

In 1976 MacNeil served as chairman of the United States Assay Commission, a citizens' group annually appointed by the president to test the validity of the government's coinage, a commission originally created by George Washington during his administration and abolished in 1977 by President Carter as an economy measure.

MacNeil was president of the Clan MacNeil Association of America in 1976 and 1977. Elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society (1974), and the Massachusetts Historical Society (1977), MacNeil began serving as a trustee of the Augustus Saint-Gaudens Historic Site, Cornish, New Hampshire, in 1975. He was a member of the National Press Club.

ROBERT M. WARNER

Robert M. Warner, a member of this Society since 1981, died in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on April 24, 2006, after a brief illness. His career was devoted to the institutions that he served so well, as well as the archival profession to which he made extensive contributions.

Born in Colorado, he was educated at the University of Denver and Muskingum College, from which he received a B.A. in 1949. After military service, he undertook graduate work in history at the University of Michigan, from which he received an M.A. in 1953 and the Ph.D. in history in 1958. He worked initially at the Michigan Historical Collections at the University of Michigan, first as a field worker identifying and bringing in research collections before being named director in 1966. Warner soon recognized the importance of securing a separate building, to give the institution more of a presence and identity, and he worked persistently to that end. In 1973, through the generosity of Mrs. Alvin Bentley and other Michigan donors, Warner saw the realization of the opening of the Bentley Historical Library, which has evolved to play a major role among the nation's historical research libraries.

Among the collections that he had acquired for the Michigan Historical Collections were the papers of Michigan congressman, Gerald R. Ford. When Ford became president in 1974, Warner undertook to secure the Ford Presidential Library for Michigan. In the face of criticism at the time of 'monumental' presidential libraries, he proposed locating a separate Presidential Museum in Ford's hometown of Grand Rapids, and the Presidential Library on the Michigan campus in Ann Arbor. To date, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum with a separate library and museum remains the only such arrangement among presidential libraries governed by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Warner was also active serving the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and in helping to nurture the archival profession. He served the society in many capacities, including committees and task forces and as a member of its governing body, the Council, from 1967 to 1971. He was the SAA's secretary—chief administrator—in the early 1970s, becoming the society's first director on a voluntary basis in 1972. He secured funding for an assistant, and this action paved the way for the transfer of the office of SAA to the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, as it was then known, in 1974. At this time the society hired its first paid executive director. He was later elected president, serving in 1976–77.

In 1980 President Jimmy Carter appointed Warner the sixth Archivist of the United States. He soon recognized the importance of trying to secure independence for the National Archives and Records Service, as it was then known—a part of the General Services Administration. Though he could not publicly espouse the cause of independence for the Archives, he worked tirelessly and most effectively behind the scenes, as was his practice, coordinating the efforts of archivists, historians, and genealogists. In April 1985, President Ronald Reagan signed legislation establishing the independence of the National Archives and Records Administration. Warner accomplished this at a time when the Reagan administration was working to reduce the scope and role of

government. The independence of NARA allowed it to take its place with the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution as the foremost federal cultural institutions. Independence for the Archives was an important source of validation for the work of archivists, as well. In recognition of these contributions, the research center at the renovated archives building on the mall was named for Robert S. Warner in 2005.

After his successful stint as Archivist in Washington, Warner returned to Michigan to accept the post of dean of the School of Library Science. As dean from 1985 to 1992, Warner undertook to emphasize the role of information technology in the field of library science (and archives) and, to that end, sought to expand the curricular range of the school's offerings and to emphasize interdisciplinary connections. Eventually, this new emphasis led to the creation of the rechartered School of Information.

He was married to Jane Bullock in 1954, and she predeceased him in August 2006. Survivors include two children and two grandchildren. His son Mark Warner is an anthropologist at the University of Idaho in Moscow, and his daughter Jennifer Cuddeback is an archivist at the Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin, Texas.

William L. Joyce

GENEVIEVE ROGERS WEEKS IRELAND

Genevieve Rogers Weeks Ireland, a member of the American Antiquarian Society since 1981, passed away at her home in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, on July 26, 2008. She was born at St. Albans, Maine, on September 12, 1907, the daughter of Albeon Mount and Cassie Mathilde Rogers Weeks. She married at Pittsfield, Maine, on September 7, 1927, Donald Albert Ireland, the former owner of Frye Boot Company, who predeceased her on August 4, 1985.

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