

# GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

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Adkins, Homer Burton

1892 - 1949

DEGREE: PhD

DATE: 1918

PLACE: Ohio State

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Evans

world authority on the hydrogenation of organic compounds; studied the catalytic action of metal oxides in the hydrogenation of esters to alcohols, developing the copper chromite catalyst in the process; developed new methods for preparing catalysts by heating various aluminum alkoxides, thus obtaining aluminum oxides with different spacings; coined the word hydrogenolysis to describe processes in which hydrogen reacts on the catalyst surface to split off two new molecules; investigated comparative reactivities, particularly the relation of structure, oxidation potential, and other chemical and physical properties; during WWII, involved in work on vesicants, lachrymators, sternutators, detoxifying agents (esp. protective clothing and ointment for use against vesicants) and anti-malarial agents.

1. *American Chemists and Chemical Engineers*; Miles, W. D., Ed.; American Chemical Society: 1976; vol. 1, p5-7.
2. *Dictionary of American Biography*; Malone, D., Ed.; Charles Scribner's Sons: 1946-1950; suppl. Vol. 4, p5-7.
3. *Biog. Mem. Nat. Acad. Sci.* **1952**, 27, 293-317.
4. *Science* **1949**, 110, 200.
5. *Chem. Eng. News* **1949**, 27, 2436.