

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 194

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

arv@colorado.edu

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Our Mission

In the Spring of 2000, the Archives continued the original efforts of Captain Roger Pineau and William Hudson, and the Archives first attempts in 1992, to gather the papers, letters, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS/OLS instructors and graduates to the War effort in the Pacific and the Cold War, to the creation of East Asian language programs across the country, and to the development of Japanese-American cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

**FREEMAN,
HOUGHTON
"BUCK," DEARLY
LOVED HUSBAND
OF DOREEN FOR
OVER 62 YEARS**

FREEMAN--Houghton "Buck," dearly loved husband of Doreen for over 62 years, passed away in Stowe, VT, on Wednesday, December 1, 2010. He is deeply mourned by his beloved son, Graeme Freeman, and his wife, Nancy, of Honolulu, HI, and daughter, Linda Post, and her husband, Don, of Stowe, VT. Equally loved were his grandchildren, Alec and Colin Freeman; Tyler, Alexi, and Graham Post; and stepgrandsons, David and Scott DeCristo. Buck Freeman was born in Peking, China, in 1921, the son of Professor Mansfield Freeman and his wife, Mary Houghton. He graduated from the Shanghai American School and then attended Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. After this, he entered the US Navy and attended the Japanese Language Schools in Berkeley, CA, and

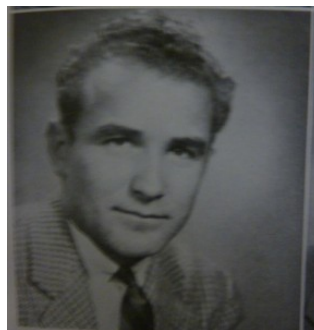
Boulder, CO. He returned to Wesleyan and graduated in 1946. He began his insurance career with American International Underwriters Corporation. After training at Lloyds of London and marrying Doreen Brown in London in 1948, he was transferred to Shanghai, China, where his daughter, Linda, was born in 1949. Upon evacuation from Shanghai, they relocated to Tokyo, Japan. He was appointed Resident Vice President of AIU Japan in 1952; his son, Graeme, was born in St. Johnsbury, VT, in 1955; and he was appointed President of AIU Japan in 1956. He remained in Japan for 21 years before moving to New York. In 1983, he was elected President and Chief Operating Officer of American International Group (AIG). Upon his retirement in 1993, he remained an honorary Director of AIG. Upon his father's death in 1992, Mr. Freeman assumed position of Chairman of the Freeman Foundation which he ran with his wife and son until his death.

*Paid Notice
New York Times
December 5, 2010
Freeman Family*

**Remembering Houghton
"Buck" Freeman '43**

Earlier this week President Roth sent out an email announcing the passing of beloved [Wesleyan] alumnus and former trustee (1982-1991) Houghton "Buck" Freeman '43, son of AIG co-founder Mansfield Freeman '16.

"Freeman's numerous contributions to the University," the *Argus* writes, "including a \$5 million gift in the 1980s that funded construction of the Bacon Field House and the new pool in the Freeman Athletic Center, made him *the largest donor in Wesleyan's history.*" That's a pretty astounding superlative. More from President Roth's email, and then some snapshots from Freeman's student years at Wes:



Buck grew up in China and acquired fluency in Mandarin. He interrupted his studies at Wesleyan to serve in the Navy during World War II and provided intelligence reports from southern China behind Japanese lines.

After the war, he became the first Wesleyan student to earn a degree in Japanese. He captained the 1946 Wesleyan soccer team in a season that had only one loss (against Yale), which nearly equaled the record of Wesleyan's undefeated team on which he had starred in 1940. In 1947 he joined AIG, where he spent the rest of his career, rising to the top levels of company leadership.

As Roth writes, Freeman's studies were interrupted by World War II, during which he served in the Navy. He is listed, by Roth and others, as a 1943 graduate, but he left Wes in 1942 and returned after the war to captain the 1946 soccer team and his yearbook photo (above) appears in the senior section of the 1947 *Olla Podrida*. Here's his senior blurb, which lists his sprawling extracurricular accomplishments as: "Cardinal" Business Board, Varsity Soccer Co-captain, Squash, Golf (letters); Freshman Soccer Captain (numerals); Le Cercle Francais; La Tertulia; TNE; Phi Nu Theta secretary; Candidate for Distinction in Government.

