



**Irene Reeves Ferguson
Mauricetown Historial Society
Leader
&
Long-time CU Member**



Irene holds plaque from the Daughters of the American Revolution in which she was an active member

Dear Friend,

My goodness, in the busy life at home and with Citizens United I was planning my daughter's good-bye birthday party plus a Congressional Summit, and then I left for Peru. In the frenzy that continually distracts me I neglected a very important remembrance.

Please forgive my manners. This weekend we had Artists' Day at the Mauricetown Historical Society and my forgetfulness hit me like a ton of bricks, for the dearest and most important person in all of Mauricetown was missing. An institution one might say - the beloved Irene Reeves Ferguson. She was born and raised in Mauricetown and lived there for what we all thought would be forever. She was our go-to person in a village of memories, relayed to each of us by a woman who seemed to live them all - Irene Reeves Ferguson.

In May, we held our bimonthly meeting at the Historical Society and Irene talked to us about river memories just as if we were guests in her living room. At 89 she was sharp as a tack and clear as bell as she related so many interesting details. She told us all about her siblings' many river connections. Her brother Albert was the last tender of the turnstile bridge over the Maurice, and she took us to see the key that he used to open and close the bridge for the passage of boats too large to fit underneath it. Her brother Joseph wrote the book *Maurice River Memories*, wherein he told of the river's reaches and the days of netting, fishing, rail bird hunting and the like. Member Walt Birbeck interviewed her and we had follow-up questions galore. She patiently responded to each of us.

When I went into the Society's headquarters this past weekend I felt her presence, probably because we were so used to seeing her there. And you know what? She still is! Because in the past she was preserving a future for us to explore. She archived and perpetuated the history of her village with the other members, but even they will tell you that she had an extra love of all things Mauricetown, and of all things Maurice River. We owe her a debt of gratitude for she lived a life to tell of other people's lives, lest we forget. Thank you, Irene, thank you so much for your gifts.

Sincerely,

Jane Morton Galetto
Board President

You can read an interview with Irene in the River Recollections portion of the CU website [by clicking here](#). Irene was a long time member of CU Maurice River.

Irene Reeves Ferguson 89, of Mauricetown died Friday August 8, 2014 at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, NJ after a short illness. Born in Mauricetown she was the daughter of the late Joseph S. and Irene McClain Reeves, Sr. and the wife of the late Hammond T. Ferguson, the love of her life. Irene was a lifetime resident of Mauricetown. She

attended the Mauricetown Academy and graduated from Port Norris High School class of 1942. She was an Administrative Secretary for Armstrong Cork Corp and retired from Mints Insurance Agency after 46 years. She also worked at the Mauricetown Post Office and she was an Antique Dealer operating Cookhouse Antiques for 38 years. She was a Charter Member of the Mauricetown Historical Society, which was incorporated in 1983. She served as President for 15 years, Vice President for 8 years and museum curator for 18 years. She was Mauricetown's living history book. She had a wealth of knowledge on the history of Mauricetown and loved to share her stories with anyone. Irene was also a member of the Cumberland County Historical Society, Millville Historical Society, Maurice River Historical Society, Greenwich Tea Burning Chapter of D.A.R. #2012, and the Port Norris Baptist Church. She enjoyed cooking, quilting, genealogy research, and caring for her beloved cats. Surviving are her brother, Joseph S. Reeves, Jr. of Florida, and sister, Louise M. Reeves of Philadelphia, PA. Funeral services will be held at the HOFFMAN FUNERAL HOMES 2507 High Street Port Norris, NJ on Friday August 15, 2014 at 11:00 AM. Interment will be in Haleyville Cemetery. Viewing will be held Friday from 10:00 to 11:00 AM. Memorial Donations may be made to the Mauricetown Historical Society P.O. Box 1 Mauricetown, NJ 08329.

CU on the River!

<http://www.cumauriceriver.org>

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