



Virginia Pearson Carr

March 7, 1926 - July 3, 2019

AVERILL — Virginia Carr, age 93, was born March 7, 1926, and died surrounded by family on July 3, 2019. Granddaughter Danielle Carr best described “Gram” when she wrote a caption to accompany a photo taken days before she passed, “What a gal.” On that day, she sang verses to “The Sound of Music” and was well known for breaking out into song at the slightest provocation. Also on that day, Virginia smiled at the way the sun felt on her still beautiful face and proclaimed, “This place is so beautiful. I’m not sure we appreciated it enough.” But those who knew her disagree; she and her late husband George Carr (“Old Carr”) loved the camp at Averill Lake that they owned since 1946, “God’s Little Acre.” Gratefulness and appreciation are two ways in which she faced each day spent in her beloved community of Canaan. Although suffering the loss of four of her eight children, John, Stanley, Edward and Jenny Lou, and one grandchild, Ian Lamphere, she still courageously, faithfully, fearlessly, and steadfastly continued to love her surviving children, their spouses, and all of their offspring.

She was born in Colebrook, NH, and grew up locally as a daughter of another amazingly strong woman, Goldie Pearson, who raised her four children on her own after her husband died when Virginia was three years old. She graduated from Canaan Memorial High School in 1944 and spent the summer of 1945 at the Monadnock Mountain fire tower watching for fires with her friend Nadia McComiskey (Fuller), a job that women had never fulfilled until that wartime

summer. That fall she attended Syracuse University School of Nursing, graduating three years later and returned to Canaan as a Registered Nurse, where she married her high school sweetheart, George, in September, 1948, standing by his side through many-a-shenanigan until his passing 69 years later.

Her service to the community was varied and steady throughout her life. She had a long career as a public health official and nurse that began at the Coos County Hospital and continued at the former Canaan Clinic, Canaan School, and finally Coos County Nursing Hospital, attending to many armed with little more than her extraordinary bedside manner, confidence, and prescription pad. Although she had her own large family to tend to - and was often seen at the kitchen table with needle and thimble patching clothes late into the night - she always found time to help those in need. Virginia served as Side Judge and Justice of the Peace for Essex County, officiating many wedding ceremonies, including those of family and close friends. She was also a board member of the Canaan Historical Society, Canaan Memorial High School Alumni Association, lay reader at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Library Trustee, and correspondent for the News & Sentinel. If we all gave even half of what Virginia did for our communities the world would be a much better place!

She never held a grudge or was judgmental, forever tolerant and forgiving. On the rare occasion she said a disparaging word about someone, you could be certain that person was simply horrid. She was free-spirited, funny, curious, kind, and generous and always ready to set an extra plate at her table for drop-in visitors. She referred to her children, grandchildren and their friends as "You birds..." She was a voracious reader and occasionally cheating card player with her neighbors, "the girls," doing both right up until her first heart attack in March, 2019.

She loved and was forever loyal to her family, her community, her county, state, and country. Virginia was proud of her Green Mountain state, and she and George were members of the 251 Club of Vermont having visited every town; yet, still always appreciating the simple, breathtaking beauty of the Northeast Kingdom.

Virginia also loved to travel and had visited many cities, states, and a most memorable trip abroad to Scotland, which upon remembering some detail she would jubilantly exclaim, "Oooh, that was so wonderful!" Many will remember the beautiful Scottish red plaid wool material she purchased there to sew a skirt, which she wore to many special occasions.

Like others of their generation, and long before the phrase farm-to-table was coined, Virginia and "Old Carr" were passionate about providing for themselves and family from gardening in Canaan and foraging the hillsides and woods for wild berries, to local meat, fish and game. With eight kids, it started out of necessity, but was something they both truly embraced and appreciated.

After suffering two heart attacks this past spring, she rallied to attend her 75th graduation anniversary from Canaan Memorial High School at the Alumni Banquet in June, dressed in the school's colors of purple and gold, of course! That's the kind of woman she was, always ready to get dressed up and honor the various commemorative events and celebrations of her community. Throughout her life, she led by example. She was steadfast, fearless, confident, determined, grateful, and appreciative. "Stop complaining and get involved and serve your communities," she advised. So, those who knew her and facing challenging situations will find the solution by simply asking, "What would Virginia do?"

