



Jack Temple Kirby

August 22, 1938 - August 6, 2009

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Jack Temple Kirby, 70, died August 6, 2009, at Flagler Hospital. He was born in Portsmouth, VA, the son of Clifford Kirby and Theodosia Palmer Kirby. He graduated from Old Dominion University and received his MA and PhD degrees from the University of Virginia. He was W.E. Smith Professor Emeritus of History at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where his specialties were the American South, rural and agricultural history, and environmental history. He was author or editor of seven books, including *Media-Made Dixie*; *Rural Worlds Lost: The American South, 1920 -1960*; *Poquosin: A Study of Rural Landscape and Society*; and *Mockingbird Song: Ecological Landscapes of the South*, which won the Bancroft Prize in 2007. At his death, he was President of the Southern Historical Association. For some years he was Editor of the series "Studies in Rural Cultures" at the University of North Carolina Press. He was a past-President of the Agricultural History Society and a former Fulbright Senior Lecturer at the University of Genoa in Italy. He also served on a number of editorial boards. He moved to St. Augustine in 2003. He is survived by a son, Matthew Kirby, of New York City; a daughter, Valerie Kirby, and her husband, Mark Bruhn, and two granddaughters, Ella and Sophie Bruhn, all of Ft. Wayne, IN; two sisters, Susan Kirby of Portsmouth, VA, and Betsy Andrews of Midlothian, VA; and by his companion of 17 years, Constance Pierce. Following cremation, his remains will be

interred in the family plot at West Point, VA. Memorial donation may be made to the Virginia Historical Society, P.O. Box 7311, Richmond, VA 23221 or the Miami University Library, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056. St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

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“ I was sorry to hear of Jack's death. We were colleagues on environmental issues, and had a number of intense discussions of environmental issues. Although he began his explicit consideration of environmental issues in the latter part of his career, he did so with great depth, understanding, and passion. His classes on environmental history were of considerable interest to graduate students in the Institute of Environmental Sciences, and we always recommended the class to anyone who showed the slightest interest in environmental history. He will be missed for his scholarship, his insights, and his deep-felt passion for people and the environment.

Gene E. Willeke - August 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM