



## Mrs. Vedora Hunter Maloney

March 25, 1918 - December 24, 2020

Vedora Hunter Maloney, aged 102, passed away on Christmas Eve 2020, and celebrated Christmas in Heaven.

Vedora Adelaide Whalen Barcomb Hunter Maloney, the “lady with many names,” was the third child born to John and Helen (Nellie Pelkey) Whalen. She was born on March 25, 1918 in Mineville, New York.

On October 9, 1918, when Vedora was 6 1/2 months old, her mother Nellie passed away at the age of 25, from the Spanish influenza. Within 5 days, three other family members died of the same illness. Vedora's young father was unable to care for his three little girls alone; therefore, he sent them to live with his parents, John and Jane (Wine) Whalen in Ellenburg. John and Jane raised her older sisters Electa and Ferne, while Vedora was raised by a first cousin of her father, Jennie (Whalen) and her husband Henry Barcomb, and Vedora assumed their last name. Jennie felt that Vedora was too young to go to school and kept her at home until she was seven. As a student, Vedora showed exceptional skill, skipped second and fourth grades, and graduated at 17. (It is believed that she was the last surviving member of the Class of 1935 from Chateaugay High School). Jennie believed Vedora was too young to go to college, so in the fall of 1935 she took a postgraduate course at Chateaugay High School, then continued her education at Plattsburgh Normal School (now called SUNY Plattsburgh), graduating in 1939.

Growing up, she moved several times with the Barcombs to different farms that Henry rented in Churubusco and Chateaugay. After college graduation, Vedora took different jobs in rural schools in Burke and Chateaugay. In 1941 she had the school district hold her wages until the end of the school year so she could help Henry and Jennie pay for their farm in Burke, across from the Cherry Knoll Restaurant. The farm cost \$2500, and Vedora gave them her \$1100 annual salary. She wanted to pay them back for raising her and helping her get an education. When she grew up, times were hard. She was unable to afford a high school class ring, and she went without a lot, but always maintained a "can do" attitude.

In 1941 while at the Franklin County Fair, her neighbor Warren Hunter asked her to go for a ride on the Ferris Wheel. She was scared of the ride but wanted to go with him, so she said yes anyway. The ride stopped at the very top while they were on it. She recalled this memory again when seeing the Ferris Wheel at the 2017 fair. They married secretly at the rectory of St. George's Church in Burke on November 1, 1942. On their first anniversary when they had enough money to get a farm of their own, their marriage was announced in the Chateaugay Record, and they moved into their first and only home, in Burke.

They became parents to two children: Elaine, and a stillborn son they named Stephen Joseph.

As the years went by Vedora continued to teach in various neighborhood country schools, and retired as a 5th grade teacher from Flanders Elementary, in Malone, NY in 1976. After a time, she returned to work, tutoring migrant students at Chateaugay Central School for a few years.

Vedora had many interests including: painting landscapes, traveling, reading,

music, animals, and nature. She was the self-proclaimed "Mayor of the Lewis Road," was a great storyteller and poet, and loved to talk and laugh for hours. She had many friends, and all who knew her had good things to say about her kind and generous nature.

To her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, she was known as Nanny. Nanny was an amazing and enthusiastic lady. She had tremendous drive and a zeal for life. She was often in the front row of her grandkids' events. While there, she would share a warm smile and quick joke with community members, many of whom also called her Nanny. When her grandkids set out to master new skills, she encouraged them, and often tried the new activities as well. She took guitar and piano lessons with some of her grandkids when she was in her 70s. She was a consistent chauffeur for her grandkids' many activities, and took her love of driving to the next level when she got her official taxi license shortly after turning 80. She taught her grandkids to read, bake, drive, to enjoy learning and science, and often helped with homework. She encouraged their creative sides with art, music, and poetry. She was a patient, kind, and loving woman, and took delight in the small things. She will be dearly missed, and her beautiful memory will live on in our hearts forever. She leaves behind quite the legacy.

