Obituaries

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OBITUARIES

Ethel Bragg Williams ’33, May 24, 2016, in Waterville, Maine, at 103. A mother and a homemaker, she was also an organist at the Getchell Street Baptist Church in Waterville, where she was a member. One daughter, Barbara Gee, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren survive her.

Melvin Markson ’39, April 2, 2016, in Aventura, Fla., at 101. He left Colby to serve with the U.S. Air Force in the Pacific during World War II. He spent his professional career as a tea and coffee merchant in Springfield, Mass. Two children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren survive him.

Eleanor Thomas Curtis ’40, May 2, 2016, in Houston, Texas, at 97. In addition to being a mother and homemaker, she earned a degree in occupational therapy and worked as a therapist at Houston Community College. Her daughter and three grandchildren survive her.

Earl E. Thompson ’42, May 7, 2016, in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, at 95. Skills earned in the U.S. Navy during World War II furthered his work with Scott Paper and Great Northern Paper as a radio technician. He belonged to the American Legion and the Masonic Lodge, where he served as chaplain. He was the first person to ski down Big Squaw Mountain in Greenville, Maine, and was a ski instructor there. Two daughters, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren survive him.

Harriet Rex Feaney ’43, Feb. 1, 2016, in South Dartmouth, Mass., at 93. She studied advertising at the University of Missouri and spent her career at J. Walter Thompson in New York, first as a writer for print advertising and eventually as a producer for TV commercials. She won a Cannes Gold Lion award and was named Advertising Woman of the Year in 1972. Her son and three grandchildren survive her.

Donald M. Butcher ’44, March 31, 2016, in Pittsford, N.Y., at 94. His military service included three years in the Pacific as a Marine, retiring as a captain. He went on to a 40-year career as an insurance field manager. A devoted golfer, he shot his age twice and had three holes-in-one. Survivors include his wife of 70 years, Dorothy, three children, and a granddaughter.

George H. Conley ’44, July 29, 2016, in Ellsworth, Maine, at 98. He was in Europe during World War II with the Army’s 9th Infantry Division. After the war, he worked for a furniture company, belonged to the VFW, and was active with his church. Two daughters and two grandchildren survive him.

Peter H. Igarashi ’44, April 15, 2016, in Philadelphia, Pa., at 93. He earned a B.D. in 1946, a Th.D. from Harvard University in 1950, and a certification from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1960, the same year he was ordained a deacon and a priest. He ministered in churches in Pennsylvania, then was a professor of the New Testament at the University of the South. His last church was St. Mark’s Church in Waterville, Maine, from which he retired in 1988. Survivors include his wife, Kimiko, with whom he raised a daughter.

Lois Loudon Cutler ’45, April 19, 2016, in Bryan, Texas, at 91. She was a stewardess for Eastern Airlines for three years before starting her family. In 1965 she began graduate work in education then taught in Newton and Cambridge, Mass., for 15 years. She raised, trained, and showed English springer spaniels, winning numerous awards. Genealogy interested her too—she belonged to the Mayflower Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Five children, six grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren survive her.

Glencce Miller Kaplan ’46, May 5, 2016, in Newcastle, N.H., at 91. Dedicated to her family, she volunteered at local hospitals and was a founding member of Temple Emanuel in Marblehead. Predeceased by her aunt, Dorothy Levine Alford ’38, uncles Ludy Levine ’21 and Pacy Levine ’27, and brother Howard Miller ’40, she is survived by her three children and four grandchildren.

Avis Yatto Gadbout ’48, Feb. 20, 2016, in Bethlehem, Pa., at 88. A homemaker and mother, she gave her time as a literacy volunteer, as a religious education teacher, and to her community through the Welcome Wagon. Gardening, golfing, skiing, and bridge occupied her free time. Survivors include four children, eight grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Rae Libby Hutchinson ’49, Aug. 10, 2016, in Falmouth, Maine, at 88. Committed to her community, she served in leadership and board roles in nonprofit organizations such as Maine Medical Center, Portland Museum of Art, Portland Symphony, and the Portland Adult Literacy ESL Program. She played the piano into her 70s, grew flowers, and managed her husband’s dental practice. Survivors include her three children—Mark, John, and Gail Hutchinson Conley ’84—and six grandchildren.

