
The Nichols News

The Newsletter of the Ransom and Minnie Nichols Family

In Memoriam Barbara Roberts *1924-2006*

As most of you know Aunt Barb died December 8, 2006. The following was the obituary that was provided by the funeral home at that time. ED

Barbara F. Roberts died in her home in Fayetteville, surrounded by her loved ones on Friday. She was born Barbara R. Foss on December 7, 1924 in Moultonboro, NH. Her parents were M. Roy Foss and Doris Davey Foss. She was blessed with two beautiful marriages: her first to Roland Nichols began on December 7, 1946 (ending with his death in 1986); and her second to Roy Roberts began on July 25, 1988 (ending with his death in 2002). She had four children from her first marriage: Judy Nichols (Peter Barrer), Ken Nichols (Mary), Kathie Nichols (Bill White) and Mike Nichols. She had two step children from her second marriage: Steve Roberts (Celie) and Gail Roberts. She also had six beloved grandchildren: Joshua and Ira Nichols-Barrer, Nick and Andy White, and Sean and Luke Nichols.



Barbara was a woman of many passions. Having grown up in Moultonboro, she developed a deep and lifelong love of the White Mountains. She also had a passion for music, which really began when she played the trumpet for the Laconia High School Band. She earned her degree at the New England Conservatory of

*“Barbara Roberts was
a woman who loved.”*

Music in 1945, and later studied under Leo Sowerby in Put-in-Bay, OH. Her music education provided the foundation for many areas of musical pursuit, including teaching public school music in the Argyle, Trumansburg and Fayetteville public schools; and directing choirs in Manassas, VA, Trumansburg and Fayetteville. She also taught private lessons: trumpet and piano, teaching literally hundreds of students. Teaching piano was the perfect confluence of her musical talent and her love of children.

Barbara was a woman of deep faith and spirituality which was expressed in many ways. A member of Trinity Church, Fayetteville for 34 years, she was a “champion” of prayer. Her faith was also expressed through her affiliation with and active involvement in PEO. She witnessed her faith in many ways, not the least of which was through volunteerism and service to others. She was involved with Literacy Volunteers for many years, she worked at the Nearly New Shop and she was a regular visitor to the elderly and those who were homebound. She always felt that she had a special affinity with the elderly. If one were to sum up her life, Barbara Roberts was a woman who loved. She valued personal, one-on-one connections; and she intentionally developed and nurtured those relationships. Her love stretched beyond her children, step children and grandchildren (all of whom she adored); to include all the friends and students whose lives she touched. We all will miss Barbara the person—but that love remains to nurture and sustain all of us. A Memorial Celebration of Barbara’s life will take place at Trinity Church, 106 Chapel St., Fayetteville of Saturday, December 16th at 11:00 am. Contributions: Memorial gifts may be given to the Trinity Church Piano Fund, Trinity Church, 106 Chapel St., Fayetteville, NY 13066.

Volume 5, Issue 1

May 2007

Special points of interest:

- *This Year’s Reunion will take place July 21-22. Mark your calendars*

Inside this issue:

<i>Editor’s Notes</i>	2
<i>Aunt Barb</i>	2
<i>Lois Whittemore Hamilton’s Beef Stew</i>	2
<i>Meet the Cousins</i>	3
<i>Graduations, Retirements and Other Items</i>	4

A Note from the Editor by Butch Danforth

May 19, 2007

Hadn't thought about this until I sat down, but I am writing this on my birthday. Of course it is not just my birthday, but also my brother Jim's as well. This came up because I was looking at the content of this issue and there is a lot of milestone stuff. Aunt Barb's passing, of course, but also graduations and a retirement. I thought there might be an impending wedding to announce, but I don't have anything at this point.

I did spend time this winter with Uncle John's diary and with Mom's Whittemore family genealogy. I have retyped the entire thing and I am hoping to add some maps and pictures this summer. I will then put it in PDF form to distribute electronically. I have also retyped Mom's Whittemore genealogy which traces that side back to Myles Standish and William the Conqueror. I hope to have that in PDF format by the fall as well. I contemplated including an excerpt of that, but I need to work on condensing it and providing adequate background information at the same time.

I want to thank Nelson for helping me continue with the cousins column and I am looking for volunteers for future editions. I was very intrigued to learn that he worked for Uncle Roy at the Agway. I know I did. I know my brother Jim did. How many of the cousins worked for Uncle Roy at The Exchange? I would be interested to know.



