



Jean H. Maxwell

July 9, 1927 - August 13, 2021

COLEBROOK – Jean Harding Maxwell, 94, of Colebrook, died peacefully early on Friday morning, Aug. 13, 2021, at the Coös County Nursing Hospital in West Stewartstown.

Jean was born in East St. Johnsbury, Vt., on July 9, 1927. Her early childhood was spent living “up and down the Connecticut River,” always among a large, loving extended family. Though she ultimately settled in New Hampshire, she considered herself first and foremost a Vermonter. She graduated from Hanover High School, then blossomed at Keene Teacher’s College.

Following college, Jean taught for one year at Moore School in Candia, NH, before marrying the love of her life, Reg Maxwell, who she met at work, where he drove a school bus. The couple bought a house on four acres in Candia where they raised their children, Robin, Dana and Susan.

Jean returned to teaching at Moore School in 1967 and soon established the successful “no-nonsense- fundamentals-first” approach that she maintained throughout her career. It was during this time that she discovered baseball through her sons’ participation in Little League. In furtherance of her passion for the Boston Red Sox, she managed to smuggle a portable television into her classroom to follow that team’s fortunes in the 1967 World Series. Jean and Reg attended the final game of their favorite player, Carl Yastrzemski, in

1983. Jean was notorious for misremembering certain names, and would refer to Rico Petrocelli as Rico Citronella, to the never-ending delight of her family.

Jean and Reg made their final home in the North Country, where she taught junior high English in Colebrook. Throughout her years there, Jean adhered to a curriculum based on spelling, grammar, sentence structure, and literature. She read aloud to her students from children's classics, and walked to school every day. Jean loved clothes and was always smartly dressed, often in high heels. Despite her seeming reluctance to stand in the spotlight, she was thrilled to be invited to deliver the Colebrook Academy graduation address in 1995.

Jean and Reg enjoyed an active social life, and were beautiful dancers; they went dancing frequently at The Colebrook House, Colebrook Country Club, The Northland, and The Balsams. They spent many happy weekends in Maine attending the Portland Symphony Orchestra concerts with Jean's brother and sister-in-law, Chris and Marge Harding. For many summers, they were avid season pass holders at The Weathervane Theatre.

After her retirement in 1992, they travelled throughout America on trains, planes, and boats, often with best friends Frank and Claire Owen. Jean meticulously organized memorabilia from each trip, an effort that served her well after she moved to assisted living and had time to relive the memories. In her final days, she looked quietly out her window at a lovely view of her beloved Vermont hills.

Jean was a member of the Metallak Retired Teachers Association, the Assembly of Overseers at UCVH, the N.H. Retired Educators Association and the Golden Circle Alumni Association of Keene State College.

She is survived by two children, Robin Maxwell and wife Irene of Colebrook,

and Susan Sambito and husband, Bill; grandchildren, Sabin Maxwell, Thomas Sambito, Sarah Fadenrecht and her son Karson Smith; three very dear sisters-in-law, Linda and Janice Maxwell and Marjorie Harding; and her namesake and great-granddaughter, Mia Jean Maxwell.

Jean was predeceased her beloved husband, Reginald Maxwell; a son, Dana Maxwell; her father, Lloyd Harding, her mother, Zilla (Densmore) Emond and step-father, Isaie O. Emond; and a brother, Christie Harding.

Memorial calling hours will be held at the Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook, NH, on Thursday, Aug. 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. A graveside memorial service and committal will take place the next morning, Friday, Aug. 27, at 11 a.m. in the Colebrook Village Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy in memory of Mrs. Maxwell may be made to the NH Food Bank, 700 East Industrial Park Drive, Manchester, NH 03109, or The Weathervane Theatre, PO Box 127, Whitefield, NH 03598.

Condolences may be offered on-line by going to www.jenkinsnewman.com.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home, Colebrook, NH.

Cemetery Details

Colebrook Village Cemetery

North Main Street, U.S. Route 3
Colebrook, NH

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 26. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home
103 Main Street
Colebrook, NH 03576
(603) 237-4311
info@jenkinsnewman.com

Graveside Memorial Service

AUG 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Colebrook Village Cemetery
North Main Street, U.S. Route 3
Colebrook, NH

Tribute Wall

LC

“ *Susie and family,
So sorry to hear of your mom's passing. I had the fortune to visit with her a few times while she was still in Colebrook. We had a nice visit at her home after Reg died and we sat in the living room looking out at great view of Mt Monadnock talking about the old days and having some good laughs. I saw her a few times on Bridge St and even though she didn't always remember who I was she was happy to have a visitor. I will always remember her wit and her smile
My deepest sympathies
Lisa Caggiula*

Lisa C - September 03, 2021 at 06:34 AM

FC

“ *My deepest condolences go out to the family on your loss.*



Francine Champagne - August 24, 2021 at 09:56 PM

DL

“ Struggling to find the words to express my gratitude and appreciation for the woman who taught me the craft of writing. Mrs. Maxwell was an extraordinary teacher who made all the difference in this former student's life.

*Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.*

~Robert Frost

Deb Lawton - August 24, 2021 at 05:37 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Jean H. Maxwell.



August 24, 2021 at 05:18 PM

DO

“ Susie,
A great life - well lived! My thoughts are with you and the rest of the family.

Dave Olmstead - August 23, 2021 at 02:53 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Jean H. Maxwell.*



August 23, 2021 at 01:22 PM



“ *Susie, so sorry for your loss.*

Frances Kimball - August 22, 2021 at 11:43 AM



“ *Susie, I am so sorry for your loss. I was just thinking of you all this week and then saw this. Sending our thoughts and prayers. Christina and Don MacFarlane*

Christina MacFarlane - August 20, 2021 at 07:42 AM



“ *May your sorrows be eased by knowing how many young people she helped shape. I had Mrs. Maxwell in junior high. She was tough but fair. Besides English, she taught us to stop and think before reacting and saying something we would regret. She said when she got upset, she would write a letter expressing how she felt, then stuff it in a drawer. She would take it out a few days later and read it. If she still felt the same way, she would send it. If not, she would rip it up and throw it away. That is something I remember and try to emulate more than 30 years later. Thank you Mrs. Maxwell. ❤️*

Robyn (Gilcris) Iserman - August 20, 2021 at 07:24 AM

PK

“ Jean Maxwell will always be held in very high esteem by me. At a low point in my life she wrote a letter saying what a wonderful mother I was and how I always read classic children's books to my two wee ones.

Jean felt the pain of others and could not help but lend a hand. I am deeply sorry she has passed. I never could have guessed her age, nor would I think she wanted me to. I loved her.

Pat Klinefelter

Pat Klinefelter - August 19, 2021 at 04:01 PM

MJ

“ Jean lived with poise, grace and dignity. She was like a movie star! As an educator, she was an inspiration to me. She was intelligent, friendly and always interested in me and I appreciated that. I was blessed to know her. She will be missed. Sending all our love to the family. Michele and Rick Johnsen.

Michele and Rick Johnsen - August 18, 2021 at 04:41 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jean H. Maxwell.



August 17, 2021 at 11:25 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jean H. Maxwell.*



August 17, 2021 at 10:43 AM



“ *Susie I had no idea when I saw you yesterday. You were smiling so beautifully and walking, listening to something amazing I'm sure. Your Mom was one of the most amazing ladies I had the pleasure of knowing in the Village. Sending you and Bill my love , thoughts and prayers. ❤️🙏*

Barby Lynch - August 17, 2021 at 06:31 AM



“ *With appreciation for Mrs. Maxwell's standards, both professional and personal, I offer my sympathy to the Maxwell family. Cindy Roy*

Cindy Roy - August 16, 2021 at 10:48 PM



“ *Mrs. Maxwell was an excellent teacher and always had such discipline, respect, consistency, and kindness. She set a great example and really made a difference. We were all lucky to have her. Deepest sympathies to Mr. Maxwell, Sabin, and family*

Neil Malloy - August 16, 2021 at 09:08 PM



Susie, I am so sorry for your loss. I was just thinking of you all this week and then saw this. Sending our thoughts and prayers. Christina and Don MacFarlane

Christina MacFarlane - August 19, 2021 at 07:11 AM

BV

“ *My deepest condolences to the Maxwell family.*

Berta (Gray) Veale

Berta Veale - August 16, 2021 at 07:40 PM

DM

“ *My condolences to the Maxwell family. Mrs. Maxwell was such a great teacher. To this day, I still tell stories about my amazing Jr. High teacher, who taught writing was a process. I remember that she would have us write every day after lunch and work on same piece for a week to make it better. Her lessons have served me well in life. Jean was a North Country treasure. So sorry for your loss.*

Debbie Carrigan McGuire - August 16, 2021 at 06:35 PM

HH

“ *Our deepest condolences go out to the family on your loss. I as many of the Colebrook locals had Mrs. Maxwell in junior high and that is how I always refer to her throughout the years when I met her walking around.*

Haven Haynes - August 16, 2021 at 10:20 AM