

Some Personalities from Variable Star History

Edited by

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Abstract Presented are sixty-six biographical sketches of noteworthy persons who have been associated with the AAVSO and variable star astronomy during its more than 100-year history.

1. Introduction

The original plan for *Advancing Variable Star Astronomy: The Centennial History of the American Association of Variable Star Observers* (Williams and Saladyga 2011) included sidebars comprising a selection of contributors to variable star astronomy. The list of proposed sidebars included both AAVSO members and noteworthy non-members. We solicited authors for each sidebar by publishing the proposed list of individuals. A gratifying response of volunteers to our appeal resulted in an interesting series of short articles. Regrettably, as the deadline approached to send the manuscript to Cambridge University Press we were unclear about meeting our contractually limited length of the book. To make certain there would not be an additional round of editing to come within that contractual limit, we reduced the manuscript's length by cutting out some important history, including the sidebars. By doing so, we insured that the published book would be available before the centennial celebration. To make sure the excited history, including the sidebars, would be published, this article is the first of others that will accomplish that goal. We are late in doing so, and must apologize to the authors of various sidebars for our tardiness. With our hearty thanks to all the authors—especially Tim Crawford—for their contributions, we hope you enjoy these fascinating vignettes.

2. The biographies

Note: The biographies are arranged chronologically according to each individual's early involvement with the AAVSO or variable star work. Published biographical or obituary articles, where available, are cited in the text and noted in the reference list. A name index is given in section 3.

Paul Sebastian Yendell
(1844–1918)

by Matthew Templeton

Paul Yendell of Dorchester (Boston), Massachusetts, a private during the Civil War and grandson of a shipwright of *USS Constitution*, was a draftsman for the Massachusetts

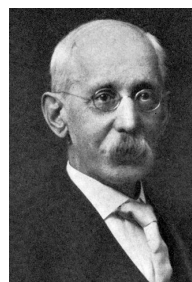
Topographical Survey and the Boston Public Works Department, and became one of the preeminent variable star astronomers of his time. He was a devoted, careful, and prolific visual observer for thirty years, making over 30,000 observations, even as many of his contemporaries lost interest and ceased observing. His observations and other writings frequently appeared in *Popular Astronomy* and *The Astronomical Journal*. Along with his meticulous observing skills, Yendell also possessed a New Englander's sensibility and dry humor: in one 1904 correspondence with Seth Chandler, Yendell noted: "Got an acre of stationery and 25 words of French politeness from [Michel] Luizet today, in acknowledgment of my U Cephei paper. [Joseph] Plassmann did the same thing with a postal card and about seven words of very compact German."



Edwin Forrest Sawyer
(1849–1937)

by Michael Saladyga

One of the first amateur variable star observers in the U.S., Sawyer began observing as early as 1865. He joined the Boston Scientific Society in 1876 in the company of Chandler and Yendell. In 1893 Sawyer published a *Catalogue of the magnitudes of southern stars*; for which he made 13,654 observations to determine visual magnitudes of 1,145 stars, and in the process discovered eight variable stars and 51 suspected variables. Born in Boston and a bank cashier there for 64 years, he joined the AAVSO in 1921. (Taibi 2004)



Seth Carlo Chandler, Jr.
(1846–1913)

by Matthew Templeton

S. C. Chandler began as an assistant to astronomer Benjamin Gould during the late 1860s but spent much of his professional life as an actuary while he was a devoted amateur astronomer. He briefly worked for the

Harvard College Observatory in the early 1880s, but conducted the majority of his astronomical work independently. Most noted for his discovery of the “Chandler wobble” (a minute, periodic perturbation of the Earth’s rotational axis), he conducted extensive research on variable stars, published three variable star catalogues, and was editor of *The Astronomical Journal*. (Searle 1914)



Mary Watson Whitney
(1847–1921)

by Kristine Larsen

Mary Whitney earned A.B. and A.M. degrees as astronomer Maria Mitchell’s student and protégé, succeeding her as director of the Vassar College Observatory and Professor of Astronomy in 1888.

Whitney established a student-based research program at Vassar, focusing on observations of comets, asteroids, and, after Nova Persei 1901, on variable stars. She is credited with the discovery of SX Draconis. In 1906 she developed an undergraduate course on variable stars, probably the first in the world, on which Caroline Furness based her 1915 textbook. During Whitney’s tenure at Vassar, more than 100 articles and observing reports were published by Vassar staff and students. She and her students also sent variable star observation reports to Harvard College Observatory. (Furness 1922–1923)



Clara Hyde Olcott
(1867–1951)

by Michael Saladyga

Clara Eunice Hyde was born in Norwich, Connecticut, where her family were among the founders of that town. She had a rigorous education at Norwich Free Academy and at Miss Dana’s School, an elite finishing school in Morristown, New Jersey, but she did not attend college, choosing instead a vocation as music teacher.

She met William Tyler Olcott in the 1890s; they married in 1902 and lived in the ancestral Tyler home in Norwich. During World War I she volunteered full time as chairwoman of the American Red Cross Volunteers. Described as “a commanding figure, a woman of great personal charm, and distinguished for many endearing traits of character,” Clara Olcott encouraged and supported her husband in pursuit of his astronomical interests and in his dedication to the AAVSO. (Anon. 1951)



Anne Sewell Young
(1871–1961)

by Michael Saladyga

As teacher and astronomer, Anne Young found the AAVSO to be the ideal training ground for her students and an important channel for conducting serious work in astronomy. Born in Bloomington,

Wisconsin, her uncle was the well known astronomer Charles A. Young. She had one sister, Elizabeth, and the two of them remained close throughout their lifetime. Anne Young attended Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, receiving a Master’s degree in 1897. She was principal of a high school in St. Charles, Illinois, but in 1899 found her life’s work as head of the astronomy department and director of the John Payson Williston Observatory at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts. In 1902 She volunteered to observe variable stars for Harvard College Observatory, and in 1905 she enrolled at Columbia University, earning a Ph.D. there in 1906. She continued at Mt. Holyoke while volunteering as a research assistant at Yerkes Observatory during the summer months. Anne Young was one of the seven original members of the AAVSO, and she encouraged her students to attend AAVSO meetings. Three of her students—all AAVSO members—became well known astronomers: Louise Jenkins, Alice Farnsworth, and Helen Sawyer Hogg—and one of Farnsworth’s students, also at Mt. Holyoke, was Martha Hazen. Young, Farnsworth, Hogg, and Hazen were each influential presidents of the AAVSO. Anne Young retired in 1936 and lived with her sister in Claremont, California. (Bracher 2012)



Charles Y. McAteer
(1865–1924)

by Michael Saladyga

Of the early AAVSO members known as “The Old Guard,” none was better liked and more respected than C. Y. McAteer. “Mac” lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was an engineman for the

Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railway Co. From 1912 to 1924 he made over 12,200 variable star observations. The earliest were made with a 4-inch refractor which he would set up in his yard in the pre-dawn hours after coming off of his all-night fast freight runs. Self-taught in astronomy, McAteer found a kindred spirit in the celebrated Pittsburgh telescope maker John Alfred Brashear, who had spent twenty years laboring as a rolling mill mechanic. The two men became close friends. McAteer’s observing skill and knowledge of astronomy was noted by the staff at the University of Pittsburgh’s newly constructed Allegheny Observatory, who allowed him to use its 13-inch refractor to make his variable star observations; he was also permitted to run the public observing sessions there. McAteer died tragically in 1924, struck by a truck as he ran for a trolley car on his way home from work. Soon afterwards, the

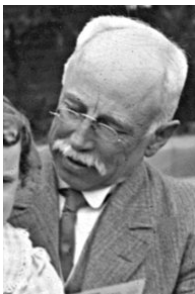
AAVSO library—which McAteer had begun in 1921 with a number of books bequeathed to him by Brashear—was officially named the “Charles Y. McAteer Library of the AAVSO.” (Anon. 1924)



Giovanni Battista Lacchini
(1884–1967)

by Michael Saladyga

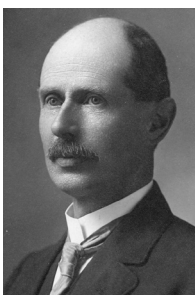
G. B. Lacchini was with the AAVSO for over 50 years, beginning with his first contact with W. T. Olcott in 1911 as its first international member. He made over 65,000 variable star observations from 1911 to 1963 and served on the council (1930–1932; 1961–1963). Lacchini was born in Faenza, Italy, where he had his observatory at his childhood home. An amateur turned professional, Lacchini was a postal worker until 1928 when he was named Assistant Astronomer for the Italian Government at the Royal Observatory in Catania, Sicily. Later he worked at Torino Observatory, and then at Trieste Observatory. His Faenza home and observatory were completely destroyed in bombings during World War II. (Anon. 1967)



Edward Gray
(1851–1920)

by Michael Saladyga

Physician Edward Gray, born in Benicia, California, one of the first seven AAVSO members, was also head of the Variable Star Section of the Society for Practical Astronomy. Gray understood the scientific value of variable star work and soon threw his full support over to the AAVSO. He introduced the blueprint method of reproducing variable star charts which was then refined by AAVSOer Harry C. Bancroft, Jr. Gray also wrote fiction and text books, and was considered an authority on the Spanish language. For the last four years of his life he was ship surgeon for the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, assigned to a San Francisco-New Zealand route. (Mundt 1920)



Tilton Clark Hall Bouton
(1856–1948)

by Tim Crawford

An ordained minister, T. C. H. Bouton joined the AAVSO in 1911. He was also member of the Society for Practical Astronomy, Variable Star Section. In 1912 Bouton wrote in *Popular Astronomy* of a box lantern device to hold charts, with needle holes for the stars, so that the eyes could remain dark adapted for variable star work. He reported 24,884 observations to the AAVSO

between 1914 and 1947 and received the second AAVSO Merit Award in 1936.



David Bedell Pickering
(1873–1946)

by Tim Crawford

David Pickering, a jeweler, joined the AAVSO in 1914 and attended the Annual Meeting held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1915. He hosted, at his home in East Orange, New Jersey, the first AAVSO Spring Meeting in 1916 and continued hosting spring meetings through 1919. Pickering was the first president of the association (1917–1918), a Patron (1919), and the sixth president (1927–1928). He chaired its first chart committee, formed circa 1918–1919, and held that position until 1934. Pickering received the fifth AAVSO Merit Award in 1938 “in appreciation of his long leadership in developing the Association and standardizing its methods...” (Campbell 1946)



Caroline Ellen Furness
(1869–1936)

by Kristine Larsen

After completing her A.B. and A.M. degrees as a student of astronomer Mary Whitney at Vassar College, Caroline Furness became the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in astronomy at Columbia (1900). She collaborated with Whitney as her assistant between 1909 and 1911, each sending their variable star observations to Harvard College Observatory. A member of the AAVSO from 1911, Furness succeeded Whitney in 1913, and prepared for publication a volume of variable star observations made at Vassar from 1901 to 1912. In 1915 she authored the well-received *An Introduction to the Study of Variable Stars*. Furness involved her students in variable star observing and AAVSO Annual Meetings. (Makemson 1936)



Helen Margaret Swartz
(1878–1959)

by Dee Sharples

Helen Swartz, born in Norwalk, Connecticut, and a member of the AAVSO from 1911, was elected to its first council in 1917. As a student of astronomer Mary Whitney at Vassar College, she earned B.A. (1901) and M.A. (1903) degrees. For several years, she taught astronomy, mathematics, and German in the Norwalk High School and served as one of Edward Pickering’s Harvard Observatory corps of observers. Beginning in October 1911 she sent her observations to the AAVSO. Using a 3-inch refractor, she made the first observation of R Cyg to be archived in the

AAVSO International Database. She was one of the founders of the Norwalk Astronomical Society and a member of the American Astronomical Society. (Anon. 1959)



Willem Jacob Luyten
(1899–1994)

by David B. Williams

Dutch-American astronomer W. J. Luyten was the last living charter member of the AAVSO and a speaker at the 1986 75th anniversary banquet and headquarters building dedication. He made visual observations of variable stars as a teenager in Holland. At Harvard and then the University of Minnesota, he discovered thousands of high proper-motion stars in a search for nearby white dwarfs. As a bonus, he discovered more than 1,700 new variables during the Bruce Proper Motion Survey of the southern sky. He detected the first flare of his PM star L 726-8, now known as the prototype flare star UV Ceti. (Luyten 1995)



Charles Francis Richter
(1900–1985)

by Kate Hutton

As one of the AAVSO's prolific early observers and a charter member, Los Angeles teenager Charles Richter (RCF) submitted 7,190 variable star estimates between 1914 and 1917. Later in life, he put his familiarity with magnitudes to good use, devising the first logarithmic method of measuring the sizes of earthquakes. Although he called his system "local magnitude," since it was used for earthquakes relatively near to the seismographic stations, the world of popular science universally knows it and its successors as "the Richter scale." (Wilford 1985)



J. Ernest G. Yalden
(1870–1937)

by Michael Saladyga

Known to early AAVSOers as "The Baron," James Ernest Grant Yalden's presence at AAVSO meetings set a tone of good cheer that long outlived him. Born in Brixton (London), he came to the U.S. with his family when he was about ten years old. While a student at New York University he befriended the artist Winslow Homer. The two spent summers camping in the Adirondacks; Homer's watercolor "Paddling at Dusk" depicts Yalden in his handmade canoe. He married Margaret Stewart Lyon in 1895 in New York City where Yalden became Superintendent of the Baron de Hirsch Trade School. The Yaldens moved to Leonia, New Jersey, in 1901. Yalden joined the AAVSO in 1918 and became

active on committees for charts, telescopes, and occultations. He was named a Patron of the association in 1921, served as vice-president in 1925, and president in 1926. (Farwell 1937; Ingham 1937; Pickering 1937)



