

the city's common council and later as a representative to the Great and General Court of the Commonwealth. Among local organizations he was president of the Art Museum, treasurer of the Children's Friend Society, trustee of banks and clubs, a member of the Worcester Fire Society (which he held very dear), the Shakespeare Club, and St. Wulstan Club, Tatnuck Country Club, etc., etc., etc.

In recent years he had difficulty with his sight, a factor which limited his mobility but he kept his spirits up and only recently delivered a paper at the Fire Society on bicycling at the turn of the century, much of the material for which he found at the Society. At the end, his strength grew feeble and he suffered under a cruel illness.

A number of his friends gave funds to the Society which we used to purchase a unique broadside in his memory. The broadside was signed by General Benjamin Lincoln (a tangential ancestor) in Pittsfield on February 19, 1787, and granted pardons to the supporters of Daniel Shays' rebellion who turned themselves in to the authorities. It is a historical document which Dan Lincoln would have appreciated.

At his death Mr. Lincoln left his widow, their son, Brayton, and four grandchildren.

M. A. McC.

ALLAN NEVINS

Allan Nevins, historian, was born at Camp Point, Illinois, on May 20, 1890, son of Joseph Allan and Emma (Stahl) Nevins. With the other four children he was brought up on the family stock and grain farm where he was used to working twelve to fourteen hours a day at the constant country chores before leaving for college. In 1912, at twenty-two years and after editing the school newspaper and getting Phi Beta Kappa he received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and the next year taught English while earning a master's

degree in history. He never bothered to go after the Ph.D. but later was given over twenty honorary doctorates. His formal schooling over he went into newspaper work in New York spending time away from work writing history.

His first of fifty books was a study of Robert Rogers published in 1914, and during the twenties he published a study of the states during the American Revolution, a work on the emergence of modern America, and a biography of Frémont which was well received indeed. He remained in New York dividing his time between journalism and history until 1927 when he joined the faculty at Cornell for a year before returning to the city for a joint job on the staff at Columbia and on the *New York World*. In 1931 he left the newspaper for the faculty at Columbia where he remained except for visiting professorships during the thirties. In these years he received two Pulitzer prizes, one in 1933 for his work on Grover Cleveland and one in 1937 for his study of Hamilton Fish. At the beginning of the forties he published a biography of John D. Rockefeller, the first of a number of volumes on such business leaders. He also started work on a multi-volume study, *The Ordeal of the Union*. He was a tireless researcher.

At the April meeting of 1941, Nevins was elected to membership in this Society at a time when he was in England on research but upon return he hastened to accept, saying that 'for many years I have felt a very warm admiration for your Society. When I was a mere beginner in historical writing, and still a young newspaperman, I spent a number of days under the roof of the Society working upon a book dealing with state history in the Revolutionary period.' He also recalled courtesies shown and 'the delight of working in so handsome and complete a library.' In response Clarence Brigham tried to get him to deliver a paper soon. But the Second World War came and he served with the Office of War Information in Australia and New Zealand. He then was transferred to a job as chief public affairs officer at the American

Embassy in London until after the War. He then returned to Columbia again and remained there until 1958, again except for visiting professorships, when he left the city for California to become the senior research associate at the Huntington. Shortly after he had returned to Columbia, Brigham tried again but caught Nevins 'between a book on one side, and a tremendously heavy load of teaching on the other, I am helpless.' The persistently hoped-for paper at one of our meetings, for one reason or another, was never delivered.

Nevins was a busy man indeed, for during these years at Columbia he established the unprecedented oral history program of the University, continued his own prodigious scholarly output, and helped colleagues and graduate students with their own work. One of these colleagues, Henry Steele Commager, said of Nevins that 'his contribution to historiography was immense,' for he was 'the most productive, and in many ways the most creative, of modern historians.' At the Huntington, Nevins continued his energetic pace. He had also in these years been president of the American Historical Association, of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and of the Society of American Historians and a winner of very many awards in the profession and out.

Meeting Clifford Shipton in early 1950, Nevins said that he 'did not know of any comparable institution with an endowment as small as that of the American Antiquarian Society which was doing as much for the world of scholarship.' Although the press of work kept Nevins from presenting a paper, or even attending a meeting, he did represent the Society at the inauguration of a college president in the early sixties, and later contributed to our annual appeals and also sent us copies of books he had written.

On March 5, 1971, Allan Nevins died in a nursing home at Menlo Park at eighty years old after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Mary Fleming (Richardson) Nevins, whom he had married in 1916, two daughters, two sisters,

and a brother. He is also survived by generations of people, in history and out, who have many and varied reasons to have been happy that Nevins was the helpful, productive, witty, and grand man that he was for them.

J. E. M.

RAYMOND PHINEAS STEARNS

Raymond Phineas Stearns was born in Canton, Illinois, on January 11, 1904, son of Clark and Kathleen Gertrude (Stimeling) Stearns. He grew up and obtained his own schooling there, taught in his late teens in the schools of his neighborhood of Fulton County, Illinois, and then went off to college, taking his undergraduate degree at Illinois College in 1927. Just after commencement he married Mary Elizabeth Scott and then with his bride he set up housekeeping and taught at a nearby high school for two years.

Having earned some money for graduate school, he added it to the graduate fellowship awarded by the Harvard Club of Chicago and left Illinois for Harvard where he earned a master's degree in 1931 and, after working as a teaching assistant, his doctorate in 1934. The next academic year found him even further from home, as he was at the University of London as a postdoctoral fellow of the Social Science Research Council. During this first winter in London, he met another impecunious American student, Walter Muir Whitehill, then at the University of London. When they both returned to Boston, Stearns drew him into the Harvard group that included Perry Miller, Carl Bridenbaugh, and Clifford Shipton. Having spent his second year of the fellowship here, Stearns returned to his home state with his growing family and took a job as history department head and professor at Lake Forest College for the next academic year. He then went to the University of Illinois where he began to work his way up the academic ladder to a professorship in 1948. Early in that climb, he received

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