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Frank D. Reeve, 1899–1967 Memorial Service

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Frank Driver Reeve
June 7, 1899—December 31, 1967

FRANK D. REEVE 1899 - 1967

MEMORIAL SERVICE, JANUARY 3, 1968

TODAY we pay our respects to Frank Reeve, a member of our Faculty for thirty-six years, until his retirement in 1964, and a good friend to all of us.

Frank would have approved the selection of the Alumni Chapel for this service in his honor. He was secretary of the Alumni Association for three years soon after his graduation, but more than that, he had spent some forty-six years of his life on or near the campus, and the affairs of the University were close to his heart.

He and I entered the University as freshmen within a few months of each other, he in February 1921, and I the following September. We graduated together as members of the class of 1925. At that time the total resident enrollment of the University was about two hundred sixty-five, including three graduate students, so we all knew each other pretty well. To bolster my memory, however, I read the biographical sketch about Frank Driver Reeve in the 1925 *Mirage* and found the following list of activities: Member of Khatali (the senior men's honorary), member of Pipe and Pen Club, Junior Prom Committee, manager of the New Mexico *Lobo*, president of the Tennis Club, history assistant for three years, president of the freshman class, member of the Interfraternity Council representing the Kappa Sigmas, and student body president during junior year. You can see that he had an active undergraduate life.

Following a two-year venture in business, Frank was back at the University preparing for a teaching career, and he earned his M.A. in history in 1928 while serving part time as an assistant in the department. It is significant that his master's thesis was entitled "A History of the University of New Mexico," and it still stands as the best definitive study of this forty-year period of our history.

Then began his long tenure on the University Faculty, broken only by graduate study at Stanford, the University of Colorado, and the University of Texas. He received his doctorate from Texas in 1937. He progressed through the teaching ranks to a full professorship, serving concurrently for the last eighteen years as editor of the *New Mexico Historical Review*.

In 1936 he was one of the first of our faculty members to build a home on University property adjoining the campus, and for several years he had as a co-resident another bachelor, Dr. George St. Clair, longtime Professor of English.

Frank was a valuable man to have around a university. He was a member of a number of important committees, among them the Policy and the Graduate Committees. As first chairman of the Cultural Program Committee, he initiated a series of lectures and other cultural events which has continued in popularity to the present time. And in the late 1940's he was for more than a year the chairman of a hard-working committee on Reorganization of the Faculty Senate, a study which ultimately resulted in a new Faculty Constitution, a document which has survived for twenty years with very little change.

Frank Reeve had a well-deserved reputation as a champion of the faculty, and he always insisted on proper procedures for discharging the Faculty's responsibility for management of the University as outlined in the Constitution which he helped to draft. Once he said in a memorandum to the President, "Faculty members are essentially a bunch of prima donnas. Unless managed with skill, they are inclined as a group to explode at long intervals much as South American countries do in political matters. This is not desirable in either case, but insofar as the University is concerned, it can be avoided by cooperation between administrator and teacher,

and this can be brought about only by developing proper procedures for Faculty discharge of their portion of the burden."

He was also a vigilant defender of academic freedom, and in 1962 he brought to the floor of the Faculty an attack on the affidavit or test oath required of all students who were receiving financial help under the National Defense Education Act. He held that the oath was contrary to the political heritage of American citizens, that it was not in the best interest of our country because it sought to restrict freedom of the mind, and that it was not in harmony with the philosophy of academic freedom. At his instigation, the Faculty, in a formal resolution, requested the Congress of the United States to repeal the test oath, which it subsequently did.

Within the limits permitted by his health, Dr. Reeve was also active in civic affairs, and he served for a five-year period, which ended just last year, as member and chairman of the Bernalillo-Sandoval Intercounty Selective Service Board.

Frank was a great conversationalist, to the delight of his many friends, and his history courses were often the occasion for anecdotes and humorous stories related to historical fact.

