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Obituaries

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Catharine Wakefield Ward ’34, March 6, 2014, in Gwynedd, Pa., at 100. She grew up in China and Japan, where her father was a missionary, and earned a master’s in English from Radcliffe College. She and her husband were peace activists who helped in the postwar reconstruction of China in the late 1940s. A devotee of poet Vachel Lindsay, her uncle, she also loved archival work. She was predeceased by her husband of 65 years, Paul, a history professor at Colby in the early 1950s, and her daughter. She is survived by her sister Martha Wakefield Falcone her daughter. She is survived by five grandchildren, including Elizabeth Ward Saxl ’97, and seven great-grandchildren.

Robert W. Colony ’35, Dec. 9, 2012, in Auburn, Calif., at 99. He was a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army in the 1940s and was vice president and plant manager of Vibrasonic, Inc., in Van Nuys, Calif. He married and had two sons and a daughter.

Priscilla George McNally ’42, April 18, 2014, in Wrentham, Mass., at 94. After teaching in Maine, including in a two-room high school in Jonesboro, she returned to her home state of Massachusetts, where she taught junior high school English, earned an M.L.S. at Simmons College, and became a school librarian. A trustee of Boyden Library for nine years, she was a charter member of the Foxboro Association of University Women. Predeceased by her husband, Leslie, and sister Jane George Daniels ’48, she is survived by a son and two grandchildren.

Norman L. Porter ’43, Aug. 14, 2009, in Frankfort, Ind., at 89. A United Methodist minister in New England for 42 years, he earned his master’s in theology from Boston University and in 1970 was awarded a Stowell Scholarship that enabled him to travel in the Holy Land and southern Europe. He and his wife retired to Bayonet Point, Fla., residing there for 20 years before moving to Frankfort, Ind. He was a 50-year Masonic Lodge member, a member of the Rotary Club, and past executive secretary of the Preachers’ Aid Society. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Barbara, two daughters, five grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Deborah Dobson Fekete ’44, Nov. 20, 2013, in Wallingford, Conn., at 91. She worked for many years in the financial department at the Choate School, later Choate Rosemary Hall. An avid reader and knitter, she also loved traveling with her husband and was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church and its women’s guild. Predeceased by her husband, Gabriel, she is survived by two daughters, one son, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Alice Leyh Fisher ’44, April 27, 2014, in Sarasota, Fla., at 91. A member of Delta Delta Delta at Colby, she was a 31-year resident of Sarasota, Fla., where she volunteered at Doctors Hospital. She enjoyed summers at Lake Henry in the Poconos. Predeceased by her husband, Larry, she is survived by a son, three grandsons, and six great-grandchildren.

Pauline Foley Thompson ’44, May 24, 2014, in Wareham, Mass., at 92. A resident of Weymouth, Mass., for 62 years, she loved spending time with family, gardening, reading, painting seascapes and pet portraits, and working on jigsaw puzzles. Predeceased by her husband of more than 50 years, A. Francis Thompson ’41, she is survived by a son, daughter Dorcas Thompson Jessup ’69, son-in-law Donald Jessup ’67, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Addie Roberta “Bobbe” Holt Sachs ’45, April 10, 2014, in Des Moines, Wash., at 89. A member of Delta Delta Delta, she supported her husband’s aeronautical career and taught for more than 20 years in Omaha and Seattle. In her later years she enjoyed playing bridge and serving as a representative for new residents at her retirement home. Predeceased by her husband of 53 years, Donald, and parents Ross Holt Sr. ’18 and Maude Herron Holt ’24, she is survived by a son and siblings Beverly Holt Wiegand ’50 and Ross Holt Jr. ’53.

Gerald E. Roy ’48, May 23, 2014, in Oakland, Maine, at 87. At age 10 he purchased distribution rights to sell Boston newspapers in greater Waterville, using the income to put himself and his brother through college and to help support his widowed mother. He continued his distribution business into the late 1970s. He worked as a state bank examiner, retiring as chief bank examiner. In retirement he and his wife traveled extensively in their motor home and wintered in Naples, Fla. He was active with the Waterville Lions Club for more than 50 years and was a passionate tennis and cribbage player. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Mary, four daughters, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Elaine Browning Townsley ’48, March 6, 2014, in Laconia, N.H., at 87. A 63-year resident of Laconia, she was co-owner of the city’s Rails and Crafts shop for 20 years and worked in retail at Laconia Hardware for 35 years before retiring in 2001. The first winner of the 4-H Governor’s Trophy, in 1946, she was very active with 4-H as well as other community organizations. She enjoyed gardening, watercolor painting, and spending time with her family, friends, and pets. Predeceased by her husband, Frederick, a daughter, and son Dudley W. Townsley ’72, she is survived by a daughter, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Audrey Fountain Jordan ’49, April 9, 2014, in Summit, N.J., at 86. She was a devoted homemaker who lived in New Jersey most of her life. A longtime member of New Providence Presbyterian Church, she taught Sunday school, communicant, and Bible study classes and volunteered at two hospitals. Predeceased by her husband, Hugh Jordan ’50, she is survived by two sons, one daughter, and two granddaughters.

