



Joan M. Shatney

February 4, 1927 - June 23, 2012

COLEBROOK, NH — COLEBROOK, NH—Joan M. Shatney, 85, a British war bride who followed her soldier back across the ocean and made New Hampshire's North Country her cherished home, died Saturday morning, June 23, 2012, at the Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital in Colebrook after a lengthy period of failing health, during which she was visited and kept company by a host of family and friends.

Joan, who came over to this continent at war's end with 943 other war brides aboard a converted liner, was literally plunged from one world into another, from a life as a child of a privileged civil servant's family in India to the wife of a legendary New Hampshire guide with whom she operated one of the region's more famed hunting and fishing camps at the virtual edge of the northern New England wilderness.

Joan Margaret Shatney was born on February 4, 1927, in Calcutta, the daughter of Henry (Jack) Jerome and Alice (de Dombal) Jerome. Her father Jack, wounded in World War I and then further debilitated for life in a mustard gas attack, went to India to supervise the country's first Fiat plant.

The Jeromes had planned to return to his family home in Canada, but residency issues kept them in England until, six years later, the advent of World War II. It was there, at age 16, that Joan met Rudy Shatney, already a

well-known guide in New Hampshire's Clarksville-Pittsburg region, who had just purchased Joe Beauchemin's sporting camps at Clarksville Pond before enlisting in the Army shortly after Pearl Harbor.

Like many U.S. soldiers who went to England for their basic training, Rudy was housed---more like adopted---by a local family, and met his bride-to-be, Joan at a community dance. "She was being bothered by someone," her daughter Kathleen recalled her saying, "and he stepped in to her defense." For her part, Joan recalled in an interview with Ellie Gooch in 1995, "He was gorgeous, twenty years old and curls all over his head."

Rudy had been hand-picked for a crack scouting outfit in the 29th Infantry, doubtless due in part to skills he had honed during his upbringing in the woods, but said nothing about it at the time. His battlefield combat, often in stealth and hand-to-hand, would earn him medals for valor and scars that he carried for the rest of his life.

But on that first meeting Joan taught Rudy the Jitterbug, then all the rage, and they danced the night away and began dating, and shortly afterward Rudy was shipped out for D-Day, landing on Omaha Beach, where his outfit was pinned down for three days before advancing to claim higher ground.

As men returned to England from the battlefield, it was customary for people in the communities where they had trained to line the streets and ask them about fellow soldiers, and Joan and her family were told that Rudy had been killed. But several months later, a letter from him arrived with the news that he was returning for treatment of wounds, occasioning a joyous reunion at a military hospital. Upon recovery, two things occurred. Rudy, by then thoroughly in love with this woman with the strange accent, said he wanted to marry her, but would not until the war was over. And then he shipped out again, back to France and service in the entire European campaign, mainly as

a scout, after which he was awarded two purple hearts and the Silver Star, the latter for leading a relief column to his trapped unit's rescue, although himself wounded. Somehow, toward the end of all this, he managed to send Joan a letter with \$100 in it, suggesting that she go shopping for engagement and wedding rings, adding, by the by, that he'd be in England for three days on his way home---just long enough for a wedding.

Several months later, Joan stepped aboard a converted sister ship to the Queen Mary, bound for what, for Joan, was the New World in many more ways than one. "I stepped into a log cabin in a howling wilderness full of men catching fish and shooting things," she was fond of recalling with a laugh, describing the whole thing as the epitome of culture shock. Later, whenever someone picked up on her carefully preserved accent and asked how she happened to come to this country, her answer was always "A Yank." When friends asked her how she coped with it all---the falling in love with a soldier destined for the battlefield, the harrowing waiting for word of his fate, the long trip across the ocean, the immersion in camp and backwoods life---she said "I'd have followed him to the moon."

But that was the way Joan met just about any challenge, and she fell into the hard life of the sporting camp world with a will and a whistle, serving up huge breakfasts and suppers to hoards of hungry hunters and fishermen, cleaning cabins, doing laundry, and not just putting up with, but participating in the robust and ribald life that was peacetime America, when soldiers who had seen the worst the world had to offer came home to raise families, make a better life, and raise all the hell they could in the process.

