

Ruth E. Bunt 1916 • 2024

Ruth E. Bunt passed away at age 107 on January 9, 2024. She was a fixture for seventy-four years on the River Road in Bucksport, and spent her earlier years on the Leaches' Point Road in Orland. Ruth was born September 26, 1916, and she was one of nine children born to Edith (Davis) and George Harper. Her mother died in childbirth when Ruth was three, and the children were sent to various homes. One brother, Donald (nee:Richard), was adopted by a

wealthy family in New York. He was very homesick and missed his sister, Ruth. His family sent for Ruth to join them. When "Ruth" got off the train, the family welcomed her, but Donald said, "It may be 'Ruth' to you, but it looks like 'Phyllis' to me!" Instead of sending for the real 'Ruth,' Phyllis's name was changed to--"Ruth." Therefore, there were two sisters in the same family named "Ruth."

The 'real' Ruth was eventually adopted by Purl and Bernice Ames also of Orland. She had many happy years living on their farm, riding horses, wandering in the woods and fields.

She met a tall, handsome man at a dance and eventually married David E. Bickford and had two children. They moved to her beloved home on the river road where they farmed and raised laying hens. They were married thirty years when David died in 1964.

She had taken piano lessons as a child, and eventually became organist/pianist for the North Bucksport Methodist Church, a position she held for fifty years. She still played piano at home up until a few months ago. She never lost her love of reading and would always have a book or two going.

During her first 'widow' years, she traveled



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and enjoyed two trips to England and Scotland. She was interested in British history and was proud of her British/Scandinavian ancestry. She reconnected with the other 'Ruth,' and they traveled together to South America and saw the Amazon, Nazca plains, and the Galapagos Islands.

She met Robert Bunt--at a dance--and they were married in 1985. They were married for almost twenty years. Bob

died in 2004, and Ruth was a widow again.

Ruth is survived by her son, Donald Bickford and his wife, Gloria, of Orland and Sebring, FL., and her daughter, Jeannie Tabor and her husband, Gary, of Ripley, ME. She leaves five grandchildren: Jane, Anne, Jessica, John and Ross, and four great-grandchildren: Riley, Charlotte, Mia and Aurora. She also leaves nieces and nephews, especially Laura Snow and David Gallagher. Besides her husbands, she was predeceased by her siblings and an infant great-grandson, Samuel.

Many thanks for the love and care provided by Jill, Loris, Mary, Sheri, and Tammy, who cared for her in her home for many months. Also, thanks to the caring staff at Stillwater Healthcare and Beacon Hospice.

Burial will be in the spring in the Maine Veterans' Cemetery in Augusta where she will be beside her beloved Robert at last.

Ruth loved companion animals--especially cats and dogs. Gifts in her name may be made to Spirit's Place Cat Shelter, P.O. Box 471 Newport, ME 04953.

Arrangements are under the care of Mitchell-Tweedie Funeral Home and Cremation Services Bucksport.

(mitchelltwedie-young.com)

