

Geoffrey Francis Kellaway was born on 1902 May 14 and died on 1962 November 11. He was the son of John Alfred Maton Kellaway of Laxonhurst in Cheam.

His interest in astronomy started in early childhood and developed during his schooldays, first at preparatory school in Cheam and afterwards at Harrow. Soon after leaving Harrow he took up farming and went to live at Coker Hill near West Coker in Somerset, which he farmed until the time of his death.

In 1927 he married Marjorie Farley Adams, and he had three sons and one daughter.

Shortly after settling at Coker Hill, Kellaway started to play an active part in astronomy and purchased a 7½-inch photovisual by Cooke. He also obtained a 5½-inch Zeiss photographic triplet of 28-inches focus, for which he built a camera and mounted it on the 7½-inch equatorial. At a later date he bought the 12½-inch Calvin reflector which had previously belonged to Hallowes.

Kellaway joined the Association in 1920 and became a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1932. In 1922 he became a member of the Variable Star Section. At first he was active as a variable star observer, using the 7½-inch refractor for the purpose; but soon his interest turned to photography, which thereafter occupied most of his available time. In 1937 he became director of the Photographic Section of the Association. He continued in this post until 1950 when the section was discontinued, as it was felt that its work, which was mainly connected with comets, could be more suitably

relegated to the Comet Section. As Director of the Photographic Section he was always a source of great inspiration and help to its members, for he was not only a first rate observer, but also a very competent mechanic. He could advise on the technique of photography and on the construction of simple and inexpensive apparatus which was yet capable of considerable accuracy. He devised an ingenious and simple modification of the Gerrish-drive for advancing or retarding the movement of a telescope in right ascension as is so often required in comet photography. He also published a simple method of measuring comet positions by projecting the photographic plate onto good quality graph-paper. For his own more accurate measurements he built a machine employing a bifilar micrometer and a glass réseau. Kellaway also made some excursions into the calculations of the orbits of comets, one of which namely that of Comet Whipple-Fedtke, he published in the *Journal*.

He was a good cometary observer. On 1943 November 30 he was the first to recover the period comet Daniel, picking it up in the first instance visually with his 12½-inch reflector. On December 19 of that same year he independently discovered photographically comet-Great-Daimaca-Palties; but as his name would have been the fourth it could not be attached to it, as comets are permitted a maximum of three names only. It was a good example of his versatility that apart from recovering this one and discovering the other, he took a series of photographs of both comets, measured the plates himself and finally calculated orbits for them.

In addition to farming and astronomy, Kellaway had several other major interests. He was a keen musician and a competent performer on both the piano and the violin. He ran his own string quartet and he regularly played the violin in a number of orchestras in the surrounding district. He was also a keen sailor and latterly sailed his own yacht.

Those who knew him always wondered how he was able to do so many things so well; for the running of his farm in which he did much of the work himself, would have been a full-time job for most men. I remember on one occasion, while staying with him, how he was called away from the telescope to tend some animal in distress and one was left to finish the exposures for him. It was because he led such an active life that his visits to our meetings were infrequent and his astronomical friends saw so much less of him than they would have liked. In his last few years he was handicapped by considerable ill health; but in spite of that he carried on most of his activities to the end, which came quickly and unexpectedly as the result of a sudden heart attack.

Geoffrey Kellaway was a man of great charm and kindness, and those of us who knew him well will miss him greatly, both as a friend and a very inspiring amateur astronomer.

R.L.W.