



Harold E. Fernald

May 18, 1931 - May 21, 2018

Hampton - Harold E. Fernald, 87, of Hampton, died Monday, May 21, 2018 at Merrimack Valley Health Center in Amesbury, MA.

He was born in Portsmouth, May 18, 1931, the son of the late Harold and Doris (Pinkham) Fernald.

Harold attended Hampton schools and graduated from Plymouth Teachers College in 1953. He served two years in the United States Army and six years in the Active Reserves.

Harold was a social studies teacher for 41 years including 5 years at Exeter High School and 36 years at Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, retiring in 1996. He was Chairperson of the Social Studies department for 27 years and past President of the NH Social Studies Association. Harold taught archaeology and anthropology and involved his students in many archaeological excavations throughout the area. He also coached cross country and winter and spring track at both schools and won several state cross country and spring track championships at Winnacunnet High School.

He was a past member of the Hampton Police Department.

Harold was a member of St. James Masonic Lodge #102 F & AM of Hampton where he served in the past as Worshipful Master and Historian and was Historian Emeritus of the Lodge; served for 31 years as Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of NH and was Grand Lodge Historian Emeritus; was past Master of the Masonic Anniversary Lodge of Research; was a member of the Dover-Portsmouth Scottish Rites Bodies.

Harold was awarded the General John Sullivan medal and the Jeremy L. Cross medal by the Grand Masonic Lodge of NH. Harold was a past president and Historian Emeritus of the Hampton Historical Society, founder and Worshipful Master of the William Whipple Military Lodge of Masons and a longtime member of the restoration and operation of the

William Pitt Tavern at Strawberry Banke.

As a member of the NH Bicentennial State Revolutionary War Commission, Harold recreated the 1776 Hampton town colonial militia unit known as the Winnacunnet Guard and served as captain. He also organized the William Whipple military masonic colonial lodge unit. Both colonial militia units took part in numerous local, state and national reenactments and events.

Harold gave countless lectures and slideshows regarding the history, lore and heritage of New Hampshire and NH Freemasonry since 1965. He was always willing and eager to be a resource and help anyone who was seeking information regarding a vast array of historical topics.

Harold is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years Priscilla; daughters Lisa and Laurie; son Stephen and his wife Melissa; grandchildren Nathan, Shelby, Patrick and Chase; sister-in-law Carolyn; sister-in-law Alison and her husband Erick; and nieces and nephews Michele, Michael, Sharon and Mark.

In addition to his parents, Harold was predeceased by his sister, Patricia Lynch.

In accordance with Harold's wishes, there will be no services. Donations may be made to a charity of one's choice.

Comments



“ Dear Fernald Family, Please accept my sincere condolences. I so enjoyed having Mr. Fernald as my teacher that I chose my college based on his recommendation and did pursue a degree in anthropology but ended up as a teacher. I have the dubious honor of being the only one to "seed" his yearly archaeology dig site with a fake skull borrowed from his fellow teachers. True to his nature he accepted the joke with great humility and didn't take his revenge on me but rather the material providers! lol I hope you find comfort in your memories of such a fine man.
Sincerely,
Joanne Barrett-Lazarus
class of 1983

Joanne Lazarus - June 13, 2018 at 05:42 PM



“ Dear Priscilla and family.
Our deepest sympathy to you and your family.
David,Leila,Roger,Jessica,Matthew and Christopher Clark

Leila Clark - May 29, 2018 at 10:21 PM



“ My name is Eric Johnson and Mr. Fernald was my history teacher while I attended Winnacunnet High School from 1961-65. Harold Fernald became my mentor and my friend. Upon graduation from WHS I attended Keene State College to become a history teacher and in 1973 (after a 3 1/2 tour of duty with the US Air Force) I began a very successful and rewarding 40 year teaching career. Everything I learned about teaching, understanding high school age students, and managing a classroom I learned from Harold Fernald, but perhaps the most important thing that Mr. Fernald gave to me was his love of history. From his stories about "Goody" the Hampton witch, to his treks to the Isle of Shoals for amateur "digs", to his explaining to me the importance of reading history, they all contributed to my continuing love of teaching history. Mr. Fernald gave me the opportunity to "student teach" for a day when I was a sophomore and I was hooked and never doubted my career choice -- Thank You Harold Fernald for being such a mentor and friend and for instilling in me a love of history that has never diminished since my days sitting in your classroom and learning all about the world through a study of history.

Eric Johnson - May 29, 2018 at 03:39 PM



“ Harold Fernald was a TRUE ICON among New Hampshire historians. He gave SO MUCH in so many creative ways to his students, friends, family, and community. I will always regard him as a GREAT HISTORIAN who brought history to life for so many who had the privilege of knowing him. He was a longtime history friend who was always willing and able to share his knowledge and wisdom. I will remember his contributions in helping me during Fremont's 1976 U.S. Bicentennial Celebration & 1989 225th Town Celebration. What a truly kind, generous, helpful and encouraging person. May you have a well deserved peaceful rest and I hope I get to see you again in the hereafter.

