

Some Illinois Entomologists

Mark DuBois

January 7, 2018

Note: These are arranged in no particular order. I provide a brief introduction to help individuals better understand the rich history of entomology in Illinois (and inspire others to pursue this exciting career).

Benjamin Dann Walsh (September 21, 1808 – November 18, 1869) – first official state entomologist for Illinois (1867 – 1869). Emigrated from England to Henry County, Illinois. One of first American scientists to support Darwin’s theory of evolution. Died soon after being struck by a train (while walking along the tracks). Most of his collection of over 30,000 insects destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. More details at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Dann_Walsh (image also from this page).

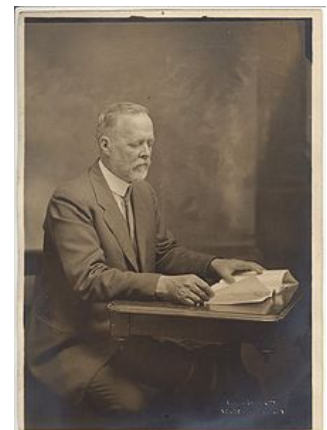


Stephen Alfred Forbes (May 29, 1844 – March 13, 1930) – first Chief of Illinois Natural History Survey (1917 – 1930). Also, Illinois State Entomologist (1882 – 1917). He is recognized as the founder of the science of ecology in the United States. Spent his youth near Freeport, Illinois (Stephenson County). Witnessed one of the Lincoln/Douglas debates in 1858 and publicly scolded Douglas for a perceived insult to Lincoln. Elected to National Academy of Sciences in 1918. President of Ecological Society of America. More details at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Alfred_Forbes (image also from this page).



Stephen A. Forbes

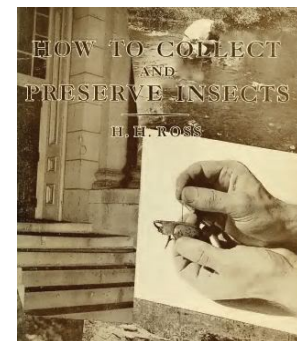
Charles William Woodworth (April 28, 1865 – November 19, 1940) – founded Department of Entomology, University of California, Berkeley. Participated in the development of their Agricultural Experiment Station (now University of California, Davis). First person to breed *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit fly) in captivity and suggested that Harvard researchers use it for scientific research. Born in Champaign, Illinois. From 1884 – 1884 was an assistant to Stephan A. Forbes (see above). More details at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_W._Woodworth (image also from this page).



Charles Valentine Riley (September 18, 1843 – September 14, 1895) – born in London (Chelsea District) and later emigrated to Illinois. First employed as a laborer on a farm near Aroma (Kankakee County). Worked for Chicago based Prairie Farmer (agricultural journal) as editor of the entomological department. Joined the 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment and mustered out before the end of 1864. Appointed first State Entomologist of Missouri (1868). Appointed as entomologist to U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1878. Appointed first curator of insects for Smithsonian Institution (1885). Became known as “father of biological control” because of his efforts to introduce a beetle which was a predator of a scale insect which was devastating the California citrus industry. He authored over 2,400 publications. He died as the result of a bicycle accident near his home in Washington, D.C. More details at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Valentine_Riley (image also from this page).



Herbert Holdsworth Ross (March 3, 1908 – November 2, 1978) – began work with Illinois Natural History Survey in 1927 and named head of identification section in 1935. Also, Professor of Entomology at University of Illinois (retiring in 1969). Author of over 220 technical publications (mostly on Trichoptera) and books including “A Textbook of Entomology,” first published in 1948. In addition to a recognized expert on caddisflies, he was also recognized as an expert on sawflies and leafhoppers. He was born in Leeds, England and his family emigrated to Canada in 1912 (they were unsuccessful in booking passage on the Titanic). More details at: <http://mdubois.click/HerbertHRoss> and <http://mdubois.click/HHRoss>. On a personal note, this publication was the first “technical” entomology publication I obtained as an aspiring entomologist in the 1960s.



Some living central Illinois Entomologists – We meet monthly – <http://centralillinoisinsects.org>

Mark DuBois – author of roughly 60 technical publications [including chapters in books] (mostly on ants).

Frank Hitchell – focused on Lepidoptera (mostly moths). Frank has collected over 1,000 species of moths from just Peoria County.

Gordon Adams – insect photographer

Rob Bell – interested in Lepidoptera (and many other insects)