In addition to her four children and grandchild, Virginia was predeceased by her husband George, brother Harry Pearson and sister Gretchen Bryan. She is survived by her sister Colleen Hilt, of St. George UT, four children, Gana Carr, Averill; Michael Carr, Hyde Park; Pearson Carr and his wife Janet, Weirsdale, FL; Gennette and her husband Lonnie Burke, Fairfax, VT. Her grandchildren include Bryan Lamphere (who always claims to be the favorite); Danielle Carr; Isaac Sage; Jared Carr; Judson Lamphere; Averill, Brennan, Kyle, and John Earls; Ester and Ezra Carr; and Kiya Rodrigue, Darcee Alderman, Kylee Ladd, and Courtney Blalock; as well as several great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be on Friday, July 26, 2019, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook. A memorial service will follow the next morning, Sat., July 27, at 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Canaan, Vt., with The Rev. Robert Lee officiating. Interment will follow at Alice Hunt Cemetery in Canaan.

In lieu of flowers, Virginia requested that any memorial contribution be made to one of her two favorite charities: the John & Stanley Carr Memorial Fund, Town Clerk's Office, PO Box 159, Canaan, VT 05903; or to the Canaan Historical Society, PO Box 214, Canaan, VT 05903.

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

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

Cemetery Details

Alice Hunt Cemetery

VT Route 114
Canaan, VT

Tribute Wall

CB

“ Our most sincere condolences to the family and many friends of Virginia Carr. As anyone who knew her, Virginia was one of life's truly special people. She was one of those people whose kindness and compassion left an indelible mark on countless others. Virginia welcomed us to the local VT and NH communities and worked as "my nurse" during my initiation into medical practice at the Canaan Clinic almost fifty years ago in 1970. Virginia seemed to be in perpetual good humor, was always very professional in her nursing practice. She was well informed about community members and their pertinent medical issues and histories. Virginia was able to "thumb nail" patients in the office without being judgmental. And very importantly, Virginia had great empathy for those patients we cared for together. I am honored to have known and worked with Virginia and her memory will live on for many years and generations.

*Christopher Betjemann MD
Barbara R Betjemann*

Christopher Betjemann - August 01, 2019 at 11:47 AM

JG

“ I am so sorry to hear of Virginia's passing. Virginia was one fantastic lady. She had a heart of gold. I worked with Virginia years ago at the CCNH and it was my pleasure to be able to work with her. She was so loving and caring, always had a smile and was one excellent nurse! This earth lost a truly beautiful soul and heaven gained one. My most heartfelt condolences to Virginia's family and friends.

Jill (Rowe) Gadwah - July 30, 2019 at 01:54 AM

JM

“ *Loved this Lady and George E.
RIP Ginny (& George)*



John & Sue Morrissey - July 26, 2019 at 08:53 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Virginia Pearson Carr.*



July 20, 2019 at 04:45 PM

DK

“ *The main stay of Averill. Had a great life. Condolences from the
Keller family.*

Don Keller - July 15, 2019 at 01:37 PM

EK

“ *We send our condolences to the Carr family on the loss of Virginia.
She truly was an outstanding woman.*

Emmy and Bruce Katz

Emmy Katz - July 12, 2019 at 03:00 PM

HH

“ Our deepest condolences go out to the family and community on this great loss. She was definitely an icon of the Northeast Kingdom who will be greatly missed by all who knew her far and wide.

Haven & Peggy Haynes - July 08, 2019 at 10:29 PM

AD

“ To the family of Mrs. Virginia Carr;
My sympathies to all of you.
Sincerely,
Alain Dupont

Alain Dupont - July 08, 2019 at 05:06 AM

BD

“ I consider myself previlaged to have Icons & Hero's that I knew. George & Virginia, Elmont & Audrey, my Mom & Dad, REAL people! May they all know how many people they influenced.

