



## Howard W. Colby

January 3, 1914 - November 20, 2010

QUINCY, MA -- Mr. Howard W. Colby of Quincy, Mass., passed on peacefully on Saturday, November 20, 2010, in Braintree, Mass. He was 96.

Born on a farm on Jan. 3, 1914, on the outskirts of Colebrook, NH, he was the youngest son of Guy and Eva (Holden) Colby. Howard graduated from Colebrook Academy during the Depression and completed secretarial coursework at Bryant and Stratton in Boston. He moved to Concord, NH, where he worked as an assistant in the Department of Fish & Game, travelling the state and promoting wildlife preservation. After the death of a close friend and associate in the department, he then went to work in the office of the Whittemore Company in Boston.

He enrolled in the Navy in 1942, where he worked as secretary for the Chief of Naval Security in New England. After training in Monterey, Calif., he transferred to Okinawa, Japan, where he worked establishing the military government. After the Japanese surrender, he returned to Boston on the battleship North Carolina in Oct. 1945. He always spoke fondly of his Navy days, and used the training throughout his life, and maintained contact with his friends from that time.

He then returned to work at the Whittemore, enjoying post-war life in Boston and around New England, caring for his mother as she succumbed to

leukemia.

Vacationing in Nantucket, he met Anne O'Leary, a lovely tall secretary from MIT, and they married in March of 1951. Returning from the beach in Duxbury one afternoon, they came upon a rustic two-room camp in Marshfield that they decided to buy, as a weekend retreat. After searching around Boston for an interesting place to raise a family, they bought a house in a need of work, a block from Maypole Hill in Quincy, where Howard continued to live until recently. They started a family that grew to four children. Studying nights, Howard obtained an accounting degree from Bentley College. He transferred to the Boston Sand and Gravel Company when it purchased the Whittemore Company, and he worked there as an accountant until retirement.

He was a devoted family man, and delighted sharing his varied interests with his children and friends. He passed on north country tips for dressing and enjoying the outdoors in all seasons. He loved to skate, swim and garden. He spent many pleasant weekends with his family at Shadowwood, the camp in Marshfield, living simply, working around the house, picking berries, and graciously hosting numerous visitors who dropped in. He often invited others to join the family for outings to museums, and historic spots around New England. He attended numerous professional sporting events in Boston over the years, always with one of his kids. As improvements continued on his residences, he studied nights to learn cabinet making. And he was celebrated for his homemade donuts. His comfortable homes displayed his creativity and craftsmanship.

He weathered family tragedies with grace and faith, caring for his wife at home as she died of cancer, and helping his son John recover from a debilitating auto accident. After the death of his wife, he continued to work part time at Boston Sand, taking the train to town several days a week until his late eighties.

During those years and after, he divided his time between Quincy and Marshfield. He travelled extensively throughout New England, Canada, Europe, the western United States, and Latin America. He supported numerous causes, particularly those promoting the art and work of the physically challenged. Until recently, he regularly served food at a local homeless shelter.

He was a gracious gentleman and loyal friend to many, and he enjoyed a rich active life. He passed on with characteristic dignity.

Mr. Colby leaves behind two sons, Alan Colby of Marshfield, Mass., and John Colby of Watertown, Mass.; and two daughters, Martha Colby of Quincy, and Nancy Shallow of Colebrook, NH.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Anne (O'Leary) Colby in 1981.

There are no public visiting hours. Mr. Colby returns to Colebrook for a funeral Mass with a Eucharistic service on Wednesday, November 24, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Colebrook with The Rev. Marlyn Neary as celebrant. Interment will follow at the Colebrook Village Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to the Gateway Crafts, 62 Harvard St., Brookline, MA 02445, or online at [www.gatewayarts.org](http://www.gatewayarts.org).

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to [www.jenkinsnewman.com](http://www.jenkinsnewman.com).

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Jenkins & Newman Funeral

Home, Colebrook, NH.

