

# Florence Clarke Gove Celebrates Her 100th Birthday in July

## Request for cards for surprise card shower

**Note:** This article about Florence Clarke Gove was written by Dorothy O. Ford in January of 1997. Florence Gove's daughter, Beryl Gove Sanborn, asked that it be reprinted in honor of her mother's 100th birthday this month. At the end, there is information about how to send cards to Florence.

Florence Clarke was born in North Raynham, Massachusetts on July 22, 1922. The family proved to be nomadic, for they moved innumerable times in her growing up years. So many, she says she has lost count.

Eventually, this moving around brought them to New Hampshire, and they pretty much stayed in this state from then on. Florence has fond memories of the red brick schoolhouse on Colby Hill, where she had a wonderful teacher who taught art and music, not necessarily required subjects.

She graduated from the eighth grade in the basement of the big church situated in the division of the road to Andover and the road to Franklin in Boscawen. As her graduation speech, she recited the whole book she had been given on the Dole pineapple business in Hawaii. (The whole book, imagine.)

The family moved to East Andover, and she went to high school in Andover for a while, but she was not happy in school, so she dropped out and went to work doing housework in Danbury for \$2 a week. She was required to split all the kindling, make all the bread, and scrub the wooden floors on her hands and knees, among other things. (I wonder how many of today's youth would

do all that for \$2.00 a week.)

About this time, Florence went to live and work for Dr. Hayward and his first wife in New London. While she was there, she went to New London High School.

About this time her father's mother became ill, and Florence went to Massachusetts to take care of her. When her grandmother died, Florence went to work in a defense plant, soldering brackets on condensers.

When she reached her 21st birthday, she enlisted in the WAC Women's Army

Corp. After basic training, she shipped out to Europe and was with Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force under General Eisenhower. She did a variety of jobs in the service, such as cooking and working in the quartermaster's corps.

Ralph Gove was also overseas in the Army Air Force. In 1945, he was home on leave, prior to going to the Pacific to fight Japan, when the war was over.

Ralph's folks lived in Wilmot Center, where he and Florence met. She was quite taken with him, but he ignored her. One day in the spring of 1941, while swimming with a group of friends in Kempton Brook in Wilmot Center, Ralph came up behind Florence, picked her up, and threw her into the water. But Florence could not swim. He gallantly jumped in and saved her.

Ralph was mustered out in August of 1945. He and many of his friends had



Florence Clarke Gove, an Andover native, will turn 100 years old on Friday, July 22. A surprise card shower is being arranged for anyone wishing to send her a card or a note.

Photo: Beryl Sanborn



Trenton K. Bonk received his Juris Doctor degree from Boston College Law School on May 27, 2022. Trenton is a former graduate of Andover Elementary/Middle School, Bishop Brady High School, and Colby-Sawyer College. Trenton will be practicing law in Boston, Massachusetts. Caption: Herbie Bonk. Photo: Bonk Photography, Portsmouth

The Andover Fish and Game Club held its annual Kids' Trout Fishing Derby on May 21. There were 44 kids registered, with 51 trout caught. The longest trout were caught by trophy winners:

- Bradley Miller, 13 5/8"
- Tanner Scarsillow, 13 1/4"
- Bradley Miller, 10 1/4"

Bradley Miller also won a trophy for the longest total trout length of 52 1/4".

Congratulations to all participants.

Caption: Rich Gross  
Photo: Gordon Ordway



## In Celebration!

A birth! A birthday, a graduation, new job, promotion, engagement, wedding, anniversary, retirement ... so many life events to celebrate!

If you'd like to celebrate an important event with a donation to the Beacon, we will print a simple list of all such donations quarterly.

For details, visit [AndoverBeacon.com/InCelebration](http://AndoverBeacon.com/InCelebration) or mail a check to PO Box 149, Andover NH 03216.

## Share the Joy of Andover!



You, your friends, and your family can stay connected to Andover all year 'round.

[AndoverBeacon.com/Subscribe](http://AndoverBeacon.com/Subscribe)

New London Hospital

# HOSPITAL DAYS

August 4-7, 2022

Join us!

**August 4-6:**  
Midway hosted by the Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce (LSRCC)

**August 4:**  
LSRCC Meet the Chamber Night

**August 5:**  
LSRCC Band Night

**August 5&6:**  
NEW FOR 2022! Stars Above: An All-American Circus

**August 6:**  
NEW TIME - 10:00AM! Annual Parade: A Community in Bloom

**August 7:**  
Annual Triathlon

and more!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.newlondonhospital.org/hospitaldays](http://www.newlondonhospital.org/hospitaldays)

GOLD SPONSORS

SILVER SPONSORS

BRONZE SPONSORS

**BAR HARBOR BANK & TRUST**    **League of NH Craftsmen**    **MOUNT SUNAPEE**

• Bob's Beacon Marina    • Colby Insurance Group  
• Northcape Design    • Spring Ledge Farm  
• Sugar River Bank

• Barton Insurance Agency    • Benjamin F. Edwards & Co.  
• Better Homes & Gardens Milestone Team  
• Country Houses    • Dr. Donna Reed  
• Goodrich Oil Co. Inc.    • Jake's Market & Deli  
• LaValley Building Supply, Inc.    • Marshall's Garage, Inc.

This page is sponsored by

Andover Service Club

Celebrating 61 Years of Service to the Community

