

HAROLD EDWARD WOODWARD

Harold Edward Woodward was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on July 5, 1888, and died there one hundred years later on December 11. He is survived by his son David Willcox Woodward and a granddaughter, Martha Clive Woodward.

Mr. Woodward's father, who was the principal of South High School, encouraged his son's interest in chemistry, and Mr. Woodward earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Columbia University after graduating from Amherst College in 1910. From 1912 to 1918 he was a chemist with the United States Department of Agriculture, and from 1918 until his first retirement in 1953 he was a chemist for E. I. duPont de Nemours. While at duPont, he was granted more than twenty-five patents in field of azo dyes and pigments. He contributed a chapter to the book *Unit Processes in Organic Synthesis*, published in four editions by McGraw Hill, and contributed chapters to an American Chemical Society monograph on dyes and pigments.

In a newspaper interview on the occasion of his ninety-eighth birthday, he explained that 'duPont retired me at age 65, but I didn't like retirement. So I took a six-month course in brokerage and got a position as registered representative of a member of the New York Stock Exchange, serving as manager of their branch in Salem, New Jersey, and again retiring at age 81.' Mr. Woodward had lived in Penns Grove, New Jersey, for fifty-four years, from 1919 to 1973, where he was active in church and community service. He joined Rotary International in 1932 and was a district governor in 1956-57. He was especially proud of the perfect attendance record at the Penns Grove club that he maintained for thirty years.

Mr. Woodward's wife, Ethel Willcox, whom he married in 1912, was born in 1888 in Andover, Massachusetts. She was a graduate of the Worcester Art Museum School and was a water color artist. Several years after her death in 1971, Mr. Woodward returned to Worcester to live with his sister.

In Worcester, Mr. Woodward was a member of the local Rotary Club and the Sons of the American Revolution, but his primary interest was the completion of his work on his family genealogy. This interest brought him to the American Antiquarian Society as a researcher. In the preface to his book *Some Descendants of Nathaniel Woodward Who Came from England to Boston about 1630* (Boston, 1984), he wrote that he had become interested in his family's history eighty years earlier. He was a frequent reader at the Society, often walking here from his home near Newton Square and later from the Colony Retirement Home. He was elected to membership in October 1980. He attended meetings from 1981 through 1983 and left the Society a generous bequest at his death.

The readers' services staff always enjoyed working with Mr. Woodward. It is appropriate that the source for much of the information for this tribute was taken from his genealogy and that it was written by a staff member of the Society. We miss his visits to the reading room.

Nancy H. Burkett

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