

those of the American Antiquarian Society (to which he was elected at the April 1961 meeting), the Worcester Historical Society, the Worcester Torch Club, the Jewish Community Center, the Bohemian Club, and the Tavern Club of Boston.

Ivan Sandrof was a lover of people, a lover of books, a lover of local and national history, a man of firm beliefs and principles. He had a wry, self-deprecating sense of humor. He was an original.

Richard C. Steele

### NATHANIEL WHEELER

Nathaniel Wheeler died on March 14, 1979, in Worcester, where he was born on June 20, 1906, the fourth child and third son of Dr. Leonard and Elizabeth Bancroft (Cheever) Wheeler. A fact that Nat never advertised but that gives pause in this last quarter of the twentieth century is that his own grandfather was born within three years of the American Revolution.

Nathaniel Wheeler was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society at the April meeting in 1956 and attended most meetings thereafter. He was a generous contributor to annual, development, and endowment funds and frequently donated valued books from his own library to the Society. Writing for the thirty-fifth anniversary report of his class at Harvard, he said, 'A growing regard and respect for the past has augmented my sharp disapproval of the prevailing trend toward larger, more powerful and more centralized government, but has been rewarded by election to membership in the American Antiquarian Society.' As a member he served on the general planning committee in the 1960s and on the finance and development committees in the '60s and '70s, giving liberally of his time and knowledge to both.

He was graduated from Middlesex School, Harvard College

in 1928, and Harvard Business School in 1930. He was employed at Worcester County Trust Company from that year until enlisting in the navy in 1940, from which he retired as a lieutenant commander in 1945, having served in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. After the war he gave up banking in favor of private investment research. He was a director of Norwich & Worcester Railroad and a board member and finance committee member or treasurer of several local organizations, including Worcester Historical Museum, Memorial Homes for the Blind, Worcester Science Center, and Historic Landmarks of York, Maine. He was also a member and past commodore of Agamencus Yacht Club of York. From 1955 until his death he was a trustee of Rural Cemetery in Worcester, and from 1965 to 1976 served as its president, as well as chairing its finance committee from 1965. Other memberships included the Worcester Club, Harvard Club of Worcester, and Worcester Fire Society, where his papers often concerned historical matters.

His outward calm never could mask his sense of humor, his willingness to assert opinions when appropriate, nor his warm friendly feeling toward his fellow man. His firm sense of duty, derived from his New England ancestry, made him a valued contributor to any organization that captured his interest, although his strong sense of privacy kept knowledge of any such acts limited to the necessary minimum. His studious and thoughtful nature evidenced itself most conspicuously (if that word can be used of a man of his inherently retiring nature) in his chosen field of investment research, where he used the results of his work to advise unstintingly the various organizations with which he became affiliated. A year and a half before his death he joined his brothers and sister in transferring to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities the family home in York, complete with furnishings, most of which had survived since the original construction of the house in the eighteenth century.

Never married, Nat Wheeler is survived by his two brothers, Dr. Bancroft C. Wheeler of Worcester and Leonard Wheeler of Cambridge; his sister, Eunice Wheeler, with whom he made his home in Worcester; several nieces and nephews and their children.

John W. Curtis

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