Vedora is survived by her daughter Elaine and son-in-law Robert O'Connor of Chateaugay, NY; her eight grandchildren: Sheridan O'Connor and his wife Erin (Kolkman) of Cary, NC; Sedrick O'Connor and his wife Kimberly (Schmidt) of Fishkill, NY; Jennifer O'Connor of Burlington, VT; Caroline O'Connor and her companion Adam Frehm of Colchester, VT; Sacha O'Connor of Burlington, VT; Britney Smith and her husband Benjamin of Fulton, MD; Warren O'Connor and his wife Emily (Gardiner) of Saratoga Springs, NY; and Savanna O'Connor and her companion Shane Hardiman of Jericho, VT. She is also survived by six great-grandsons: Brady, Bailey, Luke,

and Liam O'Connor, and Jacob and Levi Smith; and two great-granddaughters: Nola O'Connor and Elizabeth Smith. Additionally, Vedora is survived by a half-sister, Joan O'Keefe and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her birth parents and her foster parents, Henry and Jennie Barcomb, along with her husband Warren Hunter in 1974 and her second husband, John Maloney, in 1977. Her two older sisters predeceased her; Electa LaClair on January 29, 2003, and Ferne Engel on May 13, 1996. She was also predeceased by a grand-son-in-law Matthew Rafferty (Sacha O'Connor) in 2014 and a foster brother, Walter "Buck" Patnode who died in 2012.

Calling hours and her funeral will be private, and burial will be in The North Burke Cemetery in the spring. A memorial service, open to the public, will be announced at a later date. The funeral will have the ability to be livestreamed at 12 pm on Thursday, Dec. 31. Please visit [https://www.facebook.com/Deac2009/?epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/Deac2009/?epa=SEARCH_BOX).

The family would like to thank Penny Chapman, Vedora's caregiver in the final year of her life, for providing exceptional care and attention. Penny treated Vedora as a loved one and cherished family member, and our family is deeply grateful for the care she provided.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to one of the following organizations:

-ASPCA:

[aspca.org](http://aspca.org)

(800) 628-0028

424 E. 92nd St, New York, NY 10128

-St Jude Children's Research Hospital:

stjude.org

(800) 478-5833

262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105

-St. Patrick's Church

<https://www.rcdony.org/franklin-deanery/burke-chateaugay.html>

132 W. Main St, Chateaugay, NY 12920

(518) 497-6673

## Cemetery Details

### North Burke Cemetery

Burke, NY

## Previous Events

### Graveside service

MAY 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

North Burke Cemetery  
Burke, NY

# Tribute Wall

BO

“ Vedora, no doubt a caring, sweet, loving and wonderful person we will always miss. Loved hearing her poems. Great memories! She and Mom O'Connor were such great friends to one another. Love and hugs from Paul & I to Elaine, Robert and family/ Love to all...



Barbara & Paul O'Connor - January 02, 2021 at 02:57 PM



“ I met cousin Vedora only once, and that was at the welcoming party that the Whalen Family had for her at the Fire Station in Ellenburg Center. She was a lovely person and I'm sorry that we hadn't had more contact.

Anthony McPherson - December 31, 2020 at 11:30 AM

JV

“ It was our great, good fortune to have spent time in the company of this very special lady. Vedora was engaging, entertaining, warm hearted, and a joy to be around. Heaven can rejoice at her coming, while she lives on in the hearts of all who were privileged to call her Nanny and friend. Our heartfelt condolences to Elaine, Bob, and family circle.

Jim and Pattie Vaugh

James William Vaughn - December 30, 2020 at 08:31 PM



“ Although I didn't know Vedora, I was compelled to write something after reading her amazing obituary. She clearly lived her "dash," and seemed like a one of a kind type of person. My heartfelt condolences to her family and friends, and all of those whom she touched in some way during her life.

Winnie McQuinn

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Winnie McQuinn - December 30, 2020 at 06:54 PM

RM

“ Although I didn't have the opportunity to spend very much time with Vedora, or get to know her very well my father John Maloney loved spending his final three years with her. I miss my father very much. It was so nice to see him happy. As a veteran of WW II, he was left with many battle scars. It was only in my adult life that he and I would have actually ben able to reconnect as father and son; but due to all the health issues of life, he was taken away much too soon. I think of him everyday and even talk to him.(I believe) Quite a few years ago Vedora gave me our only family album which I will always cherish. Thank you Vedora. God bless you and rest in peace. I'm sure dad is very happy now.

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Robert Maloney - December 30, 2020 at 03:12 PM

NG

“ What a wonderful lady she was . She will always be in our thoughts and prayers .  
Our deepest heart felt condolences go out to Elaine, Bob and family at this time of sorrow . Her soul now rest in house of the Lord .Amen

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Norman& Joan Garrand - December 30, 2020 at 09:46 AM

LF

“ I met Miss Vedora while I was delivering meals on wheels in Burke and she made a lasting impression on me. She was in her mid 90's and full of life and had a very sharp wit. We talked about books and she told me some of her life history. She made it to my prayer list in short order and remained on it. I am sorry for your loss, Elaine and Bob. She was a wonderful person.