Barbara Herrington Keith ’48, July 13, 2016, in Springfield, Mass., at 89. An involved citizen, she served on the Watertown, Mass., Girl Scout Council for 10 years, three of them as president, and volunteered at her local hospital and food pantry. In 1966 she was the first woman underwriter trainee hired by Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance and went on to be an underwriter for 23 years. Two children survive her.

Wacce C. Robbins ’48, July 21, 2016, in Bangor, Maine, at 89. After one year at Colby, he enlisted with the Army Air Corp during World War II. He went on to earn degrees in forestry and became a professor at the University of Maine. He was active with the Society of American Foresters, the Baptist church, and Maine’s Republican party. Two children survive her.

Glenyce Miller Kaplan ’46, May 5, 2016, in Newcastle, N.H., at 91. Dedicated to her family, she volunteered at local hospitals and was a founding member of Temple Emanuel in Marblehead. Predeceased by her aunt, Dorothy Levine Alford ’38, uncles Ludy Levine ’21 and Pacy Levine ’27, and brother Howard Miller ’40, she is survived by her three children and four grandchildren.

Mary Marjorie Plaisted ’49, June 12, 2016, in Bangor, Maine, at 88. A lifelong educator, she taught and coached in Maine schools from 1949 to 1974, along the way earning a master’s in education from the University of Maine and a certificate of advanced study. She was a competitive bowler and was the state candlepin class A champion and the state doubles class A champion. A sports lover, she played on women’s basketball teams, enjoyed jogging, swimming, and tennis, and rooted for Boston sports teams. She is survived by a brother and a sister.

Barbara Hart Shanahan ’49, Jan. 16, 2016, in Springfield, Va., at 88. Devoted to her family and community, she was active with the League of Women Voters and other organizations. In 1987 she received the Fairfax County’s Citizen of the Year award and in 1999 she was recognized for her service with the redevelopment and housing authority in Fairfax County, Va. A lover of books, she also played bridge and solved crossword puzzles. Predeceased by her husband, Daniel Shanahan Jr. ’49, and her brother Kenneth Hart ’51, she is survived by six children and 13 grandchildren.

Thomas S. Squiers ’49, April 24, 2016, in Augusta, Maine, at 92. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. He was director of sales tax for the State of Maine, Bureau of Taxation, and was active with his church. Survivors include
three sons, seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

E. Wesley Freeman ’51, May 5, 2016, at 85. His experience with Professor Jordan in freshman math at Colby led him to become a mathematics teacher himself, first for 17 years at high schools in New Hampshire then for 11 years at St. Stephen’s Episcopal School in Bradenton, Fla., after he retired. He never married, lived quietly, and kept busy helping others in small ways.

Raymond A. Ducharme Jr. ’53, May 24, 2016, in Leeds, Mass., at 85. After two years in the U.S. Army, he earned a master’s from Teachers College at Columbia University and taught high school history for several years. He returned to Columbia and earned a doctorate in education in 1966 and taught at Columbia until 1969. He later taught at Smith College and was director of its Campus School for 12 years. He researched and wrote about small rural schools and was an avid reader. He is survived by his wife, Lois, six children, including Devon Ducharme ’06, and three grandchildren.

Arthur O. Kimball ’53, April 29, 2016, in Williamsburg, Va., at 85. With humble roots in Waterville, Maine, he earned an M.B.A. in 1958 from Columbia University School of Business then made New York City his home. He worked at Columbia University for 30 years, first as director of development then as associate dean of the school of law. The Arthur Kimball Scholarship Endowment Fund at Columbia was established in 1986 in his honor. He loved art, antiques, music, and lilies. He served on boards of various non-profits including the Development Council for the Archives of American Art and the Greater Williamsburg Va., Symphony Society. His wife of 58 years, Bernice, survives him, as does a brother, Richard.

