



Alexander M. Goldfinger • John T. Tetley • George L. Rusby
 July 24, 1949, Newark, N. J. This was last public appearance of Mr. Rusby.

George L. Rusby—Elizabeth Bowen Rusby

The farm upon which George Rusby was born in 1865 was in what is now known as Nutley, New Jersey. He was the fifth of nine children, and his youth was one of hard work and poverty. The family resources did not permit him to complete more than one year of secondary school, but from childhood he was eager to learn what made the world "tick." At an early age he got a job with a wholesale grocery company. Later he became a salesman and subsequently a life insurance man.

George Rusby later erected on this property an immense sign which stated that the results of the growth of Nutley increased the value of land, but the Rusby family, not the inhabitants of the town, would profit. A brief explanation of the single tax principle followed. The farm was appraised at \$8,500 at his father's death. It is now part of the business and residential district of the town.

In 1897 a business acquaintance loaned a copy of "Progress and Poverty" to Mr. Rusby. Convinced by studying this book, he corresponded with Henry George, and joined in the political campaign in New York when the latter was a mayoralty candidate. His first public speech advocated the election of Henry George. His interest in the land-tenure proposals of George led Rusby to others of like mind, and to an active participation in the affairs of the Single Tax Club. He became well known as a lecturer and writer of articles and reviews for single-tax publication.

In 1932 he assisted Oscar Geiger in founding the Henry George School of Social Science in New York. Lecturing, writing and expounding, however, accomplished little in the direction of the goal. Rusby and other single taxers worked for years to popularize the education of fundamental economics. A school with a well planned course of study appealed to him as offering a new approach.

As the school attracted first hundreds and then thousands to its classes, the most encouraging feature became, for Mr. Rusby, the fact that the graduates really understood economic laws. In 1935, together with his wife, Elizabeth Bowen Rusby, a physician, and a learned economist, George Rusby founded the Henry George School of New Jersey. He was its president until his death in 1950 and remained untiring in his efforts. His constant interest lay not alone in the growth of classes, but in precision thinking and breadth of knowledge for its faculty.

Dr. Elizabeth Bowen Rusby was dean of the school. Her lectures were well attended and her influence was great. Together with Mr. Rusby she wrote "Economics Simplified", which is one of the textbooks at the New Jersey Henry George School and others. She and Mr. Rusby were working on a correspondence course based on that book when she died in 1943. At her request, Alexander M. Goldfinger (the present dean) and Mr. Rusby carried the task to completion.