

Odd Volumes, rather than in the American Academy of Arts & Sciences or the Massachusetts Historical Society. Best of all was the circle of former students and colleagues at his home in Longfellow Park, a circle all the dearer to him after the death in 1931 of Mrs. Robinson, the former Margaret Brooks. He never did receive his just recognition in the world of scholarship outside his own area of linguistics, and his only honorary doctorates were those from Bowdoin and the National University of Ireland. By his will he left Harvard University a very considerable sum to endow a professorship in Celtic.

C. K. S.

THOMAS JEFFERSON WERTENBAKER

The death of Mr. Wertenbaker at Princeton, New Jersey, on April 22, 1966, closes the record of the school of historians who dominated the American scene forty years ago. He was one of the younger members of that group, having been born at Charlottesville, Virginia, on February 6, 1879, a son of Colonel Charles Christian and Frances Thomas (Leftwich) Wertenbaker.

His family connections were with the University of Virginia, where he took his B.A. and his M.A. in 1902. After working for a time as a member of the editorial staff of the *Baltimore News*, he went to the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, where he served as associate professor from 1907-1909. He then returned to the University of Virginia as an instructor in history, and there took his Ph.D. in 1910. That same year he became one of the tutors in Woodrow Wilson's significant educational experiment at Princeton, and in that university he taught for thirty-seven years. His courses on American Colonial History, called "Pots and Pans" and "House and Gardens" by the undergraduates, marked the introduction there of what that

generation called social history. Chiefly responsible for the graduate work in American History offered then at Princeton, he had a substantial part in turning a country college into an important university before his retirement in 1947.

Retirement for Professor Wertenbaker meant chiefly the change of scene which he always enjoyed. He had served as visiting professor at Gottingen (1931) and Oxford (1944-45), and now he taught for periods at Munich (1950-51) and at several American universities. In the course, he picked up several honorary degrees.

Wertenbaker first attracted the attention of the profession with his *Virginia under the Stuarts* (1914) and *Patrician and Plebeian in Virginia* (1916), which because of their effective refutation of the cavalier myth excited great popular indignation in his beloved Old Dominion. With the appearance of his popular college text *The American People, A History* (1927) he established his place in the "Progressive School" with J. T. Adams, Beard, and Partridge. His *The First Americans* (1927) was typical of this work, brilliant interpretation based on a paucity of facts which shocked more conservative historians. This tendency to build too great a structure of theory on too small a body of evidence is more marked in what he regarded as his greatest work, *The Founding of American Civilization*, which appeared as *The Middle Colonies* (1938), *The Old South* (1942), and *The Puritan Oligarchy* (1947). The last of these was regarded by some reviewers as being as far-fetched as the witchcraft evidence of 1692. The great work done, Wertenbaker turned again to Virginia, and produced a series of books, one of which *Torchbearer of the Revolution*, brought the younger historians swarming around his ears for his interpretation of Francis Bacon.

Those younger historians greatly enjoyed the long hours which they spent trying to convince Mr. Wertenbaker that

his theories were mistaken, for he was a most delightful raconteur. Seeing the faults of the South as clearly as its virtues, which he loved, "the Colonel" told dialect stories and gleefully pulled the leg of any innocent Northerner who came his way. While living in Williamsburg, Virginia, for two years after his retirement from Princeton, he used to carry a coil of rope in the back seat of his car, hoping that a gullible Yankee might ask its purpose and draw the answer, "Well, you never know when you might need it for a Nigra." If the Yankee turned pale, the Colonel's day was a success.

Although Wertenbaker was a very active member of the American Philosophical Society, and a president of the American Historical Society, our contacts with him actually decreased during his twenty years as a member of the American Antiquarian Society. We had completely lost touch with him long before his death. He is survived by his wife, Sarah Rossetter Marshall, and by one son, Thomas Jefferson Wertenbaker, Jr., of Albuquerque.

C. K. S.

CARL IRVING WHEAT

Carl I. Wheat was born in Holliston, Massachusetts, to Frank Irving Wheat and his wife, Catherine Isabel Pearce, on December 5, 1892. In 1898 the family moved to California where Mr. Wheat served as minister of several Congregational Churches. Carl grew up and was educated in California, graduating with honors from Pomona College in 1915. After a tour of duty with the ambulance service in France in 1917, Wheat entered Harvard Law School from which he emerged in 1920, with a degree of LL.B. In 1959 Pomona College awarded him the honorary degree of LL.D., and he served that institution as a trustee.

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