

Unlike many academicians, Freddie always found time to consult with individuals and committees at the grass-roots level. Among the sites on which he advised were Stratford Hall, Christ Church (Lancaster County, Virginia), and The Woodrow Wilson Birthplace (Staunton, Virginia). He was a prime mover in the acquisition and restoration of Poplar Forest, Thomas Jefferson's second home in Bedford County, Virginia, near Lynchburg.

Freddie Nichols lived his life much as a sculptor chisels a piece of wood. There were always strong goals and objectives relating to the final product, but along the way, one might have to take a different course around a knot or a particular type of wood veination. I experienced this with Freddie, as did many of his colleagues. One time, when he was planning one of his well-known preservation conferences at the University of Virginia, he phoned me to ask if I would speak. He told me of the theme for the conference and assigned me my topic. This was about six months before the date. In the interim, Freddie encountered one of the 'knots' along the way and changed the entire theme and make-up of the conference. However, while absorbed in his creative pursuit, he neglected to inform me. I appeared in Charlottesville with a carefully prepared talk, along with slides, both totally unrelated to the theme of the day. When I confronted Freddie, he said: 'Oh, that's all right. They'll enjoy it.'

In 1942, just at the beginning of his professional career, Nichols married Jane Root, who predeceased him. Their three children, two sons Frederick and Allen, and a daughter Elizabeth Nichols Kasper, survive.

Rudy J. Favretti

FREDERIC CHRISTOPHER DUMAINE, JR.

Frederic Christopher Dumaine, Jr., a member of the Society since 1976, died at his home in Weston, Massachusetts, on March 13, 1997, at the age of ninety-four. From his days at Pomfret School,

where he had been president of his class and captain of the football, wrestling, and hockey teams, he was universally known as Buck. In a newspaper interview when he was seventy-five, it was reported that the name stemmed from 'his schoolboy days as a battering fullback'; another source claimed that 'it was as a star hockey player that he got the name of Buck.' Citing the description of him in his obituary in the *Boston Globe* as 'blustery, swash-buckling, and a battler,' Buck's son-in-law Ed Brooking in a memorial tribute added that he was also charming 'and, on occasion, even courtly . . . and he could be fun.' Everyone who knew Buck would heartily agree.

Among numerous claims to distinction in his long life—as an athlete, a businessman, and a politician—Buck occupied a unique position in the American Antiquarian Society as a direct descendant of the Society's founder, Isaiah Thomas. His mother, born Elizabeth Thomas in Manchester, New Hampshire, in 1877, was the great-great-granddaughter of Isaiah Thomas, and Buck was the fourth in line of descent, beginning with the founder, to be a member of the Society. At Buck's death, the Society acquired by bequest under his will charcoal portraits of his great-grandfather Benjamin Franklin Thomas and the latter's wife Mary Anne Park Thomas, drawn by Alonzo Hartwell in Boston in 1851. These portraits are a valuable addition to the Society's collection of Thomas family portraiture, which includes likenesses of Isaiah Thomas and his only son Isaiah Thomas, Jr., both by Ethan Allen Greenwood, a pastel of Mary Weld Thomas, wife of Isaiah Thomas, Jr., attributed to Gerrit Schipper, and another portrait of Benjamin Franklin Thomas, in his middle years, painted by Joseph R. DeCamp around 1900 after a photograph. The Society also acquired under Buck's will an important Isaiah Thomas association piece: the Sheffield plate silver triple urn that was presented to him by the Printers Guild of England following the publication of Thomas's *History of Printing* in 1810.

In noting that I knew Buck's father before I met Buck, I should add (in order to dispel any suggestion that we were contempo-

raries) that I was twelve years old when Frederic C. Dumaine, Sr., a friend and business associate of my father's and a legendary figure in his lifetime, first came as a visitor to my family home in the mid-thirties. I was thereafter in his company on several occasions and his striking presence and pithy observation (the most memorable for myself and my brothers and sister being strictures on how easily kids are spoiled) remain indelibly impressed on my memory. When in 1948 at the age of eighty-two, he accomplished what was reported in the *New York Times* as 'the financial coup of the post-war era' by taking over control of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Rail Road, he was described as 'a dominant force in Boston's financial world [State Street] since the turn of the century' and 'the wizard who has made millions and saved failing businesses time and again.' Ed Brooking in his memorial tribute to Buck observed that 'the crucible for [Buck's] personality was undoubtedly his father whom he adored' and that 'for many years every decision that Buck was considering was preceded with the imponderable: "If my father were here"' Buck fully subscribed to the underlying philosophy of the family trust established by his father in 1920, of which Buck became one of the original trustees when he was nineteen. He considered the trust an ideal model for all families in similar circumstances. 'My father knew the weaknesses of kids from rich families,' Buck was quoted as saying in an interview, '. . . sent to private schools . . . living off the fat of what they inherited.' The trust was designed to address this problem.

