

historians. Under his guidance many of the most penetrating recent studies of American intellectual life took shape. Sydney Ahlstrom has left a mark that will endure for many years.

Edmund S. Morgan

WARREN GILBERT DAVIS

Warren Gilbert Davis, a member of the Society since 1963, and a generous supporter for many decades, died in Worcester Memorial Hospital on August 2, 1985, at the age of ninety-seven. He was born in Worcester and lived here all his life.

He graduated from Worcester Academy in 1906 and from Yale in 1910. Each marked the beginning of a long association. For many years he was a trustee of Worcester Academy, serving as treasurer for twenty-seven years. As a loyal Yale alumnus, Mr. Davis became class agent in 1969 and continued this duty until his death. He also worked on the Bequest and Endowment Program, and pioneered the idea of corporate contributions in memory of retired executives. It was through his roommate at Yale that he met and married Anna Sears. The Davises celebrated their sixty-sixth wedding anniversary in June 1985.

After serving in the U.S. Army in World War I, he returned to Worcester to work again with his father at the Davis Press. During his seventy-five-year association with Davis Press, he served as treasurer for forty years, and continued to advise and counsel his two sons and younger associates as chairman of the board of Davis Press, Inc. He was a member of the American Institute of Graphic Arts and served as the New England representative on the board of the Printing Industry of America.

During his long life he was active in many Worcester organizations. He was a former director of the U.S. Envelope Company, Worcester County National Bank, Worcester County Institution for Savings, State Mutual Life Assurance Company,

the Worcester YMCA, and a former trustee of Worcester Memorial Hospital. He was also a member of the First Unitarian Church. He was a thoughtful contributor to all of these groups, leaning not on his longevity for authority but on the good common sense of his suggestions.

At the core of his life was his family. He was fortunate to have his two sons, Ronald and Gilbert, working with him at Davis Press and Davis Publications, the associated company that publishes *School Arts Magazine*. Until a few weeks before his death, Warren Davis went to work every day before nine in the morning and was often there after four in the afternoon. Several times a week he took time out for a swim at the Y. (His oldest son once quipped that he was thinking of retiring and turning the business over to Warren.)

He was interested in the world around him and in all the people he came in contact with. He and his wife were avid readers, especially of history and current events. He knew and often chatted with not only his own employees but the older employees of the other printing companies housed in the same building. His happy approach to life and his responsibilities buoyed our spirits on many a dreary New England morning.

In his role as publisher for the Society's *Proceedings*, Warren Davis had a long association with the Society. Davis Press printed the *Proceedings* from 1905 until a decade ago; the company continues to print the Society's *News-Letter* as well as various other Society publications.

His relationship as a member of the Society for more than twenty years was one of his happiest. He regularly attended meetings during the seventies and eighties, and made contributions from time to time to the Society's collections. His cheerful and generous support will be warmly remembered by the Society and its members. He is survived by his wife, Anna, his two sons, Ronald S. and Gilbert S., two grandsons, two granddaughters, and one great-granddaughter.

O. Bradley Wood

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