

Pat's first marriage in 1935 to Margaret Wilgoose, an editor for the Carnegie Institution in Washington, ended in a divorce in 1958. He is survived by his second wife, Clio (Dobson) Harrison and their daughter, Anthea Io Harrison of Carlisle.

A kind, gentle, and hospitable man, Pat Harrison had a host of friends who will miss his presence at the meetings of the many cultural and social organizations of which he was a member and where he had frequently been a lecturer. He served as museum director for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities for twenty years; as a trustee of both the Hancock Shaker Village and the Louisa May Alcott Memorial Association; and as a member of the visiting committee of the Peabody Museum at Harvard University. In addition to the American Antiquarian Society, he was a member of the Boston Athenaeum, the Carlisle Historical Commission, the Club of Odd Volumes, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the St. Botolph Club.

Stephen T. Riley

DUMAS MALONE

Dumas Malone, the distinguished biographer of Thomas Jefferson, died at his home in Charlottesville, Virginia, on December 27, 1986, just two weeks short of his ninety-fifth birthday. He had been a member of the American Antiquarian Society for almost fifty-three years.

Born in Coldwater, Mississippi, in 1892, the son of a Methodist minister and a schoolteacher mother with academic aspirations for her children, Dumas grew up in rural Georgia and enrolled in Emory College, now Emory University, at fourteen. Upon graduation he taught school for several years, then went north to Yale to study theology. He received the B.D. degree in 1916; but after the interruption of the Great War, during which he served in the

Marine Corps, Dumas exchanged divinity for history and went on to earn his Ph.D. at Yale in 1923. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on Thomas Cooper, the English political exile and companion of Joseph Priestley, who came to the United States in 1794 and had a stormy career in law, science, politics, and education, ending as president of South Carolina College, forerunner of the University of South Carolina. The dissertation earned Dumas the John Addison Porter Prize at Yale, and it led to his first book, *The Public Life of Thomas Cooper*, in 1926. Cooper was a cantankerous person, brilliant but constantly embroiled in controversy; in this sense, certainly, he was less than a congenial subject for Dumas, whose temperament was mild and who had little taste for controversy. The book remains the standard life of Cooper. It was especially important to Dumas because Cooper's intellectual friendship and correspondence with Thomas Jefferson provided him with an introduction to his great subject.

Dumas was appointed associate professor of history at the University of Virginia in 1923. There, in Mr. Jefferson's 'academical village,' where it was said one could not turn a corner without expecting to encounter the father of the University, Dumas formed the idea of 'a big book' on Jefferson. At the instigation of the university's president, Edwin A. Alderman, whose biography he would later write, Dumas edited the correspondence between Jefferson and Pierre Samuel Du Pont de Nemours, the French philosophe. Dumas was diverted from his teaching career in 1929 when he was invited to become an editor of the *Dictionary of American Biography*. This work, modeled on the British *Dictionary of American Biography*, had only just begun. The editor-in-chief, Allen Johnson, had been Dumas's mentor at Yale, the man who started him in the track of historical biography and who now asked him to join in the editing of the *DAB*. Upon Johnson's untimely death, eighteen months later, Dumas succeeded him as editor-in-chief. The bulk of this work, some 13,000 articles by over 2,000 contributors, in twenty huge volumes—a monument of American historical scholarship—was completed under Dumas's direction.

The editorial and management experience acquired with the *DAB* led to his next appointment, in 1936, as director of the Harvard University Press, where he remained for six years.

It was in 1943, the bicentenary year of Thomas Jefferson's birth, that Dumas returned to Charlottesville, and with the aid of a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship embarked on the biography of Jefferson that consumed the next thirty-eight years of his life. Since his first tour of duty at the University of Virginia, Jefferson had never been far from Dumas's mind or pen. Indeed, even his doctoral dissertation opened an avenue to Jefferson. As editor of the *DAB*, Dumas assigned the article on Jefferson to himself. It was a major article—at some 15,000 words, it was one of the two of three longest in the *DAB*—and it became his first essay in Jefferson biography. (Some fifty years later Dumas revised this article at my request for inclusion in *Thomas Jefferson: A Reference Biography*, published by Scribner's in 1986 under my editorship.) Never one to consider Jefferson merely a figure of historical interest, Dumas sought as well to interpret Jefferson for that 'living generation' whose sovereignty he had proclaimed. As early as 1933, for instance, he contributed an article entitled, 'Jefferson and the New Deal' to *Scribner's Magazine*.

Jefferson and His Time, to give the biography its general title, was planned in four volumes. But Jefferson proved an even bigger subject than Dumas had imagined, and the work finally ran to six volumes. The first, *Jefferson the Virginian*, appeared in 1948. Dumas was at that time professor of history at Columbia University. The second volume followed in 1951, but progress on the biography slowed under the heavy demands of teaching in one of the premier history departments in the United States. In 1959, when he was sixty-seven, Dumas was invited to return to the University of Virginia in a professorial chair established for him with the aid of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation. Although he was active in that position for only three years, Dumas laid the basis for a program of Jefferson studies in the University; upon his retirement in 1962, when he was named biographer-in-resi-

dence, he became the human magnet in the expanding orbit of Jefferson scholarship on both the national and international level. As volume after volume was published, the greatness of the biography was increasingly recognized, both within the historical fraternity and outside it. The fifth volume, treating Jefferson's second administration as president, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1974. As advancing years exacted their toll physically and blindness descended upon him, Dumas often wondered if he would live to finish the work. In the end, it demanded nothing less than a heroic effort from him. But the work was finished, triumphantly, in 1981 — Dumas's eighty-ninth year.

His extraordinary output also included papers prepared for the American Antiquarian Society. The 1984 volume of the *Proceedings* included his essay 'Mr. Jefferson's Private Life,' containing his edition of a letter from Thomas Jefferson's granddaughter Ellen Randolph Coolidge to her husband, Joseph Coolidge. More recently, Dumas presented 'Reflections of a Nonagenarian Biographer' at the semiannual meeting of the Society, held at Charlottesville on April 17, 1985.

The eminent English biographer Sir Harold Nicholson once remarked on his art, 'Biography is always a collaboration between the author and his subject; always there must be the reflection of one temperament in the mirror of another.' The truth of the principle is exemplified in the 'collaboration' of over half a lifetime between Dumas Malone and his great subject. In his humanism, his liberal values, his graciousness and sensibility, the touch of philosophy, the felicity of style, the workmanlike dedication, the methodical discipline of fact, the dominant sense of order, form, and proportion given to his life, and, above all, in his ability to conduct himself as a democrat while practicing the manners of a highly civilized human being, Dumas Malone sensitively reflected the mind and the temperament of Thomas Jefferson.

Merrill D. Peterson

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