James C. Noice ’49, March 30, 2014, in Deland, Fla., at 87. He received the Presidential Citation during World War II and retired from the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant senior grade. He worked for 10 years as a manager/vice president with Smith Barney in Florida and served as president of several organizations including the Orlando Stock and Bond Club. He is survived by his wife, Diana, three sons, and two grandsons.

Conrad G. White ’49, Feb. 1, 2014, in Cashiers, N.C., at 87. A Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War, he had a long career in the broadcast industry including 13 years in advertising. On his retirement, in 1990, he and his family moved from Ridgewood, N.J., where they had spent 30 years, to North Carolina. He was active in the Church of the Good Shepherd in Cashiers, N.C., and for 24 years was a tenor with the Western Carolina Community Chorus. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Martha Jackson White ’49, whom he met while singing the Elijah oratorio at Colby, as well as a son, a daughter, and two grandchildren.

George J. Giffin ’51, May 15, 2014, in Red Bank, N.J., at 85. He was a Marine Corps captain during the Korean War and earned master’s degrees from Colby and the University of Vermont. A resident of Fairfield, N.J., for nearly 60 years, he taught biology at Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School for 35
years and served as chair of the science department. He coached both girls’ and boys’ basketball as well as golf and developed a girls’ rifle drill team. He had a penchant for ballroom dancing, which he enjoyed teaching to middle and high school students. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marcia, a son, a daughter, and two grandsons.

Els Warendorf Hulm ’51, April 22, 2014, in Wolfeboro, N.H., at 84. Born in the Netherlands, she immigrated with her family to Scarsdale, N.Y. Following graduation she toured Europe with Colby friends, meeting her future husband aboard ship on the journey back. In the 1950s she started a round-robin letter among her Colby friends that would last more than 60 years. She and her husband retired to Wolfeboro, N.H., where she volunteered for the local hospital. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Jim, three daughters including Nancy Hulm Jones ’78, six grandchildren, and sister Jacqueline Warendorf Shelton ’54.

Harold W. Kent ’52, Dec. 31, 2013, in Bluffton, S.C., at 82. A D.O. and an ophthalmology and otorhinolaryngology specialist, he had a private practice in Maine for many years and was a U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel medical doctor who served in the Gulf War, retiring in 1992. He enjoyed playing the piano and woodworking, developing what he called “a satisfactory Amish shop.” He is survived by a daughter, a son, and two grandsons.

Melvin Lyon ’52, May 4, 2014, in Washington, D.C., at 83. After earning his M.A. and Ph.D. from Boston University, he began a long research and teaching career in experimental neuroscience, including work at the University of Copenhagen, University of Arkansas Medical School, and University of Southern California. He loved travel, reading, and music, and he leaves behind seven chapters of an unfinished book. Predeceased by his first wife, Ruth Flagg Lyon ’53, brother Richard Lyon Jr. ’50, and grandfather Henry Warren Foss, Class of 1896, he is survived by wife Nancy, former wife Birgit, four sons, one daughter, one stepdaughter, and eight grandchildren.

John D. “Jack” Powell ’52, April 17, 2014, in Keene, N.H., at 84. He served three years in the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft control tower operator and earned master’s degrees from Springfield College and Western Reserve University. He was principal of several Ohio elementary schools and in retirement taught at Central Carolina Community College in Sanford, N.C. He is survived by his wife, Gloria, two sons, grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Barbara A. Scott ’52, March 18, 2014, in Calgary, Alta., Canada, at 82. After earning a master’s in urban sociology from Boston University, she moved to Canada and lived in Calgary for nearly 50 years. Propelled by her passion to help society’s most vulnerable, she sought public office and served as an alderman from 1971 until her retirement in 1995, the longest career for an elected official in Calgary history to that point. She received many awards and, in 1997, was honored as a member of the Order of Canada. She loved the Canadian Rockies, skiing, hiking, and Dr. Seuss books.

