

# Obituaries

## WESLEY FRANK CRAVEN

The historian Wesley Frank Craven was born in Conway, North Carolina, on May 19, 1905, to Wesley Frank and Elizabeth (Turner) Craven, and died on February 10, 1981. By the age of twenty-three and within the remarkably short span of three years, he had taken his three academic degrees—his A.B. from Duke (1926), and his A.M. (1927) and Ph.D. (1928) from Cornell. From Ithaca he went straight into an instructorship in the history department of New York University, where during a twenty-two-year career he rose through the ranks to full professor. He spent the next twenty-three years at Princeton, as Edwards professor of American history from 1950 to 1964 and as George Henry Davis '86 professor from 1964 until his retirement in 1973. After establishing himself, he married (on May 31, 1932) Helen G. McDaniel. The Cravens had two daughters, Nancy Elizabeth and Betty Morris.

His field of specialization was the American colonial period, particularly the seventeenth-century southern colonies, in which he became a leading scholar and author of standard works in important multivolume collaborative series. His publications include *The Dissolution of the Virginia Company* (1932), *An Introduction to the History of Bermuda* (1938), *The Southern Colonies in the Seventeenth Century, 1607-1689* (1949, a volume in the series *A History of the South*), *The Legend of the Founding Fathers* (1956), *New Jersey and the English Colonization of North America* (1964), *The Colonies in Transition, 1660-1713* (1968, a volume in *The New American Nation Series*), and *White, Red, and Black: The Seventeenth-Century Virginian* (1971). His one major departure

from the colonial field was as co-editor of a seven-volume history of *The Army Air Forces in World War II* (1948-56). He had served from major to lieutenant colonel in the air corps during that conflict.

Craven's accomplishments as a scholar led him to be elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the American Antiquarian Society. His election to AAS—'an honor that I much appreciate and accept'—took place at the 1970 annual meeting. He was nearing the end of his academic career, however, and never became active in the Society's affairs.

John B. Hench

#### GEORGE EDMUND GIFFORD, JR.

One of the penalties of growing old is seeing good friends pass away one by one. Such an unhappy experience for me, and for all of us, is the loss of Dr. George Edmund Gifford, Jr., in the prime of his career. He died on February 4, 1981, at the age of fifty, of the complications of influenza. We first met many years ago at a meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, and were immediately congenial. We had an interest in common in the history of medicine, in natural history, and in book collecting. We had many long 'bull sessions' over the years on all these subjects plus his specialty, psychiatry, which interested me much more than my gynecology interested him.

He was born and raised in Cecil County, Maryland, and always retained an affection for his birth state, though Boston and New England became his true love because of their remarkable intellectual advantages. To him Boston indeed became the 'hub of the universe.' He was graduated with honors from the University of Maryland and then went on to get his M.D. from that school. After an internship in Baltimore he saw

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