

Obituaries

CARL LOTUS BECKER

Carl Lotus Becker was born in Lincoln township, Blackhawk County, Iowa, on September 7, 1873, a son of Charles DeWitt and Almeda (Sarvay) Becker. He began his collegiate education at Cornell College, Iowa, but transferred to the University of Wisconsin where he received the B.Litt. degree in 1896. After graduate study there and at Columbia, he began teaching at Pennsylvania State College in 1899. He married Maude H. Ranney on June 16, 1901, and that autumn began seven years of teaching at Dartmouth College. In 1907 he received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and joined the faculty of the University of Kansas, whence, after one year at the University of Minnesota, he moved in 1917 to Cornell University.

In 1908, during Dr. Becker's stay at Kansas, he brought himself to the attention of historians by the publication of his *Political Parties in the Province of New York from 1760 to 1775*. In 1918 appeared his *Eve of the Revolution* and in 1922 his *Declaration of Independence*, which were at once recognized as classics which every graduate student of American history must know. The greater part of Dr. Becker's life was spent in teaching European history, but he won fame as a writer of American history. The fact that the American field was to some degree a hobby rather than the material of his daily toil in large degree explains a certain leisurely, well-digested, quality which his works have. He did not write in great volume, or sensationally. His books have a quiet beauty of literary perfection and not the shallow

brilliance of wit. He was a wise and learned teacher, without that tendency to egotistical self-exhibition which years of teaching sometimes develop in lesser men. Perhaps his best work was *The Heavenly City of the Eighteenth Century Philosophers* which appeared in 1932. In that year Yale awarded him a Litt.D., and Rochester and Columbia later repeated the award.

Becker enjoyed the honors of the important learned societies. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of the American Philosophical Society, and at one time president of the American Historical Association. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in October, 1932, but all Mr. Brigham's efforts could not obtain a paper from him for one of our meetings. In truth he was too busy—still teaching (and willing to take on new courses), traveling, lecturing, and writing more than in his younger days.

In 1941 Cornell made Dr. Becker professor emeritus and appointed him historian of the University. In this capacity he brought out *The Founding of Cornell University* (1943), but his interests in this period were wider than ever, and much of his writing concerned world problems.

He died on April 10, 1945, survived by his widow, by a son, Ensign Frederick Becker, U.S.N.R., and a daughter, Miss Edith Becker.

C. K. S.

HUNTER DICKINSON FARISH

The death of Hunter Dickinson Farish on January 16, 1945, at Beatrice, Alabama, struck close home to me because we were young and impecunious together in the Harvard graduate school. Gentle, mild, and earnest, the lone Southerner in a circle composed chiefly of large and hearty

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