



The Henry H. & Emily T. Willmott Memorial Scholarship

Henry H. and Emily T. Willmott were passionate supporters of the arts of all kinds, champions of education, and deeply rooted in the Watertown community. Their love will endure in perpetuity through a scholarship in their memory.

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Mrs. Willmott, who passed away in October 2004, was born in Baltimore, Md., and raised in Frederick, Md., graduating from Frederick High School in 1936 and Hood College, Frederick, in 1940 with a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics. During World War II, she worked for the Red Cross in Washington, D.C., where she met Henry H. Willmott, an Army infantryman who was on leave from Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Mr. Willmott, born and raised in Watertown, predeceased his wife of 60 years in March 2004. A longtime Watertown attorney, he graduated in 1936 from Williams College and in 1939 from Cornell Law School, Ithaca. After being admitted to the New York State Bar that September, he worked with the law offices of Scanlon, Harter, Scanlon and Wright, until he joined the Army in April 1942. He served as an enlisted infantry soldier and noncommissioned officer before he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General Corps. He served in the Philippines as a junior attorney, working on Japanese war crime trials. He was honorably discharged as with rank of captain in 1946.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Willmott were extremely active in civic affairs in the Watertown area. Mrs. Willmott was a past president of the Watertown branch



Henry H. and Emily T. Willmott

of the Needlework Guild of America, the Crescent Yacht Club Auxiliary, Chaumont, and the Visiting Nurse Association. Mrs. Willmott's community service and support of education also included several years as president of the Sherman Street School PTA.

Mr. Willmott was counsel to the Watertown Board of Education from 1949 to November 1971, serving with four superintendents. He was a member and dean of the Jefferson County Bar Association, serving as president in 1960-61. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the House of the Good Samaritan Hospital for more than 20 years, 10 of which as board president. Among many other positions held, he was a member of the boards of directors of Little

Theatre of Watertown, where he was also treasurer, and an honorary member of the Black River Valley Club and Samaritan Medical Center Auxiliary.

They were each deeply connected to their community at Trinity Episcopal Church where Mrs. Willmott served as a member of its Altar Guild for 29 years and was the first woman on the Trinity Church vestry, serving two three-year terms. Mr. Willmott served at Trinity for many years as warden, vestryman and treasurer. They both enjoyed the music performed at church, becoming collectors of hymnals and extremely knowledgeable of songs sung in their congregation.

Mrs. Willmott was especially artistic — she loved to sew, act, sing, and play the piano. During her time at Trinity, she was co-chairwoman of the redecoration of the church interior. She was a very accomplished seamstress in earlier years and made many clothes, draperies, bedspreads, and the like. She was a life member of Little Theatre of Watertown, participating in many plays the company produced throughout the years. Her family remembers her beautiful voice and still recalls a signature tune that she would hum around the home, which they have come to know as “Emily’s Tune.” She also had a lovely, natural touch and ability whenever she sat down at the piano. Her eldest grandson, Benjamin Willmott, recalls that even in the years and months leading up to the end of her life, she was always supportive of his love of music, traveling to Ithaca College, where he was enrolled in the School of Music, to hear him sing with his ensembles.

Mr. and Mrs. Willmott instilled in their family the immense values of community, education, and the arts and through the establishment of this scholarship in their memory, their passion and love will continue well beyond their lifetimes.