Edward Elway Free: Contributions to American Soil Science in the Early 1900s. (Z06-brevik083655-Oral)

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Abstract:

E.E. Free was born May 3, 1883 to Spencer Michael Free, M.D., and May Irene (Elway) Free in Dagus Mines, PA. He graduated with an A.B. from Cornell University in 1906, specializing in chemistry. His first professional position was as an Assistant Chemist with the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Arizona from 1906-1907. From there, Free moved on to the Bureau of Soils in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he appears to have worked under F.K. Cameron in the area of physical and chemical investigations. In 1912, Free left the Bureau of Soils and founded E.E. Free Laboratories, a New York City based company that provided consulting services in chemistry and physics. In 1917, Free earned a Ph.D. from the Department of Botany at Johns Hopkins University. He continued to run his consulting company until his death on November 24, 1939. There are several changes in publication trends over the course of Free?s career. From 1908-1910 he published in the area of chemistry. In 1909 his publications started to switch to eolian processes and flocculation/deflocculation phenomena. From 1912 to 1916 his publications report on work done in economic resources; particularly K and N sources from desert environments. Starting in 1917 and continuing until his death, his agriculturally related publications dealt primarily with the effects of soil aeration on plant growth and weather and climate.

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