

that he humorously, bravely, and patiently endured. This last role was a Yankee performance by one who is much missed in the lives of a multitude of friends and in many New England institutions.

Rodney Armstrong

### RICHARD BARKSDALE HARWELL

Richard Barksdale Harwell, historian, bibliographer, editor, and librarian, died in his home town of Washington, Georgia, at the age of seventy-three. A member of the American Antiquarian Society since 1964, he was a constant supporter of its interests and, until about five years ago, an occasional presence at Society meetings.

At the Society's semiannual meeting in Boston in April 1971 Rick Harwell made a presentation entitled 'Brief Candle: The Confederate Theatre,' a paper that typified the kind of thing he did best. Rick was happiest and most successful when exploring the soul and substance of the Confederacy, a phenomenon he perceived as a too 'brief candle' in its own right. The many works of his own authorship include his *Confederate Music*, *The War They Fought*, *In Tall Cotton*, and *Confederate Hundred*. If he wrote extensively, he edited even more, with some thirty-six books and innumerable papers benefiting from his editorial attention. These included John D. Billings's *Hardtack and Coffee*, Kate Cumming's *Diary of a Confederate Nurse*, and Henry Hotze's *Three Months in the Confederate Army*, as well as his *Confederate Reader* and, a rare departure, his *Union Reader*.

Rick had his own favorites among all of these edited works. One was his edition of *Margaret Mitchell's "Gone with the Wind" Letters, 1936-1949*, a Book-of-the-Month-Club alternate selection published by Macmillan in 1976. Another was his *Lee*, a one-volume condensation (issued by Scribners in 1961) of Douglas S. Freeman's *R. E. Lee*. Those who knew him will understand why Rick particularly liked these two titles: more than all else, he was a

popularizer of history. He felt strongly the romance of the past, especially the Confederate past, and wanted more than anything else to convey a sense of its drama and elan to those who might otherwise never have occasion to savor it.

If Rick Harwell was a historian by predilection, he was a librarian by trade, and he was a good one. After taking both his baccalaureate and graduate degrees from Emory University in Atlanta, he embarked in 1938 upon a southern bibliothecal odyssey that put him in increasingly responsible library positions at Duke, the University of Georgia, Georgia Southern College, Emory, the Virginia State Library, and the Southeastern Interlibrary Research Facility in Atlanta. A friend once said of him that if he had not been born a Georgian, it would have broken his heart.

Rick did on occasion leave the South, sometimes for long periods of time, but he always came back. He was a Naval officer in World War II. He was the executive secretary of the Association of College and Research Libraries from 1957 to 1961, and he served concurrently as associate executive director of the American Library Association in Chicago. He consulted on library problems worldwide, his foreign assignments taking him to Amman, Rangoon, Baghdad, and elsewhere. He even spent a decade in New England, as librarian of Bowdoin College from 1961 to 1968 and for three years thereafter as librarian of Smith College, before returning for the balance of his life to his native Georgia.

Richard Barksdale Harwell was frequently honored for his manifold attainments. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Phi Mu, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and he was awarded an honorary doctor of letters by New England College in 1966. It was probably of greatest personal pleasure to him, however, that in 1983 the Atlanta Civil War Round Table conferred upon him its coveted Distinguished Service Award.

David Kaser

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