Richard E. Beatty Sr. ’54, May 9, 2014, in King of Prussia, Pa., at 81. After serving as a captain in the U.S. Air Force, he earned a master’s from Bridgewater Teachers College and taught at Rockland (Mass.) Elementary, where he became vice principal. He later went into management and, eventually, real estate, working as an agent and mortgage consultant with Weichert Realtors. He enjoyed sports, bird watching, crossword puzzles, and time with his family. He is survived by his wife of nearly 59 years, Joan, three daughters, two sons, 11 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

John R. Hammond ’54, May 13, 2014, in Leawood, Kan., at 82. He served three years in the Navy and five in the Naval Reserves. He founded his own insurance agency in 1965 and later founded Hammond Financial Services. He was a lifetime member of the Million Dollar Round Table. A youth-baseball enthusiast, he served as president of the Johnson County 3&2 Baseball Club for more than 20 years and sponsored and coached more than two dozen teams. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Paula, four sons, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Theodore K. Rice ’54, March 14, 2014, in Portland, Maine, at 81. He served with the military police in the U.S. Army and earned a master’s in counseling. A certified social worker and registered substance abuse counselor in Maine, he held a number of positions including clinical director of the substance abuse program at York County Counseling. He also taught communications courses at University of Southern Maine. A past director of the Southern New Hampshire Appalachian Mountain Club, he enjoyed hiking, kayaking, hiking, and snowshoeing. He is survived by a son, a daughter, and two grandchildren.

Douglas M. Harlor ’55, Feb. 4, 2014, in Tacoma, Wash., at 81. He worked for the Weyerhaeuser Company for 34 years and started a successful lumber consulting business in his retirement. He had a lifelong love of the outdoors and enjoyed getting together with friends and golfing. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Marianne, three sons, and four grandchildren.

G. Curtis Whelan ’55, March 18, 2014, in Branford, Conn., at 81. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he worked for the New Haven Railroad and later as area construction engineer for Amtrak. He dedicated much of his retirement to the town of Clinton, Conn., where he served on the board of finance and was a trustee of the Henry Carter Hull Library. He was committed to family and community and enjoyed traveling with his wife. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ellen, two sons, and four grandchildren.

Willard G. Wyman ’56, Feb. 25, 2014, in Stanford, Calif., at 83. He received an M.A. and a Ph.D. at Stanford, where he was dean of students and special assistant to the president. He was dean of students and associate professor of English at Colby from 1971 to 1975, after which he returned to California as headmaster of the Thacher School. In retirement he won awards as a novelist (High Country and Blue Heaven) drawing on his experiences leading pack-animal trips in the Sierra. Predeceased by his grandfather John Monroe Wyman, Class of 1881, he is survived by two sons, three grandchildren, including Caitlin Wyman ’10, and his partner for many years, Barbara Saxon ’56.

Lynwood D. “Sam” Grant ’57, April 29, 2014, in Las Cruces, N.M., at 79. He left Colby to enlist in the U.S. Army and earned his bachelor’s at Montana State University and his master’s at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His career in recreation administration included an appointment as New Mexico’s state parks and recreation director and a term as director of community facilities in Las Cruces. He served on the board of Tesco, a nonprofit helping children with developmental delays and people with disabilities. In 2002 the Sam Grant Park was dedicated in Las Cruces. He is survived by his wife, Sid, five daughters, 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, three stepdaughters, and five step-grandchildren.

Frederick J. Harris ’59, Nov. 10, 2012, in Stuart, Fla., at 75. A former resident of Saco, Maine, with a winter residence in Jensen Beach, Fla., for more than 20 years, he worked as an auditor in the shoe industry and was a member of the National Guard. He enjoyed following the Red Sox, Patriots, and Celtics. He is survived by his son and two grandchildren.

Josiah H. Drummond Jr. ’64, March 20, 2014, in Scarborough, Maine, at 72. He dedicated his career to secondary school and college fundraising, including at Kents Hill School, Bowdoin College, and Gould Academy, all in Maine, and he worked with his wife on a fundraising consulting and graphic design business from their farm-
house. A conversationalist and storyteller, he served on the boards of the Portland Stage Company, Bethel Library, and Greater Portland Landmarks, among others. He is survived by his wife of more than 30 years, Joanna, two daughters including Damaris Drummond ’03, two sons, and eight grandchildren.

Patricia Raymond Thomas ’65, Feb. 27, 2014, in Doylestown, Pa., at 70. A prolific volunteer, she was involved with local chapters of the League of Women Voters, Planned Parenthood, the YMCA, and the American Association of University Women. In 1991 she received the Lois Burpee Service Award from the YMCA. A graceful hostess, she enjoyed gatherings of family and friends. She is survived by her husband of nearly 50 years, Thomas M. Thomas ’63, two daughters, son and daughter-in-law Robert ’88 and Caroline O’Brien Thomas ’88, and eight grandchildren.

Caleb T. “Tom” Hodsdon ’66, Feb. 7, 2014, in Rye Beach, N.H., at 69. In the 1970s he worked in New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller’s office before opening the Whale’s Tale Restaurant in Hampton Beach, N.H. Following the sale of the restaurant, in 1988, he continued on as an advisor and enjoyed golfing and traveling. He struggled with frontotemporal degeneration (FTD) for several years. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Anne, and daughter Morganne Hodsdon ’16.

