

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

the American Society for Church History prize in 1940 for his study of congregationalism in the Dutch Netherlands.

It was in these early years of his scholarly work that Stearns was the first to enunciate the concept of covenant theology, but his work in developing that concept had to be put aside in this period, for he was unable to get a job teaching early American history. He had to do European, a change which led him to the distasteful task of compilation of a textbook of European history. That the book, *Pageant of Europe*, was very successful did not cheer him much, for while he was necessarily in the work, Perry Miller had the enjoyment of breaking through with the work on the covenant. At about that time his first of many gifts to the American Antiquarian Society was a descriptive guide to one of the collections at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

As he was trying to continue his work on puritanism and Hugh Peter, our Librarian Shipton, his friend from graduate school, wrote to ask how it was going along, and a short time later asked Stearns that he again bring his family East, as the Shiptons were 'a little bewildered by the goodness of your children.' The Shiptons also had occasions for visiting with Stearnses in these years, for the men of the families served together on the Council of the Institute of Early American History and Culture. At the April meeting in 1951, Stearns was elected to membership in this Society and wrote to say, formally, that he was honored to belong to this Society 'with whose fine publications and excellent library I have long been acquainted.' In writing to his friend Shipton, Stearns repeated his pleasure. The next year he wrote and asked if Shipton would be interested in an article for the *Proceedings* and asked him to choose between Hugh Peter and James Petiver. He was told that Petiver would do nicely and the paper was read in brief form at the October meeting in 1952 and it got a full-length treatment in the *Proceedings* for 1952 after long correspondence concerning length and whether Stearns might call

Petiver, an exponent of experimental science, a 'junkman' in the title. But it all was straightened out and they were back to noting in their letters such really important matters as the number of pairs of shoes each had to buy his children so that they could start the school year well-shod, reports on the November election battle between Eisenhower and Stevenson (an especially dirty job in Massachusetts), and the continuing attempt by the Shiptons to find a house in their neighborhood for the Stearnses. Throughout the fifties Stearns continued to come to our area whenever he could get away and could afford it. By then his family had grown considerably. He had had a son and two daughters by his first wife who had died in 1946, a blow for Stearns which his friends feared would disrupt his life. But he was equally fortunate in his choice of a second wife, Josephine (Bunch) Stearns, with whom he was to have three more daughters. The Stearns family moved to nearby Milo and an enormous Victorian house which filled quickly with his active family. The house also had an enormous garden from which the local church was abundantly flowered for services. His wife founded the local public library. This happy life in Milo was punctuated by sabbatical years in Europe where the family enjoyed fitting itself into foreign communities.

In 1954 Stearns's study of Hugh Peter, *The Strenuous Puritan*, was published and in it he did what he could in a dozen years of research to put that controversial and many-sided man in true perspective. A few years later Stearns was a Fulbright lecturer at the University of Ghent, Belgium, where he received the medal of the University. Upon returning back to America, he published a study on Mark Catesby, the colonial Audubon. In the mid-sixties the Shiptons visited the Stearnses in Illinois where Shipton gave a speech to a university audience and the families had a good visit for a week. Shipton sent out an anonymous bread-and-butter gift of a pound of Cake-Box tobacco and Stearns wrote that although 'the saint who sent this to me is at present invisible' he had strong and cor-

rect suspicions. It was then Stearns's turn to give talks and he went off dutifully to Mississippi and other spots including some for research. Some of the research was on early Congregationalism and in 1965 he gave a paper at our April meeting on aspects of that work. Also in this period he spent a good amount of time at the campus research center getting started on writing his major work on colonial science upon which he had been chipping away for years with important articles in journals. Getting started though was delayed a bit by a heart attack that landed him in the hospital for a time. Soon out, he 'gained strength steadily' and got back to work and, though not 'quite back to par yet,' recovered. The children had grown and had gone off to school and jobs so, warned by the attack, the family moved back to the city and built a house in Urbana. Once trim and hearty, he started his research rounds which included a couple of weeks at our library in the summer of 1966 while the family stayed and swam in Shirley where they had rented a cabin on a lake and from where the two scholars had 'smoke-filled rides to and fro' Worcester.

In 1967 another Stearns offering to the *Proceedings* was made and it was on the wit and jest books of Hugh Peter, and Stearns was anxious that the galley-proof be sent him before mid-August as he was then off to England for a year. Back from research in England, Stearns had become emeritus at Illinois but, to keep himself busy, had joined the staff of Illinois State University at Normal.

At the age of sixty-six and while visiting his son in Piscataway, New Jersey, Raymond Phineas Stearns died just after midnight on November 15, 1970. His body was taken home to Champaign-Urbana and after services at the chapel he was buried at Mount Hope Cemetery. He is survived by his widow, a son, five daughters, and five grandchildren. He had just seen through the press his last work, *Science in the British Colonies: 1570-1779* which a few weeks later won the National Book Award for Science. For scholars this last was but one part of a

long legacy to learning; for his family and friends the legacy was made more bountiful by happy memories of a man intensely devoted to those he loved, a genial host and appreciative guest, and a thoroughly loyal and warm friend who is missed very much.

J. E. M.

ALBERT GOODNOW WAITE

Albert Goodnow Waite, curator, was born on April 7, 1882, in Worcester, son of Albert Harrison and Helen Emerson (Morse) Waite. He did his early learning at the local schools and graduated from Classical High before enrolling at Harvard with the Class of 1905. He was active in the Camera Club and on the board of the *Advocate* and worked hard at his courses, completing the requirements for the degree in three years. His fourth year he spent working toward a master's degree. He took his A.B. cum laude with his class in June 1905. Returning home he packed and took an extended trip through the country from coast to coast and up to Alaska. This home-grown grand tour behind him, he unpacked, put on bib overalls, and went to work in the shops of the Spencer Wire factory in town. He apprenticed his way up from overalls to business suit and from wire brakes to the managership of the anchor fence division, changing work-clothes for academic robes in order to take his M.A. awarded in June 1906. In 1909 he moved across to another local wire-works where, starting in fencing, he moved into sales and advertising and a few years later he moved towns and jobs to Springfield and a textile soap firm.

During the First World War 'ill health prevented me from entering the service,' but not for want of trying. He attended the Plattsburg volunteer training camp before the United States entered the war, even gave up cigarettes, and had every hope of entering officers' training but 'broke down from overwork

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