Six months before his death in May 1951, 'Old Man' Dumaine, as he was by then familiarly referred to by some reporters, stated in an interview that he had no hobbies other than work. The same could almost have been said of Buck, with the qualification that he was also an avid sportsman—an excellent shot and an accomplished fly fisherman. Physically active up to the last years of his life, he continued to play squash well into his seventies. At seventy-five, he was described in a newspaper interview as 'a man who

is not easily elbowed, literally or figuratively. At 6 feet 1 inch, a bit over 200 pounds, he still moves with the easy grace of an athlete.'

On the death of his father, Buck succeeded him as head of the family-controlled Amoskeag conglomerate. Among the company's diverse business interests—described as 'everything from one of the nation's biggest textile manufacturers to Fanny Farmer Candy Shops'—railroading remained Buck's first love. Having succeeded to the presidency of the New York, New Haven & Hartford, he was forced out three years later in a bruising proxy battle. Bitter as the experience was, he lost none of the enthusiasm for railroads and served as president of the Delaware & Hudson and as chief executive officer of the Bangor & Aroostook and of the Pittsburgh and Shawmut railroads. With his larger-than-life personality and combative style in the business arena, Buck was an unfailing source of colorful copy for journalists. Having devoted many years to a struggle to merge existing lines into a single New England railroad, he eventually found himself pitted against 'another tough, resourceful railroader, E. Spence Miller of the Maine Central,' as reported in the press. The resulting contest was picturesquely described as 'two dinosaurs grappling in the primordial ooze.'

Preoccupied as he was with business affairs, Buck was also, as the *Boston Globe* put it, 'a powerhouse in Republican Party affairs in Massachusetts for many years.' As chairman of the Republican State Committee from 1963 to 1965, and leader of the conservative wing of the GOP, he was outspoken and controversial. His aggressive organizational efforts are credited with the successful election in 1964 of a Republican governor (John A. Volpe), lieutenant governor (Elliot Richardson) and attorney general (Edward Brooke). Despite such heavy commitments to business and politics, Buck's expansive and generous nature led him to devote time as well to serving as chairman of the Massachusetts Heart Fund and as director of the Massachusetts division of the American Cancer Society.

A reporter described Buck, in full command of his 'diverse empire' at the age of seventy-five, as 'a vanishing breed: a tycoon who never went to college, more at home in a railroad bunkhouse than a State Street board room, with political convictions as conservative as his business dealings are flamboyant.' At the end of a long, searching interview, the reporter concluded that, 'there is still a sort of bull-in-a-chinashop aspect to Dumaine, charging around the fields of high finance or politics with the kind of heedless energy he must have displayed on the football field more than half a century ago.' Buck was an unforgettable personality and if not exactly a vanishing breed he was unquestionably an individual of rare talents and accomplishments. His wife Margaret died on July 6, 1996, three months before they would have celebrated the seventieth anniversary of their wedding. For their three children, Frederic C. Dumaine III, Ruth Dumaine Brooking, and Dudley Dumaine, six grandsons, and four granddaughters, other family members, and friends, his absence has left a void that cannot possibly be filled. There is simply no one else like him. One has to assume that Isaiah Thomas would have been immensely pleased could he have known that his line was to be carried on into the sixth generation with such robust energy and remarkable enterprise.

J. Robert Maguire

S. HOWARD GOLDMAN

S. Howard Goldman, a passionate collector of Americana and supporter of institutions devoted to American history, died in New York on April 29, 1997. He had been a member of the American Antiquarian Society since 1989.

Howard was born in Brooklyn on January 2, 1930, and attended Erasmus Hall High School there. He took his undergraduate degree at Syracuse University, followed by an M.B.A. from the Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania.

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