

mont. He fished each year with a cousin at her lodge in Maine. He always seemed to be in transit visiting family and friends.

John combined several unusual traits: he listened well but he never missed a chance to speak; he loved meeting new people but he was loyal to old friends; and, most unusually, he laughed at other people's jokes as well as his own. That is one reason why people remember him for his vitality and brightness of spirit.

These days, it is more natural to achieve civic prominence from a position of commercial or public authority. As a well-respected trust officer at the local bank, John did not approach life that way. In fact, I doubt if he ever had any self-conscious interest in civic prominence *per se*. It simply crept up on him over the years. His commitment to local institutions came naturally. It was bred into him. But his enjoyment of the moment and his enthusiasm for the future was his own doing. He should be remembered well for both legacies.

His sister, Marjorie A. Pease of Woodstock, Vermont, predeceased him by a year. He leaves two nephews, a niece, and an extended network of cousins. He also leaves many friends, old and young.

John Herron, Jr.

### FREDERICK WILLIAMS HEQUEMBOURG

Elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in 1984, Frederick W. Hequembourg died on January 26, 1994, at the age of seventy-six. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Fred Hequembourg graduated from Union College and pursued graduate studies at the University of Rochester. After working for American Cyanamid for nine years, he became the proprietor of the Hequembourg Insurance Agency in Schenectady and later, in Charlton, New York, where he lived for forty-two years.

He was a leader in his community, serving as supervisor of the

town of Charlton for eighteen years and as chairman for the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors from 1971 to 1973. He was a seven-year member of the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake School District Board of Education and served as its president. He was on the boards of the Charlton School for Girls and of St. Clare Hospital in Schenectady, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club in Schenectady, and served on the Capital District Regional Planning Commission and the Health System Agency of New York.

Hequem bourg's interest in American history, particularly Saratoga County in the Jacksonian era, led him to join the Charlton Historical Society, the Fort William Henry Corporation in Lake George, the New York State Historical Association, and the New York State Historical Society. He contributed a chapter on county government to the *Saratoga County Heritage* and was working on a history of that area at his death.

He first visited the AAS library in July 1980 and returned on numerous occasions over the next twelve years to use the newspaper collections. In 1986 he and his wife, Helen, who accompanied him on his research trips, using the time to further her Bible studies, established the Frederick W. Hequem bourg and Helen D. Hequem bourg Fund for the acquisition of research materials on the history of the state of New York, the subject of Fred's own work. A self-described curmudgeon, he was always outgoing, patient, and appreciative of the staff of the Society as well as a generous donor and member of the Isaiah Thomas Society. His particular interests brought him in close contact with the newspaper staff. For me, a welcome part of the Hequem bourgs' visits to Worcester was to join this delightful pair for dinner. We can only hope that the history on which he was working at the time of his death will be completed and his research utilized.

Joyce Ann Tracy

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