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.

IN MEMORIAM

J. HARRY BENNETT

(Cont’d) Coming into a Department where English history was already strongly established, Professor Bennett was able from the beginning to teach entirely in his chosen field. As an undergraduate teacher he was clear, courteous, helpful, and sufficiently systematic, a combination that insured his being effective and well liked; at the same time he was too visibly detached, bookish, and lacking the common touch to be a decided favorite. It was with graduate students that he enjoyed his great success as a teacher.

His seminars at the top of his form were masterly displays of erudition, whether bibliographical, factual, or interpretative, and were brought off without notes. They attracted large numbers of graduate students, so many that the programs of most doctoral candidates in history (and a goodly number in English) could be expected to include one or more of the fields he taught. This meant that he sat on nearly all the qualifying examinations for doctoral candidates in history, a taxing role in which he displayed admirable discernment. Since he was also for several years graduate adviser in history, and often the personal as well as the official friend of those he taught or advised, he possessed an unrivalled familiarity with the graduate students of the department. To speak of him as “the graduate students’ professor” was true in more ways than one.

As befitted a learned man thoroughly committed to books, Professor Bennett devoted much attention and not a little money to assembling a professional library. Though not spectacular in size—the core ran around 1,000 volumes, most of them weighty—it was a fine reading and reference collection for the scholar and teacher. He was liberal to a fault in sharing its use; indeed, his students would have had difficulty in getting along without it. In perpetuation of this openhandedness, he bequeathed his books to the Library of the University of Texas, where they are a boon to students and readers in the fields of his particular interest.

Visitors to Professor Bennett’s bachelor quarters were met with a quick smile and a hospitality that became proverbial. He was certain to insist before long upon taking them out to dinner, a form of social activity that was his particular delight. The accompanying conversation, whether academic, political, or personal, was on his part always informed and intelligent, often witty, sometimes wry; his favorite themes had to do with the structure and operation of the societies he knew or studied, not forgetting the academic community in which he lived. To his friends and associates his generosity was as munificent as his hospitality; if one sought a favor, his response was to do more than had been asked.

Sociable as he was, however, his bent was not toward putting himself forward as a person nor toward cultivating a large circle of acquaintance. More characteristic was the formation over the years of a limited number of close friendships maintained with unfaltering loyalty and warmth as long as he lived.

Robert S. Teaze

Army JLS, BIJ

(Cont’d) Although born in Japan and probably as fluent in Japanese as any Japanese child by the time I was 2 years old, I never got as fluent in the language as apparently Baldwin and his brother did. Unfortunately my use of Japanese was interrupted by those periodic trips back to the States on home leave. My father always returned after six months, but my mother, sister, and I remained longer. I probably spent my entire second grade here in San Diego and I remember the 6th Grade (1936-37) very well, which I spent as a boarding student at the San Diego Army and Navy Academy which was renamed Brown Military Academy that year and where I undoubtedly lost a great deal of my facility on speaking Japanese. Growing up in Yokohama my schooling was initially at the International School which was run under the British system where I had early exposure to pounds, shillings, and pence, introduction to French, Ancient History and poetry. I was told that I had a very pronounced British accent in the 6th grade [Well, you were fluent in a foreign language after all — British English]. Returning to Japan for the 7th grade, I switched to the American School in Japan. The commute required that I daily take a 45 minute train ride from Sakuragicho station in Yokohama to Nake meguru in Tokyo. In Yokohama there was a walk and a bus or a tram ride of nearly a half hour and in Tokyo another walk of about ten minutes, a good hour and 15 minutes each way. In the years just before the War my use of Japanese was limited to dealing with shopkeepers, cab drivers, ticket sellers, etc. and the servants of which we had a cook and an amah. A second amah was dropped when my sister and I were required to make our beds and clean and tidy our rooms.

For a year or two before coming back to the States for my 6th Grade we had an amah who spoke fluent English having worked in England for a time. Unfortunately because of her fluency, my Japanese suffered. Unlike Baldwin and his brother, I never lived in a remote part of Japan for an extended period where facility in Japanese was essential and therefore I was nowhere near as fluent in Japanese as they were when I started the Army Japanese Language School at the University of Michigan. Except for the simplest of words, all I had going for me was an ear for the correct pronunciation of Japanese.