Radha Gobinda Chandra
(1881–1975)

by Tim Crawford

After observing Comet Halley 1910, Chandra, a civil servant in Bagchar, Jessore, India, purchased a small telescope. A self-educated astronomer, he reported his discovery of Nova Aquilae No. 3 to Harvard Observatory in 1918, and then joined the AAVSO. The association loaned him a 6-inch telescope in 1926, donated by Charles W. Elmer. Chandra was a member of the British Astronomical Association-Variable Star Section and Association Française des Observateurs d'Étoiles Variables, in 1928 he received the French Officer d'Academic Brevet and Badge for his astronomical work. From 1920 to 1954 Chandra reported a total of 37,215 observations. The Elmer telescope passed to M. K. Vainu Bappu, who earned a Ph.D. in astronomy at Harvard. Chandra helped found astronomy education programs for at least two institutions for young people in India. (Bandyopadhyay and Chakrabarti 1991)



Leslie Copus Peltier
(1900–1980)

by Tim Crawford

In 1917 Leslie Peltier picked strawberries to purchase his first telescope, a 2-inch refractor. That Christmas his mother gave him a copy of William Tyler Olcott's *A Field Book of Stars*. Olcott encouraged readers to contact him regarding how they could engage in astrophysical research. Peltier did so, and became a lifelong member of the AAVSO in 1918. He made regular monthly contributions, reporting over 132,000 observations until his death. He also discovered eleven comets and two novae, authored three books, wrote numerous articles, and received the AAVSO's first Merit Award in 1934. Harlow Shapley described him as the "world's greatest non-professional astronomer." (Hurless 1980a, 1980b)



Charles Cartlidge Godfrey
(1855–1927)

by Michael Saladyga

Charles C. Godfrey was born in Saybrook, Connecticut, and resided in Bridgeport. Onetime personal physician to showman P. T. Barnum, and his state's surgeon general, Godfrey also helped

found the Bridgeport Library, organized the city's school system, improved the city water system to reduce transmission of disease, and helped organize the city's scientific and historical society. He was keenly interested in all science and technology of his time, especially electricity and radio. Described as having a "firm, cheerful, and courageous character," Godfrey joined the AAVSO in 1919, was a council member (1925–1927), president (1926–1927), and a Patron of the association (1927). He became fast friends with the other early AAVSOers, camping in Maine with J. E. G. Yalden and Leon Campbell. As a wry expression of friendship, surgeon Godfrey once said to Yalden "come and visit me in Bridgeport and I'll cut your leg off for you." (Waldo 1928)



Ralph Noyes Buckstaff
(1887–1980)

by Michael Saladyga

Ralph Buckstaff was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He worked for The Buckstaff Company of Oshkosh, a large furniture manufacturer started by his grandfather, and became its president. Buckstaff

belonged to many scientific societies, was a founding member of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society, and joined the AAVSO in 1920. A lifelong interest was meteorology, and he served for 56 years as a volunteer regional weather observer for the U.S. Department of Commerce. His passion, however, was astronomy, and he was especially interested in cooperation with schools and other groups to make astronomy interesting and available to all. The AAVSO awarded him its 18th Merit Award in 1965 in recognition of his efforts in astronomy outreach. He was acknowledged to be "the epitome of a scientific citizen and worked to communicate his interests to students of all ages—giving generously of his time and talents." One of those young astronomers he sought out and offered to help was Walter Scott Houston, who later wrote that, of all the awards and honors bestowed by many organizations, Ralph Buckstaff considered his AAVSO Merit Award "his most valued recognition." (Ekvall 1979-1980)



Charles W. Elmer
(1872–1954)

by Tim Crawford

Charles Elmer joined the AAVSO in 1920, was named a Patron of the association in 1921, and served as president for the 1937–1938 term. He received the seventh AAVSO Merit award

in 1943. In 1927 Elmer was a principal in establishing the popular Custer Institute and Observatory on Long Island, New York. Elmer was actually nearing retirement as head of a firm of court reporters when he joined with Richard Perkin as co-founder of the Perkin-Elmer Corporation in 1937. Perkin shared Elmer's astronomical interest, but whereas Elmer preferred to

spend his time in their workshop, Perkin ran the corporation. During WWII Perkin-Elmer produced optics for bombsights and rangefinders. (Mayall 1955)



Dalmiro Francis Brocchi
(1871–1955)

by Thomas R. Williams

Through the middle years of the 20th century, visual observers of variable stars used AAVSO blueprint charts drawn by an Italian-American railroad draftsman, D. F. Brocchi. These meticulous charts

featured small-diameter stars with fine variations in star diameter to reflect differences in magnitude. He prepared these charts by tracing star fields from photographic plates taken at various observatories and from star field sources such as the *Bonner Durchmusterung*. Brocchi also observed variable stars in two observatories he built at his home in Seattle, Washington. His largest telescope, a 12-inch spherical mirror coupled with a Harris prism, was mounted on a unique hemispherical axis with the sky engraved on the surface of the hemisphere. A pointer shadow on the hemispherical map indicated the position towards which the Equatazimuth Telescope (a term he coined) was pointing. Brocchi joined the AAVSO in 1921, was chart committee chair 1934–1948, served on council 1936–1938 and 1940–1941, and was named a Patron of the association in 1947. In 1942 Brocchi received the sixth AAVSO Merit Award.



Percy W. Witherell
(1877–1970)

by Tim Crawford

Percy Witherell, an MIT graduate and treasurer of a family-owned grocery business, joined the AAVSO in 1921, serving as treasurer from 1931 to 1960. He received the 12th AAVSO Merit Award in

1953 in appreciation of his loyal and devoted service. During the early 1940s he authored thirty-six articles and reports and gave other support to the fledgling *Sky & Telescope Magazine*. Witherell also served as president of the Bond Astronomical Club in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which later merged into the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston. (Anon. 1970a)



Alice Hall Farnsworth
(1893–1960)

by Thomas R. Williams

As an undergraduate at Mount Holyoke College, Alice Farnsworth studied astronomy for four years with Anne Sewell Young, receiving an A.B. degree in 1916. At the University of Chicago and Yerkes Observatory, she learned photometry from noted

variable star astronomer John Adelbert Parkhurst. With her Ph.D. in hand, in 1920 Farnsworth returned to Mount Holyoke as an instructor working with Anne Young until the latter retired in 1936. Farnsworth joined the AAVSO in 1921 and spent the remainder of her career as chairman of the Mount Holyoke Astronomy Department and director of the Williston Observatory. She retired in 1956 after suffering a stroke. In addition to timing lunar occultations, Farnsworth assisted the AAVSO occultation committee with reduction of occultation observations. Farnsworth also observed sunspots daily for the AAVSO and served on the AAVSO council for ten years including her term as president (1929–1931). (Anon. 1960a, 1960b)



Lewis Judson Boss
(1898–1982)

by Tim Crawford

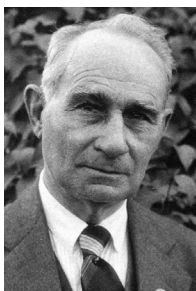
Boss, an electrical engineer, joined the AAVSO in 1921. A pioneer in photoelectric photometry using selenium cells in self-made photometers, he presented a paper at the AAVSO's Annual Meeting in 1922 describing his early results measuring variable stars with his equipment, which he continued to improve. In 1954 he became the first chairman of the AAVSO photoelectric photometry committee, holding this position until 1967. Boss served on the AAVSO council 1943–1947 and 1962–1964. Along with variable stars his interests included eclipses, transits, and aurorae. He authored many articles and papers.



