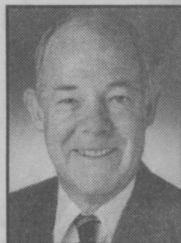


## OBITUARIES

Obituaries appearing in this section are paid for and written by families, often through the services of a funeral director.

### Roger W. Prouty



Roger Prouty

Roger Prouty, who died on December 31, 2010, in his 91st year, taught history at the University of Massachusetts at Boston for 40 years. In addition to history, which he called "the folly of man", his many enthusiasms included travel, horses, sailing, steamships, skiing, squash, trains, amateur theatre, the city of Boston, and all things British.

Roger Warren Prouty was born in Littleton, Massachusetts on March 12, 1920, the youngest of three sons born to Gardner Edward and Ethel Brown Prouty. He was educated at Belmont Hill School and Harvard College, graduating in 1942, immediately after which he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he served as an officer aboard a destroyer escort for four years fighting Japan in the South Pacific theater. After a stint in publishing and a year taking "the Grand Tour" of Europe, he embarked on his Ph.D. in English history at Columbia, which he was awarded in 1952. His doctoral studies included a year in England, where he lived at the Cavendish Hotel and became good friends with the legendary proprietress Rosa

with the New England Forestry Foundation in order to preserve this significant 107-acre tract of woodland and undeveloped lake frontage within the U.S. Rte 495 corridor. At a favorable price and with a significant additional financial contribution from Mr. Prouty, the entire package was sold to NEFF in 2003 and now serves as their headquarters. The woodland has also become a valuable community resource known as "Prouty Woods Community Forest."

Mr Prouty had collected thousands of articles and done extensive research over the years on the city of Boston. Although the long-planned book never materialized, his vast and detailed knowledge of the city was appreciated by the many people fortunate enough to be treated to his special personalized "Boston Tour." Started during his tenure at UMass, it continued for many years afterward in response to popu-

Lewis, known as "the Duchess of Duke Street".

Before joining the faculty of UMass Boston Mr Prouty taught at several other institutions including Barnard College and M.I.T. He continued to travel extensively and to pursue his many other interests, including riding and whipping-in for many years with the Gorton Hunt. In the 1960s he built an eccentric beachfront house on Nauset Beach in Orleans on Cape Cod, where for many years he hosted house parties where he entertained his appreciative extended family and a diverse collection of friends, including writer James Baldwin, pop artist Andy Warhol, and the Velvet Underground.

He sold this in the early 1990s to buy a small house in the historic district of Newport, Rhode Island, close to the yachts he loved.

During his many years in Boston Mr Prouty was an active member of the Tavern Club, the Union Boat Club, and the Boston Athenaeum, where he enjoyed a Proprietor share gifted to him by his father. After his retirement from UMass he visited the Athenaeum every weekday until the year of his death.

Mr Prouty retained an interest until his death in the family estate in Littleton, with its squash court and bowling alley, where he had been born and raised. After his brother Donald died in 2002, he and his sister-in-law Carey Prouty, with the help of and Vest, worked

lar demand. He was a longtime resident of Beacon Hill, where he knew the history of almost every building. He had an astonishing memory not only for facts but also anecdotes, as well as an appreciation for architecture.

Mr Prouty was intelligent, accomplished, and hugely knowledgeable as well as being funny, kind, loyal and eccentric. He dearly loved a good argument, particularly on political issues, and reveled in the spirited exchanged of views and ideas. He vigorously pursued his many wide interests. He crossed the Atlantic by sea many times and assembled an important collection of steamship deckplans and brochures and other material relating to ocean liners, a collection he started as a teenager and that is being given in his memory to Mystic Seaport.

Mr Prouty leaves his nieces and nephews, Pamela Ikauniks of Concord, Melissa Hodgson of Salisbury, England, Gardner E. "Ted" Prouty, of Chatham, and Kyle Prouty and Cheryl Prouty, both of California. A private memorial is being planned for later in the spring. Enquiries may be made to the Badger Funeral Home, at [www.badgerfuneral.com](http://www.badgerfuneral.com).

Donations may be made in Mr. Prouty's memory to the Boston Athenaeum 10 1/2 Beacon Street, Boston, MA and to the Roger W. Prouty Collection at the Mystic Seaport, P.O. Box 6000., Mystic CT. -