



## Otto Friedrich Grote

December 20, 1930 - November 28, 2014

Otto Grote was born in Boston and raised on his family's agricultural estate, Varchentin, located near Berlin, Germany. He was the elder son of Friedrich Franz Graf Grote and Rachel (nee Derby Smith) Gräfin Grote.

Otto's father was killed in action during the Russian invasion of eastern Germany, forcing his mother to flee with Otto and his four siblings. Their epic journey brought them back to their mother's homes in Boston, Massachusetts and Rangeley, Maine.

Otto graduated from the Loomis School, Harvard University ('53) and Harvard Business School ('57). He fulfilled his ROTC commitment at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

He traveled extensively throughout Europe and Africa visiting family, skiing in Zurs, participating in shoots in England, participating in safaris and climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Kenya. He was an avid hiker and cyclist, and played polo and tennis.

He began his career at Techbuilt and held positions at Weyerhaeuser and J. and W. Seligman & Co. before starting his own financial firm, Van Bergen, in NYC. He sold Van Bergen and founded Derby Securities where he worked for over 20 years.

Retirement plans brought him back to New England settling in New Castle where he served on the Budget Committee. He also served as an Overseer at Strawberry Banke, a Trustee at the NHSPCA and a member of the Portsmouth Rotary. It is here that he met Jaci Levesque, who soon became his wife.

Attracted to the open space and farms of Rye, Otto and Jaci settled on Washington Road raising chickens, gardening and caring for their dogs. He served with the Rye Lions and was the first Democrat to be elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives from this district.

He will be missed by his friends and family: his wife, Jaci, his sisters and brother and

spouses Caroline Grote Snyder, Elisabeth and Michael Lay and Peter and Mary Grote: nine nieces and nephews and eleven great nieces and nephews. His youngest sister, Christine Grote Crisp, predeceases him.

His memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday December 13th at the Rye Congregational Church, Rye, New Hampshire. To honor his passion for animals and gardening, Otto's family request that, in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to the Cochecho Valley Humane Society, 262 County Farm Road, Dover, NH 03820 and the Rye Conservation Commission, Pollinator Garden Project, 10 Central Road Rye, NH 03870.

# Events

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**DEC**   **Memorial Service**   11:00AM  
**13**

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Rye Congregational Church  
580 Washington Road, Rye, NH, US

# Comments

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“ I will miss seeing Otto working in his yard, calling the dogs in, and enjoying his life next door. He was a lovely man. Condolences to Jaci and family.

**Virginia Macdonald** - December 09, 2014 at 08:30 AM

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“ Otto was truly an amazing man who touched so many people's lives including my own. He impacted my life in more ways than I can even comprehend. His warmth and kindness was contagious. Living across the street from him was a blessing. Whether I was running over to bring Christmas sweets (which he could never get enough of), visiting with him and Jaci for tea, stopping by to see how he and the dogs were doing, or whatever the reason may be, he always greeted me with a smile (sometimes a mischievous smile) and an update on his garden. Whenever I would leave the Grote house, he would always watch to make sure I crossed the street safely. I believe that even though Otto has left this earth, he is watching down, making sure everyone is still safe and sound.

**Berit Johsnessen** - December 09, 2014 at 06:52 AM