



Miss Betty Jane Fonner

March 21, 1917 - April 2, 2011

Betty Jane Fonner, 94, of Asheville passed away Saturday, April 2, 2011 at Brooks Howell Home. A native of Middlebourne, WV, she was daughter of the late James T. and Susan C. Fonner. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her brother, Robert F. Fonner.

Betty was a graduate of West Virginia University in 1939 with a B. S. Degree in Home Economics and received her M. A. Degree in Community Leadership Education in 1956 from Columbia University.

In 1945, Betty was employed by the Ohio State University Cooperative Extension Service as a Home Economist for Washington County, Ohio and was located in Marietta, Ohio until her retirement in 1979 as an Associate Professor of Ohio State University.

During her retirement, Betty served on the board of the Betsy Mills Club and volunteered at the Campus Martius Historical Museum in Marietta. She was an active and lifetime member of AAUW, working on their used book sale and the Christmas Tour of Homes. She was also a long time member of the Business and Professional Women's Club and received their Regional Woman of the Year honor in 1986.

Betty was a member of the American Home Economics Association and the

American Association of Family and Consumer Science throughout her working and retirement years.

After her mother passed away in 1954, Betty has been the matriarch to many adoring nephews and a niece. They all had respect and love for Betty.

Her survivors include a brother, Frederick A. Fonner of New Martinsville, WV and sister, Laura F. Moore of Asheville, NC.

The family would like to express their appreciation for the care and love Betty received from the staff of Brooks Howell Home during her 14 year stay there.

A memorial service will be held 10:30 AM, Thursday, April 14, 2011 in the chapel of Brooks Howell Home, 266 Merrimon Avenue with Revs. Robert J. Blackburn and Don Turman officiating.

Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Avenue is assisting the family. Condolences may be sent through the website www.morrisfamilyfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Service

APR **14**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Brooks Howell Home
266 Merrimon Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801
<http://www.brooks-howell.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Miss Betty Jane Fonner*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Betty was such a pleasant lady. My memories from 4-H with her are ever present. From cabin #3 at Camp Hervida to judging to the extension office Christmas Open House she was dedicated in so many aspects of Washington County life. We also looked forward to the annual AAUW Christmas Tour of Homes to see which home Betty hosted. My mother, Martha Brown, and Betty were very good friends. I miss them both.*

*Carol Brown Lang
Marietta, OH*

Carol Brown Lang - April 14, 2011 at 10:11 AM

KD

“ Betty Fonner and I shared many things, a profession of Home Economist, a career of 30+ years as Extension Agent/Educator with Ohio State University Extension in Washington County, a home state of West Virginia, and a love of time spent with family and friends.

She was a teacher, a mentor, and she embraced her profession. She did not only teach us about healthy people, healthy finances, and healthy families, but most importantly, she taught us about life.

For me, she was a mentor, and a role model. When I moved into Washington County to follow in her footsteps, she was ever so kind as to take me under her wing in a most discreet manner and she made a specific impression on my life.

To tell you the truth I have a hard time putting all of Betty's good traits into writing. No matter how hard I try, I can never do justice to what she did in her lifetime to give and to teach and to serve. I am grieving today for we all lost a great lady.

She was also a very good advisor. I personally would seek her advice on countless occasions. She was a wise lady and shared many insights that have served me well these many years.

She was also the kind of person that would think about other people before herself. She never liked asking for help but she was always ready to lend a helping hand to others. She would do everything in her power to help other people.

I may no longer see her but I will always have many special moments and memories I shared with her. She will always have a special part in my heart. I am just thankful that I knew a special lady like Betty Fonner.

*Kathryn K Chenoweth Dodrill
Extension Educator, Family and Consumer Sciences*

Ohio State University Extension, Washington County

Kathryn K Chenoweth Dodrill - April 11, 2011 at 08:36 PM

SG

“ *What an impact Betty had on Washington County youth! She was "The Boss" at Camp Hervida, and we faced 4-H judging of our sewing projects with trepidation, because she ALWAYS asked questions. So many of us aspired to learning the skills and achieving the calm demeanor of this quality human being who was Betty Fonner...*

Sue Wilking Gregory -- Navasota, TX

Sue Wilking Gregory - April 11, 2011 at 02:45 PM

EB

“ *When I saw Betty's name, I was immediately back to my youth and 4-H days with the Lowell Lively Lassies in Washington County. Betty was always at camp, at the Extension Office, and always ready to help in any way she could. She touched a lot of lives and I don't think she was even aware of the impact she had on those young lives. I don't think I every saw her without a smile on her face. She was a very special lady.*

Emily Miller Boxler

Emily Miller Boxler - April 11, 2011 at 01:55 PM

AT

“ Betty was the housemate of my grandmother, Margaret Thompson for many years in the 1990s. She lived in the upstairs; Grandma lived downstairs. They got along famously, and Betty was always so kind and thoughtful to Grandma. We hadn't had any real communication since Grandma died, but I wanted Betty's family to know how sorry we are to hear of her passing. Andy Thompson and the Thompson family.

Andy Thompson - April 10, 2011 at 07:54 AM

LL

“ Reading about Miss Fonner's passing brought back a flood of happy and cherished memories because she was so instrumental in shaping my sister's and my life. Both of us spend many years involved in Muskingum Valley Builders 4-H club in Washington Co. (accumulative of probably 30 + years). We both majored in Home Economics in college because of Betty's encouragement and assistance. Even our mother had the opportunity of taking many courses that she gave thru the extension office. Miss Fonner's was such a wonderful role model for young people and young families in Washington Co. though her years of dedicated work with the extension office, 4-H, Betsey Mills Club, and the community. She was kind and sweet lady and will be missed by many whose lives she touched.

Linda McKenna Lanier

Nancy McKenna Adam and

Josephine McKenna (God rest her soul).

Linda McKenna Lanier - April 09, 2011 at 07:06 PM

DD

“ Sorry to hear of Betty's (Miss Fonner!) passing. I was one of "her 4-H Club members in Vincent, Washington Co., from age 10 to 18! How well I remember her coming to our Club and helping us through the years and on into advancing through to higher achievements in 4-H. So many times I've wondered where she was and now it's too late to say a big "Thank You", so I'll thank all her family members for loaning her to us for so many years of our growing up. She knew her job and she was so helpful. Dorothy DeYoung, AZ

Dorothy Simmons DeYoung - April 09, 2011 at 02:19 PM

AH

“ Miss Fonner was part of the Cooperative Extension Service in Washington County, Ohio when I was in 4-H from 1963-1970, and served at Women's Camp at Camp Hervida when I mother attended. She was a fabulous lady, and impacted so many people in her years of service. Alan Hall, Steubenville, OH

Alan Hall - April 09, 2011 at 12:21 PM

JD

“ I remembeer Miss Fonner's many years with 4h as judge and friend to my father, a vo ag teacher and to anyone connected to the Extension Office. She was a great lady!!!
Judie Sawyer Deeds

Judie Sawyer Deeds - April 09, 2011 at 08:38 AM