For more glimpses of extracurricular life from an era *long* past, check out these blurbs for The Newman Club, The Camera Club, The Rosa Club, The Rifle Club, and The Pre-Medical Club.



Freeman's years at Wesleyan especially indicate the extent to which World War II interrupted and invaded every facet of student life in the 1940s, from the newly established Civil Aeronautics Student Pilot Course to the Naval Flight Preparatory School that began operating "alongside of, but not in conjunction with the regular Liberal Arts curriculum." Note, too, Wesleyan's "World War II Roll of Honor" that appeared in the 1943 yearbook.

At 203 students, the Class of 1947 was the largest yet in Wesleyan's history. But more notably, as an astonishing foreword to the '47 yearbook points out, it was also "undoubtedly the only Class to be graduated from Wesleyan that has not a single member, who took his four regular years in the usual order." Students left their studies to serve in the war, and then returned in large numbers to complete their work, five, six, even seven years after arriving as freshmen.

In this regard, Freeman was no exception. But in his post-graduation involvement with and contributions to this school, he quite certainly was. Check out the *Argus's* front-page piece on Freeman here, and read Roth's announcement here.

posted on December 4, 2010 at 3:49 PM, <http://fwix.com/connecticut/shar>

Freeman:

A titan in his field

In 1997, the Brigham decision issued by the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that all children were entitled to an equal education opportunity.

That decision led to Act 60, a school-funding formula hastily conceived by the Legislature. For Stowe, the law meant property-tax bills would more than triple if the school budget were kept as is, with the extra money going to schools elsewhere in Vermont.

Stowe struggled to find a way to comply with the law without decimating its schools.

Enter Houghton Freeman, a Stowe resident.

Freeman realized the financial dilemma faced by Stowe and other, similar Vermont school systems, and decided to ease the tax burden by setting up matching grants through his family foundation.

In 1998, the Freeman Foundation-based Vermont Education Initiative matched privately raised funds in Stowe with roughly \$1 million of its own money, allowing schools to continue to operate as they had. It did the same in 1999.

Freeman died Dec. 1 at age 89.

Following the Freeman Foundation's help, the Stowe Education Foundation found its legs and, independently, launched its own fundraising effort that has helped to maintain excellence in Stowe schools to this day.

"Were it not for Houghton Freeman's initiative and vision, Stowe would be a different community today," said Nancy Jeffries Dwyer, executive director of the Stowe Education Fund. The fund "cannot begin to express in words its gratitude to Houghton Freeman for his kindness, generosity, and his devotion to the children of his home state."

The matching funds "seemed to me an ideal balance between using the charitable power of the Freeman Foundation and inspiring the community toward

its own destiny," said Alan Thorndike, a Stowe lawyer who was part of the Stowe Education Fund movement.

"He was an extraordinarily generous person with the right attitude," Thorndike said.

Though the Freeman Foundation does its work all over the world, "it always kind of amazed me how Vermont was so integral" in what Freeman and the foundation did, Thorndike said — huge conservation projects all over the state, with the Stowe Land Trust one of the beneficiaries; scholarships; the UVM nursing and Asian Studies programs; and colleges and universities all over the United States.

Freeman rose to prominence in the insurance industry, serving as president and chief executive of the American International Group from 1983 to 1993 before taking the helm of the foundation that bears his family name.

The foundation has given away hundreds of millions of dollars over the years around the globe in the fields of education, international understanding with a focus on Asia, international relief, the environment and land conservation.

While he was "a titan in his field," Thorndike said, "it was endearing that Buck held Vermont so close to his heart. I believe he was a resident of Vermont when all his tax advisers were telling him to get a place in Florida or whatever."

"Buck was truly committed to the town of Stowe and our way of life," said Donna Carpenter of Stowe. Carpenter, a former chair of the Stowe Education Fund, led the charge to raise money and rally support for Stowe's schools after Act 60 was adopted. "His backing of the Stowe Education Fund had everything to do with that commitment."

