

rill Jensen and Clarence Ver Steeg had given him to keep him going, we stopped at a doughnut shop on the way. At the airport, before the other passengers boarded, the children and I took him to the plane where they got to see the cockpit and I got to see that Gipson was settled for the trip. Overloaded with courtly expressions of deep gratitude and our goodbys said, we went back to the terminal where Elsie reported she had been asked by other passengers, curious about his special treatment, whether he were a famous man. She had told them that he was famous, yes, but that, more importantly, he was a very good man.

This very good man, half a year later, on September 26, 1971, died in his sleep in a nursing home to which he had recently gone. His wife to whom he had been married for nearly sixty years, had died in 1967, and he was survived by a sister, Margaret Gipson, of Caldwell, Idaho. He had stayed the long distance well indeed.

J. E. M.

RAYMOND SANGER WILKINS

Raymond Sanger Wilkins, judge and collector, was born in Salem, Massachusetts, on May 24, 1891, son of Samuel Herbert and Marietta Burke (Rowell) Wilkins. He spent his early learning years in the public schools of Salem and after graduating from high school there he went to Harvard with the Class of 1912 where he majored in government, held for his senior year a Group I Scholarship, managed the lacrosse team for a time, and took his degree cum laude. He then went across the street to the Law School where he was editor at the law review and where he took his LL.B. degree, also cum laude, in 1915 and was admitted to the state bar that year. He went right into a Boston law firm until during the First World War

when he was in the Field Artillery in Europe. Mustered out as captain in 1919 he returned to his firm, became a partner in 1922, and married Mary Louise Aldrich in Fall River at the end of the summer of 1923. He then spent the rest of the twenties in general practice of law including trial work, and the raising of three sons. Thus qualified, he was appointed by the governor to a commission concerned with changes in the boxing and wrestling laws. The active and growing family had led him to move them all to Winchester where he continued his active support of civic causes earlier fostered in Boston, rising through the usual town offices to head selectman in 1937. He was also interested in legal organizations and held his college class secretaryship. He said at that time, twenty-five years out of college, that 'I believe that in these days one should actually participate to the fullest extent he is able in government and public affairs.' He had also become a book collector, specializing at this time in books of the Civil War. In the late thirties Wilkins went to our Director, Clarence Brigham, to offer some Confederate newspapers but Brigham with deep regret simply didn't have the money to pay for them, and Wilkins regretted that he could not give them, 'but for another fifteen years at least my obligations must be first to my family.'

In the early forties he continued in local government as moderator of his town and, as a Republican, was elected to the Governor's Council. Toward the end of the Second World War, he retired from his law firm to be appointed an associate justice of the State Supreme Court and a short time later went to Washington as an advisor to the Under-Secretary of War. Returning to Boston, he again became immersed in the affairs of the Legal Aid Society, the Boston Athenaeum, and the Symphony Orchestra.

In October 1947 Wilkins was elected to this Society and was most pleased to accept the election. He was a regular attendant at the Boston meetings for the first few years. In

1956 he was appointed Chief Justice of the Court and the next year an Overseer of Harvard College. By the time he had been fifty years out of college, he had amassed a considerable collection of material on the Confederate States of America which he had turned over to the Boston Athenaeum, and his 'collecting instinct has been most recently laid upon Tin Pan Alley music—that is from the '90's on.' That collection he gave to Harvard. With his children grown and the trip from the suburbs becoming increasingly more boring, Wilkins moved to the foot of Beacon Hill much closer to his work. Honors had been piling up on him for the past few years and he held a large number of honorary degrees, was a member of the corporations of M.I.T. and Northeastern, a member of the Colonial Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Club of Odd Volumes. In other ways he kept himself busy even after his retirement as Chief Justice in September 1970 after twenty-six years on the high bench and the loss of a leg from a circulatory ailment in 1966, when he referred to himself as a '75-year-old mutilé on the verge of retirement.'

On May 12, 1971, a couple of weeks short of his eightieth birthday, Raymond Sanger Wilkins died in Boston. His first wife and mother of his three sons had died in November 1954. Two years later he had married Katherine Schuyler Crosby who died in three years. A half dozen years later he married Georgie Hebbard. Two of his sons survive him as do many grandchildren. I've been told one cannot say enough good things about him, for he was all that and more.

J. E. M.

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