Matthew "Sandy" Thomas
Fremont, NH

Matthew (Sandy) Thomas - May 28, 2018 at 06:44 PM



“ One of the most memorable teachers and class that I had during my four years at Winnacunnet. In the 10th grade I actually named my first pet after him, a pet bird named Harold. Not kidding. The man was full of knowledge and it was always interesting stuff. He is a legend. Never forget.

Jeremy D - May 26, 2018 at 07:32 PM



“ Mrs Fernald,
I am so sorry to hear of Mr Fernald's passing. He was such a nice man and wonderful teacher. I enjoyed his classes when I was at Winnacunnet. My sympathies to you and your family.
Sincerely,
Laurie Colt Ball

laurie ball - May 24, 2018 at 10:58 AM



“ Robin Josselyn lit a candle in memory of Harold E. Fernald



Robin Josselyn - May 24, 2018 at 07:23 AM



“ Mr. Fernald always made learning fun, and didn't make it seem like you were even learning. I have great memories of his class and whenever the subject of history comes up, I always think of him. I also knew him outside of school, having babysat for his children and his involvement with Masons and my involvement with Rainbow for Girls. He was a the kind of teacher/person you will always remember. My condolences to his family. Betsy Hart Brunelle

Betsy Hart Brunelle - May 23, 2018 at 06:18 PM



“ I am so sorry for the loss not just to the family but all of those in the community. What a wonderful person he was and a friend to all. He was one of my favorite teachers at WHS and made learning so fun. In school and outside on digs or what ever. He was A 1. And a true loss to all who knew him.



Pamela Bridle Caskey - May 23, 2018 at 05:01 PM



“ Mr. Fernald was a master teacher who inspired my passion for Archaeology and Anrthropology in High School and beyond. The reason for my full academic scholarship to the U of A. Although I pursurd a career in Banking, he inspired me too teach



Deborah Brown - May 23, 2018 at 04:48 PM



“ One reason I became an educator was because of him

Deborah Brown - May 23, 2018 at 04:51 PM



“ Mr Fernand was my first class at Winnacunnet my freshman year; archeology. We went on a 'dig' and my partner and I excavated a goat. It was very interesting and I loved Mr Fernald. I am sorry for your loss.

Sharon Snyder Walker - May 24, 2018 at 04:28 PM



“ a great teacher,i loved having him for 2 classes,he took us to the isle of shores one time we had a ball

allen mosher - May 23, 2018 at 04:13 PM



“ Mr. Fernald, you saved me. The sadness aches my heart. I would have never finished school if I had not met you. I hope and pray for you and your family. Good bye. -Justin

Justin Tessier - May 23, 2018 at 03:55 PM



“ Wonderful man and teacher!! God Bless

Donna Meyer-Miller - May 23, 2018 at 03:36 PM



“ Mr. Fernald was one of the most informative teachers I had in my years. He knew his stuff and had a passion that exuded to others that made you want to learn as much as he wanted to teach. RIP & comfort to your family
Debbie Gratta Kiernan

Deb Kiernan - May 23, 2018 at 02:54 PM



“ I was at Plymouth with Harold and graduated the same year. We were a small class so there many close friendships can remember picnics in the park with lots of other classmates. They were wonderful times. What a great tribute you have written for him. Am sure he is proud. Sympathy to you all. fondly, Sally Rossetti

Sally Rossetti - May 23, 2018 at 02:04 PM



“ Mr. Fernald shared his excitement for history and anthropology with thousands of students and I was lucky enough to be one of them. Mr. Fernald went above and beyond for me with field trips, presentations and help raising money for Washington Close Up. I'm sure he was also instrumental in my getting a DAR scholarship! A very nice man who was very good to me. So sorry to hear of his loss.
Joan Hutchinson Bauer

joan Bauer - May 23, 2018 at 01:02 PM



“ I still cherish the good times at Plymouth that we had together. My love to you all.
Roma Wing-Class of 1953-Plymouth State

Roma Wing - May 23, 2018 at 11:53 AM



“ Condolences to family



Lisa Brooks - May 23, 2018 at 09:01 AM



“ Rebecca (Flanders) Fenstermaker lit a candle in memory of Harold E. Fernald



Rebecca (Flanders) Fenstermaker - May 23, 2018 at 06:49 AM



“ Paul Knowles lit a candle in memory of Harold E. Fernald



Paul Knowles - May 23, 2018 at 06:11 AM



“ RIP Master Hiram..