Gordon E. Marquis ’53, May 10, 2016, in Upton, Mass., at 84. A U.S. Army veteran, he graduated from the U.S. Army Language School and was a Russian interpreter in occupied Germany. After his honorable discharge in 1960, he built a 30-year career with New England Electric System in the environmental affairs team. He volunteered in his town and church, read history books, and was an opera aficionado. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Pauline Hoyt Marquis ’57, two children, and five grandchildren.

Alice Tyler Pierce ’53, July 30, 2016, in Grand Forks, N.D., at 85. She was a mother and a homemak-

er who also managed her husband’s medical practice in Pittsfield, Maine, and maintained a large garden. Her husband of 62 years, Thomas, two children, and three grandchildren survive her.

Richard M. Skelley ’53, April 30, 2016, in Urbana, Ohio, at 84. A lieutenant JG with the U.S. Navy in the Korean War, he belonged to the exclusive “century club” for completing 100 carrier landings from the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. He later worked as a lumber salesman and eventually founded and owned Skelley Lumber in Urbana, Ohio. His wife, Ellen, three children, and seven grandchildren survive him.

Ward F. Stevens Jr. ’53, May 22, 2016, in Utica, N.Y., at 85. He served in the U.S. Army in Germany in the mid 1950s. He built a career in insurance, working as an underwriter and commercial lines manager for the Hartford Insurance Company. He loved gardening, the outdoors, and the Adirondacks. His five children, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and sister survive him.

David W. Swindells ’53, July 31, 2016, in Fall River, Mass., at 85. During the Korean War he was a communications officer aboard the USS Power, and upon discharge worked towards his M.S. in labor relations from Cornell, which he earned in 1957. He had a 30-year career in labor relations with various companies such as Westinghouse and the Bairnco Corporation. He belonged to the American Legion, played golf, sailed, and enjoyed reading history. His wife of 61 years, Sarah, and two daughters survive him.

Stanley B. Abrams ’54, Sept. 1, 2015, in Providence, R.I., at 82. He served on the USS Shasta with the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He was a co-owner of What Cheer Foods for 25 years and was active in the Jewish community. A member of his temple, he also served on its board. He was past president of the Jewish Historical Association and belonged to the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum. Survivors include two children, five grandchildren, and a sister.

Audrey King Hutchinson ’50, April 22, 2016, in Falmouth, Maine, at 86. After working at Porteous, Mitchell, and Braun as a buyer and part-time model, she devoted herself to her family, her community, and Maine politics. She volunteered and raised money for local schools, founded and served as president for Friends of Maine Medical Center, and hosted benefits for Maine governors and senators. She loved playing games and was a skilled fly fisherman. Survivors include her four daughters and eight grandchildren.

Jane Merrill Thomas ’50, April 23, 2016, in Peabody, Mass., at 87. In the 1950s she taught French and physical education at Maine Central Institute and worked for General Electric Company in Lynn, Mass. After marrying, she dedicated herself to her home and children while enjoying knitting, crocheting, and playing Bingo. Survivors include her two sons, William and James.

Sue Rees Cowley ’51, March 31, 2016, in Missoula, Mont., at 86. She worked behind the scenes in radio before marrying, starting a family, and becoming a homemaker. She taught skiing at the Lookout Free Ski School, volunteered for the American Red Cross, and advocated for education through P.E.O. and A.A.U.W. Survivors include six children and many grandchildren.
Douglas C. Howard ’54, May 1, 2016, at 85. He worked in sales, eventually assuming the role of assistant manager for a security company in California. He is predeceased by his wife, Sally Baines Howard ’53, with whom he had two daughters.

