

Geraldine Taylor Besse

Gilmanton Iron Works, NH - Geraldine Taylor Besse, 86, died on Wednesday, November 26, 2003, in Medina, Ohio.

She was born on August 10, 1917, in Boston Massachusetts, the daughter of Albert Brown Taylor and Geraldine Bliss Taylor and sister of the late Weston Bliss Taylor.

She was married to the late Robert Hume North and subsequently to Col. Harry William Besse, former president of the Boston Stock Exchange, who also predeceased her.

She lived in Billerica, Massachusetts until 1953 when she moved to Gilmanton Iron Works where she resided until 2000.

A graduate of Lesley College, Mrs. Besse known as Jerry to her friends, taught young school children for over 35 years in Massachusetts, Gilmanton Iron Works, and at the Pleasant Street School in Laconia.

In addition to the 3R's she imparted to them her great love of history, poetry, music, good manners and gentility.

Jerry Besse gave enthusiastically and unsparingly of her talents, time and her other resources to her church and her community.

She was a member of the Ladies Aid, Gilmanton Iron Works Library Association, various Garden and Women's Clubs and a long-time volunteer at Lakes Region General Hospital.

Jerry always had a cause or a project and her "last hurrah" was the planning and production of the Iron Works Festival in 1991 which benefited the restoration of the Old Town Hall. But beyond these accomplishments, Jerry will be fondly remembered for her unfailing generosity to those in need, her respect for tradition, her infectious sense of humor, her incredible zest for life. At her hilltop home she was a consummate hostess, known es-

pecially for her annual New Year's Day Gathering.

She leaves her only child, to whom she was devoted, Nicholas Warren Hume North, his wife, Susan, and grandson, Nicholas Keeler North all of Medina, Ohio and granddaughter, Sarah Bliss North of Las Vegas, Nevada.

A memorial service and interment will be held in Gilmanton Iron Works in early spring 2004. Details will be announced at a later date.

Arrangements are by Wilkinson-Beane Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Laconia, NH.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Alzheimer's Association, NH Chapter, 10 Ferry Street, Suite 427B, Concord 03301; Gilmanton Community Church, PO Box 6, Gilmanton Iron Works, NH 03837 or to the Hospice of one's choice.

Col. Harry W. Besse

GILMANTON IRON WORKS - Col. Harry William Besse, 81, former president of the Boston Stock Exchange, former Gilmanton moderator, died at Tobey Hospital in Wareham, Mass., yesterday.

Col. Besse served on the board of directors of Allegheny Airlines now U.S. Air, and was one of the first in the state to own a private airstrip, at his home in Gilmanton Iron Works.

Col. Besse served in the U.S. Air Force during World War I and II. He was born in Wareham on June 9, 1898, the son of the late Frank Alden and Mary (Gammons) Besse.

Survivors include his wife, Geraldine (Taylor) Besse; a sister, Justine (Besse) Sweet of North Smithfield, R.I.

Services will be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Wareham, at one o'clock Saturday afternoon. Interment will be in Gilmanton Iron Works at a later date.

Arrangements are by the Cornwell Memorial Chapel, Center St., Wareham.

There are no calling hours.

Memorial contributions in his name may be made to the Church of the Good Shepherd, or Tobey Hospital, Wareham, or Lahey Clinic, Dept. of Radiotherapy, Burlington, Mass.