We will miss his familiar figure, walking slowly across the campus day after day, his hands behind his back, his eyes downcast, his mind intent on a problem of research; or perhaps he was just thinking of another good story to tell his friends!

I count it a real privilege to have been associated with him over these many years, as fellow student, teacher, and citizen of the University.

TOM L. POPEJOY
President

ONE of the first things a person would realize when he came to know Frank Reeve was that here was a man who had made a magnificent accommodation to adversity. Most of his life his health was bad; he must have been uncomfortable most of the time, even in pain. If anyone could be excused for cursing his fate and feeling sorry for himself, it would have been Frank Reeve, but he did not.

I have wondered what quality it was that gave him such remarkable composure, and I believe I know at least part of the answer. The key to his personality, and to his contribution to his profession, was an unusually keen sense of history. In everything that came to his attention, he focused at once toward all three dimensions. He had a strong perception of depth—historical perspective—which is the great consolation of the historian. That characteristic came through to me recently during Frank's last illness. We talked about current affairs: the turmoil in northern New Mexico; the Vietnamese War; the Detroit riots; the stature of Lyndon Johnson. Invariably, he saw these things as moments in history. He saw that third dimension.

This talent stood him well in his personal life. His awareness of the continuum sharpened his sense of humor, his sense of values; his ability to take whatever came to him. He could empathize. A bachelor, he could imagine the loneliness of a young married couple who had just moved to Albuquerque, so he had a dinner for them and introduced them to some of his good friends. He could imagine how it must be to be a hard-working waitress in the dining room of a downtown hotel, and he knew it would mean something to her if he said a word to brighten her day. He could endure the scourge of continual ill health, when, with his sense of history, he could see himself and his own times in perspective. Frank was a *natural* historian. This perception of the great chain, the great continuum, which many professional historians have to work to achieve, came easily to him. He viewed world problems, human relationships, and even personal suffering from a kind of platform where he could see them in perspective.

Frank Reeve's finely sharpened perception of the movement of events enabled him to make significant contributions to the history of the Southwest. President Popejoy has spoken of his history of the University. From there he proceeded to a study of Federal Indian policy in the Territory of New Mexico from 1858 to 1880, and later of the Navajo in the period immediately following the cession of New Mexico to the United States. Later still he wrote on the Navajo under Spanish rule, 1680 to 1770. Frank Reeve

never quit. In the last days of his life he was still at work on his Navajo history. His *History of New Mexico* is the soundest general work on the subject.

His contribution to history included eighteen years of service as editor of the *New Mexico Historical Review*, one of the oldest historical journals west of the Mississippi, and one of the most highly respected. From 1946 to 1964 when he retired, Frank Reeve, working almost singlehanded, published in the *Review* a great deal of important material on southwestern history.

I do not believe that Frank Reeve was afraid of or in awe of any office, any man, or any combination of people on this earth. He spoke his mind, he stuck by his guns. Sometimes people regarded him as a very obstinate man. He *was* persistent. But the impression of obstinacy remained only with those who had lost sight of the fact that Reeve's attitudes and actions were securely rooted in principle.

We shall never forget this man—we never could. I believe we have much reason to be thankful to the Creator that for one brief moment of eternity our paths crossed the path of Frank Reeve.

WILLIAM M. DABNEY
Department of History

FRANK DRIVER REEVE

SCHOLAR, COLLEAGUE, AND FRIEND

FRANCE V. SCHOLES

IN THE WINTER of 1924-1925, a few months after I had come to New Mexico in search of health, I found a new and loyal friend, Frank Reeve, then a senior at the University of New Mexico. Our long friendship, characterized always by warmth, mutual respect, and confidence, was sadly terminated by his recent death. Frank had also come to New Mexico for his health, and here we enjoyed the restorative values of New Mexico sunlight and scenery. Then, and in later years this remained a bond between us—not least because it inspired both of us to spend much time in scholarly investigation of the history of New Mexico and the Southwest. In later years my own research has been concerned with the colonial history of Yucatán and Mexico, but Frank remained true to his first love and devoted his entire life to the history of New Mexico and to teaching at his alma mater, The University of New Mexico.