I have been receiving, thanks to you, additional issues of The Interpreter. In Issue # 102A of August 15, 2006, under the banner of BJJs (Born in Japan), there was a request from Jerry Downs, expressing interest in the number of BJJs who “(A) went to JLS, and (B) survive. In 1937-38, I shared the same classroom with Jerry, as well as Baldwin and Talbot Eckel in the American School in Japan (ASIJ). I was in the 7th Grade and they were in the 8th. Both Leo Lake and Richard Moss attended and graduated from ASIJ. It might also interest you that Jerry’s younger brother Ray Downs was for a number of years the Principal and Headmaster of ASIJ and now as an emeritus resides with his wife,
a former ASIJ librarian in Seattle.

Robert S. Tease
Army JLS, BJU

[Ed. Note: I thought all of the BJU attendees of ASIJ would appreciate this letter, especially Jerry Downs, whose letter on BJs started this.]

**Tsingtao Beer & Other Beverages**

[China Marine Joseph Baldyga had wondered in The Scuttlebutt why Tsingtao beer had tasted so good in the late 40s, (and possibly so familiar), when everything else seemed alien and poor in comparison. It seemed that Tsingtao Beer was an artifact of a Manchu effort to emulate the Germans in the 1880s and later German colonialism in the 1890s. The brewery had a German brewmeister. Glenn Nelson, JLS 1944, a knowledgeable homebrewer in his own right, replied as follows.]

I’d like to add a postscript to Joe Baldyga’s invaluable December 2005 story on Tsingtao beer. It rang a nostalgic bell for me.

I landed with the 6th Marine Division in October ’45, as a member of the Division G2 Section under LTC Thomas E. Williams [Whose collection we have], having served through the Okinawa campaign as a Japanese Language Officer with the 29th Marines. In China one of our main jobs was the organizing and management of the thousands of Japanese civilians and military in the area. The priorities for repatriation were based in part on leaving in place Japanese who were vital to the operation of various industries in Tsingtao. After tasting the beer, the command decided that the Japanese technicians running the brewery should definitely be left in place [wise commanders]. I never heard that any Germans remained in the plant. The resident Germans were screened for any Nazi affiliation and shipped back to Germany.

When I left China in February ’46 to join the 2nd Marine Division in Kyushu, Japan, the Tsingtao (translated “Blue Island”) was still flowing. Japanese beer was very scarce at the end of the war, and I remember drinking American beer in the O Club – a rude shock to the palate!

As a postscript to a postscript, I recall marching into Tsingtao from our APA for the first time. Many shop windows had displays for name-brand Scotch whiskey with perfect labels. The contents were putrid and sometimes dangerous. Something called “90 (?) Year Old Chefoo Brandy” showed up later and was tolerable. But adventurous Marines discovered that the local vodka was drinkable and safe – apparently made with benign ingredients.

Glenn Nelson
JLS 1944

**J. Keith Mann**

**Professor Emeritus Of Law, Dies At 82**

J. Keith Mann, [JLS 1945], an esteemed labor arbitrator who helped build Stanford Law School into one of the leading law schools in the country, died of pneumonia at Stanford Hospital on Nov. 27, 2006. He was 82.

“Keith was really one of the leaders of a new emerging group of post-World War II arbitrators,” said William J. Gould, law professor emeritus. “He was highly regarded in labor law and labor arbitration. He was very important as a guy who was plugged into the real world and involved in making policy in very high-level disputes and, as a teacher, bringing it back to the classroom. The students had a high regard for him.”

Mann joined the Law School in 1952, was associate dean for academic affairs from 1961 to 1985, and served as acting dean in 1976 and 1981-82. In these positions, Mann is credited with playing a central role in the school’s emergence as one of the nation’s top law schools. He became professor emeritus in 1988.

“Keith Mann was for many years a part member of the Stanford Law School community,” President Emeritus Richard Lyman wrote in an e-mail. “If I call him a utility infielder that is meant as a compliment: Whatever needed doing, he was there to do it with efficiency and integrity. Every institution needs a few people like Keith, but not every institution is lucky enough to have one. We’ll miss him.”

