

# Graham Lowry, A Life in History

by Pamela Lowry

One of the things that most delighted Graham in his youth, was to stretch himself back into history to see how far he could reach. As a child, he had met his great-aunt Iowa Lowry, who, when she herself was a child, had stumped for Abraham Lincoln's election as President. Whom might she have known, he wondered, some superannuated relative perhaps, whose memory went back to the American Revolution, or at least to George Washington's Presidency? It was a wonderful thought.

Then, after Graham joined the LaRouche organization in 1972, a new element lengthened Graham's reach. He didn't have to personally know someone, who had known someone, who might have known George Washington. It was now possible to take giant steps through history by getting to know a historical individual through his or her crucial discoveries in science, music, or what-



have-you; and when you could understand how that person's mind worked, then you really knew them, whether you were physically able to meet them or not.

And the prospect became even more delightful, because as Graham worked during the 1980s on his book, *How the Nation Was Won*, many people who had been only abstractions or pale shadows emerged into the sunlight as members of the republican tradition, a "band of brothers" of which Graham was serving as an active member. From that time, when Graham referred to accomplishments and victories by the republican faction in history, it was always "we" did this, and "we" solved that problem. Many people became convinced that he had stretched so far back that he had actually been there.

Physically, however, he only went back as far as Aug. 31, 1943, when he was born to Elsa Koch Lowry and Wilson McNeil ("Mac") Lowry in the Washington, D.C. of Franklin Roosevelt and World War II. At the age of eight, he lived with his parents in Zurich, Switzerland for a year, part of that time spent in an apartment formerly occupied by Johann Wolfgang

Goethe. One day Graham scratched at a window frame and found two folded-up IOU's signed by the poet.

Back in America, Graham grew up in North Tarrytown in New York's Hudson Valley, ranging the hills above the river with his dog, Smoggy. In high school he loved Classical music, American history, and the Brooklyn Dodgers. He then started a record collection of Classical music which was to eventually reach epic proportions. He also began to build stereo components, touching off a life-long fascination with reproducing just the right sound from each recording.

About this time, in the 1950s, Graham's father told him, "Whatever you do, work for the truth. It doesn't matter if it's popular, or what people think about it." Mac had had experience with this matter; he had gotten special permission to write about a living author for his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Illinois. The thesis which he proved was that Aldous Huxley was a fascist.

Graham graduated from Harvard College in 1965, where he also was Director of News, Sports, and Public Affairs for radio station WHRB. We were married in 1966, and we embarked on a series of historical adventures. We were joined in 1969 by twin sons Colin and Malcolm, who couldn't wait for the fun to begin. Graham taught American History at the University of Wisconsin, where he did his graduate work, and at Rutgers University (Newark) and Boston University. His method of teaching from primary sources, and his recent membership in the LaRouche movement, so alarmed the BU administration that they paid him *not* to teach, by refusing to assign him any classes for the last two years of his contract.

Graham was in his element when he ran for public office. In 1976 he challenged Sen. Edward Kennedy in a widely viewed television debate, and in 1978, running for the Congressional seat once occupied by John Quincy Adams, he became a legend in the Boston area when he called Rep. Brian Donnelly a "sub-creature" of the Boston banking oligarchy, known as "The Vault." Then in 1979-80, Graham led the LaRouche campaign in the New Hampshire Presidential primary. Despite conditions reminiscent of Valley Forge, LaRouche got on the ballot, a critical precondition for his later work with the Reagan Administration on the Strategic Defense Initiative.

For many years before his death on July 28, Graham was a member of the LaRouche movement's leadership body, the National Committee. His wonderful wit, ironic sense of humor, and great story-telling proclivities were enjoyed not only by his family and friends, but by the students in his classes and the participants in his tours of historic sites. Although his focus for most of his life had been the colonial and early national periods of America, Graham had been more and more drawn to studying Lincoln in recent years, and felt he had to teach and write about him because Lincoln was an extraordinary leader who internalized all of human history and used it to defend our republic in its most perilous hour.