



Beverly Powell Woodward

July 17, 1918 - June 3, 2017

Hampton Falls - Gracious always, and generous in her concern for others to the end, our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Beverly Swain Powell Woodward, died on Saturday, June 3, 2017, within weeks of her 99th birthday.

Beverly was born in East Concord, NH on July 17, 1918, in the same bedroom as her father, on the second floor of a home still on Mountain Road. Her parents, Wendell C. Swain and Ruth E. (Sargent) Swain, gave her a loving childhood, first in an apartment in the village, which they shared with her Aunt Lottie, and then in the home they built on Shawmut Street. Though she longed for a brother or sister, it was a fanciful and sweet time, cherished for its memories of her parents, her family, her friends and place.

Beverly graduated from Concord High School in 1935, and with honors from UNH in Durham in 1939. She babysat for the children of neighbor, Governor and US Senator Styles Bridges while in school. After working for two years at the NH Public Service Commission, Senator Bridges hired her as his secretary in Washington, DC in January, 1941. It was there that she met Wesley Powell, fresh out of law school and working as the Senator's Administrative Assistant and Chief of Staff on the Senate Committee on Appropriations, which Bridges then chaired. Wes and Bev fell in love, and were married on the hurried night of September 2, 1942 in order that David

and Charlie, two of his five brothers, could stand up for him en route to military training in the south.

Wesley also soon enlisted in the Army Air Corps, traveling around the country for training while Beverly accompanied him wherever she could go. While he was preparing to fly to England, near the beginning of her seventh month of pregnancy, she went to East Concord to await his return. Wesley was severely wounded by enemy fire on his 5th mission as radio operator and port waist gunner on a B24 over Europe. During emergency surgery, without anesthetics, in a field tent somewhere in Italy in September, 1944, he insisted that he keep his arm and assigned himself to a life of constant pain. For more than a year in hospitals, and throughout his life, Beverly comforted and supported him through that pain, and through decades of work and public service.

They returned to Washington for two years after his hospitalization, then purchased a home in Hampton Falls in 1948 to begin the practice of law. Wesley ran for the US Senate in 1949. Following a narrow defeat, tempted to return to Washington for certain and lucrative employment, he said he would stay in NH, continue to practice law and pursue greater public service, if he could only afford to do so. Beverly went to a bureau drawer in their bedroom and returned with a savings passbook showing \$2,000 of small but incremental deposits she had carefully tucked away. They stayed in their home, and Wesley served as Governor from 1959 to 1963. While he was fiercely independent and often controversial, bold and spirited in every way, it was his charming First Lady, Beverly, who was loved and honored by all regardless of political persuasion, attitudes toward the thorough reorganization of state government, his appointment to replace Bridges, or other controversies of the day.

While at UNH, as a member of Alpha Xi Delta Sorority, Beverly became vice

president of her class. As class secretary, she wrote the 1939 alumni notes for over 70 years, from 1939 until 2010. She loved the University, and was a recipient of the UNH Meritorious Service Award. From 1956 to 1960 she served on the board of the Alumni Association, and served as Alumni Trustee on the Board of the University System from 1987 to 1991. Yes, she read every word of every document ever sent to her during that term of service.

Beverly volunteered generously for many charitable organizations. She was area chairperson of the Exeter Hospital Volunteers, and recognized for her many hours of service. She was a Cub Scout den mother, a member of the Seacoast Regional Refuse Disposal District, and her Town's cluster zoning committee. She helped establish the Hampton Falls Historical Society, donated items of importance, and served long as a member of the Hampton Falls Grange and local churches, among other involvements.

Wesley died on January 6, 1981. In October, 1986, Beverly married Lt. Col. Douglas R. Woodward, Ret., a civil engineer with USGS, and UNH class of 1934. He died in January, 2007.

More than a matriarch in recent years, Beverly retained the soul of her family. She loved "The Falls", her historic home in Hampton Falls, its history and repose. She cared for it carefully as a steward, preserved its land by conservation easement, and its artifacts for posterity. Hand written in large print, by a wonderful and strong woman struggling with loss of sight, she left the following note: "She believed each new day brought a challenge to do the best she could with it, and she did so."

Beverly is survived by two sons and a daughter, and their families: Samuel W. Powell and his wife Mimi of South Dartmouth, MA, their son Nate Powell, his wife Lindsay and their daughter Harper Cecelia Powell of NY, NY, and their

son Eli of Portland, Me; Peter W. Powell and fiancé Leslie Paine of Lancaster, NH, Peter's daughter Bethany James, her husband Todd James and their son Alexander Powell James of Washington, DC, Peter's son David W. Powell of Castleton, VA, and Peter's daughter Meredith C. Powell of VA; and her daughter Nancy "Temple" Brighton and her husband Kenneth "Bradley" Brighton of Dublin, NH, their son Wesley Brighton of Martha's Vineyard, MA, their daughter Teves Brighton of NY, NY, and their daughter Chloe Brighton currently serving in Texas.

Beverly also leaves two beloved stepsons, Rev. Thomas D. Woodward of Nashua, NH and Robert H. Woodward of Mt. Airy, MD, a stepson-in-law Raymond L. Seim of Newbury Park, CA, nine step grandchildren, and eleven step great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the charity of one's choice. Arrangements are by the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory, Hampton.