During the 1960s and 1970s, three U.S. presidents—John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard M. Nixon—appointed Mann to negotiate difficult national labor disputes. During the Kennedy administration, he helped settle a controversy between the Southern Pacific Company and railroad clerks, as well as a dispute between airlines and flight engineers. In 1967, Johnson appointed Mann chairman of a fact-finding board during a West Coast shipyard strike and, in 1971, Nixon selected him to head a board of inquiry into the extended dock strike. From 1980 to 1997, Mann served as special master in a U.S. Supreme Court case involving a territorial dispute (United States v. Alaska, No. 84, Original) between the federal government and Alaska over ownership of parts of the seabed and offshore lands along Alaska’s northeast coast.

Mann was born May 28, 1924, on his family’s farm in Alexis, Ill. During World War II he was ineligible for the draft due to a high school football injury, but was admitted to the Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado. After learning Japanese and completing the program, he served as a naval officer during the war and with the occupation forces in Tokyo and Korea. Mann went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in Far Eastern Studies in 1948 and a law degree in 1949 from Indiana University. After graduation, Mann clerked for Supreme Court Justice Wiley B. Rutledge and his successor, Sherman Minton. He practiced law in Washington, D.C., before working as special assistant to the chairman of the Wage Stabilization Board in 1951, and spent a year teaching at the University of Wisconsin before coming to Stanford.

Former Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Mann worked in adjacent offices during the 1949 term of the Supreme Court. “We have been fast friends ever since,” Christopher said in a statement. “Until he retired, Keith was a vital part of the glue that held the Law School together, often serving as the bridge between the deans. Keith had many superb qualities, but the one I remember best was his acute sensitivity to the needs and hopes of others, professional and personal. That quality made him an indispensable friend to generations of students and professors, and to me.”

Gould said that Mann was instrumental in bringing him to Stanford as the Law School’s first African-American faculty member. “He was a goodwill ambassador for the university,” Gould said. “I remember how very gracious and cordial he was to my parents. At one point, my father told me, ‘He’s on our side. That’s one of my most vivid memories. My father had a high regard for him.’” Gould recalled Mann’s character as circumscript and enigmatic. “Keith Mann played his cards very close to his vest,” he said. “That served him well in labor arbitration, in the Law School and the university.”

In 1971, after Nixon asked Mann to help resolve the West Coast dock strike, the New York Times featured him as a “Man in the News.” In the article, a colleague said of Mann: “He has the coolest head and most even temper of any human being I know. He manages to keep his perspective on any problem in the heat of the moment—something that’s beyond most mortals and which is why I assume he’s been chosen for this job.”

Mann was a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators and law alumni fellow at Indiana University School of Law.

Mann is survived by his wife of 56 years, Virginia, of Palo Alto; his children, William Mann of San Francisco, Marilyn Mann of Kensington, Md., Kevin Mann of Richmond, Calif., Susan Mann of Champaign, Ill., and Andrew Mann of San Mateo; and three grandchildren.

Lisa Trei
Stanford Report
December 8, 2006

[Ed. Note: We have his collection.]

**Asian Scholar Reflects On Fifty Years at Berkeley**

Over Last Half Century, Robert Scalapino Has Witnessed Some of the Campus’s Defining Moments During his 50 years at Berkeley, Robert Scalapino became an internationally-recognized expert on Asia, advised heads of state and three U.S. presidents and garnered numerous awards and honors for his work.

But among his most cherished accomplishments is the success attained by many of his former students. Among his top achievers – Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, James Soon, Governor of Taiwan, and likely presidential candidate of that country and Han Sung-Joo, South Korea’s foreign minister. The roster of noted academics is equally impressive.

“This is a great source of pride for me,” said the 80-year-old Scalapino, emeritus professor of political science. “The joy of teaching is to see the accomplishments of your students.”