Morgan Cilley
(1878–1955)

by Tim Crawford

Cilley, a civil engineer, a U.S. Naval Observatory Staff member in later years, and an ordained Episcopal minister in between, joined the AAVSO in 1923. He was considered one of the AAVSO's "Old Guard" members and served on the council from 1942 to 1944. He made 15,804 observations for the AAVSO between 1923 and 1950. Cilley authored several articles for *Popular Astronomy*. As a civil engineer, he worked on projects including the building of the Pennsylvania Railroad tunnels under the Hudson River (circa 1902) and on road projects in the Philippine Islands (circa 1909). He retired in Lewisburg, West Virginia. (Anon. 1955)



Eugene H. Jones
(1864–1946)

by Michael Saladyga

"Jonesey" as he was popularly known by his fellow AAVSO members, made 44,764 variable star observations between 1924 and 1944. He joined the

AAVSO in 1923 at age 59 and served on the council from 1933 to 1936. Eugene Jones was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and from age 10 lived just north of there in Somerville. He began working for the Boston Edison Company in Somerville in 1888 as an inspector of electric street lamps, and continued at that work until he retired in 1929. He then moved to Goffstown, New Hampshire, where he built an observatory and made observations until his health failed. He was presented the AAVSO's fourth Merit Award in 1937. His brother Fred, also an AAVSO member, was known for designing and hand-illuminating the first thirteen AAVSO Merit Award scrolls. In addition to being an excellent and dedicated observer, Eugene Jones was an amateur landscape painter, photographer, and musician. One of his paintings can be seen in a photo of Leon Campbell's office in 1936; it is a view of his Goffstown observatory in winter. (Rosebrugh 1937)



Helen Battles Sawyer-Hogg-Priestley
(1905–1993)

by Thomas R. Williams

Born in Lowell, Massachusetts, Helen Sawyer graduated from Mount Holyoke College. She met and married Canadian Frank Hogg while a graduate student at Radcliffe College and Harvard College Observatory. Cecelia Payne-Gaposchkin and Harlow Shapley guided Sawyer-Hogg's thesis work. She accompanied Frank to Canada in 1931 and completed her career of 35 years at the University of Toronto. Recognized as the international authority on variable stars in star clusters, her three catalogues of these objects remained standard resources for many years. In addition to her observational work and teaching, she established herself as the leading popularizer of astronomy in Canada through her regular columns in the *Toronto Daily Star*, on television programs, and as the author of *The Stars Belong to Everyone* (1976). An active supporter of the AAVSO, she served as chart curator, and served fourteen years on the council, including two terms as president. She married professor Francis Priestley in 1985. (Cahill 2012; Clement 1993; Broughton 1994)

Harold B. Webb
(1896–1976)

by Thomas R. Williams

Webb joined the AAVSO in 1928 and contributed 9,213 observations between 1928 and 1953. As a professional draftsman, it was natural for Webb to serve on the AAVSO chart committee. He was named curator of tracings and printing in 1943. Webb established a printing business in the mid-1940s, and by 1954 his published titles included three books on Mars and four star atlases. Of the latter, the most popular were *The Observer's Star Atlas* and *Webb's Atlas of the Stars*. A limited edition of the *Atlas of the Stars* included long period variable stars. Although drafted with a limiting magnitude of about 9, *Atlas of the Stars* never gained popularity among AAVSO observers.



**Helen Meriwether Lewis Thomas
(1905–1997)**

by Michael Saladyga

Helen Thomas joined the AAVSO in 1929 and was Pickering Memorial assistant to Leon Campbell at Harvard College Observatory from 1934 to 1937.

During that time she assisted with HCO's Milton Bureau variable star survey, making 50,000 photographic magnitude estimates for over 100 stars, and, as she was proud of saying, she re-catalogued the AAVSO library. Thomas was the third person to earn a Ph.D. in the History of Science at Harvard or Radcliffe Colleges, and the first American woman to do so. Her 1948 dissertation is titled "The early history of variable star observing to the XIX century"; Dorrit Hoffleit declared this work to be "a true masterpiece." Thomas also assisted Willem Luyten with making proper motion measurements in 1928, is credited with the discovery of a white dwarf star, and rediscovered Nova Sco 1863 (U Sco), and, through her research, confirmed the star as a recurrent nova. In 1947 she began work as an electronics engineer, and in 1954 she was editor for the MIT Laboratory of Electronics, eventually becoming head of its Publication Office before retiring in 1971. Helen Thomas attended the AAVSO's 75th anniversary meeting in 1986. (Hoffleit 2000)



**Winifred Crosland Kearons
(1883–1958)**

by Michael Saladyga

Winifred Kearons distinguished herself in her time by becoming the only woman in the AAVSO who, at her peak, made over 1,000 variable star observations each year. She amassed a lifetime total of 10,010

observations over 22 years and was one of 25 observers on Leon Campbell's "Roll of Honor" in 1946. Born in Rochester, New York, she and her husband, Rev. William M. Kearons, resided in Fall River and West Bridgewater, Massachusetts, where Rev. Kearons was an Episcopal minister. Both were experienced solar observers before they joined the AAVSO, providing counts to the sunspot bureau at Berne, Switzerland. Winifred Kearons joined the AAVSO in 1925, served on the council 1939–1943, and was named a Patron of the association in 1953.



**Phoebe Waterman Haas
(1882–1967)**

by Dee Sharples

Phoebe Waterman Haas received a master's degree from Vassar College in 1906 and became a computer at Mount Wilson Observatory. She was the first woman to complete work on a Ph.D. in

Astronomy (1913) at the University of California-Berkeley/Lick Observatory. Haas submitted 338 observations to the AAVSO between 1928 and 1933. More importantly, when Harvard curtailed its financial support of AAVSO in 1953, Haas provided vital support to Margaret Mayall by calculating the five- or ten-day means for southern variable stars. Continuing this work for more than ten years, her data formed the basis for light curves published by the AAVSO. (Williams 1991)



**Leo John Scanlon
(1903–1999)**

by Thomas R. Williams

Plumber Leo Scanlon of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, built his first telescope in 1928. He co-founded the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh (AAAP) in 1929, then joined the AAVSO in 1930. He gained national prominence in telescope making in the mid-1930s. After his marriage in 1940, he scaled back his interests to telescope making and popularizing astronomy as a planetarium lecturer/demonstrator. Widely known for having built Valley View, the first observatory with an aluminum dome, Scanlon's main contribution to variable star observing may have been his attempt to promote efficiency in observing and encouragement of other observers as an AAVSO regional advisor. (Callum 1937)



