

Susan Howard Webb of Plymouth, VT, died on September 9, 2011 at the age of 103. Susan was born on August 18, 1908, in Burlington, VT, to Harry Stinson Howard and Sue Emma Hertz Howard. Her identical twin, Harriet, died in 2004. Susan married Kenneth Beals Webb in 1932. Mr. Webb died in 1984. Her three children Susan (Sukie) Hammond, Robert (Rob) Webb and his wife Sonja Johansson, and Martha (Miki) Webb as well as eight grandchildren (Kristi and Meg Webb, Susan and David Hammond, Mike and Lissa Webb, Sarah and Rebecca Johansson Locke) and seven great-grandchildren (Caleb and Sophie Love Webb, Danny and Alex Hammond-Baker, Toby and Lena Locke Sillman and Sage Webb-Wallace) survive her and will miss her greatly.

Susan received her A.B. from the University of Vermont and a Master's degree in Classics from Radcliffe College. She was employed as a teacher in the 1930s and 1940s but is best known for co-founding, with her husband, the Farm & Wilderness Camps in Plymouth, VT. When they established the camps in 1939 they were convinced of the merits of Quaker educational systems and the importance of teaching values such as simplicity, equality, tolerance, peace, and seeing that of God in every person. She was the director of Camp Indian Brook for 30 years. The six residential camps, day camp, Family Camp, and winter internship program were incorporated as the Farm & Wilderness Foundation in 1972. Susan retained an active interest in the workings of the camps. Her prodigious memory of several generations of campers allowed her to carry on lively conversations with the smallest girls at Indian Brook, the camp she had directed from 1941 to 1972.

Upon retirement, Susan found that she had time to run for the Vermont State Legislature, where she served as a Representative for several Windsor County towns for four terms, 1973 – 1980. While in the House she served on the committees on Health and Welfare and Education, both of which she also chaired. These committee assignments reflected her deep commitment to the well being of children and to social justice. She also demonstrated this commitment through her service on the boards of the Baird Children's Center, the Executive Committee of the New England Regional Office of the American Friends Service Committee, Vermont Churchwomen United, Adelphi/Vermont, the Vermont Council on Social Concerns, and the Vermont State Committee of the United States Civil Rights Commission. She helped to establish the Office of Aging in northern Windsor County. She offered further service to her beloved Vermont in her role as President of the Board of Directors of the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation in Plymouth.

With her husband, Susan co-authored several books about summer camping in the context of experiential education. These include Summer Magic and Beyond our Wildest Dreams (a history of Farm & Wilderness). Articles she wrote were also published in *Parents* and *American Camping* magazines.

It is difficult to capture such a rich and full life in a few paragraphs. Susan was dedicated to her family. She was the pragmatic half of the partnership with her husband, whose vision of outdoor education was fueled more by enthusiasm than by practicalities such as paying the mortgage. She was the business manager for Farm & Wilderness and kept the

enterprise afloat, although she was unable to toast bread without burning it. Her memory was legendary. The number of Vermont politicians whom she mentored or taught in kindergarten or Sunday school approaches the hundreds. She was the Birthday Queen, delighting in presents, cake, and peppermint stick ice cream, even though she had to share it with her much-loved twin. She and her twin loved to tell stories of how one twin took the place of the other for very good reasons: Susan went to a job interview as Harriet because Harriet was still in England; Harriet greeted campers on the opening day of camp in 1939 because Susan was caring for her children who had measles. She loved crossword puzzles. Once she was an ally, it was nearly impossible to dislodge her loyal defense of a person. Her sayings outlive her: "She's a comfortable camper," "She's such a delightful child," "Parents send us their most treasured possessions," and, above all, "Be ladylike but firm."

Two memorial services will be held. On Saturday, June 9th, the Webb family encourages those who knew Susan and her family to join them at Union Christian Church in Plymouth Notch, VT (the Coolidge Foundation) at 2 p.m. with a reception to follow. Susan Webb was a member of the Wilderness Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends (Quakers) and the service will be conducted after the manner of Friends. During the Indian Brook reunion, on Saturday, September 8 there will be a time in the afternoon for the Indian Brook and F&W Community to dedicate a bench and wildflower bed and celebrate Susan's life. The family requests no flowers; memorial contributions may be made to the Susan Howard Webb Fund of the Farm & Wilderness Foundation, 263 Farm & Wilderness Road, Plymouth, VT 05056.