Sitting in his small office in the Institute of East Asian Studies, a program he helped found in 1978, Scalapino reflected on his life at the university. Through the years, he has witnessed some of Berkeley’s most defining moments, starting with the loyalty oath controversy.
Scalapino was working at Harvard when Berkeley hired him in 1949. He signed Berkeley’s oath while still in Cambridge, unaware of the storm brewing on the west coast. “When I got here, I was somewhat puzzled by what was going on,” said Scalapino. “I signed a similar oath at Harvard, but it was not that big an issue there.”

At Berkeley, Scalapino taught political science classes on Japan, China and East Asia and U.S. foreign policy in Asia. His interest in Asia began during World War II, while serving in the Navy as a Japanese language officer. He was in the Okinawa campaign and traveled to Osaka during the early days of the occupation and was fascinated by what he saw.

“My experiences during the war persuaded me to concentrate my academic work on Asia,” said Scalapino. “I found the culture intriguing and diverse and was compelled by the uncertain future of this area.”

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D. Lyn Hunter, Public Affairs

The Berkeleyan

November 3, 1999

Irene Slaninka Thiel

(Cont’d) When the war ended I applied for a job in Japan as a translator. I went there in June, 1946 and stayed until December, 1949. Then I worked for two years in my father’s shop, the Northwestern Fur Shop, in Bellingham, and in 1952 I married Irving Thiel. We have two children: Valerie, a licensed pharmacist, and Allen, a licensed draftsman. We have $20,000 tax money worked (and $20,000 tax money) went into the wastebasket.

I have done a little fashioning of gold-casted jewelry for my own use, and I knit, sew some, and cook, but the latter I do without enthusiasm. However, I do have one enthusiasm which remains unchanged: my years in the Navy and Japan. They were great.

Irene Slaninka Thiel

WAVE JLS 1944

1993 WAVE Reunion Book

‘Where are They Now?’ with Professor Emeritus John H. Middendorf

(Cont’d) Quietly sipping my tea, I debate whether or not to indulge in another of the tasty biscuits generously set before me. I decide I’d better not, and instead pose the question, “What are your feelings, as a member of the Columbia community, with regard to the direction GS seems to be headed?” Middendorf, who has been upbeat and talkative from the moment he welcomed me into his home, contemplates my question with the characteristic intensity of the scholar in search of some fundamental, yet obscure, truth. His answer reflects a sentiment that is conflicted at its core.

Naturally, as one would expect, Middendorf would “like to see GS continue what it’s doing and also do more.” But he expresses concern that as GS continues to define itself against the College model, it will become less distinct and will sacrifice its sense of cohesion in the process. This, he admits, “would really be too bad.”

Earlier in the evening, Middendorf told me that while serving as a Japanese language translator for the Office of Naval Intelligence during the Second World War, he learned the “value of freedom.” Perhaps this is why Middendorf seems genuinely pleased to hear me refer to my GS education as an “Ivy League” education. For, although growing pains often accompany a major change, we must allow all things the freedom to become fully realized. That is why, when it comes to GS, Middendorf understands that sometimes you have to lose something good in an effort to keep getting better.

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Bill Hudson and the Meaning of Infinity

Born 17 December 1922, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was in September 1942, a sophomore studying Sanscrit and Linguistics at Princeton. I was turned down by letter by Hindmarsh, but was accepted as a Naval Agent after showing him my Sanscrit book. The Navy cancelled my contract and instructed me to sign up at my local US Navy Recruiting Station in Baltimore, which I did on December 5, 1942. I was then shipped, with many others, to Washington, where they promptly shipped us home, as they did not know what to do with us. I was then told to report back on December 28, 1942 for transport to Boulder, which I did, joining Paul Elicker, Bill Massar, Don Ford, and Bill Klaire. We arrived on December 30, 1942, in the care of Chief Hedge, to go through the 14 month course in which I learned the meaning of infinity. That is what the Japanese Language is, with two sets of syllabaries and Kanji (combination of Kanji into infinity).

After 14 months I was sent to “Intelligence School” at the Henry Hudson Hotel in New York City, which was a waste of time and marred our effectiveness as translators. I was then shipped to via San Francisco and San Diego to Pearl Harbor and JICPOA on the CV US Franklin (later devastated off the Japanese home islands by Japanese bombs and made famous on it’s return trip to New York as “the ship that wouldn’t die”).