**Ellen Dorrit Hoffleit
(1907–2007)**

by Kristine Larsen

After receiving her B.A. at Radcliffe College, Dorrit Hoffleit began a distinguished research career at the Harvard College Observatory (1929–1956) during which she earned an M.A. and Ph.D. from Radcliffe. She joined the AAVSO in 1930. From 1943 to 1948 she worked as a ballistics mathematician for the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. In response to changes in the HCO leadership, Hoffleit moved to Yale University, where she was an astronomy researcher from 1956 to 1983. After her formal retirement, she continued to work as a consultant and volunteer until shortly before her death. Hoffleit's research interests were myriad, ranging from stellar spectra, meteors, and variable stars to the history of astronomy. She authored several editions of the seminal *Bright Star Catalogue*. Perhaps her greatest contribution to astronomy remains her development of a summer research program for undergraduates while director of the Nantucket Maria Mitchell Observatory (1957–1978). Many of its alumnae have become professional astronomers and astronomy educators. Hoffleit was one of the AAVSO's most enthusiastic supporters and meeting attendees; she served on the council for a total of 23 years (including two as president). She received the third AAVSO William Tyler Olcott Distinguished Service Award (Hoffleit 2002; Larsen 2012a)



**Walter Scott Houston
(1912–1993)**

by Glenn Chaple

For nearly a half century Walter Scott Houston wrote the “Deep Sky Wonders” column for *Sky & Telescope*, but variable stars and the AAVSO were his first love in astronomy. In 1931, while Houston was a student at the University of Wisconsin, his friend Joseph Meek persuaded him to join the AAVSO. During the next six decades he served six terms on the council and contributed over 12,000 visual observations. In 1958, he directed the Manhattan, Kansas, Project Moonwatch Station that made the world’s first sighting of Explorer I—the first American satellite. The minor planet 3031 *Houston* was named in his honor. (Anon. 1994a, 1994b)



**David W. Rosebrugh
(1899–1988)**

by Tim Crawford

Rosebrugh, an electrical engineer, joined the AAVSO in 1932. Born in Canada and a life-long member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) he lived most of his life in the U.S. He served multiple terms on the AAVSO council, served as secretary from 1937 to 1945 and president for the 1948–1949 term. Rosebrugh was both an active visual variable star observer and sunspot observer, receiving the AAVSO’s 11th Merit Award in 1951. An author with several papers and numerous articles in both *JRASC* and *Sky & Telescope*, Rosebrugh wrote in later years of observing Halley’s Comet and Comet 1910a when he was eleven years old. (Anon. 1988; Broughton 1994)



**Neal J. Heines
(1892–1955)**

by Michael Saladyga

Born in Rotterdam, Neal Heines came to the U.S. with his parents when he was one year old; they settled in Patterson, New Jersey. He was part of a U.S. Army entertainment troupe in Europe during World War I, and for most of his life he was a commercial-industrial salesman. When he was in his thirties, he discovered that his great-great-grandfather was Eise Eisinger of Franeker, West Friesland, who constructed a large, ceiling-mounted orrery; this inspired Heines to learn all he could about astronomy. J. E. G. Yalden introduced him to the AAVSO in 1934. In 1944 Heines became the first chairman of the Solar Division; he established the *Solar Bulletin* in 1945. Heines was president 1949–1951, during which time he was co-author, with Harlow Shapley, of a “good will” letter to foreign astronomers. He was named a Patron of the association in 1946. Besides variable

star and solar astronomy, Heines’ scientific interests included general astronomy, seismology, and meteorology. His other interests included poetry, fly-fishing, gardening, arts and crafts, and music, and he conducted two glee clubs, a choral group, and a church choir. Those who knew him considered Heines to be a modern-day Renaissance Man. (Bondy 1955)



**Reginald Purdon de Kock
(1902–1980)**

by Thomas R. Williams

The AAVSO’s leading observer at the time of its 75th anniversary, Reginald de Kock achieved that distinction in spite of significant disabilities that might have limited less-determined individuals. He never let the restricted use of his left arm nor the limited peripheral vision in his left eye inhibit his observation of southern hemisphere variable stars. As a daytime computer at the Royal Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, de Kock earned the right to estimate variable stars with observatory telescopes, and then began sending his observations to the AAVSO in 1934. A gentle, reserved person with a sly sense of humor, de Kock was regarded with affectionate respect by the observatory staff. The Royal Astronomical Society presented their Jackson-Gwilt Medal and Gift to de Kock in 1957, while the AAVSO elected him to honorary membership in 1946, and awarded him its 15th Merit Award in 1961 to recognize his “constant vigilance of the morning and evening sky....” (Glass 1986)



**Edward Anthony Halbach
(1909–2011)**

by Robert Stencil

Ed Halbach submitted more than 98,000 variable star observations to the AAVSO. A co-founder of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society in 1932, an AAVSO member from 1934, and well known in amateur astronomy, he served as first president of the Astronomical League in 1947. Later, he was active observing lunar occultations, orbiting satellites (Project Moonwatch), eclipsing binaries and other variable stars. For leading six international solar eclipse expeditions for the federal government and National Geographic Society, the latter honored him with its Franklin L. Burr Award. Halbach received the 32nd AAVSO Merit Award in addition to its fourth William Tyler Olcott Distinguished Service Award and the Astronomical League’s Leslie C. Peltier Award. (Samolyk 2011; Williams 2007)



**Richard Warren Hamilton
(1918–1975)**

by Michael Saladyga

Richard Hamilton, born in New York, was a great-great-grandson of the first U.S. Treasury Secretary, Alexander Hamilton. His mother, Mary Clark Spurr Hamilton, descended from settlers of the Plymouth colony in Massachusetts. The Hamiltons lived in Norwalk, Connecticut. There he met AAVSO charter member Helen Swartz, who sponsored the sixteen-year-old Hamilton for AAVSO membership in 1934—she and his mother were both members of the Norwalk Astronomical Society. His mother, also an AAVSO member, would attend AAVSO meetings with him until her death in 1952. Richard Hamilton served on the council 1949–1960 and 1968–1970. He was president 1956–1958, chart curator 1948–1961, and chart committee chair 1955–1969. During these years he lived in Fairfield and Darien, Connecticut.



**J. Russell Smith
(1908–1997)**

by Michael Saladyga

Joseph Russell Smith, born near Walnut Springs, Texas, joined the AAVSO in 1936. He made 3,346 observations of faint variable stars in his 44 years with the AAVSO. He can, perhaps, be considered a typical member who sent observation reports at every opportunity and was content with knowing that his work was contributing to knowledge about the stars. Smith was a high school science teacher all his life, which was interrupted only by his service in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II which included being part of the Normandy Invasion. He returned from the war, resumed his teaching and observing, and published a well-received book on teaching astronomy. He made his pre-war observations with an 8-inch reflector in Smyer, Texas, and his later observations with a 16-inch reflector in Eagle Pass, and then in Waco. He was one of the five founders of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO) and served as its secretary. Smith observed until old age forced him to give up his observatory; in 1991 Preston F. Gott acquired the observatory and moved it to Texas Tech University in Lubbock. (Smith 1938, 1959, 1973)



**Francis Lancaster Hiatt
(1915–2004)**

by Tim Crawford

As a protégé of Morgan Cilley, Lancaster Hiatt joined the AAVSO in 1936. With strong support from his wife Bernice, variable star observing became an important part of his life. He contributed

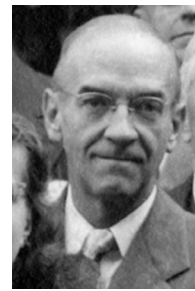
over 115,000 visual observations in over sixty-two years of observing, and submitted important observations to the *IAU Circulars*. Hiatt received the AAVSO's 27th Merit Award in 1986. He is credited with an independent discovery of C/1948 VI, named "Eclipse Comet of 1948." A junior high school science teacher, Hiatt sponsored a junior astronomy club in Virginia, and was a member of the National Capital Astronomers in Washington, D.C.



