

Zink, Joanne Brown



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Joanne Brown Zink passed away at Lancaster General Hospital on December 30, 2008. Her children and caretaker provided support and love through this transition. She was the wife of Franklin B. Zink, who preceded her in death earlier this year.

Born in Mount Joy on August 19, 1925, Nancy Joanne Brown was the daughter of the late George and Rae Brown. A curious child, Joanne was raised in Mount Joy and spent summers in Ocean City, NJ. She graduated from Mount Joy High School in 1943 and also attended Penn Hall Preparatory School in Chambersburg. She went on to major in Economics at Connecticut College in New London, and graduated Magna Cum Laude. Following college, Joanne returned to Mount Joy to work in the family business, George Brown and Sons Cotton and Woolen Mill, and also enjoyed a short career in teaching. She was married in 1954 to Franklin B. Zink. In addition to raising five children, she helped establish Frank's insurance and real estate business, and continued to substitute teach. She was also involved in numerous community activities and organizations in and around Mount Joy.

From 1973 until 1993, Joanne owned and operated Donegal Mills Plantation, an historic landmark and homestead outside of Mount Joy. She began by offering guided tours, and later expanded the business to include a restaurant, bed and breakfast, and banquet facilities. During that time she worked tirelessly to promote awareness of local history and Scots-Irish culture, through school tours, historical research, archeological digs, and an annual Scots-Irish festival. She also became interested in Native American history and organized tours of local Native American historical sites.

Joanne loved tennis, music, antiques and horseback riding, and usually had one of her beloved dogs by her side. Although she faced health challenges during the last decade of her life, she spent that time reconnecting with her family and enjoying daily outings with her husband Frank.

Joanne is survived by her children, Corinda B., married to James Kuntz of East Berlin; Nancy Suzanne Zink married to Robert K. Marker Jr. of Mount Joy; Franklin B. Zink Jr., of Mount Joy, and George B. married to Lauren Nikolaus Zink of Lititz. Her seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren will also miss her daily presence. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Abigail and her brother Benjamin W. Brown, II. She will also be greatly missed by her caretaker, Jane Moore. Special thanks are extended to Dr. Andrew Coco and Jane Moore for their loving care and support. A Memorial Service honoring Joanne's life will be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 209 South Market Street, Mount Joy on Saturday, January 3, 2009 at 3 PM. Joanne's family will receive friends immediately following the service. Interment will be private in the Mount Joy Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 209 South Market St., Mount Joy, PA 17552. Sheetz Funeral Home, Inc., Mount Joy. On line condolences may be directed to www.sheetzfuneralhome.com

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