

GLENN WEAVER

Glenn Weaver, professor emeritus of Trinity College in Hartford, died on January 12, 2000. He had been hospitalized in Hartford since September. He was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, in 1918. He was married to Emojean Shulenberger, who, with two sons, survives him.

Glenn held bachelors degrees in arts from Catawba College and in divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary, masters degrees in history from Lehigh and Yale universities, and a Ph.D. from Yale. He taught briefly at Catawba, Lehigh, Connecticut College for Women, and Albany State Teachers College. He was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in 1981 and attended meetings often in the '80s.

Glenn Weaver began teaching at Trinity College in 1957 and retired thirty years later, a loss much lamented by both students and colleagues. His dissertation at Yale, a study of the mercantile career of Connecticut's Revolutionary Era governor, supervised by Leonard W. Labaree, was published in 1956 as *Jonathan Trumbull, Connecticut's Merchant Magistrate*. Weaver also published a history of the first century of Trinity College (founded in 1823), several institutional histories of Hartford businesses, and numerous articles on topics as far-ranging as colonial-era Italians in Virginia and incipient industrialization in seventeenth-century Connecticut. A series of thirty-five pamphlets on colonial and Revolutionary era Connecticut, many written by nationally acclaimed historians, that he conceived and edited in association with the Bicentennial of the American Revolution won the top prize nationally for commemorative programs.

I first met Glenn, as far as I can recall, in the mid-1960s at the Columbia Seminar in Early American History held the first Monday of the month, run in those days by Alden Vaughan. Glenn made the two-and-a-half-hour drive from Wethersfield, where he lived, for over forty years in all kinds of weather, puffing, one supposes, on his ever-present cigar. He was once given a not very

tongue-in-cheek prize for perfect attendance at the Seminar for ten years. He was a two-martini man in those less alcohol resistant years, and his company was never less than jolly, often hilarious (at least, it seemed so at the time). But his attention during the serious talk that followed dinner was alert and his comment extremely well informed and often acute. I learned a lot about the history of Connecticut from him.

Glenn was also a devoted member of the Acorn Club, a group of self-appointed Connecticut history gurus who meet twice a year to contemplate the wisdom and economics of contracting for neck ties with acorns embroidered on them and occasionally to present talks to each other and edit and publish books related to their mutual distraction. At those Acorn Club meetings, Glenn, dapper—almost debonair—was always the center of jollity and often the life of the party. But, again, his serious scholarship brought a well-informed wisdom to our discussions; indeed, his encyclopedic knowledge of Connecticut history intimidated even the most expert of us, and kept us on the straight and narrow path of sensible, accurate discourse. He was both a bell buoy and an anchor.

Weaver had a large and devoted coterie of former students, undergraduate and graduate. One of them has written that his classes presented 'entertainment, information, and the spectacle of instruction all in one.' In a reference to the ancient lecture hall he habituated so often for so long, Glenn was known among his students as the 'Socrates of Seabury Hall.' 'Despite his erudition and his devotion to scholarship,' says a former graduate student, 'he never acted with the arrogance that you often find in the upper echelon of academia.' Trinity's History Department chairman characterizes him as 'unfailingly kind and never manipulative.' In short, says another long-time colleague, 'Glenn was a gentle, kind, affable man, a nice person.' That is apt; Glenn would have liked to be remembered that way.

Christopher Collier

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