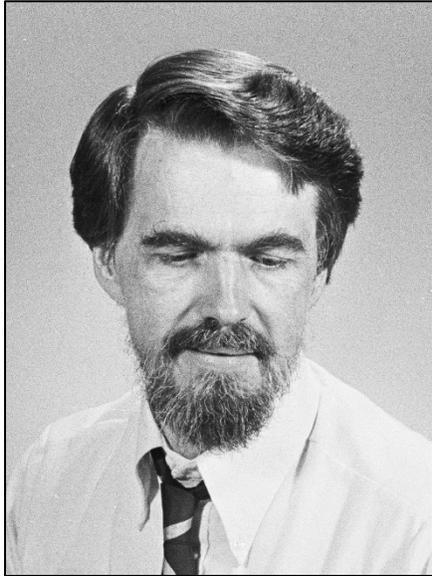


Roger Babson Foushee, 1938 – 2011

Third President of the Chapel Hill Historical Society, 1969 – 1974



Roger B. Foushee was born on July 29, 1938 in Alamance County, North Carolina, the son of Joseph Baxter Foushee and Elsie Jenkins Foushee. His father was a weaver at a cotton mill in Haw River and later worked as a barber and upholsterer. Roger had a sister, Mary Elizabeth (Dixon/Urban) and a half-sister and half-brother from a previous marriage of his father. As a child of seven, Roger remembered celebrating V-J Day in Burlington. Roger entered UNC-CH in 1954 and graduated in 1960 with an AB in European History and then went on to study political science. During his college years he served in the student legislature and became active in the Democratic Party. He married Mary Joyce Farthing from Tryon, NC; they had no children.

Following college Roger worked as a book publisher's representative and salesman for several publishing companies including Follett Publishing Co., New Century Publishers, and UNC Press, and he served as treasurer of the Southern Book Travelers Association. In 1968 he was elected Chairman of the Orange County Executive Committee of the Democratic Party, a position he held for four years. He was encouraged to run for the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1972 but decided against doing so for financial reasons. Later he was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt as a community representative of the Governor's Advocacy Council for Persons with Disabilities.

The Foushee family goes back more than 300 years in Orange County, North Carolina. The first Foushees (from French Huguenot *Fouche*) arrived in the United States from France in the 1700s. Roger became interested in his family history in college and spent more than 30 years searching his family lineage. He was an early member of the Durham-Orange Genealogical Society. In 1997 he organized a family reunion for more than 250 relatives.

Roger served as president of the Chapel Hill Historical Society during early years from 1969 to 1974 and later as its historian. During this time the Society worked to inventory historic properties in Chapel Hill and to advocate for an historic district. Roger was a member of the Society's committee that compiled and published the local guidebook *Historic Buildings and Landmarks of Chapel Hill*.