Rudy and Joan's first daughter, Jeanette, came along in 1947, and Kathleen joined her five years later. Even while the sporting camps' business and family duties grew, Joan began working on the outside to help sustain things, mainly

as a legal secretary, first for Fred Harrigan and then for Ivory Cobb and later on for Waystack & King.

The Shatneys and the Harrigans, both World War II service families, became fast friends, and were soon keeping steady company and creating all sorts of shindigs with similarly rooted families in Colebrook. As their children would later say whenever they got together, that World War II crowd was something else. They were an energetic and convivial bunch, managing to put on dances and carnivals and all manner of civic-minded events even as they worked hard to overcome the past, make a living and raise their families.

Joan lost Rudy in 1992, but continued to live summers at Clarksville Pond, spending winters at her home on Pleasant Street in Colebrook. She worked at the gift shop at The Balsams, later retiring and enjoying her home in Colebrook and her grandchildren and friends, who were legion.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased in 1967 by her elder daughter, Jeanette Phillips. Her family includes her younger daughter, Kathleen Domanico and husband John; two grandsons, Treavor McKinnon and wife Myka of Burlington, Vt., and Alex McKinnon and wife Whitney of Newbury, Vt.; two great-grandchildren, Madeleine Joan and Grace Natalie Rose McKinnon; her son-in-law, Maurice Phillips of Florida; a brother, Michael Jerome of Toronto and a sister, Constance Butt of Cornerbrook, Newfoundland; and a niece, nephews and cousins.

The family will hold calling hours on Friday, June 29, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Jenkins and Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook. A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. the next day, Saturday the 30th, at the Colebrook Village Cemetery. The Rev. Richard Davenport will officiate.

In recognition of Joan's lifelong commitment to neglected, abused and

homeless animals, the family suggests that donations in her memory be made to the nearest Humane Society chapter or animal shelter of one's choice.

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

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home, Colebrook, NH.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **29**. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home
103 Main Street
Colebrook, NH

Tribute Wall



“ Sincere condolences to the family of Joan##imported-begin##Charles & Miyo Lewis jr.##imported-end##

June 29, 2012 at 09:44 AM



“ Thank you Joan and Rudy for all the great memories of a young man, hunter and fisherman who got his most loved tips from Rudy...having been all over to do great guided camps, I still tell the stories of Rudy and Joan at the Clarsville camps...and it will pass on forever!##imported-begin##Thomas W Rock##imported-end##

June 28, 2012 at 09:03 PM



“ Kathleen, Dad, Treavor, and Alex,
I am SO sorry I can't make it up to be with you all to celebrate Joan's life. I am definately thinking of all of you! I've always been amazed by Joan's expertise with solving Jeopardy questions and crossword puzzles. And I love how happy she was every Christmas when I gave her a calendar of England. From the stories I've heard, Joan and Rudy were quite the couple. Now they will be reunited and can catch up on all the lost years with each other and Jeannette.
Rest in peace!
Love, Marissa, Travis & Peyton##imported-begin##Marissa Smallwood##imported-end##

June 28, 2012 at 01:08 PM



“ Our thoughts are with all of you. Joan will be missed. Sitting with Joan and listening to her stories and memories will always stay with us. There are so many words to describe Joan. We know that we will miss talking with her and sharing her life. It has been a pleasure to have known her.##imported-begin##Robert & Mary Wilson##imported-end##

June 28, 2012 at 12:51 PM



“ All our condolences to all the family.##imported-begin##blanche1945@wildblue.net##imported-end##

June 28, 2012 at 07:21 AM



“ Offering our sincerest condolences on the loss of your mother. She was such a kind, caring cheerful person. May her spirit be with you and bring you comfort.##imported-begin##Mario and Cindi Domanico##imported-end##

June 27, 2012 at 01:36 PM



“ joan was very special freind, would go out of her way to help anyone. a very special lady, use to love hear ing her getting after rudy for swearing. they both were very special people to me. i think fo them often. they are jioned again.missed dearly. god bless rotha eldred in washington, vt.##imported-begin##rotha eldred ##imported-end##

June 27, 2012 at 12:27 PM



“ Our sincere condolences go out to the Shatney family. We have fond memories of Joan and Rudy at Clarksville Pond. Hunting camp stories from Rudy's Cabins during the 60's and 70's are nothing short of legendary, and will always be special and live on in our family.