Russell W. Kerr Jr. ’54, March 7, 2016, in Sarasota, Fla., at 85. A Korean War veteran, he was honorably discharged in 1955 with the rank of sergeant. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Northeastern University, became a businessman and artisan, played golf, and was an okay card player. Predeceased by his wife, Kathryn Russell Kerr ’56, he is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Charles M. Landay ’54, June 21, 2016, in Brookline, Mass., at 83. During the Korean War he served in U.S. Army Intelligence until 1958. He worked for Seneca Shoes. In 1999 he established the Martin and Landay Scholarship Fund at Colby in honor of his parents. He was an avid runner, president of his temple in Needham, Mass., and a Mason. Survivors include his wife, Sheila, five children, including Lori Landay ’85, seven grandchildren, and two brothers, including Roger Landay ’56.

Katherine Davenport Lindsay ’54, July 1, 2016, in Walpole, Mass., at 83. She married and moved to Alabama shortly after graduating from Colby and was a homemaker for 17 years. She worked as a claims attorney with the Social Security Administration for many years and took computer programming classes. She was active with the League of Women Voters, played bridge, and enjoyed reading, traveling, and lobster. Four children, 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren survive her.

Patricia Ingraham Murray ’54, May 27, 2016, in Orchard Park, N.Y., at 84. She dedicated herself to her family and her home, but also taught elementary school for a period. Survivors include two daughters and five grandchildren.

Katharine Wolcott Turner ’56, June 6, 2016, in San Rafael, Calif., at 82. In 1961 she earned a master’s in biology from Rochester University, which she employed for 30 years as a science teacher in New York and Maryland. A political activist, she was the first president of the League of Women Voters in her community, established a farmers market, and promoted farmland preservation. She read widely, volunteered for the Inland Seas Program, and was active with the Unitarian Universalist Church. Her two daughters, three stepchildren, four grandchildren, and two siblings survive her.

Audrey Snyder Donley ’57, Nov. 11, 2015, in Topsham, Maine, at 80. A homemaker and mother, she took pleasure in skiing, gardening, and studying the Bible. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Gordon, two children, and two grandchildren.

Ann Wieland Spaeth ’58, June 30, 2016, in Philadelphia, Pa., at 79. A traveler, an athlete, a lover of art and music, and dedicated mother. She coached hockey and lacrosse at Springside School and was inducted into its sports Hall of Fame. Many boards in Philadelphia benefited from her involvement as did St. Paul’s Church, where she sang in its choir for 60 years and participated in its outreach ministries. Her husband of 53 years, Karl, three sons, nine grandchildren, and three siblings survive her.

Carol A. York Fortier ’60, Aug. 5, 2016, in Auburn, Maine, at 78. She received a master’s in education from Whittier College and subsequently taught third grade at Sherwood Heights Elementary School in Auburn for 31 years. Her family, gardening, and Maine’s four seasons brought her much happiness. Her children, Tina and Tom, five grandchildren, and two siblings survive her.

Eunice Bucholz Spooner ’60, April 17, 2016, in Sidney Maine, at 77. Her teaching career began in 1972 as a kindergarten and first-grade teacher in Oakland, Maine, and continued beyond her retirement in 1982, when she served on school boards, volunteered at schools, started a computer club for kids, and founded the Oakland (Maine) P.T.O. She earned a master’s in education from the University of Maine, Orono, in 1978 and a C.A.S. in math education in 1982, the same year a car accident left her a quadriplegic. She received the WLBJ Jefferson Award in 1989 for her volunteerism and was active with her church. Survivors include three sons—David, Peter, and John—and six grandchildren.

Janet Haskins Mandaville ’61, April 27, 2016, in Portland, Ore., at 75. She earned bachelor’s degrees at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Portland State University. In addition to mothering, she worked as a teacher, librarian, community center director, and editor. Her business, Mandaville Associates, provided writing services to businesses and magazines. She traveled to six continents, was a foster parent, and helped raise nearly one million dollars to build a new library in Athena, Ore. Survivors include three children and six grandchildren.

