

FRANK G. DAVIS

Frank Davis died May 20, 2013 at the age of 95. Frank joined the Literary Club in 1964, delivered at least 15 papers, went through the chairs, ending with the Presidency in 1978, and was a faithful attendee and keeper of Club traditions.

Frank was born Francis Gorman Davis. Frank's mother's maiden name was Gorman. His uncle, Robert N. Gorman, was a candidate for Governor of Ohio in a Democratic primary in which he was defeated by Michael DiSalle. Uncle Robert served as a judge on the Ohio Supreme Court. His first cousin, Robert H. Gorman, is a retired judge who sat on the Ohio First District Court of Appeals. Another cousin, David Gorman, served as a Municipal Court Judge in Hamilton County. A very *legal* family!

According to his children, Frank detested the name "Francis" because it sounds like the girl's name "Frances" and kids teased him calling him "Franny". So "Francis" became "Frank" although he never had his name changed legally.

Frank was born in Cincinnati and spent most of his growing up years here except for 5 years in Mattoon, Illinois, when his father's work as a civil or mechanical (not locomotive) engineer for the Big Four Railroad (later New York Central) took the family there.

Frank graduated from Walnut Hills High School and the University of Cincinnati. He then attended Harvard Law School - - - for one year. While Frank was at Harvard, World War II began so Frank returned home to Cincinnati to be with his family. He was also concerned about a heart murmur. However, Frank's heart apparently murmured correctly because it kept on murmuring for 95 years!

Frank finished his legal training at the UC College of Law. He then joined the Army Air Force and was stationed on the Aleutian Islands off the coast of Alaska. Frank's last Literary Club paper "On the Rocks" regaled his service in the Aleutians.

When they weren't fighting, which was most of the time, there wasn't a lot for the Army Airmen to do on these desolate islands, so Frank took up painting with water colors and wood carving. He carved an Alice in Wonderland chess set which, after the war, he traded to his Uncle for a suit of clothes to wear when he started practicing law.

As Frank's son, Frank Brown Davis, said his father "loved the law but his work wasn't his life." In addition to the Literary Club, Frank was a Past President of the Cincinnati Association and belonged to the Society of Colonial Wars. He served on the Cincinnati School Board and the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and also chaired the committee that developed the plans for the Sharon Woods Heritage Village.

He was a fan of UC sports, the Reds and the Bengals. Frank's daughter Marjorie fondly remembers that "He made sure my sister and I learned how to throw a baseball properly, not like girls".

Frank loved and attended the symphony and the opera for many years. He also enjoyed art, theater, reading and golf. How Frank was able to participate in all of these activities while making a living and raising a family is somewhat of a mystery! But he was always in good humor, often expressed with dry wit, and added sagacity to Club governance discussions.

Frank was married to Ruth Brown Davis for almost 70 years until her death in 2012. He is survived by daughters, Marjorie Ellen Davis of Hyde Park and Katherine G. Gould of Brooklyn, New York, son Frank Brown Davis of Amberley Village, and brother Pierson Davis of Hyde Park.

One of the memorial committee members, Steve Strauss, had a summer job while a law student with the firm of Gorman, Davis and Henglebrok and remembers Frank as an excellent mentor and a warm and friendly person.

Respectfully submitted,

September 30, 2013

Stephen D. Strauss

Lewis G. Gatch

Russell Dale Flick