

got married.' He married Elaine (Carpenter) Deragon of Springfield, Massachusetts. The right moment of that achievement occurred in 1973, in the same year that he bought the house on Elm Street. It was a good, loving marriage, bringing both partners measures of happiness and security they had not experienced before. Unfortunately, as the years wore on each was afflicted with illnesses. Ken experienced a series of strokes and severe heart troubles, coupled to general, physical desuetude. Elaine contracted cancer, which she endured for some time before succumbing to it in May 2007. It is sad beyond measure to think about Ken's final months, alone with his beloved cats in that big old house.

Ken Leach, book scout, did many other things right in his life. He built a life from unpromising beginnings. He enriched the lives of his wife and his friends. He made life interesting for those who found him difficult. He gave pleasure to book collectors whose shelves he filled and he made booksellers happy with the substance of the collections he built, piece by patient piece. He added immeasurable riches to great libraries, which benefitted from his dogged, rooting out of scarce literary and historical materials from obscure sources. To the American Antiquarian Society he gave his loyalty and admiration and a bequest of the substance of his estate. Steve Finer wrote, 'Ken Leach died October 21st and his death does, truly, mark the passing of an era.' To which this writer adds, 'Amen! God give you peace at last, Ken Leach.'

Marcus A. McCorison

### CLARENCE L. VER STEEG

Clarence L. Ver Steeg, a distinguished scholar in early American history and a member of the American Antiquarian Society since 1972, died in Evanston, Illinois, on July 2, 2007. A native of

Orange City, Iowa, he joined the United States Army Air Force in 1942, serving as navigator on a number of combat missions in the Pacific theater during World War II. He accumulated more than four hundred hours of flight experience, receiving the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters and five battle stars.

In 1943 Ver Steeg received a bachelor's degree in absentia from Morningside College in Orange City. After his discharge from military service, he enrolled at Columbia University where he earned a master's degree in political science in 1946 and a doctorate in history in 1950. At that time he joined the history faculty at Northwestern University, remaining there for his entire academic career.

During that period of service at Northwestern, he achieved a distinguished record as a teacher, scholar, and central figure in shaping the academic program at the university, especially in expanding its program in graduate studies. He headed a faculty planning committee that in the 1960s formulated a program for increasing emphasis on graduate education and research and expansion of its library. In 1975 he became dean of graduate studies, serving for eleven years, after which he returned to teaching until his retirement in 1992.

He also served in 1959 as visiting professor at Harvard University, where he was the first senior member of the Center for the Study of Liberty in America. In 1966 he lectured on American history at the Summer Institute at Stanford University at Alpbach, Austria.

These activities, demanding as they were, did not prevent his becoming an accomplished scholar. In addition to publishing numerous articles, book reviews, and monographs, he received the Albert J. Beveridge Prize of the American Historical Association in 1952 for his study, 'Robert Morris: Revolutionary Financier,' published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. He can be counted as one of a group of scholars who from the 1950s and 1960s achieved a revival and expansion in the study of early American history.

In recognition of his contributions, Northwestern University established the Clarence L. Ver Steeg Professorship in the Arts and Sciences, and he and his wife endowed the Dorothy Ann and Clarence L. Ver Steeg Distinguished Research Fellow Award. Dorothy Ver Steeg died on September 17, 2008. They are survived by their son John Ver Steeg and daughter-in-law, Jane.

Thad W. Tate

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