

CHRIS A. HARTNAGEL

Chris A. Hartnagel, New York State Geologist from 1940-44 and an Honorary Member of AASG, died June 4, 1962, following an illness of several weeks. He was in his 88th year, but within the last year had attended and enjoyed local geological meetings. Hartnagel provided a link with the first State Geologist, James Hall, for as a college student before the turn of the century, he remembered seeing and speaking to that great scientist.

Although employed at the New York State Museum shortly after his graduation from Union College in 1898, he later taught in high school for a time before returning to an association which was to be maintained until his retirement. From 1905, when he joined the staff of the State Museum as an assistant economic geologist, he served in a variety of capacities, mostly in the area of Silurian stratigraphy and paleontology. In addition to geologic mapping, he supervised and logged the extensive coring of the Clinton iron ores in New York and supervised the collection of the Randolph mammoth and the famous Sterlingbush calcites. His closest interest was in oil and gas production, for which he kept extensive and detailed records. Hartnagel became Assistant State Geologist under David Newland in 1920 and held that position until his ultimate appointment as State Geologist.

His later years on the Survey were devoted to maintaining the vital services to citizens of the State and to statistical investigations, for at times he was the only staff geologist. These efforts are represented by a series of Museum bulletins (Mining and Quarry reports) which summarize the mineral production statistics and new developments of that period.

Chris Hartnagel was an avid and prodigious collector, both of geological specimens for the State Museum, and of well records and statistics for the Survey's files. New York State and geologists in general are in his debt today for the data he saved from oblivion. A stickler for accuracy, a man of truly fabulous memory, kind and courteous, he was a real gentleman in every sense. His peers of AASG and colleagues of the State Survey remember him with liking and respect; those not equally fortunate are grateful for his pioneering contributions.