If I translated anything of military value at Pearl Harbor, I do not remember it. However, after going with Gibney to Pelelui and back, I was finally assigned to type in shifts with Johnny Allen and Vince Laviole on the Japanese typewriter. I typed until the end of the War (also an infinity), producing a Japanese Military and Technical Dictionary.

I was then sent to Guam and Japan where I spent about four months at Sasebo with the Marines. After that I was shipped back to Guam and then on to Truk to help evacuate Japanese troops back to Japan. I was relieved of these duties in February 1946 and went back to Pearl and the US to be discharged finally on 22 June 1946.

Since then, I have used Japanese to talk to Japanese tourists in Ireland where I have spent much time on 29 trips since then. I am now nearly 84 and am on kidney dialysis.

William Hudson

JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: William Hudson was a close friend and associate of CPT Roger Pineau, who assisted in compiling information for Pineau’s book project. In addition, he acted as a clearing house for JLS/OLS inquiries for several decades, amassing and keeping JLS/OLS addresses, helping to organize all JLS reunions up to the 50th Anniversary Reunion at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1992 and the WAVE 50th Anniversary Reunion at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1993. He donated his papers to the Archives in 1997. He continues to meet with Florida JLS/OLSers, and he is an active correspondent of the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project. I have told him that we are willing to pick up where he left off, but he continues to send us letters and referrals. Without Bill Hudson, much of what we have accomplished in the JLS/OLS Project since 2000 would have been impossible. He deserves the praise and thanks of all participants in our project.]

The Further Recollections

Of Bernard J. Martin

Tragic end of an OLS classmate: (Cont’d) One of my good friends at OLS was LT Bill Shaw, a former PT Boat officer who had been brought up in Korea as the son of missionaries; and always talked of returning to post-war Korea to help with their post-war reconstruction. The Navy called him back during the Korean War, and he was captured and executed by the North Koreans during the seeing taking and re-taking of Seoul. I learned of this from
Time Magazine which carried a shocking photo showing their bodies, shot in the backs of their heads, hands tied behind them and blind -folded.

De-mothballing of my OLS Japanese

A few years ago, a friend from Montclair, New Jersey (LT Richard E. Keresey), who had also been a PT Boat officer, wrote a book (PT-105) about his experiences in the Solomon Islands. A featured incident was his rescue of Japanese survivors of the Japanese cruiser Yugumo which had been sunk the night before by a US Navy destroyer which was also sunk and whose crew Keresey’s boats had been unable to find.

Thanks to the Japanese language training I received at OLS, I was able to help Dick Keresey correspond with the Yugumo survivors association, who honor him each year at their reunion at the Yasukuni shrine. I also wrote his remarks in Japanese and rehearsed him for his appearance at an Nimitz Memorial Foundation annual dinner where he was brought together with Mr. Takahashi, a Tokyo school principal and the president of the Yugumo survivors association, for a tearful “reunion”.

The Yugumo survivors published a 50th anniversary yearbook with memoirs of various crew members, which they gave to Dick Keresey and which he gave to me. The Yugumo sailed carrier escort at the Battle of Midway. It was a poignant experience for me to read, in Japanese, the thoughts of one of the Yugumo officers as he witnessed their prime aircraft carriers - the cream of the Imperial Japanese Navy - destroyed in flames before his eyes. He also wrote that, shortly before the battle in which they were sunk, their ship was part of the honor squadron that brought Admiral Yamamoto’s body back to Tokyo after he shot his plane down in the Pacific [another JLO job]. These recollections are respectfully submitted - in recognition and appreciation for those of my classmates and predecessors who went into harm’s way to use their Japanese language skills in the service of our country.  

Bernard J. Martin
OLS 1946

[Ed. Note: These recollections are a more detailed version of Mr. Martin’s initial message to me in Issue #102 and #137. I thought none of you would mind. I am humbled by the part played by JLOs in the Midway victory and the downing of Yamamoto. I am happy to repeat his honors rendered to previous JLOs.]

Blanche Belitz Status

Your newsletters, 106 and 106A, prompted me to send you information that you may not yet have regarding Blanche Belitz.

