. Atlas of the Flora of the Carolinas. Technical Bulletin 165, North Carolina Agricultural Research Station, Raleigh, NC. 208 pp.
- Schofield, W. B. 2007. Diphysciaceae Fleischer. P. 162 *In* Flora of North America, Volume 27. http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=10281.
- Staggers, H. J. 1968. The Beginning. Chapter 1, pp. 61-67 *In* A History of the Virginia Academy of Science, Part I, 1923-1945. *Virginia Journal of Science* 19(1). <http://www.vacadsci.org/history1.htm>.

APPENDIX 1. List of Publications by Alton M. Harvill, Jr. (Compiled by Thomas F. Wieboldt and Robert Wright).

- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1947. Notes on the moss flora of Alaska: I. The mosses of Attu Island collected by Margaret Bell Howard and George B. Schaack. *The Bryologist* 50: 169-177.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1947. Notes on the moss flora of Alaska: II. Mosses of the Mount McKinley region. *The Bryologist* 50: 341-347.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1950. Notes on the mosses of Alaska. III. Some new or otherwise interesting records. *The Bryologist* 53:16-26.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1950. *Diphyscium cumberlandianum*, a pre-Pliocene relic with Paleotropical affinities. *The Bryologist* 53: 277-282.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1951. The mosses of King Cove, Lawrence County, Alabama. *Castanea* 16: 19-22.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1964. The magnolias of Virginia. *Castanea* 29: 186-188.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1964. *Magnolia grandiflora* in Gray's Manual range. *Rhodora* 66: 159.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1965. The mountain element in the flora of The Peninsula of Virginia. *Rhodora* 67: 393-398.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1965. The vegetation of Parramore Island, Virginia. *Castanea* 30: 226-228.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1966. Range extensions on the Middle Peninsula of Virginia. *Virginia Journal of Science* 17: 143-148.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1966. Affinities of the flora of Virginia. *Castanea* 17: 275.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1967. The long-leaf pine region of Virginia. *The Newsletter of the Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science* 1: 1-2.
- Harvill, A.M., Jr. 1967. The botany of North Bay and Back Bay. *The Newsletter of the Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science* 1: 3-6.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1967. Elko Station. *The Newsletter of the Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science* 1: 9-10.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1967. The vegetation of Assateague Island, Virginia. *Castanea* 32: 105-108.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1967. *Stipulicida* in Gray's Manual range. *Rhodora* 69: 777.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1967. Some noteworthy plants of Virginia. *Castanea* 32: 185-186.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1968. Botany of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. *The Newsletter of the Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science* 2: 4-5.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1968. The Cedars of Lee County. *The Newsletter of the Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science* 2: 6-7.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1968. Big Meadows and Bearwallow. *The Newsletter of the Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science* 2: 9.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1968. Sunken Meadow and Claremont Wharf. *The Newsletter of the Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science* 2: 1-3.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1969. Dahlia Bog. *The Newsletter of the Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science* 3: 8-9.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1969. (Review) Flora of the Carolinas. *The Newsletter of the Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science* 3: 3-4.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1969. Virginia species with disjunct populations in the Middle West. *Castanea* 34: 225-229. (also published as *Castanea* 18: 159 1967).
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1969. *Isotria medeoloides* on the Piedmont of Virginia. *Rhodora* 71: 303-304.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1970. The Kilby Bogs. *The Newsletter of the Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science* 4: 2.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1970. Dragon Run. *The Newsletter of the Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science* 4: 36-37.

- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1970. New and overlooked species of the Virginia flora. *Rhodora* 72: 272-273.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1970. Spring Flora of Virginia. McClain Printing Co., Parsons, WV. 240 pp.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1970. Relict vegetation of Caroline County, Virginia. *Castanea* 35: 67-68.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1971. *Rumex hastatulus* in Virginia. *Castanea* 36: 225.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1971. (Review). A valuable revision of the Flora of West Virginia. The Newsletter of the Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science 5: 36.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1972. Plants which skip Virginia. *Jeffersonia, a Newsletter of Virginia Botany* 6: 8-9.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1972. The tragic fate of Poo Run. *Jeffersonia, a Newsletter of Virginia Botany* 6: 28-29.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1972. The historical significance of some disjunct distributional patterns in Virginia. *Castanea* 37: 137-140.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1973. *Tussilago* in Virginia. *Jeffersonia, a Newsletter of Virginia Botany* 7: 1.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1973. Distribution of the carices in Virginia. *Jeffersonia, a Newsletter of Virginia Botany* 7: 7-12.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1973. Plants of southwestern Virginia. *Jeffersonia, a Newsletter of Virginia Botany* 7: 1617.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1973. Phytogeography of the carices of Virginia. *Rhodora* 75: 248-257.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1973. Some new and very local populations of rare species in Virginia. *Castanea* 38: 305-307.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1973. Phytogeography of the Virginias and the equilibrium concept of landscape. *Castanea* 38: 266-268.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1974. (Review) The botanical bookshelf: Flora of West Virginia, Part III, 2nd ed. *Jeffersonia, a Newsletter of Virginia Botany* 8: 10.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1975. Disjunct populations and the antiquity of species. *Castanea* 40: 1-3.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1976. Flat-rock endemics in Gray's Manual range. *Rhodora* 78: 145-147.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1977. New combinations in *Dichanthelium* (Poaceae). *Castanea* 42: 177.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr., C. E. Stevens, & D. M. E. Ware (with contributions by E. Berkeley, D. C. Bliss, & P. M. Mazzeo). 1977. Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Part I, Pteridophytes through Monocotyledons. Virginia Botanical Associates, Burkeville, VA. 59 pp.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1979. Origins and relationships of the flora of southwestern Virginia. *Castanea* 44: 87-93.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1981. Two rushes new for Virginia. *Castanea* 46: 83.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr., T. R. Bradley, & C. E. Stevens (with contributions by M. F. Johnson & G. W. Ramsey). 1981. Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Part II: Dicotyledons. Virginia Botanical Associates, Farmville, VA. 148 pp.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1983. Phytogeographic significance of skewed migration pathways. *Castanea* 48: 281-284.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr. 1984. On the history of Coastal Plain species on the Cumberland Plateau and Highland Rim. *Sida* 10: 290-294.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr., T. R. Bradley, C. E. Stevens, T. F. Wieboldt, D. M. E. Ware, & D. W. Ogle 1986. Atlas of the Virginia Flora, Second Edition. Virginia Botanical Associates, Farmville, VA. 135 pp.
- Wise, E. S., & A. M. Harvill, Jr. 1988. Occurrence and distribution of *Taxodium distichum* (L.) Richard and *Liriodendron tulipifera* L. on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. *Jeffersonia* 19: 10-12.
- Harvill, A. M., Jr., T. R. Bradley, C. E. Stevens, T. F. Wieboldt, D. M. E. Ware, D. W. Ogle, G. W. Ramsey, & G. P. Fleming 1992. Atlas of the Virginia Flora, III. Virginia Botanical Associates, Burkeville, VA. 144 pp.