

Mary Hardenbergh Dethier—Maisie—died December 16, two weeks after suffering a debilitating stroke. Maisie loved her family, the outdoors, birds, mountains, a vast network of friends, skiing, hiking, tennis, singing, picking blueberries and making them into incomparable muffins and pies, sewing, knitting, gardening, and every aspect of life. She was born in Kansas City, Missouri, September 9, 1921, the daughter of Clarence Morgan Hardenbergh and Margaret Baxter Nichols Hardenbergh, and she graduated from Northrup School, Minneapolis, in 1939 and Bryn Mawr College in 1943. She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Charles, children David, Brock, Megan, and Deborah, children-in-law Nancy Nylen, Melody Graulich, and David Duggins, and grandchildren Evan Dethier, Dylan Dethier, Corey Dethier, Larkin Dethier, Peter Duggins, Andrew Rockenbaugh, and Julie Rockenbaugh. Because their mothers were best friends, Maisie and Charlie knew each other as kids, dated when she was an undergraduate at Bryn Mawr and he was teaching at nearby Haverford School, and married in 1948. They retired in 1982 and in 1992 moved permanently to Blue Hill Maine where they spent their winters in the Parker Ridge retirement community and their summers in the Dethier family house in East Blue Hill.

An accomplished writer, historian, and organizer, Maisie spent her life giving to others, making a career of working, sometimes with pay, sometimes without, for organizations dedicated to good causes—the US Departments of Commerce and State during the Second World War, the New York and Pennsylvania Leagues of Women Voters, the East Blue Hill Village Improvement Society, the First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, which she served for a time as clerk, and Bryn Mawr College. Her mother (class of '05), mother-in-law (Avis Putnam '05), and sisters Alice Hardenbergh ('32) and Esther Hardenbergh ('37) all attended Bryn Mawr, and Maisie served as executive director of the Alumnae Fund for a decade until her retirement in 1982. The College now gives the Maisie Hardenbergh Dethier '43 Award for Highest Annual Fund Participation.

Maisie spent her junior year attending the University of Mexico in 1941 and enjoyed traveling throughout her life. She always educated herself and her children about any new destination; before a family trip to Cooperstown, New York, she read aloud James Fenimore Cooper's *The Deerslayer*, and in preparation for the family trip west in 1963, she read her children the Little House on the Prairie books and taught them to make string figures to while away the long hours of driving. As a writer, she was more concerned with family history than with publication, and perhaps her most impressive work was researching and writing the history of her family home in New Hampshire, *Concordia by the Decade*. For most of her life, she wrote weekly letters to her family and friends, and she learned to email so she could continue as the hub of the family communication network.

Maisie enjoyed spending summers at Concordia, in Intervale, NH, hiking, playing tennis, and swimming in the Saco River, and in East Blue Hill, in Charlie's family house, where she sailed and learned to make a garden out of sea weed because the house was built on a granite quarry with little soil. She could find the good in any situation or any person and kept those around her smiling by singing snippets from old songs or organizing games of Dumb Crambo or Mah Jongg. She lived an exemplary life and died beloved by all who knew her.

In lieu of flowers, friends are urged to contribute to their favorite educational, environmental, or medical charity.