His unpublished thesis for his Master of Arts, which he received in 1928, told the story of the University from its founding to the mid-1920's. He went to the University of Texas for his doctorate, and the subject of his dissertation, written under the direction of Professor Barker, an eminent authority on Southwestern history, was Federal Indian policy in New Mexico, 1858-1880. This awakened his interest in the history of the Navajo Indians from colonial times through the nineteenth century, to which he was to devote his major scholarly research for the rest of his life.

In pursuit of this objective he undertook exacting investigations not only in the pertinent printed documentation, but also in the

manuscript sources available in the United States. His precarious health did not permit him to visit the archives of Mexico and Spain, but he made thorough use of the extensive collections of typescripts and photographs from abroad available in this country—at the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, the Newberry Library, Chicago, the Library of Congress, and the Coronado Library, University of New Mexico. After an exhausting year of college teaching, he often spent his summer vacation in research in Berkeley, Chicago, or Washington, D.C., rather than in the quiet relaxation he had earned. I recall one visit to Washington, where I was then living, in the summer of 1940. He had come to survey the documentation pertaining to New Mexico in the National Archives. The hot and humid weather aggravated his asthma, but week after week he doggedly continued his investigations. One August afternoon I came home from the office and found Frank, weary but undaunted, in the hammock on my front porch. He managed to keep on for another two weeks; then sheer physical exhaustion forced him to return to Albuquerque.

By this stubborn and unswerving dedication to scholarship he set an enduring example to his students and colleagues. He did not enjoy the substantial financial support from government or private agencies presently granted to researchers in history and allied disciplines. His labors were prompted by that unqualified love of learning which should inspire every member of the academic profession. He remained true to the ideal to the end; even during the last weeks of his life, he summoned his failing energies to complete a draft of his last work on the Navajo. The fruits of his lifelong study of the People are attested in the bibliography of his writings published in this issue of the *New Mexico Historical Review*.

Along with his study of Navajo history, Frank Reeve also found time to write a two-volume history of New Mexico from pre-Hispanic times to the present. This work, based on wide-ranging use of the monographic literature of the past half century, in addition to his own research in published and manuscript sources, reflects his scholarly acumen and personal points of view and conclusions developed during more than thirty years of painstaking study. It is,

without question, the best general survey of New Mexico ever written and a new landmark in the great tradition of Southwestern historiography.

No account of Frank Reeve's scholarly achievement would be complete without mention of his service as Editor of the *New Mexico Historical Review* for eighteen years (1946-1964). Founded in 1926 by Lansing B. Bloom, its Editor for twenty years, NMHR quickly rose to preeminence among the journals of Western American history, as an outlet for the results of scholarly investigations solidly based upon primary sources and concerned with all facets of New Mexican and regional history from colonial times to the present. As Editor, Reeve carried on the fine tradition set by the founder, and shares with his predecessor the credit for making NMHR the best, as well as the oldest journal in its field. For thirty-eight years Bloom and Reeve performed their editorial duties with only minimum assistance from the Historical Society and the University of New Mexico. This situation was remedied, at least in part, when the University assumed full ownership and responsibility for NMHR in 1963. And fortunately, the responsibility of planning and editing the *Review* is again in the competent hands of a distinguished research scholar, inspired by the same devotion to the best traditions of documentary history that motivated her predecessors.

In the autumn of 1928, after the death of his friend and mentor, Professor Charles F. Coan, Frank Reeve took his place on the faculty of The University of New Mexico. During the academic year 1928-1929 Frank and I taught all the courses offered that year in European and American history and government. This marked the beginning of Frank's long service as a teacher at the University, interrupted only by an occasional leave of absence for doctoral studies. In addition to a wide range of subjects in American and Southwestern history, he taught courses on Tudor and Stuart England, the French Revolution and Napoleon. In those days, especially during the Depression years, the faculty did not enjoy the privilege of teaching only two or three courses in their

special field of interest. And through these years, with a heavy and varied teaching load, Frank's research on the history of New Mexico made steady progress.

