



Elizabeth Forbes Morison

September 27, 1918 - December 28, 2010

Elizabeth Forbes Morison died on Tuesday, December 28 at Easton Memorial Hospital after suffering a stroke on Christmas day.

Elizabeth was born in New Orleans, LA on September 27, 1918, the daughter of the late, Reginald Forbes and Christine Strout Forbes. Her mother died in childbirth, and for her first years she was cared for by her grandmother, the late, Louisa Lippitt Forbes, and her aunt, the late, Ruth Forbes Ogden. In 1930 her father relocated to Ambler, PA to marry the late, Elizabeth Newbold Fox.

Elizabeth attended schools in Pennsylvania before entering Mt. Holyoke College in 1935. She graduated in 1939 and remained throughout her life fiercely loyal to her college and to her college friends, several of whom survive her. For Mt. Holyoke she served on the Art Advisory Committee for many years and was active in the planning and fundraising for the College's new art gallery. For her service to the College she was awarded the Alumnae Medal of Honor in 1979.

In 1941 she married Benjamin Chew Tilghman of Philadelphia, and they moved to Boston where they raised four sons. In Boston she was an active volunteer in several community causes and arts organizations. She served on the board of the Institute of Contemporary Art from 1958 to 1964, and was a

founding member of the Ladies Committee in support of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

In 1967 her first marriage ended in divorce and she married the historian, Elting E. Morison of New Haven, CT. Alongside her husband she served as Master of Saybrook and Timothy Dwight Colleges at Yale University, and is remembered by a cohort of Yale students and their families as a stylish hostess and a wise counselor.

Upon her husband's retirement from Yale in 1972 they moved to Peterborough, NH, where she continued her vigorous volunteer activities, ultimately serving for four years as President of the highly regarded Sharon Arts Center in Sharon, NH. In 1976 she and her husband co-authored *New Hampshire: A Bicentennial History*, one of a series of state histories sponsored by the American Association of State and Local History.

After her husband's death in 1995, she moved again to her beloved Dorset, VT. When she was still a child in New Orleans she had summered in Dorset with her aunt, and in 1977 had purchased a small house on Dorset green that she had visited often in her early years. She leaves many friends in Dorset, including her first cousin, Dorothy Ogden Greenwood.

In 2005 Elizabeth relocated once more to Heron Point in Chestertown, MD to be nearer her family. During her marriage to Benjamin Tilghman Sr. she had committed herself to saving and restoring The Hermitage, the Tilghman family seat in Centreville. Upon her return to the Eastern Shore she took great joy in family activities at The Hermitage involving her many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Until the end she lived in remarkably robust health, and when stricken on Christmas day she was entering the main house on The Hermitage with an armful of gifts.

She is survived by her sister, Patricia Forbes Dempsey, of Wilmington, DE; her sons, Benjamin Tilghman of Centreville, MD, William Tilghman and James Tilghman of Washington, DC, and Christopher Tilghman of Charlottesville, VA; by her step daughters, Mary Morison Winby of Palo Alto, CA and Sarah Morison Ford of Wyncote, PA; and by 11 grandchildren and three step-grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

There will be a memorial service in celebration of her life at The Hermitage on January 29, 2011. In lieu of flowers the family asks that contributions be made in her name to the Office of Development; 50 Mt. Holyoke College; So. Hadley, MA 01075.

Arrangements are by the Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home, P. A., Centreville, MD 21617.

Tribute Wall



“ *Elizabeth Forbes Morison*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Elizabeth Forbes Morison*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Elizabeth Forbes Morison*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ January 28, 2011

Dear Tilghman cousins,

I think my first recollection of Maude is, well, actually not of her per se, or even of Ben, Billy or Chris but of the 3 evergreens planted in their honor at the Prentiss cottage in Dorset. Each summer upon arrival from Philadelphia I'd spring from the family car to see just how much you had grown! How neat it must have been to have your very own tree!!

All my memories of Maude are colored by just how intoxicatingly chic she seemed to me as a child: prematurely grey hair, another child "at her age", a divorcee, dashing naval officer sons, a witty and erudite second husband AND a French daughter-in-law! Even her name was perfection. How lucky you were to have a mother with such flair and one so aptly named.

I remember that her Christmas gifts were always so sharp, so spot on. So exactly what I desired even before I knew enough to desire them. It was excruciatingly painful to have to wait til Christmas morning to open my gift from her. And until just recently, my own family always eagerly anticipated the arrival of her "Wellesley mints".

However, the most enduring memories I have of Maude are not the ones bought at FAO Schwarz or Lord & Taylor. Rather they are the remembrances of times spent just being with her. There were weekends at the Hermitage and in Boston where it seemed so utterly cool to me that you all were allowed to have the whole 3rd floor to yourselves on Fayreweather Street. Oh my gosh, even your own sitting room!

On other trips I recall the "glass flower" museum, going to the top of



“ I was so very saddened to read today in the Manchester Journal of Betty's death. She was our very favorite neighbor ever, and I have missed her so much since she went south. I'm sorry I don't have addresses of family members to write you all individually to say how much your mother meant to me. She was so very special to us. The loss you feel, I felt when she left.
Our love goes to all of you.##imported-begin##Sheila Childs##imported-end##

January 14, 2011 at 12:01 PM



“ To the Family of Betty Morison --
The Trustees, staff and faculty of the Sharon Arts Center wish to extend their deepest condolences and warmest thoughts to you. Betty's long, dedicated and outstanding service to Sharon Arts will long be remembered by all. We plan to dedicate a stone engraved with her name this coming June -- to be placed our garden of remembrance directly in front of the Center.
Kindest regards,
Bob Pettegrew
Executive Director
The Sharon Arts Center##imported-begin##Robert Pettegrew##imported-end##

January 13, 2011 at 11:06 AM



“ *Bets was a close friend of mine for 75 years, from freshman days at college when we played tennis early every morning. She was a wonderful person, and I shall miss her sorely. My deepest sympathy to Ben, Bill, Chris, and James, and thanks to you at the Hermitage whio were so kind to me.##imported-begin##Nancy Tanner##imported-end##*

January 08, 2011 at 08:58 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you
She will be missed.##imported-begin##Allan and Penny Brown -
Upland Farm - Peterborough NH##imported-end##*

January 08, 2011 at 07:54 PM