



## Ruth B. MacLean

June 30, 1919 - July 15, 2018

COLEBROOK – Ruth B. MacLean, 99, died peacefully at the home of her caregiver in Colebrook on Sunday, July 15, 2018, after a long period of failing health.

She was born Ruth Elizabeth Berry on June 30, 1919, in Fayette, Me., a daughter to the late Bertha (Tuttle) Berry and Isaac Berry. At the age of two, her family moved to Wayne, Me., after a fire destroyed their homestead. She attended the Wayne village schools through grade 8 and then she attended Livermore Falls High School, graduating as valedictorian of her class in 1937. Ruth then attended Farmington State College and received her degree as an elementary school teacher.

Ruth's first teaching job was at the Church School in Columbia, a very rural school with 8 grades. After 3 years teaching there, she became the 5th grade teacher at Colebrook Elementary School for the next fifteen years. In 1960, Ruth became the principal of the Colebrook Elementary School until retiring in 1987 after a total of forty-seven years of teaching and ushering three generations of local families through their elementary grades.

She was always involved in the community, as well. Ruth was one of the local leaders of the Girl Scouts and Brownies during her teaching years and after retirement as well. She participated in the elementary school's volunteer

reading program for grades 4 and 5 for many years, and she was a member of the Colebrook Historical Society, a member and past-president of the Metallak Retired Teachers' Association, as well as the NH Retired Teachers Association and the Colebrook Garden Club. She was also a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church.

Ruth was one of the first people honored on Colebrook Elementary School's Recognition Wall as being one who played an important role in the school over the years. She will be remembered by her many friends and family as loving to share stories with her former students, even well into her 90s. She also loved to garden and to pick blueberries to share with her friends and neighbors.

She is survived by her only son, David MacLean and wife Deborah of Columbia; a granddaughter, Victoria and her husband, Shawn Cote, of Millsfield; two step-grandsons, Corey Mason and wife Jamie, and Bryan Mason and his companion Melinda of Groveton; six great-grandchildren; as well as countless friends, nieces and nephews.

There are no public calling hours. A memorial service will be held on Monday, July 23, 2018, at 11 a.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Colebrook, with interment to immediately follow at the Colebrook Village Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy in Ruth's memory may be made to the Trinity United Methodist Church, 28 Bridge St., Colebrook, NH 03576.

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

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook.



# Cemetery Details

## **Colebrook Village Cemetery**

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

# Tribute Wall

KD

“ It is with sadness that I learned of Mrs. Maclean's passing. Mrs. MacLean hired me as a social studies teacher in December of 1982, and I had the privilege to teach and coach at Colebrook Elementary until June of 1985. She was an outstanding principal to that newly minted teacher back in 1982. My prayers go out to the family, I realize that it will be 2 years since her passing this coming July, 15, may the Lord through the presence of the Holy Spirit continue to ease your grief while enlivening the memory of your loved one.

*Ken Delorge*

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**Kenneth Delorge** - June 01, 2020 at 11:30 AM

 Lu Ann

“ I just found out about Mrs. MacLean's passing over the Thanksgiving holiday and it was confirmed tonight with the reading of her obituary. I started my teaching career in Colebrook, and taught there from 1977-1988. Mrs. MacLean was more than my principal, she was my mentor. As I had no family in the area and knew no one when I arrived there, she took me under her wing and gave me the guidance I needed to bring my best to the students I taught. I had so much respect for this woman, and it is through her that I developed my love for teaching. We exchanged Christmas cards every year up until two years ago. She will be sincerely missed. My condolences extend to the entire MacLean family.

*Lu Cook*

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**Lu Ann** - November 29, 2018 at 08:09 PM

DC

“ Our family wishes to express sincere sympathies to David and family. Your mother was an outstanding teacher and principal to Colebrook schools. I remember my brother and I going to summer school when we were in fifth grade to help with our math. I learned she was a very loving and giving teacher who wanted to help all her students. As her role as principal, I was a little scared of her authority but after attending summer school I changed my opinion of Mrs. MacLean. We have many fond memories of the grammar school and all the teachers we had there, especially your mother Ruth. May all the memories you have of your mother help to see you through this sad time.....

*Darlene Klebe Cote' and family*

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**Darlene Joy Cote** - July 26, 2018 at 06:37 AM

JG

“ I am saddened to see Mrs. MacLean has passed, but what a long life she had! I don't think a single parent or student will forget Mrs. MacLean if she ever touched their lives in any way at all. As a kid in the Colebrook schools when Mrs. MacLean was Principal, I remember her warm smile so vividly. She was such a wonderful person. From across the miles, I send my heartfelt condolences to Mrs. MacLean's family, friends and all who knew and loved her!

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**Jill (Rowe) Gadwah** - July 22, 2018 at 08:57 PM

CR

“ Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. MacLean's family.