In their remarks at the Memorial Service, President Popejoy and Professor Dabney have paid generous and appropriate tribute to Frank Reeve's many-faceted activities as a member of the Faculty of the University. My own comments on this phase of his career will be more personal. In 1946, after fifteen years with the Division of Historical Research, Carnegie Institution of Washington, I returned to the University of New Mexico as Dean of the Graduate School and became Academic Vice President in 1948. During my ten years as an administrative officer (1946-1956) I was often perplexed by urgent problems of policy and of the welfare of individual faculty members. On many occasions—I cannot count them now—I sought the counsel of Frank Reeve, for whose advice and judgment I had profound respect. After a strenuous day for both of us I might go to his house, where he would fill glasses with appropriate ingredients, and listen. And then invariably he would say: "What is the principle at issue?" This was the man and this was his philosophy.

His stubborn insistence upon approaching University problems from the standpoint of first issues and fundamental principles was often evident when he took part in faculty debates. I suspect that his colleagues sometimes felt that he insisted too much on basic policy and principle. His views did not always command majority approval. But whether they agreed with him or not, he always had the respect of his fellows. All his life Frank remained true to and defended his convictions—a testament to his abiding integrity.

This quality of firm integrity also characterized his capacity for friendship. His friendship was never wavering or subject to the shifting winds of time and circumstance. To his chosen friends he gave continuing loyalty—a loyalty combined with a rare measure of warmth, kindness, and affection, often expressed in simple, unexpected acts of personal attention and courtesy. He did not look for favors in return, nor did he want sympathy for his physical

frailty. Once when I visited him during his last illness and asked what I might do for him, he replied: "Sit down and let's talk, but not about my health."

When Frank Reeve died, I lost my oldest friend in New Mexico. I cannot mourn. I am grateful that for more than forty years he gave me his friendship. His memory will always be warm, sweet, and comforting.

WRITINGS OF FRANK D. REEVE

HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO (unpublished Master's thesis, The University of New Mexico, 1928).

NEW MEXICO: YESTERDAY AND TODAY. 1846-1946. University of New Mexico Department of Government, Division of Research, Publication No. 5 (Albuquerque, 1946).

FORTS AND FORAYS; JAMES A. BENNETT: A DRAGOON IN NEW MEXICO, 1850-1856, edited by Clinton E. Brooks and Frank D. Reeve (Albuquerque, 1948). (First published in NMHR, vol. 22, 1947, pp. 51-97, 140-76.)

ALBERT FRANKLIN BANTA: ARIZONA PIONEER. Historical Society of New Mexico Publication, vol. 14 (Albuquerque, 1953). Ed. (First published in NMHR, vol. 27, 1952, pp. 81-106, 200-52, 315-47; vol. 28, 1953, pp. 52-67, 133-47.)

HISTORY OF NEW MEXICO. 3 vols. (New York, 1961).

NEW MEXICO: A SHORT, ILLUSTRATED HISTORY (Denver, 1964).

"United States vs. University Professor," *New Mexico Quarterly*, 1931.

"A Proposal for the B. A. Degree," *New Mexico Quarterly*, 1932.

"The Utah Individual Income Tax," *New Mexico Business Review*, 1932.

"The Old University of New Mexico at Santa Fe," NMHR, vol. 8 (1933), pp. 201-10.

"The Federal Indian Policy in New Mexico, 1858-1880," NMHR, vol. 12 (1937), pp. 218-69; vol. 13 (1938), pp. 14-62, 146-91, 261-313.

"The Government and the Navaho, 1846-1858," NMHR, vol. 14 (1939), pp. 82-114.

"The American Character," *New Mexico Quarterly*, 1939.

"New Mexico Editorial Opinion on Supreme Court Reform," NMHR, vol. 15 (1940), pp. 72-78.

