

the bronze medal of the American Cancer Society, and many other honors.

Johnny Dowell, who worked so closely with her at WTAG, spoke eloquently of her incredible energy, her great organizational skills, and her brilliant mind, describing her with the Shakespearean phrase: 'Her voice was ever soft, gentle, and low.'

Those who worked with her for many years, as I did, can attest to all of that. Yet her voice was never so low that she was not heard. To the contrary, she was heard, and she had useful things to say. It is fair to say that she made the restored Mechanics Hall not simply a success but a triumph.

She is survived by her husband, Andy.

Robert Comey Achorn

MILTON WHEATON HAMILTON

Milton Wheaton Hamilton, historian, editor, and administrator, died on February 25, 1989, in Wappingers, New York, at the age of eighty-seven. When he was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in October 1963, he was cheered by director Clifford K. Shipton's remark that members of AAS 'tend to be immortal.' 'Sometimes,' he told Shipton, 'I feel a little weak and realize my age!' Hamilton was to live nearly three more decades. While not achieving immortality, he left a historical book that, more than half a century after publication, remains highly useful in a field that stands at the center of the Society's interests. That book was *The Country Printer: New York State, 1785-1830*.

Hamilton was born July 8, 1901, in Fabius, New York, the son of William Levi and Annie Belle Wheaton Hamilton. He earned bachelor's (1924) and master's (1925) degrees from Syracuse University and a Ph.D. in history (1936) from Columbia University. His early historical work ranged widely. He wrote a bachelor's thesis at Syracuse on the Hayes-Tilden election of 1876, which

won for him a prize from the Daughters of the American Revolution worth twenty-five dollars. For his master's thesis, he turned to the subject of 'The Policy of the United States in the Samoan Islands.' His Columbia doctoral dissertation, written under the mentorship of Dixon Ryan Fox, became in time his book on the rural printers of New York State. His first and, for all intents and purposes, only academic position, taken in 1926 while still at work on his dissertation, was in the history department at Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1949, having risen to the rank of full professor. In that year he joined the Division of Archives and History of the New York State Education Department as senior historian. He was appointed its acting director in 1963 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1965.

His work on the early printers of New York brought him, not surprisingly, into association with the American Antiquarian Society. As early as 1926, he was corresponding with Clarence Brigham, himself at work on his life's work of compiling a comprehensive history and bibliography of early American newspapers. Over the years that Hamilton was writing his dissertation and revising it for publication by Columbia University Press (1936; reprint edition issued by Ira Friedman Co. in 1964) he visited Worcester a number of times and kept in close touch by mail with Brigham, the two swapping historical and biographical information that intersected each man's interests. Upon the book's publication, Brigham extended hearty congratulations to Hamilton, declaring that 'the volume will be of the greatest service in this library.' Years later, Hamilton wrote, 'I might almost say he [Brigham] collaborated with me when I was working on my study of the *Country Printer*.' In the late 1930s, Hamilton turned to a new project, 'Journalism in Vermont, 1791-1850,' which he envisioned as another sort of study of the country printer, but abandoned it without publishing anything on the subject. His later research interests were in the field of colonial history. This work was the principal part of his assignment as senior historian in the New York archives and history division, namely, to edit the papers of Sir William Johnson,

the British colonial official. These appeared in five volumes between 1951 and 1965. He also wrote a biography of his subject, *Sir William Johnson, Colonial American, 1715-1763*, published in 1976.

Hamilton married twice. His first wife, the former Margaret Gatchel, whom he wed in 1927, died in 1965. The next year he married Anita G. Ricketson, who survives him as do his two daughters.

Hamilton's AAS election 'honored and flattered' him. He gave a paper on Sir William Johnson at the Society's semiannual meeting in April 1964, attended at least a half dozen subsequent meetings, and represented the Society at several college presidents' inaugurations. He kept up his correspondence with us until the late 1970s, when, regrettably, it ceased.

John B. Hench

ARTHUR AMORY HOUGHTON, JR.

Arthur Amory Houghton, Jr., was born in Corning, New York, on December 12, 1906. His ancestor, John Houghton, came from Lancashire in 1635 on the *Abigail* and settled in Lancaster, Massachusetts. His great-grandfather, Amory Houghton, founded the Union Glass Company in Somerville, Massachusetts, in 1853. In 1864 the firm moved to Brooklyn, and finally, in 1868, to Corning, New York, becoming the Corning Glass Works. Successive generations of Houghtons have administered the company to the present day.

Arthur Houghton's early education was in the public schools of Corning, and later (1920-25) at St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire. He entered Harvard in 1925. His father died in 1928, and Arthur left Harvard in 1929 in order to take a position in the Corning Glass Works. He needed only to complete a term paper or two in order to qualify for the bachelor's degree, but he never

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