

Michael Shapovalov, 1880-1969.

Leo Shapovalov and James Lesley



Michael Shapovalov, internationally known retired authority on plant diseases, died at his home in Menlo Park on August 26, 1969, after a lingering illness, at the age of 89.

Michael Shapovalov was born in Wilno, Byelorussia, on July 26, 1880. Following graduation from the Vitebsk Theological Seminary with the equivalent of a B.A. degree in 1903, he studied law at the University of Dorpat (Esthonia), also taking courses in the natural sciences. In 1911 he emigrated to the United States after a brief stay in England, and carried graduate work with a major in plant pathology at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Maine. He received an M.S. degree from the latter in 1913. He completed additional graduate work at George Washington University in 1916-1917 and the University of California, Berkeley, in 1930-1932.

He joined the United States Department of Agriculture in 1913. A long and eminent career followed. He was successively stationed at the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, Orono; Washington, D.C., where he worked under Dr. W. A. Orton, to whom he was much attached; Riverside, San Jose, and Berkeley, California; and Logan, Utah. His studies of the diseases of plants, including potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, and

cotton, took him to many parts of the United States and to Mexico, Canada, and Europe. In 1935, he toured Europe extensively, attending the International Botanical Congress at Amsterdam, making a field survey in France, studying agricultural research in England, Ireland, and Scotland, and making numerous contacts in the USSR. He spent over six months in the USSR, conferring with many prominent workers at institutions in Leningrad, Moscow, Kharkov, on the Volga River, and in Crimea and the Caucasus. One of the scientists with whom he was closely associated both before and after this tour was the plant geneticist N. I. Vavilov.

Following his retirement as Senior Plant Pathologist in 1944, Michael Shapovalov devoted many years to the furtherance of cultural and scientific ties with foreign countries, especially the Soviet Union.

He was the author of many papers based on his original research, published in various scientific journals, was a collaborator for *Botanical Abstracts*, and coauthor of a book on Russia.

In 1921 he was Vice President of the Washington Academy of Sciences, and was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of many scientific societies.

He is survived by his widow, Mary I. Shapovalov of Menlo Park, and his son Leo, Senior Fishery Biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game, his daughter-in-law, Donna M. Shapovalov, and two grandsons, Robert and Michael, of Sacramento.