The semi-annual tie time!

Aunt Barb by Kalista Nichols Bloch

The following is a note sent by Kalista to Judy, Ken, Kathie, and Mike after the passing of their mother last December. It is printed here with their permission and I personally believe it captures how so many us feel. Thank you to all concerned

about Aunt Barb, written to her kids:

This summer I sat quietly for awhile with your mom, and I can almost hear the wonderfully soothing sound of her voice and her laughter, oh, what a lovely sound her laughter was. If ever there was someone to whom the word, *kind*, could be applied without qualification, it is your mom. We kids, Donald and Jean's kids, were such little ragamuffins, not the kind of kids that adults are drawn to. But your mom didn't seem to notice. She always spoke softly and listened attentively; making me feel for that moment I was truly special.

“She always spoke softly and listened attentively; making me feel for that moment I was truly special.”

Because of that quality, she must have been an outstanding teacher. Over the years I've watched my teaching colleagues and now observe student teachers, and rarely do I see someone who can create a small world where for a moment, only the child and her teacher exist. Your mom could do that. And as I think back to our quiet moments together at the reunion this summer, I realize that she never stopped doing that. God, I will miss how special she made me feel. As I write...suddenly, I am crying in a way that I hadn't allowed since first learning of her passing. She gave so much love to so many. What a gift to all of us she was.

Lois Whittemore Hamilton's Beef Stew by Sharon Lasher

Last issue we introduced a family recipe. Thanks to Sharon this continues.

This recipe for beef stew was given to me years ago by Lois Whittemore Hamilton, Minnie Whittemore Nichols' niece. At the time I was working as a private duty nurse for a woman who lived across the street from Lois in Argyle. One evening she brought over a delicious beef stew and we both asked for the recipe. Simple and delicious! Serves 4

Ingredients:

2 # beef stew meat	2 cups onion quarters	1 4 oz. can tomato sauce	
1 cup carrot chunks	2-3 med. potatoes, cut into chunks	1 15 oz. can of beef broth or bouillon	(continued on page 3)

Meet the Cousins by Nelson Tilford

I'm Lester "Nelson" Tilford, Jr. named after my father who married Ruth Nichols (oldest of the 2nd generation Nichols). I'm fourth in line of the Tilford family. My sisters Helen Louise and Barbara are deceased. My sister, Martha lives in Middletown, NY and brother, "Chuck" in Argyle. (Hopefully, you'll hear from them!)

...I held a few part-time jobs -- working for the Town Highway Dept. and working at the Agway Store (under Uncle Roy's tutelage.)"

Born in Argyle, raised in Argyle on the Tilford farm and graduated from Argyle High School in 1953. The summer after graduation, I worked for Uncle Donald on his farm and I always looked forward to Aunt Jean's meals. She could make anything taste good! We were dairy farmers and while working on the farm, I held a few part-time jobs -- working for the Town Highway Dept. and working at the Agway Store (under Uncle Roy's tutelage.) Dairy farming was

beginning to show its demise in the 60's and after our discussion with the folks, they sold the farm to a neighbor and continued to have living privileges in the house. I then went to work for Lester and Carl Lufkin in Argyle for 3 years helping in the excavating business and assembling and repairing farm machinery and substituted as a school bus driver. Following that, I worked full time for Dave Sheridan in the Argyle catheter business, mostly in R&D doing product and process engineering until having a stroke in 1986. Later I returned to the Sherwood Medical Co. where I worked in corporate engineering doing equipment design and assisted the machinists. A few years after that, the dept. moved to Mexico (I didn't care about going!) I'd been there-done that!. I went to work for the Greater Glens Falls Transit System driving bus and trolley. Before going to GGFTS I spent the summer distributing brochures for the Great Escape in Lake George, covering as far north as Plattsburgh, NY, east into Vermont, south to Albany and west to Amsterdam. Very interesting meeting all kinds of people in the motel, restaurant and other businesses.