# Previous Events

## Service

NOV **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Parsons Street, NH Route 26  
Colebrook, NH

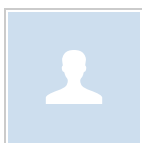
# Tribute Wall



“ Dear Nancy ,Your father was one of the kindest souls I have ever met . He will be deeply missed ,and may you , Martha , Alan and John make it through this sad time with hope of the resurrection .He was an Emersonian soul, he inspired in me a love of the birds,the trees,the wild creatures,and a love of scholar's stones and abstract sculpture .Howard was so patient, and in this rush rush world he would remind me not through do's and don'ts on how to slow down and enjoy a nice conversation ,but by his kind and cultured way he could take me back to some Zen garden,(finding out tonight he was in Japan ! )He will be sorely missed .His gardens and bird baths were the inspiration for my lifelong love of these . You Nancy and Martha and Alan and John , comfort and hope .  
.##imported-begin##Jennifer Seamans Johnson and the Seamans family##imported-end##

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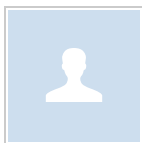
November 29, 2010 at 08:18 PM



“ Dear Alan and family, Wishing you peace on this transitional occasion. Howard was indeed a class act and we have lost an example of solid humanity. Enjoyed sharing his fond memories of San Diego. May your memories of his quiet strength and firm resolve guide you now and always.  
Love to all.##imported-begin##Rick Stravinsky##imported-end##

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November 28, 2010 at 11:48 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Cousin Howard's passing. He always came to the family reunions at my sisters in Groveton.##imported-begin##Roderick Crawford, grandson of Horace Holden##imported-end##

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November 28, 2010 at 09:19 AM



“ Nancy;  
*My heartfelt sympathy on the loss of your father. Tho' I didn't have the pleasure of a long acquaintanceship news usually reached me thru Kay (Stevens) or Helen (Crawford). He lived a long, active, productive life and earned this peaceful rest.*##imported-begin##*Ruth (Kelley) Liberty* ##imported-end##

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November 27, 2010 at 01:32 PM



“ Dear Martha, Alan, John & Nancy -

*My sincerest condolences to you all on the loss of your father, of blessed memory. I remember your father fondly growing up in Merrymount.*##imported-begin##*Betsy Shaw Kramer*##imported-end##

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November 25, 2010 at 08:11 AM



“ Dear Nancy, Martha, Alan & John,  
*We are a bunch of lucky people to have had Uncle Howard a part of our lives. He will be greatly missed and never forgotten*  
*Love*  
*Mary Kate & Kevin*##imported-begin##*Mary Kate & Kevin Shea*##imported-end##

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November 23, 2010 at 01:36 PM



“ Hi Alan

*Just wanted to send my condolences on the passing of your dad.  
Stay strong during the holidays and remember the good times.*

*regards*

*barry###imported-begin###Barry Kreiswirth###imported-end##*

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November 23, 2010 at 11:56 AM



“ *I consider myself fortunate to have know Howard. Despite the small amount of time I shared with him, his kindness, warmth and humor will stay with me for the rest of my days, enhancing my life always. Happy trails Howard*

*Bruce###imported-begin###Bruce Maki###imported-end##*

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November 22, 2010 at 04:37 PM



“ *Although I met Howard only a few times, he made a lasting impression of a man with a great sense of dignity and humor. Now reading his life, it brings it all in perspective. Knowing his sons John and Alan is how I met Howard and the special relationship he had with my friend Nancy Moloney. He was the backbone of his family and he lived a life of doing it his way. God bless you and now you are at peace.###imported-begin###Ruth Nager###imported-end##*

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November 22, 2010 at 02:59 PM



“ Nancy & family,

*I have such fond memories of Howard with just the few times I visited with him. We talked alot about Bessie, his cow, and the Moxie mobile. So interesting to listen to Howard tell his stories. Remember all the good times with "Dad". He will be missed.##imported-begin##Colleen Howland##imported-end##*

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November 21, 2010 at 08:38 PM