

brilliance of wit. He was a wise and learned teacher, without that tendency to egotistical self-exhibition which years of teaching sometimes develop in lesser men. Perhaps his best work was *The Heavenly City of the Eighteenth Century Philosophers* which appeared in 1932. In that year Yale awarded him a Litt.D., and Rochester and Columbia later repeated the award.

Becker enjoyed the honors of the important learned societies. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of the American Philosophical Society, and at one time president of the American Historical Association. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in October, 1932, but all Mr. Brigham's efforts could not obtain a paper from him for one of our meetings. In truth he was too busy—still teaching (and willing to take on new courses), traveling, lecturing, and writing more than in his younger days.

In 1941 Cornell made Dr. Becker professor emeritus and appointed him historian of the University. In this capacity he brought out *The Founding of Cornell University* (1943), but his interests in this period were wider than ever, and much of his writing concerned world problems.

He died on April 10, 1945, survived by his widow, by a son, Ensign Frederick Becker, U.S.N.R., and a daughter, Miss Edith Becker.

C. K. S.

HUNTER DICKINSON FARISH

The death of Hunter Dickinson Farish on January 16, 1945, at Beatrice, Alabama, struck close home to me because we were young and impecunious together in the Harvard graduate school. Gentle, mild, and earnest, the lone Southerner in a circle composed chiefly of large and hearty

Westerners, he was a favorite. Although his manner was typical of the best of the South, we found that his scholarly judgment had a clear and logical impartiality which is found in few people who come from regions of strong cultural individuality.

Farish was born at Montgomery, Alabama, on September 12, 1897, a son of James Hunter and Sallie (Dickinson) Farish. He was prepared for college at Dallas Academy, Selma, and Wilcox County High School, Camden, Alabama, and was graduated at Princeton in 1922. In 1926 he took an M.A. at Harvard and then served for several years as assistant professor of history at Westminster College, from which he returned to Harvard where he took his Ph.D. in 1936. His thesis was later published under the title, *The Circuit Rider Dismounts: A Social History of Southern Methodism*. During the year 1936-37 he was instructor and tutor at Harvard, and on June 6, 1937, he was appointed director of research at Colonial Williamsburg. This organization was then passing from the stage of excavation and research in the history of Williamsburg to that of encouraging research in the whole early American field. The work of the director was largely to make grants in aid of research and to supervise the work done under them. Dr. Farish also served as general editor of the Williamsburg Historical Studies and helped to work out the plans for the Institute of Early American History, which is sponsored jointly by Colonial Williamsburg and the College of William and Mary. In 1939 he served as visiting professor at the college.

It is difficult to imagine a better choice than Dr. Farish for this position. Endowed with all of the traditional graces of Southern society, he charmed visitors and associates alike. However, the poor health which we in Cambridge had jokingly ascribed to his inability to cope with the New England climate grew steadily worse, and at the end of 1944 he

finally bowed to his physician's insistence and, giving up the directorship, left Virginia for Alabama. Still hopeful of serving Colonial Williamsburg, he agreed to travel and do research when his health permitted. He is survived by a brother, George B. Farish, a lieutenant in the Marine Corps, and by a sister, Mrs. A. H. Howard of Montgomery.

Farish first made the acquaintance of the American Antiquarian Society when he was writing articles for the *Dictionary of American Biography*. He was elected to membership in October, 1942, and had agreed to edit for the *Proceedings* our Peter Collinson letters.

C. K. S.

DIXON RYAN FOX

Dixon Ryan Fox was born at Potsdam, New York, on December 7, 1887, a son of James Sylvester and Julia Anna (Dixon) Fox. After graduating from the Potsdam Normal School in 1907 he entered Columbia with the Class of 1911, with which he took his B.A. Already his ability had attracted attention, and he was engaged as an assistant in history while working for his M.A. By the time that he received his Ph.D. in 1917 he was known as one of Columbia's favorite teachers. The appearance of his *Decline of Aristocracy in the Politics of New York* in 1919 marked the beginning of a most remarkable record of publication. In view of his many and varied activities, his colleagues could never understand how he turned out so many solid volumes of history. Equally impressive were his accomplishments in the thankless field of editing. Among the many tasks of the sort was his co-editorship of the *History of American Life* series and his editorship of the ten volume *History of the State of New York*. From its first appearance he was editor of *New York History*, the quarterly publication of the New York Historical Association.

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