

Marstons Mills Historical Society
Interview with
Kay and Larry Dick
(by Jim Gould and David Martin)
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P.O. Box 1375 Marstons Mills, MA 02648
marstonsmillshistorical.org

Kay (Catherine Marie) Dick was born 1 December 1920 in Blandburg, PA, near Altoona, as one of nine children from parents surnamed Fuseck (a Slovak name). They immigrated from then Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, through Ellis Island, New York.

In 1942-43, Kay worked at the Sylvania Electric Products plant in Altoona, PA, as a spot-welder and instructor, in the manufacture of vacuum tubes, used in radio's and other equipment during World War Two. She received the Army/Navy Recognition Pin for her efforts, from Quentin Reynolds, a War Correspondent.

Kay met and later married Frank Dick in 1943. Frank was born to a Pennsylvania Dutch family, in Klahr, PA in 1917. Kay's sister, Rose Clouser, died 24 December 2016 in Pennsylvania; Kay is the last surviving sibling of her immediate family. She celebrated her 96th birthday on 1 December, 2016.

Kay, Frank, and son Larry moved to Marstons Mills, MA in 1955 from Chicopee Falls, MA. Frank was in the US Air Force, stationed at Westover Air Force Base, and was reassigned to Otis Air Force Base in Falmouth, MA. They initially lived in the then A.G. Griffin apartments, which are located directly above the Village Garage. During this time, Kay and Frank had their marriage blessed at Our Lady of the Assumption parish in Osterville, MA. Frank had been active in the Church of the Brethren, located in Pennsylvania earlier in his life. After 30 years of military service, Frank retired from the US Air Force in 1969, about two years after Larry entered the Air Force in 1967. Frank was active in civic affairs. He was Past President of the Barnstable County Agricultural Society in Falmouth, the Marstons Mills Athletic and Civic Club, and the Marstons Mills Library Board. Frank died in 1992 at the age of 75.

In 1964 the Dicks bought what had been locally known as the Weeks House, located at 91 (later 90) Hilltop Drive (deed 1286/572). The house had been bought from the Weeks family in 1947 by George (Buddy) Lapham (deed 821//148), and then sold to Artemas and Gertrude Griffin. The house had tenants renting, and at one time it was used as a dance studio, prior to the Dick's purchase of the house.

Kay worked at the Marstons Mills Cash Market for 16 years, working for Loring Jones, Jr. and Frank McCluskey, until she had to take care of Frank. Kay considered her "grandmothers" to be Bea Lapham, Nora Gifford, and "Grandma" Pierce—the three ladies her senior. Kay worked with grades 5 and 6 in the "new" (brick) elementary school auditorium and in the Liberty Hall facility, helping with ballroom dancing and square dancing. She also worked with the boys' baseball and girls' softball teams at the school field.

Kay was past Director of the Horticultural Society—part of the Barnstable County Agricultural Society in Falmouth. Both Kay and Frank were involved with the Barnstable County Fair for more than 30 years.

Kay was honored on 7 September 2014 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts House of Representatives as the oldest living resident of Marstons Mills. The ceremony was held at Liberty Hall, and many people came to see her.

Larry was born 4 October 1947 in Roswell, New Mexico, about one month after the US Air Force was officially established. Frank was assigned to the Air Force Base there. Larry attended the grades 3-5 elementary grades at the old Mills elementary school, which was later moved to Route 28 to become the John-Lawrence Funeral Home. He then attended grade 6 in the new brick elementary school before going to Junior High in Hyannis. Larry graduated in 1965 with Carol Thifault and David Elskamp. Larry served in the Air Force for 20 years (1967-1987), then retiring from active duty.

The house at 90 Hilltop Drive has an interesting history; it was once owned by William Weeks and the Robinson Weeks (deed 680-435) on the National Record Form B (prepared by the Director of Historic Preservation, Patricia Anderson, following interviews with historian Vivian Cushing and postmistress Adele Jones), dating the house in its present form back to 1838. However, inspection of the house reveals that it may have been built around a much earlier structure; one as-yet unreliable note in the Assessor's Records date the original house to 1770, based on wooden pegs in the attic beams and wide floor boards. An inspection by historical preservationist Robert Frazee will be carried out to make a further determination of the approximate age range of the house.



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