

Samuel T. Fuller was a graduate of Kennett High School in the Class of 1931. He was the son of Mr. & Mrs. John H. Fuller of North Conway, NH. Sam entered the Army as a private on June 29, 1941. In November of 1943, he went overseas with a motorized infantry division, as a first lieutenant. He received his Ed.M at the University of Vermont in 1941.

Sam was killed in action on July 27, 1944, presumably in an operation about St. Lo in France, as a part of the Normandy invasion by Allied Forces. He had been in combat for a short period of time when he was mortally wounded. Born in Brandon, VT on June 22, 1913 he was the 10th generation in the direct male line of descent from Dr. Samuel Fuller of the Mayflower. As a young boy, Sam attended school in Lancaster, NH and in 1926 he came to live in Conway when his father was elected to be Superintendent of Schools in Conway. Sam entered Kennett High School in the fall of 1927 and was an outstanding scholar-athlete, playing football, basketball and baseball. After graduation from Kennett in 1931 he entered Bates College.

While at Bates, Sam continued as an outstanding scholar-athlete. He was chosen as All-Maine guard in football, was a member of the Student Council, President of the Outing Club, Vice-President of the Athletic Council and Treasurer of the Varsity Club. Sam was the first member of his class to be killed in action in World War II.

After his graduation from Bates, Sam taught and coached for two years at Wilbraham Academy, and then came to Kennett as a teacher-coach in the fall of 1936. In 1939 he left Kennett and assumed the position of Headmaster of Jefferson High School, NH where he remained until he was inducted into the Army in June 1941. Shortly after, Sam was given an honorable discharge because of his age, and for a short time he was Headmaster of Hollis High School, NH.

After the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, Sam once again enlisted in the U.S. Army, actually joining the armed forces on January 12, 1942. In September of 1942, he graduated from the Infantry O.C.S at Ft. Benning, Georgia with a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was sent to the Ranger School and by June, he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. Both in his country and overseas, Sam was used primarily as an instructor in Range firing and Ranger tactics. Sam, at the time of his death, was engaged to be married to Miss Margery Harvey of Liverpool, England, who was a member of the British Women's Auxiliary Force.

Soon after the end of World War II, the body of Sam Fuller was returned to Conway and he was buried with full military honors in the Conway Village Cemetery. Before this, the body was moved into the Kennett Gym, where it remained with an Honor Guard until time for the departure to the Cemetery.

Among the pall-bearers for the funeral procession to the Village Cemetery were Headmaster Ellis W. McKeen, (Kennett Headmasters), Karl Seidensteucker and George T Davidson, (Kennett Coaches) and Milton Lindholm, (classmate and teammate of Sam's at Bates).





SAM FULLER'S GRAVE IN THE CONWAY VILLAGE CEMETERY - CONWAY NH

Sam's father, the late Dr. John Fuller, served as Superintendent of Schools in Conway from 1926-1946 and his memory is perpetuated with the naming of the North Conway Elementary School being named John H. Fuller School.

Lt. Sam Fuller posthumously was awarded the Silver Star. His citation reads:

"For gallantry in action on July 26, 1944 in the vicinity of Lessay. Lieutenant Fuller was leading a machine gun section in support of the advancing infantry when an enemy tank attack developed and the area was swept by 75mm and machine gun fire. Unable to locate the tank because of thick hedgerows, Lieutenant Fuller directed his machine gunners to deliver covering fire while he led the rocket launcher team forward in an attempt to locate the enemy tank. Although mortally wounded upon reaching the forward hedgerow, he directed the disposition and fire of the rocket team and supervised the evacuation of the many wounded men in the area. His great personal courage and devotion to duty enabled the infantry to hold its position in the face of demoralizing tank fire and so inspired them that the enemy resistance was broken and objective seized."

A Bates alumnus in 1945 wrote:

"A true evaluation of Sam's character is difficult to make. His were qualities which had to be known to be fully appreciated. For those of us who knew him well, no such evaluation is necessary. We will remember him as a good athlete, one who loved the sport for sport's sake and vener for the attendant acclaim. Like most men New Hampshire bred, he has a great love of the outdoors, so it was natural that he should make a notable contribution to the activities of the outing club and winter sports teams.

As a student he was conscientious and able; he was a respected member of the students administration, always fair and ready to see both sides of the problem. Sam was very much one of the boys, but in so being never lost sight of his own personal aims and integrity. Among his most endearing qualities was a typical New England sense of humor which enabled him to see things in their proper perspective.

A steadfast as the mountains that bred him, as wholesome as the outdoors he loved, Sam will be greatly missed by all who knew him."



Sam Fuller Football Award Winners

The Sam Fuller Football Award was established in the fall 1947 by a member of Sam's friends who wished to perpetuate the memory of this young man who was so much part of the Kennett Tradition.

Year	Name	Year	Name	Year	Name
1947	Kenneth Wade	1972	Peter Learn	1997	Keith Ouellette & Danny Noyes
1948	Philip Rancourt	1973	James Karmozyn	1998	Jason Greenblatt
1949	James Layne	1974	Michael Cloutier	1999	Josh Schoen
1950	Roger Berry	1975	William Arnold	2000	Ryan Patnode
1951	Paul Ashnault	1976	Jon Hill	2001	Matt MacDonald & Tony Day
1952	John King	1977	Mark Milliken	2002	Brian Finch
1953	Robert Twombly	1978	Todd Milliken	2003	Ben Day
1954	Robert Anderson	1979	Mike Chiaravelotti	2004	Ryan Gile
1955	Abbott Thompson	1980	Brandon Knox	2005	Rob Knox
1956	Morton Leavitt	1981	Tom Wholey	2006	Chris D'Angelo
1957	Donald Sanphy	1982	John Peacock	2007	Steven Beattie & Jason McGregor
1958	Richard Stockbridge	1983	Kevin McGraw	2008	Seth Shackford
1959	Robert Aboott	1984	James Gribbel & Greg Luciano	2009	Ryan Hughes
1960	Fred Mazzoli	1985	Michael Otis	2010	Matt Gadomski
1961	Charles Birch	1986	Doug Folsum	2011	Michael Lautenschlager
1962	Bert George	1987	Geoff Lynn & Chris Bailey	2012	Connor McDonald
1963	Norman Blake & Donald Card	1988	Rich MacDonald & Steve Richardson	2013	Christian Rivers & Grant Meserve
1964	Earl Palmer	1989	Jason Lloyd	2014	Nick Sherwood & Nick Graziano
1965	Jonathan Head	1990	Matt Mezquita	2015	Drew McDonald
1966	Peter Woodman	1991	Scott Hayes	2016	Aaron Lamar
1967	Dean Creps	1992	Erin Hartley & Michael McCune	2017	Brett Miller
1968	Timothy Quint	1993	Todd Marshall & Darren Perry	2018	Trey Snowdon
1969	Mark Perkins	1994	Adam Shackford & Abe Wrobleski	2019	Dominic Jones
1970	Merlin Fallen	1995	Nathan Noyes	2020	Parker Coleman
1971	Peter Ames	1996	Jake Russell	2021	Camden Bailey