Laila Walji Alidina-Dosani ’67, Nov. 6, 2013, in Orlando, Fla., at 69. Originally from Tanzania, she earned a medical degree and doctorate at the Medical College of Pennsylvania and was certified in allergy and clinical immunology and in pediatrics. She is survived by her husband, two sons, and grandchildren.

Jeanne Merola Mukai ’69, April 30, 2014, in Mercer, Maine, at 66. She dedicated her life to educating students in Maine schools. She passed away at home, surrounded by family, after a long battle with breast cancer. She is survived by her husband of 41 years, Kenneth Mukai ’68, three sons, and two grandchildren.

Susan Magdefrau Werkhoven ’69, May 10, 2014, in Washington, Conn., at 67. A 43-year resident of Washington, Conn., she earned her master’s in education from Western Connecticut State University and taught math at the Gunnery preparatory school for 25 years. She was an engaged member of the First Congregational Church and for 13 years served on her town’s zoning commission. She savored both simple and special moments with loved ones, and she enjoyed reading, walking, traveling, and singing. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, David, a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

Richard S. Jones Jr. ’72, May 25, 2014, in Waterville, Maine, at 64. He earned a master’s in education technology from Thomas College and spent 26 years teaching fifth through seventh graders in the Waterville area. He wrote Tools for the Geographer, a textbook published in 1996. A soccer aficionado, he coached for the Waterville Youth Soccer Association, served the United Soccer Federation of Maine, and coached Olympic Development teams as well as Waterville varsity teams. He led Bible study, enjoyed woodworking, and was a gifted vocalist. He performed with the Imposters at Colby, formed the Mustard Seed Choir, and cofounded the Christian band Light. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Thomas M. Jones, three sons, and two grandsons.

David F. Scudder ’76, April 16, 2014, in Centerville, Mass., at 59. Passionate about the sea, fishing, and Cape Cod, he joined his family’s ferry and charter business, Hy-Line Cruises, where he eventually became vice president of operations. He was known for his affable and generous nature, serving as president of the Cape Cod Maritime Museum and as fundraising chair and later chair of the board of the Cape and Islands United Way. He is survived by his wife, Sheila, his parents, two brothers, and many nieces and nephews.

Nathaniel K. Fenollosa ’92, Feb. 23, 2014, in Guilford, Conn., at 43. A compassionate veterinarian who loved cycling, skiing, and art, he continued to share his joie de vivre and pursue his passions even when he was sick. After more than two years, he succumbed to glioblastoma. In his memory, the Nathaniel K. Fenollosa Fund at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven provides support to children with families affected by cancer. He is survived by his wife, Amy, and two sons.

Eitan S. Green ’09, May 30, 2014, in Mt. Rainier National Park, Wash., at 28. An accomplished climber who was guiding in the White Mountains and on the Alaskan coast while still a student, Green died in a climbing accident on Mt. Rainier. Working for Alpine Ascents International, he was guiding an ascent of the Carbon Glacier, one of the most difficult routes up Rainier. While at Colby he studied in India, learned Nepali, and completed an anthropology senior honors thesis on the international climbing community. He graduated magna cum laude. He is survived by his parents and a sister.

Griffin G. Metto ’15, March 14, 2014, in Franklin, Mass., at 20. A double major in classics and government, he had just been elected to Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, and he hoped to attend law school. He was news editor of the Colby Echo, a member of Model U.N., and a staunch Red Sox and Celtics fan who attended as many games as he could. Described as an old soul, he was kind and loyal. He passed away after a brief illness and is survived by his parents and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Adjunct Professor of Physical Education and Athletics Emeritus James B. Wescott, May 27, 2014, in Camden, Maine, at 71. As a high school decathlete he won the New Hampshire State Championship in 1961. After earning his bachelor’s degree at Plymouth State and a master’s at Indiana, he coached at North Carolina State before coming to Colby in 1978 as head track and field coach, a position he held until his retirement in 2003. Active in several Maine communities, he served as a mentor to schoolchildren and as a Belfast YMCA board member. A rowing enthusiast, he competed in the Head of the Charles Regatta at age 70 and was sculling on Megunticook Lake in Camden, Maine, during the final moments of his life. He is survived by his wife, Jo, a daughter, a son, and a granddaughter.

Morganne Hodsdon ’16, May 10, 2014, in Washington, Conn., at 67. A 43-year resident of Washington, Conn., she earned her master’s in education from Western Connecticut State University and taught math at the Gunnery preparatory school for 25 years. She was an engaged member of the First Congregational Church and for 13 years served on her town’s zoning commission. She savored both simple and special moments with loved ones, and she enjoyed reading, walking, traveling, and singing. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, David, a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

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