Freeman's foundation initiatives are many, but chief among them in Vermont was a lead role in conserving the Champion Paper Co. lands in the Northeast Kingdom. The Freeman Foundation spent upward of \$4.5 million to lock in conservation easements on the 132,000 acres after the company decided to sell its Vermont land.

The critical conservation project, the largest in state history, meant the private land would remain open to the public, and continue to be used for logging and recreation as it has for generations.

Johannes von Trapp, an avid conservationist and the owner of the Trapp Family Lodge, said Freeman's early and important leadership on the Champion deal brought other large foundations and charities to the effort. Without them, the deal might well have failed.

"He contributed tremendously to Vermont through the foundation and through his influence and stature with a whole lot of other nonprofits, particularly in the environmental side of things," Von Trapp said. "He was largely responsible for coming up with the cash for the easement on the champions timberland deal and, through his influence, lots of other foundation money came into the state."

Freeman's death, said Von Trapp, "will not only be a tremendous loss for his family but to the state of Vermont."

"I didn't know Buck personally, but certainly knew of him by reputation," said Stuart Comstock-Gay, president and CEO of the Vermont Community Foundation, which manages more than 570 charitable funds with more than \$143 million in assets. "And he will be missed. The foundation that bears his family's name is an inspiration in the way that it has encouraged a better understanding between the people of this country and those of other countries."

"What I enjoyed most was that he was so regular, solid, down to earth," Thorndike said. "I used to kid him about his appearance — beat-up boots, shaggy pants. ..."

"He gave my kids their first job, cutting a trail up to his house," Thorndike said. "He inspected it every day."

Tom Kearney and Biddle Duke
Stowe Reporter
December 9, 2010

[Ed. Note: Curiously, Mr. Freeman died while his interview with Lynn Parisi was appearing in the newsletter. These are but merely a few of the notices found on Google® on Buck Freeman's death. Virtually

every Asian studies center and department across the country posted announcements and condolences. The Freeman Foundation had generously supported programs in Asian languages and international understanding for decades. Our humble project was only one tiny recipient of a philanthropic effort of global reach.]

USMCEL Conversation (Cont'd)

Dear Mr. Dunbar:

It was rewarding to read all of the vignettes you have written about your experiences in WWII, and I was especially pleased to learn of the bond between you and Col. Stent. It stands in such marked contrast to the non-relationship that characterized what passed between me and my C.O., Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller during the two operations, Cape Gloucester and Pelelieu, at which he and I were in the same unit, H&S Co., First Marine Division. Of course, to say he was "in" that unit is wrong: he *commanded* the entire regiment, whereas the unit was where I "belonged," in a logistical sense [*an interesting and important distinction*]. To "work with" such a C.O. was what you did; I was only "noticed" by Col. Puller on the one occasion when I had the effrontery to say, in response to his order that on the Pelelieu operation there were to be NO PRISONERS. "But Colonel, that's my main job, interrogating prisoners!" His idea of command brooked no opposition - no advice - no suggestions, even. He knew he was a legend in the Corps as a "take charge" commander, he reveled in it, and when he ordered a Second Lieutenant in H & S Co. to "get your carbine and take out and shoot" a sniveling Korean captive drafted against his will as a slave-laborer, he had no fear of the Geneva Conventions or of having broken Marine Corps orders. The lieutenant did as commanded, neither he nor his C.O. ever was held accountable, and a person like me learned an indelible lesson: don't try to protest an atrocity when you're all alone.



COL Howard M. Stent USMCR, asst. COS G-2, ISCOM Guam, receives Legion of Merit from MGEN Henry L. Larsen Is. Cdr. Guam. Agana Hgts HQs receives Legion Bldg, overlooking Agana Bay, fall 1945, b&w, 8x10. Pineau 11_02_00_25.

