

# Obituary

## Irene A. Boyle

AMHERST, NH — Irene Ann Boyle, age 81, of Amherst, New Hampshire passed away quietly in her home on May 15, 2015 following a short illness.



Irene was born in Newport, Pennsylvania on January 14, 1934 to Walter and Teresa (Dekuto-ski) Pelczar. She graduated from Temple University with an Associate's degree in 1954 and later earned her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Rochester in 1976. Irene met her beloved husband William Boyle, Jr. in Philadelphia and they were later married on January 31, 1958.

Irene spent her life devoted to her husband of 45 years, her family, and her charitable work. Irene was involved in numerous charities to include supporting the Carmelite Nuns in Pittsford, NY, Project Share, St. Vincent De Paul, and the Amherst area food kitchen.

Irene was predeceased by her beloved husband Bill in 2004, and her brother Eugene Pelczar in 2015.

She is survived by her three sons and daughters-in-law, William and

Julie Boyle of Londonderry, NH, Dennis and Elizabeth Boyle of Newfields, NH, and Patrick and Melissa Boyle of Amherst, NH. Her sons blessed her with nine grandchildren: Christopher, Kaileen, William, Brian, Meredith, Margaret, Charlie, Henry, and David; also survived by her sister, Paulene Kutz of Dallas, PA; several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours are on Wednesday, May 20th from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Smith & Heald Funeral Home, 63 Elm Street, Milford, NH. A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Thursday at 10:00 am in St. Patrick's Church, 34 Amherst Street, Milford, NH. Burial will be in Meadowview Cemetery, Amherst. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Home Health & Hospice Care, 7 Executive Park Drive, Merrimack, NH 03054. Arrangements are in the care of Smith & Heald Funeral Home, Milford. To share a memory or offer a condolence, please go to [www.smith-heald.com](http://www.smith-heald.com)

## ► Charles H. Mackay RR Station Agent & Storekeeper

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child, Fred Lewis Mackay, but sadly she died sixteen days later, aged 26. The funeral was held at the Baptist church. The following year, Charles Mackay again quit Amherst, this time for good, leaving his baby son in the care of the boy's maternal grandparents. The Sawyers moved to Nashua with little Fred in 1890, where Andrew changed his occupation to real estate dealer. At age 22, Fred was an "agent for talking machines" and still living in Nashua with widowed grandpa; the 1910 census double-counted him, also catching him as a lodger in Attleboro, "salesman of phonographs."

### New Occultist Career

Chas. H. Mackay moved to Boston, Mass., becoming managing editor, and one of three directors, of a magazine called *Esoteric*, founded by Hiram Erastus Butler. Mackay quickly gained some renown, making it into a poetry collection published in 1892 by Thomas W. Herringshaw, *Local and National Poets of America with Interesting Biographical Sketches and Choice Selections*, which included Mackay's portrait and four of his poems (p. 803): "Besides writing poetry he is the author of many articles on astronomy [astrology, more like] which have appeared in the Boston Journal and the *Esoteric*, of which latter publication he is editor and business manager. Mr. Mackay is a connoisseur of considerable ability, and has played leading parts in bands and orchestras from his youth." (The sketch also mentioned his earlier 5-year career as railroad telegraph operator and stint as postmaster at Amherst, N.H.) In this last decade of the 19th century, Mackay wrote a 26-page book called "Zodiacal Influences," which he claimed "tells you whom you

should choose for harmonious association in marriage, friendship, and business" and "valuable suggestions for astrological students." It initially cost 25 cents, later 30 cents.

In Jan. 1891, at age 31, Mackay remarried, to widow Mary D. (Palmer) Howard, aged 27 (on the marriage record but more likely 30), daughter of an Episcopal clergyman. (I could not find out what happened to her. The 1900, 1920, 1930 censuses locate Charles in Bridgton, Maine, and give his status as "married" but no wife is with him. Perhaps the planets did not align for marital bliss for him. In the 1905 register of Bridgton, Charles listed no wife but did include his children as "Lizzie B., Amherst, N.H." and "Fred L., Nashua, N.H.")