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**Lynn Fredenburgh** - December 29, 2020 at 09:11 PM



“ Cheeseboard Complete was purchased for the family of Mrs. Vedora Hunter Maloney.



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December 29, 2020 at 08:30 PM

LS

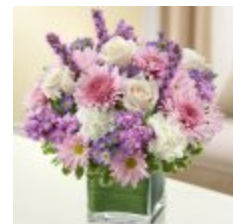
“ Lauren and Mike Smith purchased the Cheeseboard Complete for the family of Mrs. Vedora Hunter Maloney.



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**Lauren and Mike Smith** - December 29, 2020 at 08:18 PM

CO

“ Clark D OConnor purchased the Healing Tears - Lavender and White for the family of Mrs. Vedora Hunter Maloney.



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**Clark D OConnor** - December 29, 2020 at 03:48 PM

BK

“ *Elaine & family, Today I am sadden to hear of your mother's passing. She was such a special person. Hugs & love to all, Barbara Friend King and husband Bill*

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**Barbara Friend King** - December 29, 2020 at 12:50 PM

SM

“ *Best 5th grade teacher ever! rest well Mrs. Hunter!*

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**Steve Mayville!** - December 28, 2020 at 10:38 PM

JM

“ *Joe, Katie, Madison, Mya And Jack McComb lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Vedora Hunter Maloney*



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**Joe, Katie, Madison, Mya and Jack McComb** - December 28, 2020 at 07:32 PM

EB

“ *Deepest sympathy to Elaine, Bob & family. Rest in peace Nanny. Brian, Erin & Schae*



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**Erin O. Beaudoin** - December 28, 2020 at 06:57 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Chateaugay Funeral Home** - December 28, 2020 at 01:29 PM

MD

*Rest In Peace verdora. My sympathies to Elaine and her family.*

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**marie doria** - December 31, 2020 at 08:30 PM

JJ

*How Blessed we and anyone who knew Vedora, are to have known such a delightful, sweet and kind lady. Our children were the lucky ones to have grown as friends to the O'Connor children and as a result had another grandmother whom they loved! We are certain she is in the arms of Our Lord looking down at her beautiful family with a smile. God Bless and love to you all! Bobby and Joan Johnston family*

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**Joan B Johnston** - January 02, 2021 at 11:32 AM

HM

*I remember Aunt Vedora as always with a smile and a hug. She was married to my Uncle John Maloney. I remember visiting them both at their home and she had this player piano. You could play it yourself or along with the automated setting where "the piano played music on a cylinder that had grooves, and as it rotates each groove plays a musical note". ( her explaining to me how it works). I had never seen one before. The jokester she was she smiled and led me to the piano. We sat on the piano bench and she told me..." Watch, I can play this piano with my hands above the keys but not touching them, just like magic!" I was dumbfounded and in total amazement. Aunt Vedora played without touching the keys. She and Uncle John laughed so hard. That's when she told me how it worked. A lovely lady. And like my cousin Robert Maloney said she brought great joy to my uncle in his last few years. To her family...you had an amazing mother, grandmother and great grand. I am blessed to have met and known her. Such an amazing woman. Nothing can take away the pain of losing someone dear but time. Keep your memories of her that made her special only to you and smile..like Vedora.*

**HEIDI HOLMES McCRAY**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**

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**Heidi Mccray** - January 02, 2021 at 11:58 AM

Jennifer  
Wood

*I've had the pleasure of knowing Vedora since I was a young teen while babysitting for Elaine and Bob. At that time, they had 3 children. I continued to babysit and eventually help with household chores from their last child and for years after. It was a pure joy having met Vedora. I will treasure the memories, many a day she would come to the door with her arms loaded with a casserole or dinner, then make a second trip to get the dessert or the final touches! She was a busy and very involved Nanny, from taxi to biggest fan of her grandchildren's many activities. I recall many times she'd take one and bring home another and never once did I ever hear complain about the miles and hours she spent doing for her family! My most special memory is knowing how busy she was, and she took the time to take me to Malone for my weekly bloodwork while I was going through chemotherapy. I can't remember our conversation, but I highly doubt that it was a quiet ride. I loved our visits and her stories. RIP sweet lady. My sincerest condolences to her family and friends.*

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**Jennifer Wood** - January 02, 2021 at 03:11 PM