**Cyrus F. Fernald
(1901–1979)**

by Tim Crawford

Cyrus F. Fernald, a Certified Public Accountant, joined the AAVSO in 1937. He served as president for the 1954–1955 term. In 1947 Fernald received the AAVSO's ninth Merit Award. In 1986, during the AAVSO's 75th Anniversary, Fernald was recognized as one of the three top observers with 134,582 observations. It was estimated that he averaged twenty observations per hour. He also became a sunspot observer in 1945 and with deteriorating vision in later years he became increasingly involved with sunspot counting. Fernald's wife, Emily, also was an observer and they left a substantial bequest to the AAVSO. (Peltier 1979; Anon. 1980)



**Claude B. Carpenter
(1902–1992)**

by Michael Saladyga

Claude Carpenter joined the AAVSO in 1937, and served as council member (1939–1943). A post office dispatcher and former electrician from Wayne, Michigan, he was president of the Detroit Astronomical Society. He supervised construction of, and assembled, a 16-inch reflector for J. Russell Smith. He retired to California in 1952 and eventually agreed to move his own 18-inch reflector to the Ford Observatory in Wrightwood, California, where he, Clint Ford, Ron Royer, Tom Cragg, and others put it to good use. Carpenter made his last observations at the Ford Observatory in 1978. (Anon. 1993)



**Martha E. Stahr Carpenter
(1920–2013)**

by Kristine Larsen

Martha "Patty" Carpenter is the only person to have served three consecutive terms as president of the AAVSO. Born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, she received a B.A. from Wellesley, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in astronomy from the University of California-Berkeley. She joined the AAVSO in 1939, and became a radio

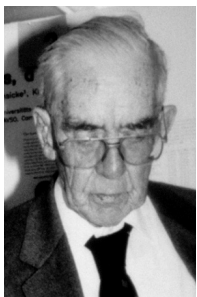
astronomer at Cornell University in 1947 and was the first woman faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences. There she studied radio emissions from the Sun and produced the first bibliographic compendiums of worldwide radio astronomy research. She collaborated with J. Kerr and J. V. Hindman on the use of 21-cm radio observations to extend the map of the spiral structure of the Milky Way to the Southern Hemisphere. The AAVSO elected her to the council in 1946 and she became president in 1951. During her second term as president, the AAVSO was forced to become independent from Harvard and the council made the historic decision to elect her to an unprecedented third consecutive term. Carpenter afterwards served on the Endowment Committee and again on the council (1970–1973). She joined the faculty of the University of Virginia in 1969. While there she encouraged then graduate student Janet Akyüz (later Mattei) to become involved with the AAVSO, and was a vocal supporter of Janet's application to become Director of the organization. (Larsen 2012b)



Walter P. Reeves
(1884–1957)

by Michael Saladyga

Vice-president of the Maine Central Railroad, Walter Reeves joined the AAVSO in 1941 at age 57. He was born in Portland, Maine, and as a teenager began at MCR as a freight auditor's clerk, working his way up to auditor, comptroller, and vice-president. Reeves made only 198 variable star observations for the AAVSO, but he and his wife, Gertrude E. Morse Reeves, were strong supporters of the association and attended AAVSO meetings from as early as 1936. Walter Reeves served on the council (1953–1957) and the finance committee (1954–1957) at a time of great financial difficulty for the association; he was also a member of the Astronomical Society of Maine. Mrs. Reeves was named a Patron of the association in 1958.



Frank M. Bateson
(1909–2007)

by Elizabeth O. Waagen

Frank Bateson organized variable star observing in New Zealand, providing leadership to the field in the Southern Hemisphere for 78 years. In 1927 he founded the Variable Star Section (VSS) of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand (RASNZ) and remained as director of the VSS until 2004. Born in Wellington, New Zealand, Frank Bateson worked as an accountant during his early years. He served in the Royal New Zealand Navy during World War II, after which he became director of a trading company. He joined the AAVSO in 1944. In 1960, he conducted site surveys for a proposed observatory to be jointly operated by the Universities of Pennsylvania and Canterbury. He and his wife, Doris, formed a non-profit organization

called Astronomical Research Ltd. which administered the over one million observations which had been delivered to the VSS since the start of the program. Maintaining a close working relationship with the AAVSO, one of his most valuable contributions to the organization was his willingness to share information on countless numbers of Southern Hemisphere variables. The AAVSO awarded him an Honorary Membership in 1986. (Christie 2007)



Helen M. Stephansky Abbott
(1919–)

by Michael Saladyga

Helen Stephansky began working for Leon Campbell in 1944 as the Harvard College Observatory Pickering Memorial assistant. She continued at that job after Campbell retired in 1949 when Margaret Mayall took over as AAVSO director. Mayall and Stephansky worked well together and became good friends, having a common bond of optimism, confidence, and good sense. Although not an amateur astronomer herself, she appreciated what AAVSOers accomplished, was supportive of their efforts, and felt genuine affection for members she came to know. During the AAVSO's years of crisis in the 1950s, Stephansky proved herself a capable and loyal worker. By 1960 the AAVSO was on firmer footing, and Stephansky resigned to seek work elsewhere in the Boston area. In gratitude for her loyalty and service to the AAVSO, the council elected her to Life Membership. She married Herbert Whipple Abbott in 1961 and they eventually settled in northern New Hampshire.



Albert F. A. L. Jones
(1920–2013)

by Elizabeth O. Waagen

Albert Jones of Nelson, New Zealand was the world's most prolific visual variable star observer, with over 500,000 observations made between 1943 and 2011. Blessed with excellent eyesight and powers of discrimination, his location in New Zealand made him an even more crucial observer because of the relatively small number of variable star observers in the Southern Hemisphere. He followed many of his stars for decades, creating priceless, uninterrupted light curves that in numerous cases contain all or much of the optical data in existence for those stars over those intervals. He was interested in astronomy from boyhood and it became a fundamental part of him for the rest of his life, even as he earned his living as a miller in an oat cereal mill (as had his father), a grocery shop owner, and a worker in a car assembly factory. Albert Jones began observing variable stars at about age 23, and joined the AAVSO in 1997. In addition to AAVSO Observer Awards, Albert Jones received the AAVSO Director's Award in 1997, and the 41st AAVSO Merit Award in 2008. The AAVSO made him an Honorary Member in 2011. (Anon. 2013b)



