

OBITUARIES

Frederick Marcham



Charles Harrington/University Photography Frederick Marcham

Frederick George Marcham, who taught at Cornell for almost 70 years, died Dec. 16 at the age of 94 at his home in Ithaca.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Jan. 24, at 1:30 p.m. in Sage Chapel

A professor and authority on English constitutional history, he met with his last class at Cornell on Oct. 14. He also served as a longtime village mayor. His 32 years as mayor of Cayuga Heights were believed¹ the longest tenure for a village mayor in New York State.

"For almost 70 years, Fred Marcham was a devoted teacher of Cornell students, an active leader of the university faculty and an involved citizen of the Ithaca community," said Cornell President Frank H.T. Rhodes. "Sturdy, warm and caring to all and especially in his relationship with students, Professor Marcham exemplified the highest ideals of commitment to learning and to integrity in education and citizenship. It was for this reason that he was chosen by the Cornell Board of Trustees as the first individual to receive the Cornell 'Award of Honor' in recognition of distinguished and extraordinary service to the university. All of us at Cornell are deeply saddened by his passing."

Marcham was a "Mr. Chips" at Cornell, continuing to teach as an emeritus professor. He is remembered as a mentor to struggling students and young faculty, a champion of recreational and intercollegiate athletics and coach of boxing. He was a strong proponent of the benefits of exercise and the outdoors.

¹ Should be: *one of*

From *The Cornell Chronicle*, 21 January 1993.

Born to Frederick and Emma Jane Wheeler Marcham in Reading, England, Fred Marcham won a national scholarship to the public school Christ's Hospital at age 11. He served in the British Army in World War I and won a veteran's scholarship to Oxford University, where he earned an A.B. with first-class² honors in modern history in 1923 and was named a life trustee of his college, St. Edmund Hall.

Marcham came to Cornell as a graduate student in 1923; he began teaching classes in 1924³. He received the Ph.D. in 1926 and joined the faculty as an assistant professor of English history. He was named full professor in 1930 and Goldwin Smith Professor in 1941. His colleagues elected him a faculty trustee of the university in 1946; he was an advocate of teaching and faculty participation in the governance of the university.

He was the author of *A Constitutional History of Modern England* and of *Louis Agassiz Fuertes: The Singular Beauty of Birds*, and co-author of a source book of documents of English constitutional history.

Marcham was the first chairman of the Ivy League athletic eligibility committee, served twice as chairman of the Department of History and received the university's first Award of Honor for exceptional service in 1987.

In the 1950s he was elected a trustee of Cayuga Heights, in which capacity he opposed the village's annexation by the city of Ithaca. He was later elected and many times re-elected as mayor of the village.

His wife, the former Mary Cecilia Deacon of Reading, died in 1977. He is survived by a daughter, Ann Marcham of Ithaca; two sons, David of Quincy, Mass., and John of Ithaca; a sister, Doris Downs of Reading; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and six nephews.

² should be: *second-class*

³ should be: 1923 (*as an assistant, i.e., TA, as a first-year graduate student*)