



Mr. Francis G. Newton

October 2, 1936 - November 10, 2021

40-year Lenox resident, innkeeper, banker, self-proclaimed expert of many things (all you had to do was ask), native New Yorker and the original "Picker", Frank Newton passed quietly early in the morning of November 10th. Leaving behind his wife of 50+ years Mary, his 2 sons Kevin and Andrew and his granddaughter Breyelle.

Born October 2nd, 1936, on Kent St. in Greenpoint NY, Frank (or "Freddy" as his mother would call him) attended Padua School in Watkins Glen NY where he famously won the only fight, he ever had with David Carradine of "Kung Fu" fame, and later graduated from City College of New York.

Frank served in the United States Army as a Payroll Officer where, in the most notable act of his brief military career, he issued Elvis Presley the final paycheck of his military service. Frank was no stranger to hard work and had a successful career in banking in New York.

Proudly born in Brooklyn, he never forgot his beloved Greenpoint and in 1972 moved back to Kent St with Mary and Kevin (with Andrew soon to arrive) to restore the first of 3 homes, including his childhood home. With many historic Brooklyn buildings in decay and destined to be demolished Frank became the original "Picker" rescuing and "repurposing" crumbling pieces of New York architectural history to be included not only in the homes he and his family restored but many other homes on the street he lined with trees in Greenpoint. A fan of classic Hollywood movies and a true expert on the "Great American Songbook", Frank left New York to live a life he'd seen in some of his favorite

movies and became an Innkeeper and Restaurateur in Lenox MA with the intention of restoring Ventford Hall. He was able to put his renovation experience to work restoring many Lenox properties including Brook Farm, The Summer White House and The Gables Inn. This was the former family home to Edith Wharton, which he lovingly restored to its former Queen Anne glory and filled with restored antiques, rare documents signed by many US Presidents and artwork spanning 5 centuries collected by him and Mary. Gregarious by nature, the Inn business suited Frank and he and Mary became friends with many of their guests and were quite well known in Lenox. Taking cues from his film heroes, he was "the best dressed guy in Lenox" and frequently gathered friends to entertain with food, music and wine. Frank loved baseball, basketball, and history. He was an avid reader. A member of the Lenox Club and a fixture at Tanglewood, he served in the Lenox Chamber of Commerce and the Historic Committee. He was known and loved by many and will be missed.

The funeral mass for Mr. Francis G. Newton will be held on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 11am at St. Ann's Church in Lenox with Monsignor John Bonzagni, officiating. There will be calling hours on Wednesday, November 17th from 4:00pm-6:00pm at the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240. In lieu of flowers, donations in Frank's memory may be made to the Lenox Library in care of the funeral home.

To share memories and stories please visit rochefuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **17**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Roche Funeral Home
120 Main Street
P.O. Box 152
Lenox, MA 01240
(413) 637-0699
eroche120fh@gmail.com

Service

NOV **18**. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

St. Ann's Church
134 Main Street
Lenox, MA 01240

Tribute Wall

SH

“ Having just learned of Frank's passing, please allow me to send my condolences for a man with such a range of knowledge and interests, and a true gentleman. It was a privilege to have known him.

Sharon Hawkes - July 18, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ It is with profound sadness that we just now learn of Frank's passing last November, having lost contact with him and Mary since closure of The Summer White House. Frank often regaled us with his marvelous stories that were so well told, during our many stays at The Gables and The Summer White House. He was surely the closest to a Renaissance man that Lenox had to offer. Staying in his lodgings was akin to being in a stately home from the Golden Age. When next at Tanglewood, with a number of our regular circle, we will lift a glass in Frank's memory. We extend our deepest expression of sympathy to Mary and their sons. He is greatly missed by all who had grown so fond of him.

Lewis Clark - July 09, 2022 at 04:12 PM

ME

“ Dear Mary and Sons, I wanted to pass on my condolences on the passing of your husband and father. I met Mr. Newton when my parents and I needed a notary. He gave us a tour of The Summer White House and I loved hearing his stories. I was quite impressed. I am sorry for your loss and wish you peace and comfort this holiday season! Sincerely, Molly Elliot

Molly Elliot - December 14, 2021 at 10:29 AM

TM

“ *Mary, We are so sorry to hear of Frank's passing. He set the finest spirit and gentlemanly nature of anyone we know in Lenox. We shall miss him and carry his memory with us of the fine, memorable times we spent in his presence. A truly wonderful, thoughtful person. Our love and sorrow, The Mears*

The Mears - November 17, 2021 at 01:32 PM

RF

“ *Restivo Families purchased the Beautiful Whisper for the family of Mr. Francis G. Newton.*



Restivo Families - November 15, 2021 at 11:34 PM

RF

“ *Restivo Families purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Mr. Francis G. Newton.*



Restivo Families - November 15, 2021 at 11:28 PM

DD

“ *Dear Mary and Andrew,
I am shocked to read of Fran's passing. He was a good friend who would always be there to listen. I will miss our conversations on a number of issues. Most of all, I will miss his greeting smile . May he rest in peace.*

Dick DeFazio

Dick DeFazio - November 15, 2021 at 11:18 AM

LB

“ We first met Frank when we stayed for a couple of nights at the Summer White House back in 2012. Thus began a long friendship as we were so enchanted with the SWH and Frank that we made his home ours. Every year until we eventually moved to the Berkshires in 2016, we would descend, usually monthly, sometimes twice a month, to stay in “our room”. Our farewells at the end of each visit often extended well beyond “See you again!” into lengthy conversations on many varied topics. Frank was always a gentleman, witty, a great host. We shall so miss seeing him around town on his occasional returns to Lenox.

Bye bye, Frank.

Linda and David Buttery

Linda Buttery - November 15, 2021 at 07:03 AM

WV

“ *With Love, Valerie purchased the Gracious Laven
der Basket for the family of Mr. Francis G.
Newton.*



With Love, Valerie - November 12, 2021 at 03:04 PM