"The Government and the Navaho, 1878-1883," NMHR, vol. 16 (1941), pp. 275-312; ". . . 1883-1888," vol. 18 (1943), pp. 17-51.

"London to Salt Lake City in 1866: The Diary of William Driver," NMHR, vol. 17 (1942), pp. 37-63. Ed.

"A Navaho Struggle for Land," NMHR, vol. 21 (1946), pp. 1-21.

- "The Apache Indians in Texas," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, vol. 50 (1946), pp. 189-219.
- "Puritan and Apache: A Diary," NMHR, vol. 23 (1948), pp. 269-301; vol. 24 (1949), pp. 12-53. Ed.
- "War and Peace: Two Arizona Diaries," NMHR, vol. 24 (1949), pp. 95-129. Ed.
- "Frederick E. Phelps: A Soldier's Memoirs," NMHR, vol. 25 (1950), pp. 37-56, 109-35, 187-221, 305-27. Ed.
- "The Charles Bent Papers," Notes and Documents section, NMHR, vols. 29, 30, 31 (1954, 1955, 1956). Ed.
- "Early Navaho Geography," NMHR, vol. 31 (1956), pp. 290-309.
- "Seventeenth Century Navaho-Spanish Relations," NMHR, vol. 32 (1957), pp. 36-52.
- "Navaho-Spanish Wars, 1680-1720," NMHR, vol. 33 (1958), pp. 205-31.
- "The Navaho-Spanish Peace: 1720's-1770's," NMHR, vol. 34 (1959), pp. 9-40.
- "Navaho-Spanish Diplomacy, 1770-1790," NMHR, vol. 35 (1960), pp. 200-35.
- "The Sheep Industry in Arizona, 1903-1906," NMHR, vol. 38 (1963), pp. 244-52, 323-42; vol. 39 (1964), pp. 40-79, 111-56. Ed.

Dr. Reeve's knowledge of Southwestern history often was utilized outside the University. He wrote the section on New Mexico for the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, and the *Britannica Book of the Year*, 1938-1961, as well as for the *Encyclopedia Americana* (1949 edition), the *Americana Annual* (1958), and the *World Book Encyclopedia* (1957). A chapter on "The American Heritage" appeared in *Foundations of an American Philosophy of Education* (J. C. Knode, ed., New York, 1942). The *Texas Handbook of History* (1945) included a passage on "The Apache Indians."

He presented papers at various meetings and conferences, including:

"Bibliography of New Mexican History," New Mexico State Educational Association, 1954.

"The Education of an Editor," Southwestern Social Science Association, 1955, and, for the same group, "The Editor's Chair," 1960.

"History of the Albuquerque Region," New Mexico Geological Society 12th Field Conference, 1962.

"The Church in Territorial New Mexico," Ministers' Continuing Education Conference, 1964 (this is in the UNM Special Collections Library).

From 1951 to 1961 Dr. Reeve was a consultant on the Navaho for the Justice Department, compiling a "Report on the Navaho People" for the

Department in *The Navaho People vs. the United States of America*, 1951. He also was an advisor to the Mescalero Apache in the late 1950's, on their claim against the U. S.

As editor of NMHR, Dr. Reeve often contributed to the "Notes and Documents" section, and he compiled and edited the second *Comprehensive Index*, for volumes 16-30 (1941-1955), in 1956. Even before he became editor, he was contributing book reviews to NMHR and other scholarly journals, a practice that continued until 1966. One notable example is "A Letter to Clio," an essay review of Paul Horgan's *Great River: The Rio Grande in North American History* (NMHR, vol. 31, 1956, pp. 102-32).

His first contribution to the review was "Eulogy for Dr. Charles F. Coan" (vol. 3, 1928, pp. 427-31), and the last one performed the same service for Paul A. F. Walter (vol. 41, 1966, pp. 165-66). It is characteristic of Dr. Reeve that during his final illness he completed a draft of "Navaho Foreign Affairs, 1795-1846," his last major contribution to the history of the Navaho.