

## Reported Deaths



**Henry M. Munger**

Long-time ASHS member and distinguished vegetable breeder, classical geneticist, and educator Henry M. Munger died 25 Aug. 2010 in Ithaca, NY, at age 94. Born 10 May 1916 in Ames, IA, he was raised in Byron, NY after his family returned there to live on the Munger family farm. He was educated at a nearby one-room school and later graduated from South Byron High School, going on to Cornell University at age 16. As an undergraduate, he boarded with Charles and Ethel Hill, who years later introduced him to their tenant Norma Gibson, whom he married in 1950.

Dr. Munger received his BS from Cornell in 1936, his MS from Ohio State University, and his PhD from Cornell. From his 1941 doctoral research came the first fusarium wilt-resistant muskmelon, 'Iroquois'. He started teaching at Cornell in 1942 and was head of the Department of Vegetable Crops for 15 years. Over the course of his career he advised more than 60 PhD students, many of whom, along with his colleagues, he regarded as his second family. His breeding work with melons, cucumbers, squash, onions, and tomatoes resulted in numerous new, disease-resistant varieties available to commercial growers and home gardeners.

Dr. Munger joined ASHS in 1940 and in 1995 was the first living person inducted into

its horticultural Hall of Fame. Widely recognized for his teaching and research, he was the recipient of the World Seed Prize, Honorary Doctor of Science from University of Nebraska, Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Outstanding Alumni Award, and many other awards.

In addition to vegetable breeding, Dr. Munger was dedicated to improving vegetable production worldwide. He did consultative work in the Philippines, Egypt, Ecuador, and India, and in 1974 was part of the U.S. plant science delegation to the People's Republic of China. He was a strong advocate for the potential of vegetables to enhance nutrition and health throughout the world, looking forward to a second Green Revolution, one brought about by horticulturists.

In his community, Dr. Munger was a long-time member of the Rotary Club and the First Presbyterian Church. He was among the original residents of the Kendal community at Ithaca.

He was predeceased by his wife, Norma, in 2004, and by his two sisters Eunice "Bicky" Ferguson and Mary Elizabeth Derby. He is survived by his daughters Martha (Don Mowry) Munger of Mondovi, WI, and Nancy Munger of Eastham, MA; grandchildren Evan Munger Mowry and Glenna Munger Mowry; and nine nieces and nephews.

Donations may be made to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of Cornell University, 274 Roberts Hall, Ithaca, NY 14850; or to United Way of Tompkins County, 313 N. Aurora St., Ithaca, NY 14850.

### **Edwin A. Crosby**

Former ASHS President Edwin A. Crosby died 8 Oct. at the age of 86 in Rockville, MD. He was born 18 May 1924 in Greenwich, CT.

Dr. Crosby received his bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy, and after the war received his MS and PhD degrees in horticulture and plant physiology from the University of California at Davis. He became an assistant professor at Rutgers University in 1955, and then began service as an influential scientist promoting the U.S.



agricultural industry through employment advocacy contributions with the National Canners Association, National Food Processors Association, and later the National Horticultural Society.

Dr. Crosby became an ASHS Fellow in 1968, and later president of the society in 1977. He was also a founder of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology; and long-time benefactor of the National Junior Horticultural Foundation, which supports young men and women pursuing professional careers in the horticultural industry. In his community, he was an active member of the Rockville chapter of Civitan, Congressional Country Club, and Our Lady of Mercy parish, where he sang in the choir for more than 30 years. He also provided transportation services to the elderly through his many years of faithful service to Senior Connection. He was an avid golfer and extensive world traveler.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Betty; sister, Ann Hansen (Richard), Hampton, New NH; daughter, Lucia Brady, Gaithersburg, MD; sons, Mark Crosby (Gaye) of Ijamsville, MD, Richard Crosby (Elizabeth) of Millstadt, IL, and Jonathan Crosby of Houston, TX; stepdaughters, Dale Koepenick (Jim) of Bethesda, MD, and Judy Mistretta (John) of Bethesda, MD; stepson, Glen Koepenick, Jr. (Kelly) of Charleston, SC; 20 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, seven nieces and three nephews. His first wife, Phyllis, died in 1971, after 25 years of marriage. Donations in Dr. Crosby's name may be made to the Montgomery Hospice Casey House, 6001 Muncaster Mill Road, Rockville MD 20855.