

Dr. Henry Thomas Skinner was born in England in 1907 and died in Henderson County, NC, 26 Nov 1984. He was married to Anna M. Wood. He studied at the Wisley School of the Royal Horticultural Society, then came to the U.S. in 1927, where he obtained a B.Sc. from Cornell University in 1936; M.S. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1938; and Ph.D. from Pennsylvania in 1952.

He was curator of the Morris Arboretum from 1940-1943 and from 1945-1952, his work there having been interrupted by service in the USAAF in World War II from 1943-1945. He was director of the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. from 1952-1973.

Dr. Skinner served the plant community in many ways through work and committees during his lifetime, a prime example of this being his development of the U.S.D.A. Hardiness Zone Map. He served as president of several plant organizations including the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta (1947), American Horticultural Society (1962-63), and vice president of the Royal Horticultural Society (1973-1984). He was the recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Medal (1963); Gold Medal, American Rhododendron Society (1965); Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal, American Horticultural Society (1972); Gold Medal, Massachusetts Horticultural Society (1973); and the Royal Horticultural Society's Veitch Medal was presented to R.W. Skinner, a nephew, on behalf of Dr. Skinner (1983).

Anna Wood Skinner passed away 11 Feb 2008 in Henderson Co. NC

