



Maurice M. Whitten

October 1, 1923 - January 6, 2021

Maurice Mason Whitten died January 6, 2021 at Gorham House in Gorham, Maine. He was born October 1, 1923, in Providence, R.I., the son of the late Rev. Albert E. and Caroline A. (Steere) Whitten.

He grew up in several Maine towns where his father was appointed to Methodist Churches. He graduated from Coburn Classical Institute in Waterville in 1941. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from Colby College in 1945. He received his Master's Degree from Teacher's College, Columbia University in 1949. His diploma was signed by Dwight D. Eisenhower who was President of Columbia University at that time. He got his Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1971.

Whitten also did graduate work at Union College (Schenectady), University of Minnesota (Minneapolis), Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, Hampshire College and the University of Maine.

Whitten taught sciences at Wilton Academy (1945-48) and Lewiston High School (1948-55). He also taught chemistry one year at Central Maine General Hospital School of Nursing in 1952.

In 1955, Whitten joined the faculty of Gorham State Teachers College (now University of Southern Maine) to teach chemistry and physical science.

He was on leave to the Maine State Department of Education to be the Master Science Teacher on an educational television program to be participated in by many high schools throughout the state. It was also seen by many people in their homes. He also taught in three summer sessions at University of Maine in Orono.

Whitten retired in 1983 as Professor Emeritus of Chemistry. He prepared a course, "The Civil War, A Prelude to Future Wars," which he taught in USM's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute for four semesters.

Whitten was a member of: The American Association for the Advancement of Science , American Chemical Society, History of Science Society, Union of Concerned Scientists, National Science Teachers Association, New England Association of Chemistry Teachers, Nature Conservancy, National Resources Council of Maine, Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, Maine Historical Society, Gorham Historical Society (President 1984-86), Maine Charitable Mechanics Association, Roger Williams Family Association, Cressey Road

United Methodist Church, (Gorham),and Groveville Congregational Church, (Buxton). Whitten did extensive research on the Gunpowder Mills of Maine starting in 1965. He wrote the booklet "The Gunpowder Mills of Gorham, Maine" in 1986. In 1990, his book,The Gunpowder Mills of Maine was published and since reprinted. In 2012, he wrote the booklet "The Gunpowder Mills of Gorham-Windham, Maine".

In 1983, Whitten married Doris R. Mann of Gorham. The Whittens travelled extensively in all 50 states and all of the Canadian Provinces. In 1985, they flew to New Zealand and Australia to visit Maurice's relatives. His father came to the United States from Australia. They flew home by way of Europe thus going around the world.

In 1990, they attended the "Passion Play" in Oberammergau, Germany, and toured in several countries at that time and in later trips.

For many years, the Whittens spent 3 or 4 winter months in St. Petersburg, FL.

Survivors include seven step-children: Judith A. Caouette, Old Orchard Beach, ME, Alan A. Mann, Pittsboro, NC. Margery J. Hulsey, Westbrook, ME, Beverly E. Lessard, Lyman, ME, Dr. Ronald W. Mann, Neenah, WI, Stephen A. Mann, Bridgewater, NH, Mary E. Delany, Cary, NC, also, 18 step-grandchildren, 26 step-great-grandchildren and several cousins in Australia and Canada.

He was predeceased by his wife Doris Whitten in 2019.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Maurice's name may be given to the University of Southern Maine for scholarships.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, May 26th at 1pm at the Highland Cemetery in Limerick. Arrangements are in the care of the Gorham Chapel of Dolby Blais & Segee, 76 State St., Gorham, ME 04038.

Events

MAY **Graveside Service** 01:00PM

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Highland Cemetery- Limerick

Route 5, Limerick, ME, US, 04048

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Whitten Family



Rebecca Hastings - January 18 at 03:32 PM



“ I first met Maurice when I was taking a college chemistry class at Gorham. We soon found that we had a common connection. I grew up in the town of Harmony, Maine, where Maurice's father was a minister for a time. We would continue our connections at Sunday church service in Gorham. At some point in my science teaching at Gorham High School Maurice started sending me his back issues of science journals, and I remember well the day he sent me one of his chemistry textbooks. He had included a little note saying, "I hope you may have more use of this than I do now". I still have the textbook and would like to offer it to any family member who might be interested in having it as a keepsake. The date of Mar. 10, 1975, appears after his name. I feel your loss.
Charles Sendzik 207 839 3841

Charles Sendzik - January 13 at 08:52 AM



“ I was very fortunate to have had Mr. Whitten as my teacher of chemistry at Lewiston High School from which I graduated in 1956. He had a strong influence on me and encouraged me to make science and engineering my career. He motivated me to enter the Maine State Science Fair 2 or 3 years in a row, and he was one of the reasons I decided to apply to M.I.T. and graduated there. Mr. Whitten lived a good and long life. I'm almost 83 years old and still active as a building construction lawyer in New York City. Mr. Whitten was one of the most important educational figures in my life. May his memory continue to be a blessing in my life and in the lives of many of his students.

Arthur Silvermsn

Arthur C. Silverman - January 11 at 07:22 PM



“ I knew the lovely couple, Doris and Maurice. They walked hand in hand daily on their walks in Gorham and they were two of the nicest people who I have had the privilege of knowing.
Maurice Whitten was the epitome of a gentleman and a scholar.

Deborah Buker - January 11 at 11:57 AM



“ Maurice Whitten was my next door neighbor for 15 years. During that time we shared many discussions about the gunpowder mills and the C&O Canal. I really missed not being able to visit him at Gorham House due to the pandemic restrictions.

Condolences to his family. God rest his soul.

Donald C. Wescott

Donald Wescott - January 10 at 02:47 PM



“ Truly, a life well lived. I had the honor of being a student of Dr. Whitten back in the 60's. M Squared, as he was affectionately referred to, had a infectious, dry sense of humor that spiced his lectures as well as his informal interactions with us.
Years later, my wife and I attended a lecture given by Dr. Whitten on the gunpowder mills found in the area. We went up to him to thank him and introduce ourselves - no need - he recognized us immediately and inquired about some others that were in our circle of friends.

John Serber - January 10 at 11:32 AM