



Barbara Elsie Pinkerton

December 31, 1949 - January 26, 2018

Barbara Pinkerton of Macomb Township, Michigan died Friday, 26 January 2018 at McLaren Macomb Hospital in Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

Barbara Elsie (Dick) Pinkerton was born on 31 December 1949 in Fairbury, Nebraska, the daughter of Abe C. Dick and Eleanor Newcomb and was the third of four children. She was named after her maternal Grandmother Elsie (Simpson) Newcomb. She grew up in Nebraska and Wyoming, graduating high school at Sunflower (near Mitchell, Nebraska) as the Valedictorian. In addition to being a very good student, Barb also excelled in volleyball.

She attended Chadron State College from 1968 to 1971, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in May 1972, majoring in Mathematics with a minor in Library Science (later completing her major in Library Science through summer courses). She graduated in the top 10 of her class. Her father, Abe, was among the first of his many cousins to graduate from college. Barb was the third of her siblings to do the same.

She taught for a year in Hayes Center, Nebraska, and from 1973 to 1976 in Sutton, Nebraska. In the summer of 1976 she took summer courses at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. There, while playing tennis with a friend, she met her future husband Fred. That meeting was providential as she and Fred were soulmates and the love of each other's lives. That fall she moved to

Grand Island to work at a Catholic School as a teacher and librarian while Fred was starting his graduate degree work at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Barb and Fred continued a long distance relationship until the summer of 1977, when Barb moved to Ithaca to be near Fred. She worked for several months as a secretary in the Law School at Cornell, and then began working two part-time jobs. In the morning, Barb taught at Cascadilla School, a private high school. The students there were a mixture of American high school students and foreign high school and adult students. She taught Algebra, Business Math, Basic Math, and English as a Second Language. This was a totally enjoyable experience with small class sizes and friendly, motivated students. In the afternoon she was an Administrative Assistant and Librarian at the Dewitt Historical Society.

Fred proposed to Barb near the foot of Ithaca Falls in August of 1978. They were married that December in a small ceremony among family and friends at the home of her brother Bill Dick in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1981 Barb and Fred moved to Troy, Michigan, where Fred began a new career at General Motors. Barb taught Adult Education Mathematics until May 1983 in Madison Heights, MI. She relished working with friendly students who were eager to learn.

After the birth of their son Eric in 1983, Barb became a stay-at-home mom, and became involved in volunteering and in Eric's school and sports activities. She volunteered as a Cub Scout Leader for 2 years, and volunteered to help in the computer lab at Eric's elementary school. Although she had planned to return to work when Eric grew older, health issues deterred this decision. In addition to inheriting Thyroid issues from her maternal grandmother, Barb survived the failure of her kidneys and lived for more than two decades on a kidney donated by her brother Bill. More recently she required extensive back surgery. She was always stoic about her physical issues and never let them

stop her from her family life. She had a very dry sense of humor and would make comments that would take a minute to digest.

A highlight of this period was when Barb and Eric accompanied Fred while he attended a two-week NATO Advanced Study Institute at a resort on the island of Crete. When Fred was not busy the three of them explored the island of Crete, including the ruins of the Minoan palace at Knossos. When Fred's meetings were in session, Barb and Eric relaxed at the resort. After the conference they spent four days in Athens, seeing the Acropolis and Delphi. Later in life they traveled a bit further east and visited her brother Bill and his partner Ricke in Istanbul, Turkey. Barb marveled at the antiquity of the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia cathedral. She traveled all over Istanbul and never let her frailty slow her down. Barb and Fred also greatly enjoyed traveling with their dear friends from upstate New York on an Alaskan Cruise and three trips to Hawaii.

Barb enjoyed reading, collecting animal figurines, and long walks in the park with Fred and the family dogs. She loved her dogs and mourned all of their passings. Her mom Eleanor had a favorite spitz dog that helped her through the depression of the loss of her mother when she was just 9 years old.

Barb was an avid genealogist. Her mom, Eleanor, introduced her and her brother Bill to the world of genealogy, and together they traced their lineage back 53 generations to 420 A.D. She is a direct descendant of Charlemagne, King of France. She knows of six ancestors who came over on the Mayflower, one who was hung as a witch at Salem (and another who escaped), eight who fought in the Revolutionary War, and two who fought in the Civil War. Barb's father Abe is of the Mennonite (German from Russia) tradition and her mom Eleanor is mostly from very early British immigrants and later arriving Scots/Irish immigrants. Barb is a very thorough genealogist who needed clear proof of ancestry and relatedness. She amassed a huge data base of family

history, comprising more than 42,000 individuals in 15,000 families, that will be a gift to all of her family. Barb and her brother, Bill, were in the middle of documenting and writing a book on their Simpson family regarding the tragedy of the sudden deaths of their double great grandparents, John and Sarah Simpson, who left behind 8 orphans in 1876.

Barbara is survived by her spouse Frederick of Macomb Township, Michigan, son Eric of Warren, Michigan, brothers Lee (Bonnie) Dick of Scottsbluff, Nebraska and William (Ricke Fahrenbruch) Dick of Lincoln, Nebraska, sister Nancy (Marty) Ellis of Franktown, Colorado, five nephews, and four nieces. She is preceded in death by both of her parents.

Visitation will take place Thursday, February 1, from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. and Friday, February 2, from 9:00 until the time of funeral service at 10:00 a.m., at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Rd., Utica (3 blks E. of Van Dyke).

Memorial contributions can be sent to The Macomb Charitable Foundation, P.O. Box 217, Washington, MI 48094, macombcharitablefoundation.org.

Cemetery Details

The Preserve at All Saints Cemetery

4401 Nelsey Road
Waterford Township, MI 48329

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 1. 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Visitation

FEB 2. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB 2. 10:00 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Burial

FEB 2. 1:45 PM (ET)

The Preserve at All Saints Cemetery
4401 Nelsey Road
Waterford Township, MI 48329

Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Barbara Elsie Pinkerton.*



February 01, 2018 at 04:48 PM



“ *From Carl and Fae Fuerst purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Barbara Elsie Pinkerton.*



From Carl and Fae Fuerst - January 30, 2018 at 04:30 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Barbara Elsie Pinkerton.*



January 30, 2018 at 01:46 PM



“ *Lee, Bill, Nancy and our families purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Barbara Elsie Pinkerton.*



Lee, Bill, Nancy and our families - January 30, 2018 at 11:32 AM