In 1893, still seeking to provide guidance to others, Charles H. Mackay launched his own occult initiative. (Perhaps he wanted to distance himself from some disreputable practices of *Esoteric* followers.) He succeeded in getting a long publicity piece in a Boston newspaper, which was picked up further afield with five tiers of headline: "FOUNDED A NEW RELIGIOUS SECT. / Charles H. Mackay, of Boston, the Leading Exponent / Of a Faith in Which Gymnastics Play a Part. / And Silence is One of the Important Factors. / Abstention from Flesh Food During the First Year One of the Teacher's Tenets." The article said that a "new school of theosophy [had been] born in Boston, and known as the Order of the West Gate, a brotherhood earnestly engaged in the solution of the esoteric mysteries of the microcosm ... Its motto is: There is but one victory worth the struggle; there is but one world to conquer — the victory over self, the world "within." ... Charles

H. Mackay, of Dorchester, is the founder and high priest. When his ideas are accepted throughout the world, there will be no more grumbling or bickering, no more loss of time to sleep ... Mr. Mackay, the founder of the new occidental theosophy, here described to the world at large for the first time, is a young man, tall and straight, with an intelligent face and a fund of information on general topics. A severe illness not long ago preventing his engaging in active business, his mind naturally turned more than ever to philosophical and astronomical subjects, in which he had always been much interested. The results of his contemplations he is now giving to the public." (Times-Picayune, New Orleans, Louisiana, 13 Nov. 1893.)

To expound the West Gate philosophy that "Wealth, Fame, Power — all that the world can give sink into nothingness in the presence of restored Inner Harmony" and that "while the Soul directs there is Growth," founder Mackay published a monthly journal called *Oracle*, 12 pages 6x9. The first issue appeared in June 1895, from Bridgton, Maine, because, as he explained, it was a lovely place to be in the summer, but he soon relocated it as planned to Boston. Initially, a subscription was offered for \$1.00 per year or a single copy for 10 cents, but by 1897, when it had an average circulation of 1528, the price had been reduced by half. It continued until 1900.

In his occultist publication, Mackay also offered "private lessons" on controlling dreams, mediumship, telepathy, crystal gazing for separate fees. For example, the third issue of *Oracle* offered: "Vibration. A very deep occult lesson, made

simple and practical for home use or class teaching ... contains drills for development of physical, mental and spiritual powers. Price reduced to \$1."

Well, it's not clear exactly when this occultist career petered out, or if Mackay ever earned much money from it, but it did leave him with a skill to turn into a new trade. From about 1900 on, for decades, he had his own jobs printing business in his hometown. And he continued with music. His daughter on her 1906 marriage record, when he was 45, gave his occupation as "musician" (when he himself would have said "printer"). In the Library of Congress's catalog of copyrighted musical compositions is this: "Stayed or stolen, words and music by C. H. Mackay [arr. by Pauline Story], New York, F. B. Haviland pub. co. copyright June 27, 1911, Charles H. Mackay, Bridgton, Me." And among the collection of the Fogler Library of the University of Maine is 1942 sheet music entitled "Mackay's Song of Maine" composed and published by Chas. H. Mackay of Bridgton, Maine.

### Special Thanks

... to all the ladies at Town Hall who graciously provide me access, again and again, to old Amherst tax invoices (which pinpoint the year a man moved away); to Jackie Marshall for opening the Wigwam museum so I could check obituaries and wedding account in old newspapers; and to Bill Wichman and Susan Fischer who supply digitized historic images from HSA to share with you history buffs. See the Historical Society's website for photos of Lizzie Mackay and her Boutelle grandparents.

**READERS: Traveling or going on summer vacation out of the area? Request a short term subscription by mail for \$1.00 per issue by calling 603-672-9444. Or, read online at: [www.amherstcitizen.com](http://www.amherstcitizen.com) at your convenience. Have a news item? Submit via email: [news@amherstcitizen.com](mailto:news@amherstcitizen.com).**

## ► Amherst Recreation Programs and Events

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Science Center, Hampton Beach SP, and Water Country!