To learn from you that your C.O. was a large-minded person who recognized that "today's enemy maybe tomorrow's friend, so treat him properly" was heartening. And then to learn that my "best buddy" in the MCRD Boot Camp platoon, the kid I palled around with at his parents' home in Warner's Springs[, was *COL Stent's son*] - that did a lot to heal a long-smoldering animus toward my WW II experience that has always stopped me from automatically reciprocating when another veteran says "*Semper Fi*" to me [*other Marine JLO veterans held similar long-standing views for the same reason*].

Again, thanks for a fascinating trip down memory lane. It struck me that you were much more fluent than I in Japanese. Your course at Camp Elliot was, I believe, 20 weeks long whereas my class, the initial one, was 13. But your much more intensive contact with POWs must have improved your Japanese immensely. Not forgetting of course that you may simply be inherently more skilled at language than I.

In any case, I'm enjoying living now in downtown L A, where I recently moved following the death of my wife. I bought a condo in Bunker Hill Tower from a Japanese businessman who had lived there for 20 years. Despite a handicap that makes long walks difficult, I am enjoying my re-acquaintance with Little Tokyo and eating excellent Japanese food at restaurants the previous owner, Tadashige Oku, introduced me to. The son

of one of the ship captains that sank much of our fleet at Pearl Harbor and the grandson of one of two field marshals in the Japanese Imperial Army in the Russo-Japanese War in 1895, he is quite a character. He makes deals selling golf courses and buildings in the \$500 million bracket. He gets a kick out of my Japanese and introducing me to the chefs at these fancy Japanese restaurants.

All the best, and thanks!
Jerry Green
[USMCEL 1942]

Frank Rush 1921-2010

Frank E. Rush, 88, formerly of Newark, died suddenly on July 19, at his home at Heron Point in Chestertown, MD.

Born in Washington, PA on July 25, 1921, Frank was the son of the late Frank E. and Minnie Dailey Rush. He attended the Washington, PA public schools and Washington and Jefferson College where he received a BA in Mathematics graduating Summa Cum Laude. Frank also received a BS in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Masters in Chemical Engineering from the University of Delaware. Frank studied Japanese at the University of Colorado Naval Oriental Language School and was a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Frank joined the DuPont Engineering Department in 1944 and worked at Chambers Works, the Experimental Station, and Louviers where he retired as a Principal Consultant (Mass Transfer) in 1986. He was Adjunct Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Delaware from 1971-1980, a registered professional engineer for the State of Delaware, emeritus member and 50 year member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. He was the DuPont representative to Fractionation Research, Inc. from 1972-1986 and to Washington University Thermodynamic Research Laboratory from 1970-86. Frank is listed in "American Men and Women of Science" 14th Edition,

1979 and was elected A. I. Ch. E. Fellow in 1983.

Since 1947, Frank was a member of the Newark United Methodist Church where he served as a church school teacher, church school superintendent, trustee and member of the Building Committees and was a member of the Wesley Foundation board of directors. He also served on the boards of the Newark Day Nursery, Newark Kindergarten Association, Newark Branch of the YMCA and the Wilmington and New Castle County YMCA. At Heron Point, Frank was an active member of the Chester Testers and led a team of volunteers in monitoring the water quality of the Chester River.

Frank married Patricia Morgan in 1944 and they were a devoted couple for 65 years. Frank is survived by three daughters, Marilyn Garthwaite and her husband Gene of Landenberg, PA, Janet Vanderwaart and her husband Peter of Stamford, CT and Anita Rush of Newark, DE; a son, David Rush and his wife Jun Shan Wey of Sammamish, WA; four grandchildren, Joseph and Catherine Vanderwaart and Nikko and Adriana Rush; and one great-granddaughter, Amy Vanderwaart. Frank was preceded in death by his son Kenneth in 1961 and his wife Patricia in 2009.

Rush Family

BOOK REVIEW

Spencer LeVan Kimball, *A Tale that is Told: an Autobiography*. (self published, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2000) 447 pages, no index.

This book review was the result of my discovery that my lifelong good friend, Spencer Kimball, was a student at the Japanese Language School in Boulder Colorado in World War II, revealed from my readings of *The Interpreter*, published by David Hays at the University of Colorado. More than a month of searching was required to find the sole existing copy on the used book market, and I was lucky in getting it – autographed for an associate of Spencer's, too, if you will.

