

spirit, and, on occasion, real excitement to life's surrounding greys. It was a more interesting world for his presence.

After retiring, Baxter went to New York City to serve as first senior fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations, living at the Union Club. In 1965, his health failing, he returned to Williamstown. For the past several years he lived at the Sweet Brook Nursing Home. Following his death on June 17, 1975, and a funeral service in Williamstown, James Phinney Baxter, 3rd, was buried in the college cemetery. There beside his splendid wife, who had died in 1962, lies a gifted teacher, a brilliant historian, a stouthearted defender of his country and of the best in American higher education. He leaves a sister, three sons, and eight grandchildren.

John Edward Sawyer

EDWARD CHASE KIRKLAND

Edward Chase Kirkland died in Hanover, New Hampshire, on his eighty-first birthday, May 24, 1975. Thus was stilled the peal of laughter which for many years delighted and enlightened his friends, laughter which for those who really knew him conveyed a wealth of wit and learning as well as an ironic regard upon the world around him.

Kirkland was born in Bellows Falls, Vermont, on May 24, 1894. Educated in the local schools, he entered Dartmouth College at eighteen and took his bachelor's degree there in 1916. He retained a lifelong attachment to the college and to its environs that brought him back after an early retirement to Thetford Center, Vermont, a few miles from Hanover.

In 1917, at the outbreak of war, he enlisted in the United States Army, and served in the ambulance corps with the French until 1919. A wound earned him a *croix de guerre* and left him with an abiding hatred of war.

His discharge allowed him to return to Dartmouth where

he served a year as instructor in citizenship (1920–21). That year also he earned a master's degree in history at Harvard and thus equipped spent three years teaching fledgling engineers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. At the same time, he worked toward his doctorate at Harvard under the direction of Edward Channing and finally took his degree in 1924.

That year saw other momentous changes in his status. On September 4, 1924, he married Ruth Stevens Babson, a graduate of Radcliffe College, who would be his constant companion through life. Ruth Kirkland participated fully in the activities of the academic communities through which they passed, shared Kirk's labors in research and writing, and retired with him to the home in Thetford Center they both enjoyed. They had one son, Edward S. Kirkland.

In 1924 also Kirkland took up an assistant professorship at Brown University. He remained there until 1930 when he moved to Bowdoin College, first as an associate professor, then as Frank Munsey Professor. He retired in 1955 at the age of sixty-one. It was an indication of the stringency of academic opportunities in the 1930s and the 1940s that Kirkland never received a permanent appointment at a major university and thus lost the opportunity for contact with graduate students. He did not himself complain, and indeed, was likely to celebrate the virtues of the small liberal arts college. But his early retirement was symptomatic; he seemed by 1955 to sense the fact that he had exhausted the possibilities teaching at Bowdoin offered.

Kirkland held visiting professorships at Harvard, Cornell, and the University of Wisconsin. He was also Commonwealth Lecturer at University College, London (1952), and Pitt Professor, Cambridge University (1956–57). At all these institutions he left upon his colleagues and students a durable impression of personal warmth and scholarly dedication.

Kirkland's first published work, *The Peacemakers of 1864*

(1927), was an outgrowth of his dissertation, which, in turn, reflected the interests of his mentor Channing; but the subject also manifested the concern of a young man returned from a later war in a decade that gave a good deal of thought to another failure of peace. Shortly thereafter his attention shifted to the economic history of the United States. At Harvard, as at most other American universities, that subject lay within the province of the Economics Department, although a few historians edged into it by way of F. J. Turner and the westward movement. Kirkland, however, approached the problems of economic history as a teacher; hence his reluctance to emphasize theory and statistics and his disposition to stress common-sense interpretation and lucid exposition. Those were the characteristics of his first work in the area, *A History of American Economic Life* (1932), a widely used textbook which passed through numerous revisions.

Intensive research in the years which followed culminated in *Men, Cities and Transportation* (1948), a two-volume study of the development of the New England transportation system in the nineteenth century. Almost three decades later, the book remains a scholarly monument; based upon intensive research, its problems clearly formulated and written in sparkling prose, it traces the interplay of social, urban, and economic forces without ever losing sight of the human elements involved. *Industry Comes of Age* (1961), a study of the impact of manufacturing upon the United States in the critical period between 1860 and 1897, carefully balanced the treatment of the evaluation of capital, labor, and public policy. His attention focused upon the same period in a number of shorter works—*Business in the Gilded Age* (1952) and *Dream and Thought in the Business Community* (1956), among others.

In the organizations he served, Kirkland found the means of helping several generations of younger scholars, found, that is, an equivalent of the graduate students he lacked. He was from its foundation a member of the Committee on Research

in Economic History; and was president of the Economic History Association, and of the Organization of American Historians. He devoted a great deal of time to work on Committee A (on academic freedom) of the American Association of University Professors in a period when it took courage to stand up against the threats to liberty, and he also served for a term as president of the Association. He found time too for twenty years of active membership in the national Senate of Phi Beta Kappa.

These academic efforts brought him recognition and a train of honors. He was a Guggenheim Fellow, a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He received honorary degrees from Dartmouth (1948), Cambridge University (1956), Princeton (1957), and Bowdoin (1961).

Kirkland was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society on October 13, 1948, and was a frequent attendant at its meetings. He contributed to the *Proceedings* an article entitled 'Rhetoric and Rage over the Division of Wealth in the Eighteen Nineties,' 79:227-44.

Kirkland was, above all, the quintessential Yankee. In a charming little history of Brunswick, Maine (1941), where he then lived, he wrote of the decade before the date of his own birth as 'the Golden Age,' the passing moment of history before any sharp break with the past, when New England took on the paraphernalia of modern civilization without losing contact with its rustic origins. His biography of Charles Francis Adams, Jr. (1966) was warmly appreciative of a crusty character who exemplified the old virtues. Kirk was most at home in Thetford Center, looking out across the ridge toward the Connecticut River, where he could write and work and be himself. Yet he was no stranger to the world at the other end of the road, the world created by the industrial developments he understood and described.

Oscar Handlin

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