

scene had belonged to those grandfathers, and he replied, 'No, they are just something I picked up in a Pittsburgh junk shop.'

Commager was a member of a score of institutions, including for more than half a century the American Antiquarian Society, before which he delivered three papers. In 1982 the *New York Times* published his photograph and a long article about him, entitled 'A Bouncing, Zestful Commager Turns 80 Today.' On that occasion, the American Civil Liberties Union, the New England Teachers, and the National Unitarian Church presented him with awards. He had honorary degrees from forty-four colleges and universities, and he won the Gold Medal for History from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He died in Amherst at the age of ninety-five on March 2, 1998. He leaves his wife, Mary, two daughters, Nell and Lisa, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Leonard W. Levy

ARCHIE KIMBROUGH DAVIS

The pilgrimage followed a fixed route. From the Carolina Inn it led to the Old Well at the center of the Chapel Hill campus of the University of North Carolina, then across Polk Place (named for the eleventh president of the United States) and, finally, to Wilson Library, home to the North Carolina and South Carolina Historical Collections.

No individual in North Carolina did more over the second half of the twentieth century to influence the economic development of his native state than the man who ritually followed this path. None was more dedicated to the support and study of history. And none took more to heart the notion of the scholar gentleman.

Born on January 22, 1911, Archie K. Davis graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1932, fifty years before his 1982 election to membership in the AAS. In 1956, at the age of forty-four, he became chairman of the

Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, serving for eighteen years. During that time and in the quarter century that followed, Davis served terms as president of the American Bankers Association, as chairman of the United States Chamber of Commerce, and as both president and chairman of the Research Triangle Foundation. A member of the North Carolina State Senate from 1958 to 1962, he also served as chairman and trustee of the Duke Endowment and as trustee of his alma mater and member of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina system.

These offices are measures of the man's professional and public standing, concerns, and influence, but do not reveal what made Davis a natural addition to the rolls of AAS. His commitment to books, to learning, and to history were recognized in other ways—by his selection as a trustee of the National Humanities Center and the University of North Carolina Press, as president of the North Caroliniana Society, and as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

A critical figure in the development of the Research Triangle Park as a high technology center, Davis played a key role in bringing the National Humanities Center to the Park. He also helped develop the support that revitalized the University of North Carolina Press. At his retirement, his colleagues and friends could think of no better tribute than to create the Archie K. Davis Research Fellowships at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where Davis had returned after his retirement to take a master's and, later, do course work toward a doctorate. In 1985 his thesis became a book, *Boy Colonel of the Confederacy*.

Mr. Davis had turned eighty-seven six weeks before his death on March 13, 1998. He is survived by Mary, his wife of nearly sixty years, a daughter, three sons, and eight grandchildren.

David Moltke-Hansen

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.