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## MARVIN A. RAPP DIES AT 84; NOTED EDUCATOR, HISTORIAN ONCE - HEADED PORT OF BUFFALO

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Marvin A. Rapp, 84, a prominent educator, Western New York historian and former head of the Port of Buffalo, died Friday (July 9, 1999) in Thompson Memorial Hospital, Canandaigua.

He was the author of "Canal Water and Whiskey," a book based on Erie Canal folklore and anecdotes.

As an administrator with the State University of New York, he helped start 13 community colleges in the late 1950s.

He later was president of Onondaga Community College in Syracuse.

After retiring to Canandaigua, he served as Ontario County historian, Canandaigua city historian and executive vice president of the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce.

Born in South Buffalo, he was president and valedictorian of the class of 1932 at South Park High School and captain of the school's city championship debating team.

"We entered South Park High School at the height of America's economy," he recalled at his 50th class reunion in 1982.

"Everything was going to be bigger and better. We were graduated at the bottom of the worst depression America had ever known."

He attended Colgate University on scholarships and worked summers on the Buffalo docks.

At Colgate, he was debating team captain for four years, senior class orator and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Sigma Rho, the national honorary forensic society, and Phi Kappa Tau social fraternity.

He went to Duke University on a fellowship for graduate work and wrote his master's and doctoral theses on the history of the Port of Buffalo.

He took additional postgraduate studies at Alfred and Harvard universities.

Canisius College presented him with an honorary doctorate in 1993.

He served in the Intelligence Division of the Army Air Forces at the Pentagon during World War II and helped write the official history of the China-Burma-India air operations.

Returning to Buffalo in 1946, he became a professor of social studies at what was then Buffalo State Teachers College.

He received the Buffalo Junior Chamber of Commerce Gold Key Award in 1949 for his research on the port and the 1949 Frontiersman Award from the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce.

In 1953, he was chosen as an outstanding citizen by The Buffalo Evening News for his work as a transportation economist.

He took leave from his teaching post in 1954 when he was named director of the Port of Buffalo but became full-time consultant instead because his Kenmore residence prevented him from assuming the director's post.

His accomplishments included helping to start the Niagara Frontier Port Authority to capitalize on the advent of the St. Lawrence Seaway, then under construction.

His work on promoting the port drew wide praise, including glowing articles in the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune.

He wrote extensively on the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes, publishing more than 100 papers.

Business leaders on Ontario's Niagara Peninsula had him draw up an economic study of the Welland Canal.

He went to Albany in 1956 to become an associate executive dean of the state university's institutes and community colleges. In 1961, he became vice president of Nassau Community College in Mineola, L.I.

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He went on to become president of Onondaga Community College in 1967.

After a stint as editor of Chronicle Guidance Publications in Macedon and associate executive dean for the SUNY, he became special assistant to the Council of Community Colleges of New Jersey in 1976.

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He received numerous awards, including New York State Outstanding Community College Educator, Long Island Leader of the Year and Mr. Canandaigua.

Rapp was a member of the board of trustees of Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua and received the board's 1998 Foundation Award. Last month, he received the Edmond J. Winslow Local Government Historians Award from the Office of the New York State Historian for his three-volume video program, "Chronicles of Ontario County."

He was active in many community service organizations. A member of the Rotary Club of Canandaigua, he had a perfect 41-year attendance record as a Rotarian.

He and the former Christine Josephine Andersen were married in 1941. She died in 1986. In 1988, he married the former Margaret Rosenkrans.

In addition to his wife, survivors include a son, M. Andersen of Midland, Mich.; a daughter, JoAnn Majesky of Corning; a sister, Marguerite Brown of Gowanda; and three grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday in United Methodist Church, 100 N. Main St., Canandaigua. Burial will be in the Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Bellona.

**Caption:** Marvin A Rapp

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