The book is both exhaustive and exhausting – it covered everything expected while being tiresome in requiring some forty hours or more of close reading to complete, over a week's time. Yet it was and is a magnificent work, interestingly written and thorough in details. At the outset he indicates, if memory serves, his lifelong practice of keeping a diary, which accounts for the copious detail supplied throughout.

His early life involved shuttling back and forth from Arizona to Mexico as his family coped with the marriages of their many relatives, some of which embraced the Mormon faith more vigorously than others. Spencer separated in faith from that of his father, who was one of the twelve "apostles" in the church and who expected young Kimball to follow suit. Spencer nevertheless completed a two-year period of service for the church on a mission in Canada, hitchhiking more than 1,000 miles in the process.

Early on, I was curious as to whether Spencer would mention his service on the insurance commission seminar I designed and conducted for some 15 years while dean of the College of Insurance in New York. And there it was! Page 245.

In looking through the pages now that I have completed the reading, I find myself tempted to read it all again. That, in itself, proves the work is worthy of a reader's close attention, even if he or she did not know Spencer as I did. The pages are 8½ X 11, with two columns of small font. With Spencer's frugality, which he demonstrated and described on numerous occasions throughout (sleeping in cars overnight on trips to avoid hotel costs), I am convinced he typed the manuscript himself. A skilled typist will see the indicators. He successfully squeezed out of life the many accomplishments he wanted. There is much to be learned from reading this book.

Robert W. Strain
Dean Emeritus

College of Insurance in New York
[served with John McCubbin, JLS 1944, during the Occupation]

Archibald Hanna Jr. 1916-2010

Born in Worcester, MA on Sep. 24, 1916, departed on Jun. 24, 2010 and resided in Branford, CT.

In Hamden, Archibald Hanna Jr., 93, retired Curator of the Western Americana Collection in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale, died June 24, 2010 at Atria Larson Place after a short illness. A resident of Branford for over 50 years, he was the widower of Edith Sue Mensch Hanna. Mr. Hanna, the son of the late Archibald and Rachel Knight Hanna, was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, September 24, 1916.

He received a B.A. Degree from Clark University in 1939, and an M.A. Degree from Yale in 1946. In 1949 he received an M.S. Degree from Columbia University, and in 1951 a Ph. D. Degree from Yale. He joined the staff of the Yale University Library in 1949, and in 1952 was appointed Research Associate in the Yale History Department in 1960. He retired from the University in 1981.

During World War II he served in the United States Marine Corps from 1942-1946 as a Japanese Language Officer in the Central Pacific. He left the service as a First Lieutenant, but remained active in the Marine Corps Reserve, retiring in 1969 with the rank of Colonel.

In June 1961 he was ordained as a Perpetual Deacon in the Episcopal Church, and served in that capacity at Trinity Church in Branford until 2005. In 1952 he published his Bibliography of John Buchan, in 1970 his Brief History of the Thimble Islands, and in 1985 A Mirror for the Nation, a bibliography of early 20th century American Social Fiction. He was an Honorary Trustee of the Yale Library Associates, and a member of the American Antiquarian Society, the Club of Odd Volumes, and the St. Botolph Club.

He leaves two sons. Stewart B. Hanna, of San Marcos, Texas, and James D. Hanna of Warner, New Hampshire; a daughter, Jean Hanna Larson (Jeffrey) of Hamden, Conn., a brother,

Robert Hanna of Leominster, Mass., a sister, Priscilla B. Hanks of Wellesley, Mass., and five grandchildren.

<http://obit.wsclancy.com/obitdisplay.html?id=800592>

Ernest Edwards Wiles JLS 1944, 1918-2011

Ernest Edward Wiles (Ed) passed away on May 11, 2011. He was 93 years old. Ed was born in Macksville, Kansas, on February 7, 1918. He became an Eagle Scout with Troop 126 in 1934 and served on the staff of the Scouts' Camp Pawnee for several summers while in high school. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1939 and from Yale Law School in 1942.



Lt. Conover inspecting JLS students - identified also are Ed Wiles and Bob Hubbell, b&w, 8x10, Pineau 21_05_02_03.