Paul Knowles - May 23, 2018 at 06:12 AM



“ Frosty Frost lit a candle in memory of Harold E. Fernald



Frosty Frost - May 23, 2018 at 05:58 AM



“ Darcy/Clyde Brown lit a candle in memory of Harold E. Fernald



Darcy/Clyde Brown - May 23, 2018 at 05:11 AM



“ RIP Mr Fernald .. great teacher

Holly Elder - May 23, 2018 at 03:33 AM



“ Condolences to the Fernald family. One of my favorite teachers who inspired a love of history. Rest In Peace.

Marlo Abely Kehoe - May 23, 2018 at 01:53 AM



“ Condolences to the Fernando family. One of my favorite teachers who inspired a love of history. Rest In Peace.

Marlo Abely Kehoe - May 23, 2018 at 01:50 AM



“ Condolences to Mr. Fernald's family. My dad, Parker was a member of the Hampton Police Department with him many years ago. He coached my brother Rusty in cross country at WHS. My mother, Billie drove the school bus to many sporting events and had great respect for him in respectful way he interacted with his students. He was a man of many talents and knew a great deal about the history of Hampton the surrounding areas. I was lucky enough to take a school trip out to the Isles of Shoals with him. It was a rough trip heading out to sea. My mother didn't know if we would make it back or not! The kids really didn't notice the rough seas though as Mr. Fernald shared many tales of the history of the Shoals. It was a very interesting trip indeed. I also gained a great deal of respect for him that day which continued through the years. May you rest in peace, Mr. Fernald!!

robin russell damuth - May 22, 2018 at 09:54 PM



“ I'd like to echo Robin's sentiments. Mr. Fernando was a wonderful teacher...colleague of my mother's, also a teacher, she too admired him. He knew more about local history than anyone...a faunt of information. Condolences to his family.

Terri Thomson, WHS 72

terri thomson - May 22, 2018 at 10:28 PM



“ Condolences to the family. Wonderful teacher!

Kathleen Cleary, WHS 72

Kathleen Hoesly - May 23, 2018 at 01:50 PM



“ Mr Fernald....yet another icon with so much knowledge. I fondly remember him helping with the Tuck Field Historic Replica of buildings of "days gone by". Also a fantastic teacher...RIP Mr. Fernald....

Nancy Janvrin Haskel - May 22, 2018 at 08:52 PM



“ Harold was a teaching colleague at Winnacunnet from 1974_78. He was a mentor,gentleman and so knowledgeable about Hampton history. I was a young Biology teacher with a fascination over the marshes around Hampton.Mr Fernald took time to "teach" me about the many uses these marshes provided early settlers . Students were so lucky to have this great teacher !! My prayers to your family....he was very special!

Susan Sherman - May 22, 2018 at 05:22 PM



“ Lisa, my deepest sympathies for the loss of your dad. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this most difficult time. Hugs Sara

SARA S. EAMES - May 22, 2018 at 07:15 PM



“ Mr. Fernald taught me about Fort Constitution in Newcastle,NH. My class did a reenactment of all the useful parts of the fort in 1975. I recently revisited the site and remembered so much. He was a passionate teacher.

barbara preston - May 22, 2018 at 07:19 PM



“ So sorry, He was a wealth of knowledge for so many!

Linda - May 22, 2018 at 08:18 PM



“ Sincere condolences to the Fernald family. Harold, for almost 30 yrs. ,you were a dear and brilliant colleague who taught me so much. You were brilliant and kind, and were a true servant in your life. I am proud and blessed to have known you. Our Isles of Shoals trips were such fun, and your wisdom and knowledge will stay with me always. Rest in peace, dear friend. You were a special gift to so many. Patty (Stansfield) Tarbox

Patty Stansfield Tarbox - May 22, 2018 at 10:35 PM



“ Mr Fernald was a great teacher who was able to make history come alive. He is fondly remembered.

Barbara Tying Smith - May 23, 2018 at 05:15 AM



“ I will miss you my dear friend and teacher... you instilled in me the love for history and its teaching. Will never forget the archeology trips. Forever in my heart. Hugs to the family.

Lori White Cotter

Lori Cotter - May 23, 2018 at 05:50 AM



“ Miss you loads. Really loved our trips to the Lakes with you and Priscilla and all the kids. Lots of Love, Alison and Erick

Alison Andesson - May 25, 2018 at 03:29 PM



“ A most honorable, kind, generous man. An extraordinary teacher. Rest in mercy's arms, Harold. May memories bring comfort to the Fernald family. With love and deepest respect, Sheila

Sheila A Nudd - May 26, 2018 at 06:22 PM



“ Dear Priscilla and family ,Our husbands took us on many wonderful trips . bus rides ,caravans , battles .to making film so that the future generations might see History , etc. Our years together are very memorable and can not be replaced.And all the time we are raising wonderful children. I must add; At a battle sight way up in Maine With very uncomfortable sleeping arrangements in tents in a

field. Harold told Priscilla if she meaning me can sleep out so can we. While i had a comfy hotel room down the road.

Love you guys

Priscilla Schanda

Priscilla Schanda - June 06, 2018 at 08:49 AM