



Mrs Jane "Jennie" Butler

October 23, 1931 - January 1, 2019

Lenox –

Jane “Jennie” B. Butler, 87, of Lenox died unexpectedly, Tuesday, January 1, as the result of a fall. Her family was with her.

Born in Brookline, Massachusetts on October 23, 1931 to the late Edward Mauran and Julia (Blake) Beals, she attended Windsor School in Brookline, Massachusetts, and Garrison Forest School in Owings Mills, Maryland. She graduated from Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1954.

Jennie spent her childhood summers at her grandmother’s house in Lenox and moved permanently to the Berkshires in the early 1960s, teaching at the Pine Cobble School in Williamstown. She met her husband, F. Brooks Butler in Lenox, and they were married on June 16, 1962. Jennie and Brooks raised their children in Lenox. Brooks pre-deceased her on February 22, 1999.

Her great loves were history and teaching, especially the history of World War I, which she wrote about and studied extensively. A devoted teacher, Jennie taught primarily at Berkshire Country Day School, as well as at the Miss Halls School. Though history was her preferred topic, she taught English and math as well. She was proud to self-publish *A Force Unfamiliar to Me*, a memoir that included the writings of her son Peter. When not teaching or reading, she was an avid lover of the New York Times crossword puzzle.

Jennie served on the boards of both the Northeast chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Literacy Network of South Berkshire, where she was also a literacy tutor. For many years she also read for Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic. After retiring from teaching she volunteered for over 25 years at the Pittsfield Adult Learning Center where she helped adults earn their GEDs and taught English as a second language.

In the last years of her life, her greatest joy was spending time with her granddaughter, gardening, and swimming in the summer.

Jennie is survived by her children, Carolyn Butler of Lenox and Tom Butler and his wife Jenny Maguire of Beacon, New York; granddaughter Brooks Butler Maguire; siblings Margaret Beals of New York City and Isabella Frost of Brookline, Massachusetts.

Beside her husband, she was pre-deceased by her children Julia Butler and Peter Butler,

and by her sister Julia Beals.

There was a private burial on January 4, and a memorial service will be planned for the spring. Donations in Jennie's memory may be made to the Lenox Library, Literacy Network of South Berkshire and Berkshire Natural Resource Council, in care of the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240.