

H-R
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Robert Norton dies in Phoenix

Robert Homer Norton, professor emeritus of history and dean of Grinnell College from 1954 to 1960, died Saturday, Dec. 17, in Phoenix, Ariz. He was 87.

Prof. Norton's body has been willed to medical science. A memorial service will be conducted at 4 p.m. Jan. 24, in Herrick Chapel. Memorials can be made to the Development Office at Grinnell College.

A Canadian by birth, he received his B.A. degree in English from Dalhousie University in 1924 and his M.A. in philosophy from the same institution in 1925. He was named a Rhodes Scholar and studied at Oxford University in the Honour School of Modern History and the Honour School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. He received a B.A. degree, with distinction, from Oxford in 1928.

Prof. Norton taught at Regina College in Saskatchewan before being appointed to the Grinnell history faculty in 1930. He was named a full professor in 1951, chairman of the faculty for the period 1952-54, and dean of the college in 1954, serving until 1960. He was appointed to a Roberts honor professorship for 1965-66 and retired from full-time service in 1969.

A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Prof. Norton was a member of the American Historical Association, the American Association of Rhodes Scholars and the planning committee of the National Conference of History Education in 1952-53.

He is survived by three sons, Dr. Robert Norton of Phoenix, John Norton of Northampton, Mass., and Neil Norton of East Moline, Ill.; nine grandchildren; a sister, Jessie Beck of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada; and a brother, Fred Norton of Grand Prairie, Alberta, Canada. His wife Margaret Sweetnam Norton died in 1980.

Robert H. Norton

A memorial service for Robert H. Norton, 87, a retired member of the Grinnell College history faculty who died Dec. 17 in Phoenix, Ariz., will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, in Herrick Chapel here.

The body was donated to the University of Iowa College of Medicine.

Officiating will be the Rev. Dennis Haas, chaplain of the college. The eulogy will be delivered by Joseph H. Wall.

The son of Egerton S. and Catherine S. Dewar Norton, he was born Oct. 12, 1901, at Bradenst, Prince Edward Island, Canada. He earned a B.A. degree in English from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1924 and his M.A. degree in philosophy from the same institution in 1925. He was a Rhodes scholar and attended Oxford University in the Honour School of Modern History and Honour School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. He received an Oxonian B.A. degree with distinction in 1928.

He was married to Margaret Esther Sweetnam at Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. After a year in Canada, he moved to Regina, Saskatchewan, where he taught at Regina College before being appointed to the Grinnell faculty in 1930. He was named a full professor in 1951, chairman of the faculty for 1952-54, and dean of the college from 1954 to 1960. He was appointed to a Roberts honor professorship for 1965-66 and retired from full-time service as a professor in 1969.

A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Prof. Norton was a member of the American Historical Association, the American Association of Rhodes Scholars, and the planning committee of the National Conference of History Education in 1952-53.

Surviving are three sons, Dr. Robert Norton of Phoenix, John of Northampton, Mass., and Neil of Moline, Ill.; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a sister, Jessie Beck of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; and a brother, Fred of Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada.

He was preceded in death by his wife, a grandson, his parents and a brother, Edison.