Kenyon W. Bee ’62, Aug. 1, 2016, in New Orleans, La., at 76. He volunteered with the Green Beret Special Forces to fight in Vietnam, after which he traveled extensively. He worked for Shell Oil Company as a district marketing manager and retired as operator of 15 Shell stations in the New Orleans area. His wife, Carol, a daughter, two grandchildren, and a sister survive him.

Neil Ossen ’63, Aug. 8, 2016, in Hartford, Conn., at 74. He served in the Peace Corps in Tanzania then earned a law degree at the University of Connecticut. He was a legal aid lawyer, started his own law firm, and was counsel to the Connecticut House of Representatives Democrats. In addition he served as a Uniform Law Commissioner for more than 30 years. He loved to cook, bake, and eat out, and loved his family. Survivors include his wife, Margaret Rick, three children, and two grandchildren.

Douglas C. McLetchie ’72, May 1, 2016, in Wolfeboro, N.H., at 66. After earning his law degree in 1975 from Suffolk University Law School, he practiced law for 40 years in New Hampshire. He frequently offered pro bono legal services to those in need and received the New Hampshire Bar Association President’s Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service on several occasions. He was a fly fisherman, small-plane pilot, world war history buff, and a family man. Survivors include his wife, Janet Veasey McLetchie ’72, three sons, including Andrew ’00 and Doug ’01, and three grandchildren.

Jane P. Morse ’73, Aug. 22, 2016, in Phippsburg, Maine, at 65. She earned a law degree in 1980 from Boston University School of Law and practiced in Boston for 13 years. She moved to Phippsburg in 1993 and dedicated herself to improving the arts and economy of Bath, Maine, by founding Main Street Bath and serving on the board of numerous institutions and organizations. She was at home boating on the water, enjoyed opera and reading, and loved the maritime history of the Phippsburg area. A brother and a sister survive her as do nieces and nephews.

Ralph F. Field ’74, Jan. 5, 2016, in Portland, Maine, at 63. He received his M.A. from the University of Maine and completed his Ph.D. at Cornell. His interest in rural and environmental development took him to Africa, where was a Peace Corps volunteer, a USAID consultant, and a social scientist. In the United States, he was program assistant for The Tree Project with the United Nations, taught university courses, and was a Mellon research fellow. Predeceased by his parents, Ralph H. ’50 and Virginia Hill Field ’48, he is survived by his spouse, Joey.
Scott C. Faulkner ’76, March 7, 2016, in Chester, Va., at 61. He graduated from the textile sciences program at UMass Dartmouth and worked as a textile engineer for more than 30 years. He loved motorcycles and music, was a member of the River City Blues Society, and played the keyboard in several bands. Survivors include his wife, Sandra, and his mother.

Melissa Waldron Raue ’76, July 23, 2016, in Maple Canyon, Utah, at 62. She earned a master’s in deafness rehabilitation from New York University in 1982 and worked for the New York League for the Hard of Hearing. In the 1990s she attended the physician assistant program at Yale and was a physician assistant in dermatology. An experienced rock climber, she fell to her death while climbing in Maple Canyon. Survivors include her husband, David Raue ’76, and their two sons.

Timothy B. Hussey ’78, June 13, 2016, in Boston, Mass., at 59. He earned an M.B.A. at Cornell and returned to Maine to join the family business, Hussey Seating Company, becoming its president in 1995. He served on Colby’s Board of Trustees from 2003 to 2009 and as a Colby Overseer from 1997 to 2003, he was co-chair of the Maine Economic Growth Council, on the board of the Maine Compact for Higher Education, and on his local school board. Hussey also was a member of the World President’s Organization. He loved skiing and sailing and was commodore of the Arundel Yacht Club. Predeceased by his parents, Philip Jr. ’53 and Martha De Wolf Hussey ’55, survivors include his wife, Marcia, their three children, including Philip ’14, and three siblings, including Anne Hussey ’80 and Richard Hussey ’89.

Diana Small Snow ’80, June 19, 2016, in Belmont, Mass., at 58. She was an operations manager at Boston Theological Institute and is survived by her husband, Richard Snow.