Brice & Heidi Daley - July 06, 2019 at 05:08 PM

DS

“ Virginia was so very special. I have so much respect for that woman, mother, wife, friend who experienced great sadness in her life, but had the attitude of "I will get through this and I will help others to carry on". Her smiling eyes were gorgeous. She accepted others for who they are and encouraged them to shine. Her special Light will continue to shine for such a Light is not easily dimmed. My sympathies to the Carrs.
Doris and Isaac Sage

Doris Sage - July 06, 2019 at 07:42 AM

CJ

“ *My sincerest condolences, Carrs!
Virginia was truly one of a kind, and Averill has lost a foremost citizen.
I am glad her last column was published on Wednesday, so very appropriate.
We're sorry for your loss!*
Connie & Rob

Connie Jackson - July 05, 2019 at 04:34 PM

AM

“ *Annette Mailhot lit a candle in memory of
Virginia Pearson Carr*



Annette Mailhot - July 05, 2019 at 09:38 AM

AM

My thoughts and prayers are with the Carr family. She was an amazing woman and the town of Canaan was lucky to have her as a member of its community.

Annette Mailhot - July 05, 2019 at 09:43 AM

HS

“ *Although we never met this beautiful lady, we are acquainted through stories and memories from Bryan (her favorite!).
What an wonderful tribute to a amazing individual! If we could accomplish a fraction of what she did in her lifetime, we would be truly blessed.
Our thoughts, prayers and love are with her family at this time.*

Harold and Sue Stone - July 04, 2019 at 10:36 AM



“ I am sorry for your lost of your mom.
What a kind and generous lady. Many times I
remember my mother calling her at night to
come help with my grandparents.



Rita Donnell - July 04, 2019 at 10:13 AM

BM

“ So sorry for your loss, she was a special lady, she will be missed
always. *Becky Cross Masters.*

Becky Masters - July 04, 2019 at 08:12 AM

AW

“ I was so sorry I missed speaking with Virginia at this past CMHS
Alumni banquet. Gana had shared with me how insistent her Mother
was that she attend her 75th reunion despite having suffered a
heart attack two weeks prior! Yes, that is a perfect example of
Virginia Carr. I am very sorry for this most profound loss, Gana, and
will keep you and all of your family in my thoughts and prayers.

Ann Frizzell (Noah's wife) - July 04, 2019 at 06:57 AM

JB

“ Josh And lola Ladd Boire lit a candle in
memory of Virginia Pearson Carr



Josh and lola ladd Boire - July 03, 2019 at 11:01 PM

FC

“ So sad, we will miss this lovely Lady. Our sincere condolences to all the family & friends.



Francine Champagne - July 03, 2019 at 10:06 PM

PW

“ We are saddened to hear of the passing of our neighbor and friend. She will be missed.
Scott and Pat Wiggett

Pat Wiggett - July 03, 2019 at 09:26 PM

PF

“ Will miss her smiling face and her welcoming “Well hello Pappytresha!” Her storytelling and chuckles. Special lady indeed. Love to all the family. Pat Thibeault-Fondry ❤️

Patricia Fondry - July 03, 2019 at 09:18 PM

WN

“ Our deepest condolences to the Carr family! Virginia will be missed in so many ways- she was definitely a book of knowledge, pleasant, a wonderful lady to have in our small community. Rest In Peace Virginia.

Walter & Suzelle Noyes - July 03, 2019 at 07:26 PM

FF

“ So sorry to here, she will surely be missed by so many people. sending thoughts and prayers to the family.

Frank and Sheila Fisette - July 03, 2019 at 06:46 PM

KS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kim Sweatt - July 03, 2019 at 04:27 PM

KS

*We are so sorry to hear about this. She was a special lady! Camp functions won't be the same anymore. Happy they are together again.
Kim & Dennis*

Kim Sweatt - July 03, 2019 at 05:30 PM

DT

Her smile, laugh, her sense of humor that always made anyone near her feel like they were very special to her. Remembering Mr and Mrs. Carr rescuing me from a car accident so many years ago. My condolences to her family.

Danielle Thibault - July 03, 2019 at 05:57 PM

GL

I am so sorry for your loss. Virginia was such a great lady and will be greatly missed. Ginette Ladd

Ginette Ladd - July 25, 2019 at 09:46 PM