Thomas A. Cragg
(1927–2011)

by Michael Saladyga

When he joined the AAVSO in 1945 at age 17, Tom Cragg was already working as an assistant for the Mt. Wilson observatory; his career as a professional/amateur astronomer led to 157,056 variable star observations for the AAVSO, and an almost uninterrupted series of daily sunspot observations and drawings. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Cragg lived in Los Angeles until about age 48 when he relocated to Australia where he worked at the Siding-Spring Observatory. While in California, he was one of the group of observers who used the Ford Observatory, including Clint Ford, Ron Royer, and Claude Carpenter. One of Cragg's most important contributions was in chart and sequence work and expanding the observing program. He served on the council (1951–1953, 1962–1966) and chaired the classical cepheids committee (1967–1994). He was presented with the AAVSO's 25th Merit Award (1986). (Toone 2011)



Lawrence N. Upjohn
(1873–1967)

by Michael Saladyga

With experience in astronomy that was more casual than scientific, Lawrence Northcote Upjohn, M.D., nevertheless helped to advance variable star astronomy as a generous benefactor. Upjohn, the nephew of the founder of pharmaceuticals manufacturer The Upjohn Company, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, was its chief executive from 1932 to 1934, and from 1944 was its chairman of the board. Upjohn's interest in astronomy started at boyhood, no doubt influenced by his grandfather Uriah who was himself an amateur astronomer. When Upjohn retired in 1944, he had been observing for thirteen years using binoculars, a 70-mm Goerz refractor, and a 5-inch Clark refractor. In need of a service to clean and repair his telescope eyepieces in 1944, he contacted the Perkin-Elmer company for help, and was referred (probably by AAVSOer Charles Elmer himself) to AAVSO Recorder Leon Campbell. Upjohn applied for AAVSO membership in 1946 and began reporting his variable star observations. Responding to commentary about the expense of publishing AAVSO reports, Upjohn, in 1949, offered to pay the cost of completing one of the reports. This offer led to his funding Campbell's *Studies in Long Period Variables* through an anonymous donation. Upjohn came to the aid of the AAVSO again in later years, but his 1949 donation was the most substantial and the most significant. He was named a Patron of the association in 1950. (Bennett 2014)



John J. Ruiz
(1894–1978)

by Tim Crawford

Ruiz, an electrical engineer, joined the AAVSO in 1947. He was a pioneer in the development of photoelectric photometry for amateur observers, and willingly shared his designs. He described his first photometer in "The Gremlins and My Photometer" (*Sky & Telescope*, December 1951). Ruiz was instrumental in publishing the *AAVSO Photoelectric Photometry Handbook* in 1956. Active with the PEP committee, he traveled nationally and internationally to promote photoelectric photometry. Ruiz was an inspiration to newcomers. He authored several refereed papers as well as having articles published in both *Sky & Telescope* and *Scientific American*. (Boss 1980)



Wayne M. Lowder
(1932–2003)

by Tim Crawford

Wayne M. Lowder, a radiation physicist, joined the AAVSO in 1949 while still a teenager. He earned a B.S. in physics from Harvard and did graduate work at Columbia. As one of the most active visual observers in AAVSO history, Lowder completed 208,630 observations, mainly with binoculars and his unaided eyes. His eyes were reportedly like a photometer; in later years he researched the relationship between visual and CCD-V magnitudes of the comparison stars used by the AAVSO. Not only was Lowder a leading observer but he was a leader in efforts during the 1960s and 1970s to bring the AAVSO into the "modern age." While Lowder studied variable star research efforts taking place around the world, he was impressed with the advances being made by the Russians in this field. Therefore, he spent much time searching Russian literature for work that would benefit the AAVSO membership. Lowder served as president (1993–1995) and then as treasurer (1999–2001). He authored a number of papers which appeared in *AAVSO* between 1972 and 1999 and presented numerous papers at AAVSO Annual Meetings. (Mattei 2003a)



Frank J. De Kinder
(1892–1970)

by Tim Crawford

De Kinder, a construction cost estimator, joined the AAVSO in 1950. He was one of the early AAVSO solar observers and a participant in the nova search program. De Kinder served as president for the 1967–1969 term. As a resident of Canada and a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC),

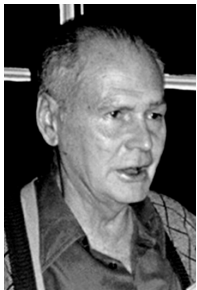
he received that society's prestigious Chant Medal in 1955 for his astronomical work. De Kinder was one of the recognized developers of the RASC Montreal Centre's Observatory Observing program, having been a Centre member since 1934. (Anon. 1970b; Broughton 1994)



Curtis E. Anderson
(1927–1976)

by Michael Saladyga

Curtis Anderson joined the AAVSO in 1951 at age 24. He was a shipping clerk in Minneapolis, and had already spent five years as an amateur astronomer. He later resided in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. Through his first ten years with the AAVSO he made over 21,000 observations, but in 1961 he was stricken with multiple sclerosis. Anderson maintained his interest in variable stars nevertheless, and his yearly rate of observations increased over the next fifteen years, reaching a lifetime total of over 57,000 observations. During the time of his illness he helped Carolyn Hurless compile "inner sanctum" totals for her *Variable Views* newsletter, and he compiled the lifetime totals of AAVSO observers for the association's first fifty years. For his observing, historical compilations, and encouragement of young astronomers, Anderson received the 18th AAVSO Merit Award in 1965. As Hurless wrote, Anderson was "an inspiration as a faithful observer" to all who knew him, just as he was inspired by the good wishes of his fellow AAVSOers. (Hurless 1977)



Michel Daniel Overbeek
(1920–2001)

by Brian Fraser

Danie Overbeek's main variable star interest was the monitoring of cataclysmic variables for outbursts. He also observed many Mira variables and R CrB stars. He joined the AAVSO in 1953. Observing from Edenvale, near Johannesburg, South Africa, with an excellent home-made 12-inch Cassegrain, he contributed 292,711 observations to the AAVSO International Database. Less well-known is Danie's international reputation in grazing occultation observation. He was also a longtime, expert solar observer. His dedication and professional approach to observing earned him several prestigious awards, including the David Gill Medal of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA), and the 26th AAVSO Merit Award, and enormous respect from many quarters. He collaborated in many satellite-based astronomy projects with professionals. (Mattei and Fraser 2003)



Charles M. Good
(1904–1980)

by Tim Crawford

Good joined the AAVSO in 1956, serving as a council member from 1957 through 1968. He also served as president for the 1971–1973 term. His special interest was timing occultations and he was a longtime chairman of the AAVSO's lunar occultation committee. As a resident of Canada and a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), he received a Service Award medal in 1960 from the RASC for his many contributions. In 1981 the RASC Montreal Centre created the Charles M. Good Award to honor his memory as a principal contributor to the development of that Centre. (Williamson 1980; Broughton 1994)

Donald W. Engelkemeir
(1919–1969)

by Thomas R. Williams

Nuclear chemist Donald Engelkemeir joined the AAVSO in 1957. With a photoelectric photometer he designed and constructed, he observed an unusual stellar event, published in his paper "Photoelectric Observation of a Flare on AD Leonis" in *Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific*, 71, 522 (1959). His observation of an Algol minimum on October 28, 1962, served as the basis for *Sky & Telescope* predictions for a number of years thereafter. Lewis Boss and John Ruiz invited Engelkemeir to join the AAVSO photoelectric photometry committee. Together, the committee published the first AAVSO PEP photometry handbook in 1962. Engelkemeir's photometer design served as the basis for the suggested instrument published in the handbook. (Anon. 1969)



