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Timothy Field Beard (Tim), one of our nation's foremost genealogists, died on February 13, 2015 in Roxbury, Conn. He was stricken by a heart attack at the Minor Memorial Library, which he helped found and where he later served as Chairman. He was 84 years old. His friends, his family, and numerous organizations will miss his tireless good cheer and support.

Since early childhood, Tim had a fascination with his family history, which led him to a lifetime commitment to libraries, genealogy, and historical preservation. Born the son of Stuart Menteth-Beard and Natalie Sudler (Turner) Beard in 1930, Tim grew up in Sheffield, Mass., where his parents owned The Sheffield Inn.

Tim was educated at Indian Mountain School and Berkshire School before attending Williams College, where he graduated in 1953 with a B.A. in history. After serving in the U.S. Air Force as First Lieutenant in Bordeaux, France from 1954-1956, Tim went on to Columbia University where he graduated with a Master's in Library Science in 1962, and subsequently joined the New York Public Library's Local History and Genealogy Division that same year. In all, Tim spent 21 years at The New York Public Library working in the Local History and Genealogy Division.

In an article written by Kathryn Boughton for The Register-Citizen Newspaper in 2010, Tim confessed: "From the time I was 4, I started asking my parents questions about the family. My parents were exhausted by the questions, and would say 'Why did we give them (family members) all these historic names?'"

Tim Beard was named for his great-great-great grandfather, Timothy Field, a 1799 graduate of Yale. Tim Beard's grandmother gave him a Field genealogy when he was ten years old, and he never looked back after that. A cousin, Philadelphia Stuart- Menteth Vines, taught him how to explore records, while another cousin took young Tim to explore cemeteries. What started out as a childhood interest grew into a global commitment to genealogy, friendships with hundreds of families around the world, and publication in 1977 (McGraw Hill) of *How to Find Your Family Roots*, a comprehensive 1,000 page global genealogical guide with case studies and reference texts coauthored with Denise Demong.

In 1963, Tim married Annette Knowles Huddleston, herself from a prominent family in Tuskegee, Alabama. Together they bought a brick townhome at 38 Barrow Street in the West Village where they took in numerous cats, and threw unforgettable brunches and cocktail parties for their New York friends. While the couple had no children themselves, they became an indispensable part of the lives of their nieces, nephews and cousins, several of whom had apartments in the upper floors of 38 Barrow Street. Tim and Annette never missed a family event. Later, they took up breeding the Cavalier King Charles Spaniels which gradually displaced the other pets in their home.

Tim retired from the New York Public Library in the early 1980's, and moved to Roxbury, Connecticut where he and Annette relished being part of life in a historic New England town. Although they sought a quieter life after New York, Tim and Annette quickly joined many organizations in Roxbury.

Tim cooked at Christ Episcopal Church suppers and raised money for The Minor Memorial Library, where he soon became Head Librarian. During this time, Tim continued leading a number of genealogical and historical organizations, travelling across the U.S. giving talks, doing research, and attending meetings at not-for profits and societies. Tim never retired; he continued genealogical research up to his last days.

While Tim had a delightful, sunny nature and many good friends, he was serious about raising money for, and dispensing millions to, historic houses, museums, and research projects. Tim was particularly committed to helping historic homes, museums, and projects which were less well funded, and more directly affected by, U.S. economic downturns.

Tim's family and friends know he is irreplaceable. Tim was a master storyteller, loved family foibles, and seemed to have a network that included almost everyone. Everyone comments on the joyful life Tim led. Those who know Tim well understand he had strong beliefs and was a practicing Christian. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: Christ Episcopal Church, 4 Weller's Bridge Road, P.O. Box 4, Roxbury, Conn. 06783, or The Minor Memorial Library, 23 South Street, Roxbury, Ct. 06783.

Mr. Beard's funeral service will be held on March 14, 2015 at Christ Episcopal Church in Roxbury at 11 a.m., with a reception to follow at the Roxbury Town Hall.