*Mrs. MacLean will always be an Icon to our school system. More importantly to each and every student whose life she touched, and that is EVERY student for a good many years.*

*So many treasures were imparted to those who earned, and those who just needed, something special that day. Ringing the Bell was a real treat!*

*Having a field day at her house: playing ball and having a picnic was a revered day.*

*And then for me as a substitute teacher, you could not ask for better back up.*

*She encouraged everyone in no uncertain terms. Then you saw a smile of kindness behind her best wishes.*

*With thoughts to David and extended family, we send our regrets.  
Cindy Roy and Millie Roy*

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**Cindy Roy** - July 20, 2018 at 08:44 PM

SM

“ Our deepest sympathy to all. She will be fondly remembered.  
Sue Miller and family

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**Sue Miller** - July 20, 2018 at 05:34 PM

MD

“ David and family, we offer our condolences to you on the passing of your mother, Ruth. She was a person of good character, great principal and a wonderful example of a caring educator. Our three sons went through the Colebrook School system and all have good memories of Ruth. She influenced them in many ways and all for the better. Thank you, Ruth, for being a caring person. Sincerely,  
Joeng and Mike Divney

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**Mike&Joeng Divney** - July 20, 2018 at 09:34 AM

EH

“ May I add my condolences and thoughts to Mrs. MacLeans' family. I was a student in her 1943-1944 5th grade class when she was still Miss Ruth Berry. As a hobby she collected and preserved species of moths and made the process a learning experience. How better to capture the attention of a room full of fifth graders? All the while teaching us how to learn and to reason and getting us started on our paths. Thank you Mrs. MacLean.

*Edward Holbrook, Lancaster, Pennsylvania*

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**Edward Holbrook** - July 20, 2018 at 07:18 AM

LB

“ David and Family,  
So sorry to hear about your Mom. She was a genuine, kind, dedicated and selfless lady.  
I have many fond memories of her when she was Principal. I remember struggling in math and she had so much patience with me! She told me in 8th grade that I should consider going into the medical field. She was very encouraging and supportive. I was able to care for her at CCNH and the first words that came out of her mouth when she saw me enter her room was, "I knew Nursing was the right fit for you. I am so proud of you." I will never forget this special lady and all of the encouragement she gave me through the years!! RIP, Mrs. Maclean. Fly with the angels!  
*Lisa Bouchard*

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**LISA Bouchard** - July 19, 2018 at 04:02 PM

GL

“ We are so sorry for your loss! Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Gilles and Priscilla Lambert** - July 19, 2018 at 07:18 AM

BK

“ Just want to say I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you David and family!

Brenda Klebe - July 18, 2018 at 03:57 PM

RN

“ My condolences to you David and family. She was one of my favorite teachers and I will always remember the story time in the afternoon at school. Fond Memories!  
Bob Noyes

Robert Noyes - July 18, 2018 at 09:28 AM

RB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Randall Berry - July 17, 2018 at 07:59 PM

DC

LOVE this photo!

Darlene Joy Cote - July 26, 2018 at 06:41 AM

JB

“ She was an awesome Aunt. She use too come to maine in the summer and take us kids back with her for a week or two every year. She always treated us so well, I list my father at age 16 and she was a connection I had to him. Love you Aunt Ruth

joe berry - July 16, 2018 at 08:08 PM

HH

“ Our deepest condolences go out to the family on your loss. I still have the silver dollar she gave me upon graduation from eighth grade. She saw something in me that many didn't and I always go back to that when I feel down. Mrs. MacLean you always looked for the best in all of us and it showed. Again our deepest condolences.

Haven & Peggy Haynes - July 16, 2018 at 08:04 PM

FA

“ One of my favorite teachers. She made such an impression on me, I knew I wanted to work with children when I was 10. I loved to get chosen to stay after to clean the blackboards.

Faith Adair - July 16, 2018 at 07:47 PM

PH

“ There will never be another Ruth MacLean. Her shoes are too big to fill. I have nothing but respect and love for her. Any of you who knew her know how dedicated she was to her students and actually to the town. Rest in peace Ruth you have certainly earned it. My sympathies to the family. God bless, Patty Hart

Patty Hart - July 16, 2018 at 07:36 PM

RI

“ David and Family,  
Sorry to hear of your mother's passing. I remember Mrs. MacLean when she was the principal in Colebrook. She was strict but approachable. She absolutely loved her students and her teachers. I'll always remember her and her blue hair fondly.

Robyn (Gilcris) Iserman



Robyn Iserman - July 16, 2018 at 07:05 PM

SK

“ I will never forget this amazing woman...I will cherish every single memory,conversation,and moment I had the honor of. She was is and always will be near and dear to my heart. Ruth was is and will forever be a Legend to me and I can only hope to make her proud. Sorry for the loss of such a wonderful Lady,woman,and mother. Thoughts and prayers to all the family thinking of you all.

Samantha Kilson - July 16, 2018 at 06:22 PM

BL

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Mrs. MacLean that are a too numerous to mention. How many former students remember her science units on birds and the bird call albums she played for us in grade five? How about that big room downstairs in the old white grammar school on Main Street that had the 10 buttons that rang the bells in each room. Can you remember who she selected to do that duty in your grade five? I can. I was a second generation student. I have heard many stories from my mother, Eleanor Corbett Lyons, who was one Mrs. MacLean's early students and Girl Scouts. Thank you Mrs. MacLean. May God Bless you!

Brent Lyons - July 16, 2018 at 01:51 PM

MA

“ Marycote lit a candle in memory of Ruth B. MacLean



Marycote - July 16, 2018 at 01:13 PM