Blanche is still in the retirement facility at 830 West 40th Street, Baltimore, but has been moved from Independent Living to nursing care. Her health has deteriorated. I received this information this week from her friend, Joyce, who lives nearby and goes to check on her, as does Blanche’s nephew, George Belitz, who lives in Baltimore.

The last time I talked with Blanche about 2 years ago, she spoke haltingly and said that she was sad – the institution management had told her she could not live alone because she might fall and hurt herself. Joyce has told me several times in the past few years that Blanche sits quietly all day in her chair in the activities room, and that she is now completely unresponsive -- there is no use for anyone to call or write to her.

I miss my association with Blanche. She was my roommate in the Tokyo Old Kajo Hotel for more than a year when we were in the Occupation forces. I left Tokyo in the late 1940s. Later, I saw her in Bangkok, after she had studied the Thai language and was working there. Finally we both worked for the CIA in the DC area, and saw each other often. We had many social occasions: My two daughters grew up knowing Aunt Blanche and Aunt Jean, another ex-WAVE, Jean Barnes Morden, who now lives in Oregon.

After retirement about 1980, my husband and I moved to Florida. Blanche and I continued corresponding. We saw each other infrequently, but I have a nice folder of letters and cards which she wrote about her travels and activities with the Arlington Walking Club, Elderhostel, and Goucher College alumnus group.

Sadly, her last postcard came in January 2001 when she wrote that Betty Knecht Hansson had died in Sweden. They were close friends. Actually Blanche was a wonderful friend to a number of us and was much loved by all who knew her.

Her birthday is next week, December 13 -- I shall send her a birthday card in memory of the many years we celebrated our December birthdays together.

I will ask her friend, Joyce, to let me and the Archives know, (by email at ary@colorado.edu) if there is any change in her situation.

Avis Pick Waring
WAVE, JLS 1944

PS: Another note for you to record in your address file: Abbie Jane (White) Bakony is now living at 180 - 2nd Avenue S., Edmond, WA 98020. She did not get your Interpreter Issues #106 and #106A, probably because you did not have her new address.

[Ed. Note: As of the receipt of this email in December 2006, We were glad to know that Ms. Belitz was still with us, despite her condition. We were also extremely pleased to get Ms. Bakony’s new address.]

BIC, WAVE
Constance Fowler Hallett

She was born in Wuchang, China in 1922 of missionary parents. They moved to Japan in 1930 and returned to the United States in early 1941.

She attended the American School in Japan, St. Faith’s School in Saratoga Springs, New York, class of 1942.

“Connie” was recruited by the Navy after graduation from St. Faiths, but she did not finish the Boulder language school. She was discharged in November 1943.

She married Thomas L. Hallett in 1946. She attended college for two years at the University of Carolina after her discharge, while her husband was finishing his degree after his discharge from the Navy.

The Halletts lived two years in Japan, five years in Indonesia while he was with an oil company. They returned to live in Connecticut from 1960 to 1982. The family accompanied Mr. Hallett on an assignment for Merrill Lynch in Saudi Arabia from 1982-1984. Mr. Hallett is semi retired, teaching Economics at a community college. They have one son and two daughters.

Constance Fowler Hallett
WAVE JLS #43-11/43
WAVE 50th Reunion Entry, 1993

[Ed. Note: Our attempts to find Ms. Hallett have been unsuccessful.]

In Memoriam


Harvard Law Bulletin
Fall 2001

[Ed. Note: I believe he attended JLS as Albert Lester Rabinovitz, of Chelsea, MA. We were never able to contact him or his family. I have been checking the web using the words “Navy Japanese Language School” and have found several articles and obituaries.]

$Donations Received

I have been posting too many stories and have failed to post these contributors from 2006. I’ll do better in the future. Our wholehearted thanks go to all of them.

- Norman, Nancy R.
- Davis, Euan G.
- Cox, H. Morris, Jr.
- Keene, Donald L.
- Packman, Martin
- Gary, Betty I.
- Elsbree, Willard H.
- Wells, James M.
- Brown Arlo A.
- Harris, Shirley (Zeivel)
- Brown, Sidney DeVere
- Shinoda, Yoshiko