



Alan Lindsay Orr-Ewing, M.C., B.S.F., M.F., Ph.D., R.P.F. – the father of forest genetics in British Columbia

The FHABC has published a biography of Alan Orr-Ewing, authored by members Gerry Burch and Mike Meagher. Orr-Ewing's first job with the B.C. Forest Service was as a summer research assistant in 1935. After graduating from the University of Edinburgh in 1939 he joined the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders and saw action in northern France. In 1948 the Orr-Ewings emigrated to Canada and Alan was employed by the Research Section of the Economics Division of the B.C. Forest Service, tasked with studying the natural regeneration of Coastal Douglas-fir. In 1950, Alan decided to specialize in forest genetics, and enrolled in the University of California for a Master's degree, resolving to concentrate on the improvement of Douglas-fir.

In March of 1956, Alan became the first recipient of a Ph.D. in forestry at UBC and returned to the Research Division for a lifetime of projects in forest genetics and tree improvement. He began with correct allocation of seedlings to near the seed collection site and progressed to careful selection of seed parent, seed orchards and tree breeding. Alan's vision and example extended the program to include all commercial species in the province. He was recognized internationally and received the Association of B.C. Forest Professional's first Distinguished Forester Award in 1970, among many other honours.

Forest tree improvement owes much to this pioneering and dedicated man. To order a copy of Alan Orr-Ewing's 155-page biography, please complete and mail the form below, along with \$20 payable to the Forest History Association of B.C. (includes shipping), to:

Mike Meagher
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