



ANDREW E. ROTHOVIVUS

Andrew Rothovius lived nearly his entire life in the same house where he was born on Smith Street. He outlived his entire family, never married, and never had children. He only had to go into a nursing home very late in life. As a young child, he contracted pulmonary TB and never attended any public school or any school of any kind. His older sister Sigrid taught him to read and write. Yet his thirst for knowledge took him on journeys far beyond the walls of his humble abode. He was a self made man of tremendous intellect. In fact, he became known as the Sage of Milford.

Andrew was later able to work and did so for many years, at Kenmore Stamp Company, as he had an encyclopedic knowledge of stamps. And at Sanders Associates in Nashua he was In House Librarian for Technical Documents, early in the computer age. But it was his self driven quest for knowledge, and his desire to share that knowledge, which distinguished Andrew in his Milford neighborhood and beyond. His interests also had an incredible scope, from ruminations about science and weather to deep studies of history, personality, economics and commentary on religion and nature. In addition to becoming a volunteer observer for the National Weather Service, he wrote over 4000 columns for the Milford Cabinet and the Monadnock Transcript Ledger. He had his own newsletter, entitled The Olden Time New Hampshire Historical Letter. He contributed to many other newsletters all around the world. And of course, Andrew wrote and co-authored a number of books. He made it a mission to share what he had learned.

He donated over 2000 volumes of his personal research books to the Wadleigh Memorial Library, but also surrounded himself with his remaining books in his second story office at home. If you wanted to know something or wanted to know what Andrew thought, you could call him. He was approachable and always willing to talk or meet. After a chance meeting with some nuns who suggested he should become a Catholic, he then explored Catholicism and remained a devout Catholic for the balance of his life. He was of Finnish heritage and a relative had been a Lutheran Bishop.

See the photo above. It looks like Andrew is a learned college professor with a fancy academic robe and head covering, but he is actually wearing a baseball jacket and a simple cap. He was ordinary, yet extraordinary. What a mind came from a modest neighborhood in Milford, New Hampshire.

Bonnie Gondola, Historian

With apologies to anyone who previously wrote about Andrew Rothovius or any extended family or friends still living. No sources for permission in creating this reminiscence of Andrew Rothovius were found. These details were derived from speaking with those who knew him, from previous articles online, and from the Wadleigh Memorial Library in Milford, New Hampshire.