Casper H. Hossfield
(1918–2002)

by Thomas R. Williams

Even up to the time of his death at age 84, New Jersey resident "Cap" Hossfield remained inventive and scientifically curious, characteristics that he exhibited throughout his 44-year membership in the AAVSO. Although he attained only a high school education, these characteristics informed his work career as a machinist and his other avocational career as a ham radio operator. For the AAVSO, Cap's interests were almost exclusively in the solar division, as chairman of the division from 1963 to 1980, and as editor of the *Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance Bulletin*. He designed and continued to improve the receiver and antenna for the SID receiver. Cap served fifteen years on council including one term as AAVSO President (1969–1970). Cap never failed to brighten the meetings he attended with his happy demeanor. (Feehrer 2003)



Carolyn J. Hurlless
(1934–1987)

by Glenn Chaple

Carolyn Hurlless was a music teacher by day and a dedicated variable star observer by night. A lifelong resident of Lima, Ohio, she joined the AAVSO in 1959. Under the tutelage of the legendary Leslie Peltier, Hurlless became an accomplished and prolific variable star observer. In addition to several terms as council member, she served as second vice-president from 1967 to 1973. For twenty-two years she published the newsletter *Variable Views*. At the time of her untimely death in 1987, Carolyn Hurlless had submitted 78,876 variable star observations, the highest total for a woman in the AAVSO. The AAVSO's Carolyn Hurlless Online Institute for Continuing Education (CHOICE) is named in her honor. (Mattei 1987)



Carl A. Anderson
(1916–1994)

by Michael Saladyga

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Carl Anderson settled in Manchester, New Hampshire, and was active in amateur radio and astronomy before he joined the AAVSO in 1960. Anderson was a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, and president of the Manchester (NH) Astronomical Society. He was a test engineer for a precision instrument manufacturer in Toronto and Manchester, and later was its president and treasurer. He was also a board member, trustee, and advisor for regional businesses and charities. Besides variable star observing, he participated in nova search, photographic photometry, occultation timing, and comet hunting, all of which he would introduce to members of his astronomical society. He eventually donated his 10-inch Cave reflector to the observatory at St. Anselm College in Manchester. He received the 19th AAVSO Merit Award in 1965 and served on the AAVSO council (1964–1967; 1974–1983; president 1979–1981). He was perhaps the first council member to express a need for bringing the Director's salary to a level comparable with other technical positions in the region. Also, at the urging of council member Tom Williams, Anderson called for a special session of the council in 1980 to plan an AAVSO Futures Study. (Harris 1994)



Arthur J. Stokes
(1918–2001)

by Tim Crawford

Art Stokes joined the AAVSO in 1962. He served several terms on the council, becoming president for the 1981–1982 term. An accomplished photoelectric

photometry observer, Stokes served as chairman of the photoelectric photometry committee for over ten years. In later years he became an active radio monitor of solar sudden ionospheric disturbances and edited the AAVSO's *Solar Technical Bulletin*. He also invented a very low frequency receiver system for monitoring solar flares. Arthur published numerous refereed papers and was honored as the recipient of the 29th AAVSO Merit Award in 1987. (Mattei 2002)



Howard Joseph Landis
(1921–2014)

by Elizabeth O. Waagen

Howard Landis was born in Columbus, North Carolina, the youngest of five children. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and was an electronics technician for an airline for over thirty years. He joined the AAVSO in 1968, served on council (1975–1979), and was chair of the photoelectric photometry committee (1975–2003). He began publication of the *AAVSO Photoelectric Photometry Bulletin*, developed PEP reduction protocols, and maintained the PEP data archive. He contributed 1,675 PEP observations to the AAVSO International Database, and was advisor, helper, and mentor to amateur and professional astronomers. The AAVSO awarded an Honorary Membership to Howard Landis in October 2014. (Anon. 2015)



Theodore H. N. Wales
(1931–2003)

by Tim Crawford

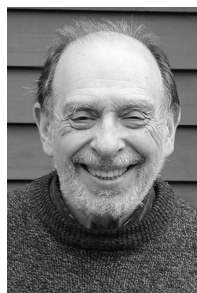
Ted Wales, a 1952 Harvard graduate and investment banker, joined the AAVSO in 1975, his application endorsed by Dorrit Hoffleit of the Maria Mitchell Observatory. Wales was elected to the council in 1977 and became treasurer in 1979, serving in that role through 1998. Credited for his wise handling of the organization's finances during a difficult period in the 1980s, Wales significantly contributed to the AAVSO's survival and growth. He was well-known as a volunteer, always willing to help out wherever needed, whether it was working with data files or helping staff stain library shelves. He was a generous benefactor to the AAVSO through his annual donations, special gifts, and matching grants over the years. In 1991 he received the 33rd AAVSO Merit Award "in recognition of his loyalty and devotion to the Association, his untiring support in financial management and advice in over twelve years of service as AAVSO treasurer, and his many other contributions to the Association as a member of the council and a volunteer at Headquarters." (Mattei 2003b)



Martha Locke Hazen
(1931–2006)

by David B. Williams

Harvard astronomer Martha Hazen joined the AAVSO in 1975, served as president in 1992 and secretary, 1993 to 2004, and as a wise friend and counselor for director Janet Mattei. She also contributed effectively to the AAVSO's Futures Study Group. Hazen hosted many AAVSO meetings at the observatory's Phillips Auditorium. As curator of Harvard College Observatory's vast photographic plate archive for thirty-five years, she welcomed many variable star investigators, both professional and amateur, to use this invaluable resource. Her research focus was on variable stars in the previously neglected southern globular clusters. She was also a leader in expanding opportunities for women in astronomy. Hazen received the 37th AAVSO Merit Award in 2005. Her marriage to AAVSO member William Liller in 1959 ended in divorce in 1982. She married Bruce McHenry in 1991. (Williams and Willson 2007)



Louis Cohen
(1937–2013)

by Elizabeth O. Waagen

Lou Cohen was a computer engineer who designed compilers and operating systems, and a consultant engineer for software development. He was a recognized expert in a planning process for product development called "Quality Function Deployment," and published a book and consulted businesses on that subject after his retirement. Cohen joined the AAVSO in 2000 and served as treasurer from 2000 to 2006 and was a valued advisor to director Janet Mattei, interim director Elizabeth Waagen, and director Arne Henden. When he stopped observing, he donated his 30-cm telescope, CCD, and other equipment to the AAVSO; these are now part of the AAVSONet Cohen/Menke Observatory in New Hampshire. Cohen was also a music composer, and taught and mentored in math, astronomy and music. (Anon. 2013a)

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4. Sources

Biographical information for most subjects can be found in the published resources cited in the text and given in the reference list; additional information is from various sources discovered by the contributors, from the AAVSO archives, and in many cases from Williams and Saladyga (2011).

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