Elizabeth Tobey Burnett ’86, April 4, 2016, in Medway, Mass. She did graduate work at Oxford University and at the University of Glasgow and then taught English in London. A reader and writer of short stories and poetry, she also drew cartoons, loved to travel, and tended her farm in Yorkshire, U.K. She is survived by her husband, John Elkerton, many friends, and her beloved pets.

Jeffrey S. Bednarz ’87, March 26, 2016, in North Hampton, N.H., at 51. He worked in computer manufacturing and sales, specializing in local area networking. He enjoyed soccer and skiing, played the trumpet, and volunteered with environmental organizations dedicated to New Hampshire beaches. His wife, Terri, survives him.

Brian A. Low ’87, May 7, 2016, in Topsfield, Mass., at 50. A program manager for Cisco Systems, he was also a volunteer EMT for the Topsfield Fire Department. Dedicated to his children and their activities, he found time for golfing, boating, softball, and running. Survivors include his wife, Natasha, three children, three siblings, and his mother.

Caroline Knowles Clapp ’89, July 31, 2016, in Boston, Mass., at 49. An athlete, educator, and traveler, she raised her family while earning an M.S.W. at Boston College. She counseled students at Wells (Maine) Elementary School then became a social worker in Portland and Kittery. She spent summers in Maine and in Nonquitt, Mass., where she spent her spent her final month writing, listening, and being with family and friends before dying of cancer. Survivors include her parents, Jonathan “Jock” ’60 and Caroline “Pat” Walker Knowles ’60, her husband, William Clapp ’87, three children, and three siblings. Gifts honoring her memory may be made to The Caroline “Callie” Knowles Clapp ’89 Memorial Fund at Colby.

Bryan R. Bushley ’93, June 7, 2016, in Seattle, Wash., at 45. A global citizen fluent in five languages, his work reflected his commitment to environmental sustainability and social justice. He earned two master’s degrees from the University of Washington—in international development and in forestry—and a doctorate in urban and regional planning from the University of Hawaii. He lived and worked in Russia, central Asia, Ecuador, and Nepal helping developing countries integrate sustainable forestry practices with global market strategies until he succumbed to brain cancer. His parents and two sisters survive him.

Christopher L. La Putt ’03, Aug. 20, 2015, at 33. He was a concert photographer for the New York City indie-rock scene. His photos appeared in newspapers nationwide and on the cover of David Byrne’s biography. He was a photo editor and contributor with BrooklynVegan. A posthumous retrospective show of his work, KTXBAI—named for his gchat sign off—was held in Brooklyn and raised money for CancerCare, where he was treated for colon cancer.

John M. Joseph Sr., June 23, 2016, in Waterville, Maine, at 95. He spent three years in the Pacific during World War II and received an honorable discharge as staff sergeant. He returned to Waterville’s Lebanese community and, along with his brother Peter, owned and operated the Colby College Spa for 35 years. Upon his retirement, in 1985, the Spa was renamed the Joseph Family Spa. He belonged to the Colby Key Club and the C Club, and the Class of 1962 dedicated its yearbook to him. He was active with his church, was a founding member of the Lebanon Youth Society, and belonged to the Waterville Country Club. Survivors include three sons, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and two brothers.

Peter J. Ré Sr., July 24, 2016, in Scarborough, Maine, at 97. After studying at Juilliard, he earned a B.A. from Yale and an M.F.A. from Columbia. A pianist, composer, and conductor, he joined Colby’s faculty as a music instructor in 1951 and retired as a full professor in 1984. He arranged jazz standards for the Colby Eight and started the Colby Piano Institute and the Summer School of Music. After conducting the Bangor Symphony Orchestra from 1964 to 1974, he became conductor and musical director of Colby’s Community Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. In 1973 he received the Award of Merit from the Maine State Commission on Arts and Humanities. He enjoyed European travel and fly fishing in Maine, and he was an organist for Catholic churches in Oakland and Waterville. Six children, nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren survive him.