

Elizabeth R. Counsell Obituary

Elizabeth R. Counsell, 94, a resident of Equinox Terrace, Manchester Center, Vt., passed away peacefully on April 7, 2014.

Born in St. Johnsbury, Vt., on July 27, 1919, Lib, as she was known to all, began her education in St. Johnsbury at St. Johnsbury Academy. She then attended the University of Vermont for two years and finished her education at Simmons College in Boston. She had an extensive business career, including work in the office of the President of Brown University and at the Dewey and Almy Company in both their Cambridge, Mass., and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, branches.

During WWII, she worked at the Quartermaster General's Office in Washington, D.C. When her parents became ill, she returned to Boston so that she could spend weekends with them in St. Johnsbury. At this time she began dating her husband to be, Reginald Counsell, who was also a resident of St. Johnsbury. They were married on Feb. 19, 1955. Reg and Lib, and their two young children, lived in Rutland, Vt., and then in Wilbraham, Mass. They moved to Manchester, Vt., in 1965. They purchased the Briggs Insurance Agency and they worked together for many years until the agency was purchased by their son, Merrick, in 1991.

Lib contributed in a wide variety of ways to the life of the town. She volunteered for several organizations, was on the board of the Manchester Health Services, became the first female board member at Factory Point National Bank, and she was an active member of the First Congregational Church, where she also sang in the choir. She was a volunteer at Hildene, a member of the Monday Club, an avid golfer at Manchester Country Club, and she served on the board of the Lund Family Center, from where her two children were adopted.

She is pre-deceased by her husband, Reg, in 1997. She is survived by her two children, Susan Ritchie and Merrick Counsell, both of Manchester, Vt. She has two grandchildren, Travis Counsell of Kailua, Hi., and Alexis Counsell of Phoenix, Ariz. She is also survived by her niece, Carol Weber, of Canton, Ga., and her great-niece, Lisa Williams, of Orlando, Fla.

Services will be held at the United Church of Dorset at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, 2014. There will be no calling hours. Lib will be buried at the family site in St. Johnsbury at the convenience of the family. All donations in her memory may be made to the United Church of Dorset, P.O. Box 263, Dorset, VT 05251.