- Dave Cleasby and family##imported-begin##Dave Cleasby##imported-end##

June 27, 2012 at 10:45 AM



“ We have many fond memories of Joan and she will certainly be missed on Clarksville Pond.##imported-begin##Mary and Nancy##imported-end##

June 27, 2012 at 06:18 AM



“ Joan was a lovely person who will be missed by many. Some of my best memories are of my summers spent at Rudy's. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Joan give Rudy a big hug for us.##imported-begin##Betty Keegan##imported-end##

June 27, 2012 at 06:08 AM



“ *Joan will be missed alot at Rudy's Campground on Clarksville Pond. We will always remember hearing her famous call around 6PM every night - RUUDEEEE !!!!! which meant for her husband supper was ready. We remember playing one of her favorite games, Trivial Pursuit on Saturday night w/ the campers and she always did very well. We use to enjoy listening to her story telling - even the tall tales that Rudy use to tell her - one which was a giant bug that would fly waist high @ midnight. We have so so many fond memories of our time @ Rudy's since 1978 w/ Rudy & Joan -- they will be fondly missed. We love them.*

###imported-begin###Bob & Sue Young###imported-end###

June 26, 2012 at 06:59 AM



“ *Fama semper vivat. Requescat in pace, Joan.###imported-begin###Pete Burrows###imported-end###*

June 25, 2012 at 09:25 PM



“ My heart goes out to you for the loss of your loved one. She was one of a kind that no one who met her would ever forget. Remember the good times to get through these bad ones.C486##imported-begin##Mary Ellen Uran##imported-end##

June 25, 2012 at 07:48 PM



“ Dear Kathleen and Family: Please accept my sincere sympathy on the loss of Joan. I thoroughly enjoyed our many visits over the years. What a gal!

Don##imported-begin##Donald Vashaw##imported-end##

June 25, 2012 at 02:18 PM



“ Kathy so sorry to hear about your mom's passing. She was a great nieghbor for many years. She is no longer suffering. Keep all the great memories close to the heart and cherish each and everyone of them.##imported-begin##Debbie and Normand Boivin##imported-end##

June 24, 2012 at 09:56 PM



“ We always enjoyed listening to Joan's stories of her fascinating life and about the North Country. Our condolences to the family. Rick and Donna Kaye##imported-begin##Rick & Donna Kaye Erwin##imported-end##

June 24, 2012 at 09:27 PM



“ Joan was a wonderful woman who's bright personality brought joy to her friends and all the regulars that stayed at Rudy's Campground.

She'll well be remembered.##imported-begin##Bill Koury##imported-end##

June 24, 2012 at 03:21 PM



“ Peaches, I am so very sorry for your loss. Joan really seemed to enjoy the church services at the nursing home where we got to know her so much better. 3ZVKLots of love and continual prayers for you all.##imported-begin##Gloria Parkhurst##imported-end##

June 24, 2012 at 03:11 PM



“ Many thoughts and prayers for all who were close to her. I've got many years of memories of Joan and Rudy, and may they rest in peace together, now.##imported-begin##Ginger Jannenga##imported-end##

June 24, 2012 at 11:40 AM



“ Joan was a wonderful lady, and a very good neighbor for many years. She was a pleasure to converse with. Joan will be in our prayers. Joeng & Mike##imported-begin##Joeng & Mike Divney##imported-end##

June 24, 2012 at 10:53 AM



“ Joan was a dear friend. She and Rudy were friends upon my arrival as a teacher at Colebrook Academy. Besides interesting evenings of conversation, both invested in my life after my marriage to Lois. Rudy enabled me to earn extra household money; Joan, as Fred Harrington's secretary, did the work that Fred signed to assure US Immigration I wasn't bringing a pauper to live in this country.##imported-begin##Lester F. Jipp##imported-end##

June 23, 2012 at 03:51 PM



“ Please know that we are thinking of your family, and praying that you feel God's calming presence. So sorry for your loss. Pete & Deb##imported-begin##Peter & Deborah Dimmitt##imported-end##

June 23, 2012 at 01:20 PM