Jean and I married in April 1960 and moved into an upstairs apartment in the Village. In 1966 we built our home, where we still enjoy the hillside views. I've been a member of the J.A. Barkley Hose Co. since 1964. A Presbyterian all my life. A member of the Argyle Senior Citizens. For many years I've been involved with the North Argyle Cemetery Association. As President, my current personal project is working on a Cemetery Directory (which is now completed and awaiting approval of the Board of Directors at the annual meeting.) Being retired has allowed me more time on my own (no working schedule.) Always interested in tractors and cars, I enjoy watching local competitors in tractor pulls and dirt track stock car races. Since I restored our '65 Mustang, going to car shows has become another interest, and the advantage to meet some other car enthusiasts. NASCAR is my sporting event to watch on TV (when it comes on our regular stations.) I also like to spend time on some of my mechanical projects and doing a little wood working. I made a few adult and children lawn chairs and am still trying to keep three "old" cub cadet lawn mowers going (at least one at a time!) Being retired also has given Jean and myself more time together and we both enjoy traveling and wintering in Florida. I recently, as family members know, had lung cancer and was operated on in December '06. My chemo treatments began in January and ended in April. Just in time for me to recuperate for our trip to Alaska in June '07.



Nelson (right) with his picnic table partner Steve Hoover

Both of us can proudly and thankfully say we are "cancer survivors!" Jean in 2003 (breast cancer) and again in 2005 (ovarian cancer). Myself in 2006 (lung cancer). This has taken a bit of a toll on us, but as in life, you take one day at a time and be thankful for that day. placing ourselves in God's hands. And, let's face it, when we look around, it's possible to see someone worse off than ourselves.

Lois Whittemore Hamilton's Beef Stew continued

(Continued from page 2)

2 Tbs. Minute Tapioca

Place all ingredients in a 2 qt oven-proof casserole. Cover and bake in a 275 degree oven for 5 hrs, stirring every 1/2 hr. or so.

**The Newsletter of the Ransom and
Minnie Nichols Family**



Ernie (Butch) Danforth/Editor
PO Box 252
Corning, New York 14830

Phone: 607-962-4034
Fax: 607-962-9537
Email: danforth_e@corning-cc.edu

**We hope to
be on the
web soon!**



Graduations, Retirements and Other Items

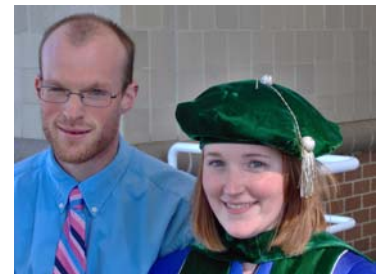
Sharlene (Florence) Reynolds reports "I retired from the NYS Canal Corp. March 26.2007. I was there 17 1/2 years. I was given a retirement luncheon. Now I am enjoying being a woman of leisure(?). I plan to be home for the summer and then see what happens. "



Anne Meyer

Anne Meyer (Louise, Beth) graduated summa cum laude from North Carolina State with a BS degree in Animal Science and minor in Zoology. She plans to continue working at the after-hours vet clinic while studying online to get certification as a vet tech. (She's interested in > working with the "big cats" and hoping to get an internship somewhere before deciding whether or not to go on to vet school.)

Kate and I can report that Teresa (Louise Butch) became Dr. Teresa Danforth M.D. on May 5th when she graduated from the Medical School of the University at Buffalo. Her plans are to become a urologist. She is presenting a paper at a urology conference in Anaheim the week of May 21st. She begins her internship at Buffalo in June



*Dr. Danforth with her brother
Larry*

Lydia (Donald, Sheila, Sarah) Barnum was born without an ear canal, ear drum and a tiny outer ear. May 8, 2006 Dr Roberson of Palo Alto, Ca. made Lydia an ear canal and ear drum 2 wks before her 3rd b-day. Oct 25th Dr Reinisch of Children's Hospital Los Angeles, reconstructed Lydia's tiny ear to a "normal" sized ear with an implant. On April 18, 2007 Lydia had her surgery to finish constructing her ear and remove some hair that has grown on her ear. Sarah reports the ear shaping up nicely

News from Merle (Leslie) at the old Nichols home place: 'Doris (Harold) thinks since I'm in charge of Procurement for the Family Reunion this year that I should advise everyone to PACK A LUNCH! Just in case....'

And Doris says, 'Ha ha, just kidding folks.....But since Christina (Florence, Sharlene, Tracy) and I are in charge of the Silent Auction this year, we think you should empty your attics and garages of all your valuables and bring them to us! Mark them (if you can) with a label saying what they are (if you know!) and we'll do the rest!'
