

## *Obituaries*

### CARL CUSTER CUTLER

Carl Cutler, who died at Westerly, Rhode Island, on February 20, 1966, at the age of 87, was a prime illustration of the fact that the American Antiquarian Society is an historians' coöperative. Born at Kingston, Michigan, a son of the Reverend Gilbert B. and Adele (King) Cutler, he was early taken to Tiverton, Rhode Island, where he developed his love for the sea. While still a boy he sailed before the mast of the barque *Alice* on a voyage to New Zealand, and later put in another year as a sailor. He then went to Brown, where he was graduated summa cum laude in 1903. After two years in the Columbia Law School, he quit without a degree in order to go into practice in New York. Later he practiced law in Seattle, engaged in British Columbia real estate, and then returned to New York and the law.

During these years Mr. Cutler was gathering material for his volume *Greyhounds of the Sea, The Story of the American Clipper Ship*, which appeared in 1930. The previous year he had been one of the three founders of the Marine Museum at Mystic Seaport, of which he now became curator, and, in 1938, general manager. The story of his accomplishments there reminds one of the "driving" captains whom he so greatly admired. Given the blacksmith shop at the Green estate, "Round Hills," he found that the Museum could not pay the price asked by contractors to move it, so with one assistant he took the building apart, loaded some twenty-

five or thirty tons of materials onto the trucks, and got it to Mystic. On another occasion, being given 80 tons of salt to check the rot in the hull of the whaler *Morgan*, he, with the help of one assistant, shoveled it in. He re-rigged that whaler himself, having searched from Virginia to Siam for the materials.

Mr. Cutler was always devoted to craftsmanship, both in rigging and history; he distrusted bigness and popularization, and his retirement from Mystic Seaport in 1952 marked, he said cheerfully, his final defeat in his personal rearguard action against gigantism in the museum world. On the other hand, he was always heartily in sympathy with the American Antiquarian Society, to which he was elected in 1943, and its ways. At our meeting of October, 1948, his paper on "Yankee Sailing Ship Records" was read by Admiral Morison. He read the articles in the *Proceedings* with great interest, and speculated on such things as the influence of Puritan ancestry on the character of nineteenth-century American captains. The research which went into his *Queens of the Western Ocean, The Story of American Mail and Passenger Sailing Lines*, involved staggering logistic problems of transporting research material between Worcester and Mystic. The book was published in 1961, with a reprint of his clipper ship volume, by the United States Naval Institute at Annapolis. Our coöperation with his research continued until shortly before his death. He is survived by his widow, the former Helen Grant Irving, and by two children.

C.K.S.

### GILBERT HOVEY GROSVENOR

Gilbert H. Grosvenor was born in Constantinople on October 28, 1875, and died at Baddeck, Nova Scotia, on

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