

Southbridge and Sturbridge from the New York City and Boston stages.

Al is survived by his son, Alexander J. Wall III, M.D., his daughter-in-law, Kathleen, and two grandchildren.

Barnes Riznik

HARRY ANDREW BLACKMUN

Harry Andrew Blackmun, the ninety-eighth associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, was born in Nashville, Illinois, on November 12, 1908, the son of Corwin Manning and Theo (Reuter) Blackmun. As a small child, Blackmun moved with his family to Minnesota and grew up in a working-class neighborhood in St. Paul. His father engaged in a number of businesses, at one point running a hardware store. It is well known that one of Blackmun's childhood friends was Warren Burger, the future Chief Justice of the United States, at whose wedding he served as best man. Blackmun attended Harvard College on a scholarship provided by the local Harvard Club. Majoring in mathematics, he graduated in 1929, *summa cum laude* and the owner of a Phi Beta Kappa key. He stayed on in Cambridge in order to attend the law school, from which he graduated in 1932. He returned to Minnesota to become clerk to Judge John B. Sanborn, of the federal appeals court for the Eighth Circuit. After this stint, he taught for a year at the St. Paul (now William Mitchell) College of Law, Burger's legal alma mater.

Blackmun then entered upon the first of the three major phases of his legal career, joining the large and prestigious, multibranch Minneapolis law firm of Dorsey, Colman, Barker, Scott and Barber. Among his clients during the sixteen years he worked in the firm's office in Rochester, Minnesota, were the Mayo Clinic and this writer's parents, Philip S. Hench, a Mayo rheumatologist, and Mary Kahler Hench. In 1950 he left the Dorsey firm to become

the first permanent legal counsel for the Mayo Clinic, in which position he spent most of the next decade. Having earlier had trouble deciding whether to follow a career in medicine or in law, the Mayo Clinic job gave him the opportunity to practice law in a medical and scientific environment. He regarded this period of his career as the happiest in his professional life. In 1959 Blackmun was named by President Eisenhower to a judgeship on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, replacing the jurist for whom he had clerked upon his graduation from Harvard Law School. For the baseball-loving Blackmun, his later elevation to the Supreme Court might have seemed a bit like rising from triple-A ball to the major leagues.

The story of Blackmun's ascent to the Supreme Court—his nomination by President Nixon in 1970 to fill the Abe Fortas seat after the Senate had failed to confirm two previous nominees—and the details of his near quarter century of service on the high court are also widely known. Blackmun was one example of a justice who failed to meet the ideological and political expectations of the president who appointed him, thus confirming the wisdom of the Founding Fathers in ensuring the independence of federal judges through lifetime tenure. Although he wrote a number of other important majority opinions (such as *Flood v. Kuhn* in 1972, upholding organized baseball's immunity from federal antitrust laws) and dissents (against the majority opinion in a 1994 case from Texas, *Callins v. Collins*, which upheld a death sentence), it is the 1973 abortion rights decision, *Roe v. Wade*, for which Blackmun's name will long be celebrated or vilified.

Harry Blackmun married the former Dorothy Clark in 1941. They had three daughters, Nancy, Sally Ann, and Susan. He was active in community life during his years of residency in Rochester, serving on the boards of his Methodist church, a hospital, and a local corporation. A board colleague at the hospital recalled that Blackmun was probably the only secretary the hospital board ever had who actually prepared the minutes before the next meeting. He kept his chambers in Rochester even after he was ap-

pointed to the Eighth Circuit bench, and commuted to the court's St. Louis headquarters, as necessary, via Ozark Airlines.

My parents knew Harry and Dottie Blackmun well. I got to know them through their eldest daughter, Nancy, a friend and classmate of mine in junior high school. While I was in college and graduate school in the east, I was pleased to see Judge Blackmun occasionally when I returned home for vacations or holidays.

Justice Blackmun was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society at the annual meeting in October 1987. By then, he had become involved in historical and archival affairs as the Judicial Branch's representative on the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The previous April he had participated in the Society's commemoration of the bicentennial of the Federal Constitution by delivering a public lecture before a large audience in the Boston Public Library's Rabb Auditorium on "The First Amendment and Freedom of the Press—Where Are We and Where Are We Going?" On this visit to Boston, he was accompanied by several federal marshals as bodyguards, the routine ever since a bullet had been fired into the Blackmun's apartment in the wake of the *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Harry Blackmun retired from the Supreme Court in 1994, at the age of eighty-five, the third oldest individual to serve on the court. In 1997, he made a cameo appearance in the Stephen Spielberg film *Amistad*, playing the role of the nineteenth-century jurist and AAS member Chief Justice Joseph Story.

Harry Blackmun died March 4, 1999, aged ninety, of complications from hip replacement surgery necessitated by a fall. At his funeral service during a rare Washington blizzard, family members, friends, former law clerks, and colleagues spoke movingly of his humility, his empathy for those less fortunate than he, his common touch. He was fully deserving of the high office that came to him comparatively late in life, but, more importantly, the nation deserved him for the admirable qualities of diligence, intelligence, absolute integrity, and compassion that he exhibited so

devotedly. His wife, his three daughters, and five grandchildren survive him.

John B. Hench

DONALD FRANCIS McKENZIE

Don McKenzie was one of the outstanding figures in the field of the history of the book: as practitioner (from his two-volume *The Cambridge University Press 1696-1712: A Bibliographical Study*, 1966, to *The Complete Works of William Congreve*, forthcoming); as theorist ('Printers of the Mind: Some Notes on Bibliographical Theories and Printing House Practices,' 1969; *Bibliography and the Sociology of Texts*, 1986); as teacher (senior lecturer, associate professor, and professor of English language and literature, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand, 1961-86; reader, then professor of bibliography and textual criticism, Oxford 1986-96); and not least as entrepreneur and leader (he was the prime initiator of *The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain*).

McKenzie came to the academic life through the encouragement of his supervisors in the New Zealand Post Office's Public Relations Department, where he went as an apprentice after leaving school. As a student reading English, McKenzie's growing love of theater was fostered by the Wellington Shakespeare Society. After completing the M.A., he took a junior position in Victoria University College, from which he won a Leverhulme scholarship to go to Cambridge as a research student. Philip Gaskell, his supervisor, suggested that the archives of Cambridge University Press had not been studied; McKenzie's study of the records of production, the finished books, and the book trade laid the foundation for much of the rest of his own scholarly career.

Closer to the interests of the Society, one might say that Don's New Zealand origins have been of fundamental importance for his insight into the dynamic, global role of text in colonial and

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