

A Tribute to Bonnie L. Farver

By Carol Woolridge



Bonnie Lou Knecht was born on February 17, 1949, in Berwick to her parents Warren S. Knecht and Myrtle R. Uplinger. Bonnie graduated from the Central Columbia High School Class of 1967.

As an adult, Bonnie became a dispatcher for K-Cab early in her career. After marrying Donald M. Farver she had their son, Michael C. Farver.

Bonnie became active in the Columbia County Historical Society then located in Orangeville. The Director at that time was Edna Lynn, who resided in Catawissa. Later the Society became the Columbia County Historical and Genealogical Society.

After becoming the Executive Director of the Society, Bonnie continued to be active and led her Society team for over 30 years at various locations, ending at the Bloomsburg Public Library on the second floor for 21 years.

Bonnie was also active in social and business organizations in Mifflinville where she resided. Among them were the Mifflinville Village Community and the Mifflin Cemetery Committee. Bonnie was a chairperson for the Mifflinville Carnival and Parade Committee and a conservator for the Mifflin German School. She helped wherever and whenever she could, whether it was assisting at the Mifflin Carnival at a food stand or paying vendor bills.

Even though Bonnie had other interests that she was involved with, her favorite was helping friends, family, and Society members with their genealogical and historical questions.

Bonnie knew the books on our shelves well enough that she could tell anyone the exact book they needed to find their necessary information. I know one time I needed a book for research, she told me which side of the bookcase I needed, which shelf and even the brown color of the book. Her memory was amazing.

Not too long after, Bonnie started having medical issues that didn't allow her to move freely. She started to use a cane, then a walker until even that wasn't enough. I had begun working with Bonnie in October of 2016; we continued to work together until she was medically unable to continue.

I took over as Director in June of 2019, knowing I would never be able to fill her shoes adequately. She continued to come in every Tuesday, transported by her brother-in-law, Jim McClintock.

Besides the Society, Jim helped her get to doctors' appointments, church and other places she needed to go.

Her days later became a flood of doctors' visits, hospitals, a couple of emergency surgeries, and nursing homes, all trying to help her regain her health. Even when she did come home, she asked me to bring her research letters she could do, both genealogical and historical. Even though she wasn't well, she still worked from home, until even that became too hard for her.

Bonnie also suffered from rheumatoid arthritis, which swelled her hands and fingers painfully, until it became impossible for her to even write. Her mobility confined her to either her wheelchair or hospital bed when it became too hard for her to stand or walk.

Bonnie passed away on June 1, 2024, an incredibly sad day for all of us. Bonnie may be gone, but certainly not forgotten. Her quiet, helpful nature always comes to mind when I think of her.

My primary feeling is loss, but also in the comforting knowledge that Bonnie will never hurt again. She's in Heaven with Don and her parents, along with other family members and friends who had passed away before her.

I'm sure everyone who knew her has taken the time to pray for Bonnie, her family and her friends left behind, who will certainly continue to miss her for a long time. Rest in Peace, Bonnie.