Immediately after he received a law degree in December 1942, he joined the U.S. Navy, and was sent to the U.S. Naval Japanese Language School in Boulder, Colorado. He was commissioned in July 1943 and after further training at the Navy's Advanced Intelligence School in New York, he was sent to the Pacific. During World War II, he served in Guam, Tinian, the Solomon Islands and Wake Island; and in Japan following the end of the war, as an interpreter and translator. He was discharged from the Navy in Hawaii in 1946 with the rank of Lieutenant JG. He was proud of being a Navy Intelligent Officer, Japanese language specialist, and even after 70 years, he was able to read Japanese text books for six graders.

Ed practiced law in Honolulu from 1946 to 1962, where he served as a Bar Examiner and with the Hawaii Employment Relations Board. In 1959, he became a partner in the firm of Matsunaga, Wiles and Mui. In 1962, he managed the successful Congressional campaign of his partner, Spark Matsunaga who later became U.S. Senator from Hawaii. He served as Congressman Matsunaga's Chief of Staff and Legislative Assistant from 1963-1966. He then joined the General Law Division, Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior, as legal counsel. He retired in January 1998.

Ed visited Japan many times with his wife, Yoko, and enjoyed traveling around Japan, particularly local areas. He also visited many European countries and other Asian countries. He had great interest in Oriental arts, fishing and followed the NFL's Washington Redskins.

His first marriage with Yuki Hirakawa ended with her death in 1967, and in 1971 he married Yoko Aoyagi. Survivors include his wife of 40 years, Yoko, and four children from his first marriage: Jenny Watson of Portland, Oregon; Susan Wiles of Keene, New Hampshire; Bruce Wiles of Arlington, Virginia; Greg Wiles of Honolulu, Hawaii; and eleven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Yoko Aoyagi Wiles

[Ed. Note: Ed was in close contact with Bill Hudson over the years. We regret the loss of Ed Wiles and thank the family for designating the USN JLS/OLS Fund as one of their preferred recipients for donations in his memory.]

Reprise on Leathers Story

In Issue #160, Leathers' comment about the Manchurian physician for whom he had the occasion to interpret on Saipan, sparked a chuckle on my part. In January 1947, when the Russians began to release repatriates from Manchuria, and we were waiting in Hario to receive them, we encountered a Japanese Army Major, fluent in Russian, who had spent the entire War in Harbin, listening to

transmissions between Moscow and Vladivostok. After the Surrender, he causally changed his name, was sent to Siberia as slave labor, and was undetected as he was being repatriated by way of Darien. He was most anxious to be helpful, and my good friend Kozo Fukuda (also a lowly lieutenant), to whom he had been assigned asked me to sit in with him, because I had studied Russian for a few weeks in Tokyo. We spent more than two days with him in a cubicle in our Quonset hut, because he had so much of interest to relate. Kozo, from LA, became friendlier with him than I, although we alternated in extracting the data he was furnishing us. Well into the first day, I stepped out of our smoke-filled cubicle for a few minutes to stretch my legs, and when I returned, Kozo and he were laughing uncontrollably, at which point Kozo told me their conversation during my absence. The Major had said, "that officer has a *hatsuon* in Japanese and Russian, and a knowledge of Manshu, that indicates he must have been raised somewhere in Manchuria" Kozo assured him that I was born and raised in Chicago, and, upon my return to the cubicle, he asked me if I knew Al Capone, and what it was like to live in a city of gangsters. That broke the ice, and the three of us became fast friends for the balance of his time in Hario. Somewhat akin to the feeling Mr. Leathers had while helping interpret for doctors from Manchuria and the States, I had the same epiphany when I was complimented by a Japanese Army linguist that my phrasing and pronunciation assured him that he knew my origin just from the way I spoke Japanese and pronounced Russian names of locales in Manchuria. Never again have I felt such unwarranted pride in language study.

*Allen H. Meyer
US Army MIS*

[Ed. Note: This is the first of several comments by Allen Meyer, one of our longtime Army liaisons, readers and a supporter of the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project.]

Recent Losses: