

and copying the Microprint format. In 1971 the regular pressures and occasional tensions of the publishing venture were forgotten as Albert Boni was elected to membership and attended the annual meeting of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester.

Boni retired from his publishing career in 1974 with the respect and admiration of a worldwide community of scholars who benefited from his many publishing enterprises. He moved to Ormond Beach, Florida, where family and friends hoped he would compile his memoirs of sixty years as a distinguished democratic autocrat of the American publishing industry.

He died at his Florida home on July 30, 1981, and is survived by his wife, Nell, and his son, William.

Frederick E. Bauer, Jr.

ROGER PLACE BUTTERFIELD

Roger Butterfield believed that American history could best be understood as politics in action. 'Politics,' he once wrote, includes 'everything that importantly influences the fate or mood of the nation at any particular time. American politics began with the boundless idealism of the Declaration of Independence, and it has . . . attained the seemingly boundless destructive power of the atom bomb.' Roger Butterfield possessed the power to describe and analyze human actions, and he harbored an ironic humor that was typified by his fascination toward George Lippard, an eccentric nineteenth-century Pennsylvania reformer and writer.

Roger Butterfield was born on July 29, 1907, in Lyndonville, New York, to Roy Lyman Butterfield and Ethel Place

This memoir of Roger Place Butterfield is reprinted, with additions, with permission of the Massachusetts Historical Society from the *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society* 93(1982):115-18.

Butterfield. Both parents were teachers, his father being principal of the Lyndonville High School and later administering all schools in Charlotte (now part of Rochester), the town in which Roger grew up. The Butterfield family was remarkably literate. Roger's father after his retirement as principal of Rochester's Benjamin Franklin Junior-Senior High School became the historian laureate of Otsego County, and Roger's younger brothers, Alfred and Lyman, attained fame, one as CBS correspondent, the other as historian and editor. Roger was no exception. He graduated at age nineteen from the University of Rochester, where he had been editor of the student newspaper and student correspondent for the local Hearst newspaper. During his high school and college years he earned pocket money and exhibited considerable enterprise by expanding his paper route into a city-wide newspaper and magazine distribution network, hiring his peers to do the legwork. From the University of Rochester he went on to the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, where he remained for only one term.

Roger then went to Philadelphia, where in 1928 he began a ten-year career with *The Evening Bulletin* and *The Evening Public Ledger* as reporter or rewrite man. In addition, he wrote articles on a freelance basis for publication in a variety of magazines, *True Detective* among them, actual crime subjects being one of his passions. Early in 1935 he became the Philadelphia stringer for *Time* magazine, which task, a few years later, he expanded into the Philadelphia editorial office for the magazine. In 1940 he went to New York as a writer in the Press Section of *Time* and the next year joined the *Life* magazine staff, where he became National Affairs editor. During the war years he traveled considerably about the United States in order to prepare stories on the nation at war. In 1945 he left *Time-Life* in order to complete a book that he had been working on, *The American Past*. Following his departure, he was much in demand as a freelance writer, his articles appearing in the en-

tire range of the nation's popular press—*The Saturday Evening Post*, *Colliers*, *Holiday*, *American Heritage*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, and *The Saturday Review of Literature*. He returned to *Life* from time to time, working as a staff writer or on such special projects as the series 'America's Arts and Skills,' later published as a book. He finished his association with *Life* in the late 1960s with a series of historical articles on American blacks.

As his business associations suggest, Roger Butterfield was a successful writer. His first book was published in 1944 by W. W. Norton and was entitled *Al Schmid, Marine*. This book, about a warrior who was blinded in the battle for Guadalcanal in 1942, was a source of the movie produced by Warner Brothers entitled *Pride of the Marines*. Ten years later Roger edited *The Saturday Evening Post Treasury*, published by Simon and Schuster. But his best book was *The American Past: A History of the United States from Concord to Hiroshima, 1775-1945*. It was published in 1947 by Simon and Schuster and is still in print after two revisions. It is a masterful combination of text and illustrations. In preparing the book, he showed great sensitivity both to his sources and the interpretation of them. In its foreword he wrote, 'Pictures *can* lie, and often do. . . . A carefully chosen picture can distort almost any fact. By the same token, some pictures can tell the truth in a way that words are powerless to match. . . . because I tried to avoid, so far as possible, the task of "explaining" pictures which explained themselves, [I] have written mostly about things which the pictures do not explain. It was my intention to use words for the steady factual theme of the book, while pictures supplied overtones in significance, drama, and humor.' Roger Butterfield's continuing fascination with journalistic illustration was exemplified in an outstanding paper he delivered in October 1961 at the American Antiquarian Society on the beginnings of pictorial journalism. The paper was drawn from his own great collection of American journals and period-

icals and was published in *American Heritage* in June 1962 as 'Pictures in the Papers.'

The reading of this paper was but one of many contributions that Roger made to AAS following his election to membership in April 1960. He served on several Society committees, advised on prospective members and on development and publicity matters, donated or helped track down countless books for the Society's library, and was a regular and very generous contributor to the appeals of the annual fund and endowment campaigns. His extensive correspondence with senior staff over the years reveals the great delight that Roger took in books—especially the peculiar or not-yet-fashionable imprints that so appealed to him and to AAS directors and librarians. His association with AAS was obviously a matter of great pride and pleasure to Roger, and, among his friends at 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, the feeling was mutual. As Ted Shipton put it shortly after Roger's election, 'I think there is general agreement that the right man and the right organization have gotten together.'

Roger Butterfield was an energetic, accomplished, perceptive journalist whose writings supported a life-style that matched his character. He was married three times, first to an artist, Patricia McCord. After they adopted a son and moved to Emmaus, Pennsylvania, their marriage ended in divorce in the mid-1940s. Shortly thereafter he married Ethelind Munroe, who had helped him in compiling *The American Past*. That marriage also ended in divorce, after which Roger moved to Virginia City, Nevada. There, he became a crony of the bon vivant Lucius Beebe. Despite Butterfield's productivity as a journalist, the years of the early 1950s were unhappy ones, a condition which was altered in 1955, when he married Margaret Schnug, a woman of energy and ability to match his own and a person with the determination to hold in check his sometimes quixotic moods and actions. Margaret had a literary career of her own, having been editor of *The Country Gentle-*

man, published by the Curtis Publishing Company. Later she was editor for Harper and Row, retaining that association for a time after their departure from New York City.

The success of *The American Past* enabled Roger in 1948 to build his Library on the grounds of 'White House' in Hartwick, New York, a haven that became more and more important to him as the years passed. White House had been purchased by his parents, who used it first as a summer place and then as their retirement home. They restored the charming eighteenth-century house, which had fallen into decrepitude and which, curiously enough, an earlier Butterfield had used as a tavern. White House served as a focus for all kinds of family affairs and during the elder Butterfield's later years gained fame as a place of retreat for a group of historically oriented friends of the younger members of the Butterfield family.

Roger brought to the Library his great collection, begun in the 1940s, of American social history, illustrated books, and nineteenth-century pictorial periodicals. In 1961 the collection was sold in large part to the New York Historical Association in nearby Cooperstown. However, the collecting urge which had begun with postage stamps when Roger was a youngster continued at a high pace, and much of what he acquired after 1961 formed the nucleus of the stock for his rare book business, established as Roger Butterfield, Inc. in 1969. Catalogue number one was issued in 1970, after he and Margaret moved from New York City to Hartwick. During the decade of the seventies he issued twenty-six catalogues of rare books, each clearly stamped with bibliographical expertise and his sense of humor, the curious, the interesting, and the important. Roger's activities as bookdealer were marked by an intensity characteristic of all his other undertakings. Your memorialist recalls with delight Roger's pursuit of a fine copy of the quite uncommon first edition of Mary Baker Eddy's *Science and Health*. He had located the quarry in a box of miscellaneous

books that were to be auctioned along with the contents of a house in nearby Gilbertsville. Roger was beside himself with anxiety lest some (other) sneaky bookseller find the book and he either would have to pay too much for it or lose it altogether. However; all went well, and Roger bore home the treasure in triumph, having paid but a modest sum. (Your reporter purchased at the same sale a green-painted, ladder-back chair, without seat, and a very miscellaneous lot of sheet music. Butterfield had had the better day!)

In books as in all things he did, Roger exhibited a wonderful sense of humor, a persnickiness, and intelligent analysis. Visits with Margaret and him at White House were always a delight, marked with good conversation, eager hunting through bookshelves, and making sure that a rotund cat did not escape from the back porch—happy times and fond memories. Roger Butterfield died at Hartwick on January 31, 1981. His friends very much miss him.

Marcus A. McCorison

LUTHER HARRIS EVANS

Luther Harris Evans, political scientist, librarian, and international civil servant, was born to George Washington and Lillie (Johnson) Evans in Sayersville, Texas, on October 13, 1902. Educated at the University of Texas (A.B., 1923; M.A., 1924) and Stanford University (Ph.D., 1927), he taught in political science departments at Stanford, New York University, Dartmouth, and Princeton until 1935. In that Depression year he joined the newly established Works Progress Administration, where he served until 1939 as director of its Historical Records Survey, which produced scores of useful guides to historical research materials located in repositories from coast to coast.

Evans began a high-level association with the Library of Congress upon leaving the WPA. His first LC position, which

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.