**Baboosic Lake Summer Camp**  
Who: Entering grade 1-7  
Where: Baboosic Lake  
When: 6/22-8/14  
Fee: \$135R; \$175NR per week  
\$870R; \$1190NR Full Summer Rate

**Baboosic Lake CIT Program**  
Volunteer Counselors in Training will work with our camp counselors to provide a fun camp environment for all children. A ticket to that week's field trip is included.

Who: Entering grades 9 and 10  
Where: Baboosic Lake  
When: 6/22-8/14  
Fee: \$35R; \$45NR

**Outdoor Discovery Summer Camp (grades 1-5)**  
Who: Entering 1-5  
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)  
When: 6/22-8/7  
Fee: \$145R; \$185NR  
\$825R; \$1105NR Full Summer Rate

**Outdoor Discovery Summer Camp (grades 6-8) Includes all field trips!**  
Who: Entering 6-8  
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)  
When: 6/22-8/7  
Fee: \$179R; \$219NR

\$1063R; \$1343NR Full Summer Rate

**Outdoor Discovery Mini Camp**  
Who: Ages 4&5  
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)  
When: 6/22-7/31  
Fee: \$105R; \$120NR  
\$460R; \$550NR

**Cheer Camp**  
Who: Grades 1-8  
Where: Bean Fields  
When: 6/22-6/25  
Fee: \$100R; \$120NR

**Challenger British MultiSport Camp**  
Sports covered may include tag rugby, cricket, soccer, rounders, kickball, netball and handball.

Who: Ages 6-16  
Where: Bean Field  
When: July 27- July 31  
Fee: \$135 Half day  
\$190 Full day

### Pre-School Programming

**Pre-School Play Group**  
Who: Preschoolers and parents/caregivers  
What: Pre school Playgroup  
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center  
When: Fridays 11am-Noon  
Fee: FREE

\*\*Please note: We will NOT be meeting on May 8th, May 15th or May 29th.\*\*

**Story Telling on the Green**  
A Collection of local story tellers will gather to share some wonderful stories! These events are perfect for both children and adults.

Where: Amherst Town Green (look for a sign)  
When: Tuesday June 2 from 4:30-6pm

In case of inclement weather, the storytellers will meet at the Amherst Town Library at 7pm on the dates listed above.

### Homeschool Science Programs

Amherst Recreation offers environmental and science programs to home school students throughout the school year at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center!

Who: Home school students ages 3-14  
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)  
When: June 16th from 1-3pm (3-5yr olds from 1-2pm)  
Fee: \$5 for 3-5 yr olds, \$10 for 6-14 yr olds

Please visit [www.amherstrec.org](http://www.amherstrec.org) for activity descriptions

### Adult Programming

**Morning Miles**  
Who: Adults  
What: Loosely organized running group  
When: Tuesday and Thursdays at 6am March 31-June 18  
Where: Village Green, in the parking lot across from the Congregational Church  
Fee: FREE!

**Rugby 7's for Adults**  
Rugby 7's is a quick, fun and easy to learn sport.  
Who: Adults 18+  
Where: Lower Wilkins  
When: Wednesday Nights starting June 24th  
Fee: \$20R; \$25NR

### Family Programming

**Birthday Parties at PMEC!**  
Create amazing birthday memories this year with a Birthday Party for your child age 3-12 at the Peabody Mill Environment Center!  
We have several themes to choose from or we can work together to tailor one just for your Birthday Girl or Boy. Please visit [www.amherstrec.org](http://www.amherstrec.org) for more details.  
We add programs weekly, so check our website often...

Next Issue: June 9  
Deadline: June 3  
News: [news@amherstcitizen.com](mailto:news@amherstcitizen.com)  
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**JOHN ROCKWOOD**  
Thu, May 28, 6:30 pm  
The "Loon Man" presents an educational and entertaining slideshow on the state bird of Minnesota! His book about an orphaned chick, *Adventures with Grapenut*, will be available for sale and signing.

**SHARON LEE & STEVE MILLER**  
Thu, June 4, 6:30 pm  
The delightful SF duo return to chat about and their latest novel in the Liaden Universe, *Dragon in Exile*.

**KURT SPRINGS**  
Sat, June 6, 1 pm  
The NH author visits to share his SF adventure, *Promise of Mercy*, the action-packed sequel to *Price of Vengeance*. Space has never been more dangerous.  
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