



Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

ARMSTRONG, WILLIAM HOWARD '32

William Armstrong died 11 April 1999 at age 85. He was the author of *Sounder*, winner of the Newberry Medal in 1970 and made into a feature length Disney movie in 1972. The film was nominated for Academy Awards.

Armstrong was a *cum laude* graduate of Hampden-Sydney with graduate work at the University of Virginia. He taught history at Kent School in Kent, CT, for 52 years. He lived just outside of town, tended sheep on his farm, and rode his bicycle to and from campus. He married Martha Stonestreet Williams and had three children. With his children, Armstrong opened an art show at the Rose Gallery at Kent.

He published his first book, *Study is Hard*, in 1956 and his first work of juvenile fiction, *Sounder*, in 1969. In 1970 Armstrong received the Newberry Medal for *Sounder*, which was also named best novel on the New York *Times* Best Children's Books list in 1971. He continued to publish adult and juvenile fiction and non-fiction throughout the 1970s, including *Sour Land*, *The MacLeod Place*, *The Mills of God*, and other works.

Many of Armstrong's works reflect both his own interest in social change in the twentieth century as well as two trends in contemporary children's literature: the realistic depiction of racial discrimination and inequity, and the difficult transition from adolescence to adulthood. Survived by a son, David; a daughter, Mary; and a grandson, Christopher.

At Augusta three years as a Day Student.

(1999 June *Bayonet*, with related article on page 10)