Tribute Wall



“ *Beverly Powell Woodward*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *Hi Peter, I am very sorry about your Mother Beverly. I did not know her personally , but I know that your Father was a Senator of NH, & I an very proud of it! With much rememberace, Sheryl Bennett.*

Sheryl Bennett - June 28, 2017 at 03:16 PM



“ *Sammy and Peter- your mother was such a gracious woman! She kindly allowed me to ride and set up jumps for my horse, Mr, B, up in the field (and I think I rode up the driveway to ask!). My memories of growing up in Hampton Falls always include moments with your mom and dad, the chapel, and your mothers beautiful homestead that is such a jewel in town. My prayers are with you, losing a parent is never easy. May your memories and families comfort you.*

*Susan Yuskiewicz Sweeney
Fort Myers, Fl.*

susan keenan sweeney - June 12, 2017 at 01:17 PM

JB

“ Dear Nancy & Sam & Peter



I was deeply saddened to read of your wonderful mother Beverly's passing. My mother Lorraine was a lifelong friend of your dear Aunt Lottie. Lottie was a treasured part of our family from the day that I was born, and your beloved grandparents Ruth and Wen were too. They all had beautiful, selfless, giving spirits, just like your mother.

I will never forget my visit to Hampton Falls as a boy. Your mother was so kind and gracious to me. She was such an elegant and beautiful woman, who cared so much about others.

I know the grief that you are feeling. The saddest day of my life will always be December 29th, 1999, the day that my mother died. Once the pain of her loss has lessened, you will feel her with you, and realize that she never left your side. You will see many signs that she is watching over you, and all of your family with so much love.

Your father was waiting for her with extended arms in Heaven to welcome her home.

My thoughts and my prayers are with your mother, and with you, and all of your family at this very sad time.

Jeffrey Bonk - June 07, 2017 at 02:19 PM

MD

“ She was a truly wonderful person who always said hello to me throughout my whole life. Even as a child as I rode my bike over to look at the Falls to when I asked her if I could marry in the little Chapel. To that she said, "oh, you're the new people in town", and I said, "if you consider 1978 new, then yes!" She was amazing and I enjoyed her presence always watching her carefully tend to her beautiful grounds. I hope the house stays as special as she was. Much love, Mary Dumont

Mary Dumont - June 05, 2017 at 04:54 PM

GB

“ Beverly was a wonderful, warm, caring woman, who deeply cared about people. She meant the world to my late husband Allen, and was most gracious to my sons and I. I think of her every time we go by the Falls. Prayers and comfort to Nancy, Peter, and Sam, your mother will be missed. Ginny Bridle

Ginny Bridle - June 05, 2017 at 10:59 AM



Beverly was my grandmother's Dorothy (Swain) Poisson Poulin's first cousin and beloved by the Swain family. I am Dot's granddaughter. I recontacted with Beverly during my tenure as the Executive Director of SPACE at the Forest Society. I have been currently working on the genealogy of the Swain family- the one Beverly was born into. If anyone would like the 300 page report , please email donnamrobie@gmail.com. We have some very famous relations in that lineage. I am the daughter of Richard & Barbara (Poisson) Noonan and live in Concord, NH. Beverly faithfully while Mom was still with us kept in contact with our family. Our hearts are heavy and our love and prayers go out to our relatives. She lived a full and happy life and may my parents be there to greet her as she crossed over. XXX

Donna Robie - June 07, 2017 at 05:55 AM

CB

Nancy, Peter, and Samuel: I was so very sad to learn of your mother's passing. I had just put a letter in the mail to her a few weeks ago and hope it reached her. Beverly was one of my mother's (June Flanders Cote) closest friends, and I have fond childhood memories of times spent at your family home in Hampton Falls, especially when your dad was running for Governor and my parents were helping with the campaign. Over the years, your mother and I stayed in touch, and when we moved to Stratham, we spoke on the telephone often. I am so very sorry we didn't actually get together in person, but she sent the most beautiful letter to me, along with a gift, when our triplet granddaughters were born. She and my mother really had an enduring friendship, and your mother was truly one of the nicest people I knew. She was gracious, giving, and had an exceptionally positive attitude. I wish I knew how to reach you to have sent this personally, but I hope you will accept here my most sincere condolences on the loss of this wonderful lady. Prayers to you and all the family.

Christina Cote Barley - July 02, 2017 at 01:14 PM

JJ

It is not surprising to see the words gracious and elegant, caring and generous in the tributes from those blessed to know "Bev" Powell Woodward more closely than me.

Meeting her at a camera store in Exeter and occasionally throughout the rest of her life, those were the first words that came to mind when I learned of her passing now, nearly two years later.

Every encounter left me thinking one or more of those words as we parted.

I was researching tonight what if any memorial to Wes Powell might be found in NH. And learned of her passing.

I hope something might be done at Sandy Point to memorialize both of them. Together they did a great deal for all of us, not just Hampton Falls.

Joseph L Kenick Jr - May 17, 2019 at 12:49 AM