

## Memorial



Carol Varley Ruppé 1923–2003

The Society for Historical Archaeology lost a devoted member, and archaeologists lost a dear friend on 4 November 2003 with the passing from this life of Carol Varley Ruppé. Carol spent many years organizing the book room at SHA's annual conference. She was a friend of my family in Iowa in the 1950s, and it was in the book room that our paths again crossed years later. To those who knew her, she was a cheery lady who enjoyed her work. Her childhood giggle, remembered by Girl Scout pal Virginia, mellowed into the smoky chortle known to archaeologists who gathered at her home or took a seat beside her in the SHA book room. Carol successfully joined her lifelong interest in anthropology with her pragmatic choice of career in librarianship to become a master at connecting students and scholars with information.

Carol (Helen Carolyn Varley) was born 22 February 1923 to Mildred Reed Varley and Brian Jennings Varley in Menlo, Iowa. Carol's family moved to Chicago, where her brother, Brian Reed Varley, was born. The Varleys lived first in the Ravenswood neighborhood; in 1933, they moved to a house on New England Avenue in the Elmwood Park neighborhood. Carol attended Sayre School from the sixth through the eighth grade. She was active in her Girl Scout troop, which met in the basement of the Congregational Church, and went to Camp Juniper Knoll in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, with friends from her troop.

In 1936 the Varleys moved to Denver, Colorado, where she was a frequent visitor to the nearby Denver Museum of Natural History. Carol went to East High School, graduating in 1940. In fall 1940, Carol began her undergraduate work at the University of New Mexico, majoring in anthropology and joining Alpha Delta Phi sorority. Freshman Audrey Richard (Dittert) also began her training in anthropology that year, and senior Florence Cline (Lister) completed hers. Because of appendicitis and illness, Carol had to return in 1944 to her parent's home in Denver without finishing her degree, working as a telephone operator after her recovery.

She met Reynold J. Ruppé while he was stationed at Camp Hole, Colorado, where he was training to become a ski trooper. Rey transferred to the air force and then to the infantry. In October 1944, shortly before he was to leave for Europe, Rey was sent to Camp Van Doren, Mississippi. Carol traveled by bus to nearby Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to visit Rey and to get married. She went back home to Denver, and Rey went to France.

Carol returned to the University of New Mexico to finish her bachelor of arts degree in anthropology in 1945. During this year, she spent time with a group of young women in Albuquerque whose husbands were stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base. The women knew their husbands were training for a secret mission, but it was only after the men suddenly left on this mission that they learned their husbands belonged to the crew of the *Enola Gay*.

After the surrender of Germany, Rey remained in Europe, serving as a clerk in Wiesbaden, Germany, assisting in the preparation of cases to be tried at Nuremberg. When Rey returned in 1946, Carol and Rey moved to Gunison, Colorado, so Rey could work on his undergraduate degree at Western State College. After about a year, Carol persuaded him to move to Albuquerque, where Rey completed his bachelor of arts degree in anthropology at Carol's alma mater, the University of New Mexico, in 1949.

They temporarily left the Southwest for Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, so Rey could begin work on his doctorate, while Carol worked at the engineering library. Winters were spent in Cambridge, but summers were spent back in the Southwest, surveying the Cebolleta Mesa pueblo sites with colleague A. E. Dittert (who married Carol's college friend Audrey Richard). In the winter of 1952–1953, Rey finished his dissertation in Denver.

In 1953, Rey joined the faculty at the University of Iowa. They moved to Iowa City and purchased a house on a terrace above the Iowa River (classified as a beach cottage in the tax rolls), beginning lengthy and extensive renovations. Weekends were often spent in eastern Iowa with Carol's grade-school friend from Chicago, whose home had the luxuries of a functioning kitchen and bathroom. Carol returned the favor many times over in the following years, when the same friend made frequent trips to Iowa City for all-day visits to the pediatric clinic at the university hospital. Carol looked after the younger siblings, saving them from hours of boredom in the clinic waiting room.

Carol and Rey's daughter, Patricia Ann, was born in 1954, and their son, Lawrence Reed, followed in 1956. During the mid-1950s, Carol and her young children spent the summers in Denver with her parents. She pursued a master's degree at the University of Denver while Rey ran field schools in Iowa. In 1959, the University of Denver awarded Carol a Master of Arts in Librarianship and Information Management. As the children grew older, the whole family spent summers together at archeological field schools at sites in southeastern and western Iowa. Many archaeologists practicing today worked at or visited these excavations.

Carol returned to library work during her years in Iowa City, taking a position at the Iowa City Public Library. She also developed friendships with women in the Mesquakie community at Tama, Iowa, where she and Rey did ethnographic research. Carol learned to select and gather wetland vegetation to weave mats and to construct wickiups. One evening, her Mesquakie friends asked Carol to dance with them at a powwow. She hesitated, saying she really should not, but the Mesquakie women assured her that since it was night, no one would notice a white woman dancing with the Indians. Carol spent a lot of time with those women; her Mesquakie friends hosted a baby shower for her as the birth of her first child approached.

In 1960, Rey was asked to chair the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Arizona State University in Tempe. Carol and her family left the beach cottage on the Iowa River and moved back to the Southwest. In 1962, Carol began working a part-time position at the university's Hayden Library, later moving to full-time and becoming the chair of the reference department, the position she held until her retirement in 1986. She specialized in developing the collection for anthropology, and department members quickly learned that Carol could help them find whatever they needed or she would ensure that the library acquire it. She prepared numerous resource guides, several of them focusing on Native American arts and ethnology. In recognition of her contributions to the university, in 1983 Carol was awarded the ASU Presidential Award for Service.

In 1962, Carol began her work as a volunteer with the Heard Museum in Phoenix. For years, she worked at the museum's library on Tuesday afternoons, focusing on developing the library's holdings and on building the Native American Artists Resource Collection. With the first staff librarian, Mary Graham, Carol collected information in the field to develop a collection that now includes files on 23,000 Native American artists. She was awarded the Heard Museum Guild Outstanding Library Volunteer Award in 1999. Long after her retirement from her position at the Hayden Library in 1986, Carol continued to volunteer at the Heard library just because she liked it. Only when she was no longer able to come to the library, in the fall of 2003, did she retire from the Heard. On 15 January 2004, shortly after her death, the Board of Trustees of the Heard Museum adopted a resolution recognizing her 41 years of service.

Carol also shared her expertise in collection development with the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, where she volunteered in the library. Memorial services for both Rey (1993) and Carol (2003) were held at the garden.

The Society for Historical Archaeology was also the beneficiary of Carol's special skill of connecting scholars with sources. Carol proposed the concept and organized the first book room at the SHA annual conference in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1975. Under her guidance, the exhibit grew to be one of the most popular components of the conference. The book room became a destination for nearly all participants and the place where one could always find Carol. She continued to organize the book room until 1988, well into her professional retirement. Even after she handed over the responsibilities, she continued to come to the conference and could often be found in the book room visiting with old friends and browsing through the new publications. During the last year of her life, Carol continued her mission of connecting researchers with resources through her work on the *International Handbook of Underwater Archaeology*, serving as the volume's co-editor.

SHA recognized Carol's years of service to the society with the creation of the Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award, which was announced in 1990 and presented to her at the annual conference in Tucson, Arizona. The award recognizes outstanding service to the society. It has been presented to date to only four other members, as the level of service Carol devoted to the society is rarely matched.

Carol was well known to historical and underwater archaeologists, and many still note her absence while visiting the book room at the annual meeting. Her outstanding service to the society will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to have known her, and meeting participants who never even knew Carol will benefit from her contributions to the society for years to come.

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