



## Susan Wood Osborne

March 26, 2025

Susan Wood Osborne of Lancaster died on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, just shy of her 89th birthday. She was born to Ronald and Enid Wood in Nether Whitacre, Warwickshire, England, in 1936. Her brother Arthur Richard Wood predeceased her. She is survived by her husband John B. Osborne, Jr., daughter Charlotte Osborne Moscardelli, son-in-law Christopher Paul Moscardelli, and step-grandchildren Nicholas and Gabriella Moscardelli of Sea Girt, NJ.

Named for the vibrant black-eyed Susan flower, she possessed deep, soulful brown eyes that reflected a life lived with both grace and fortitude. Susan's early years were formative. During WWII, she endured numerous German air raids and on one occasion had to be dug out of a blizzard by Italian POWs when she was near death with pneumonia. This early adversity forged in her an unwavering spirit, the very embodiment of the British "stiff upper lip," a survivor who embraced life with quiet strength.

After graduating from Saint Mary & Saint Anne, Abbots Bromley, and Rachel McMillan College, now part of the University of London, she embarked on ambitious travels across Europe - from bicycle rides through the French countryside with friends to exploring the picturesque landscapes of Italy and the slopes of the Swiss Alps.

Susan began her career as a primary school teacher in London, but her adventurous heart soon took her to the American International School in Switzerland, where she taught elementary school. Upon returning to London, fate intervened and she met her future husband. Their romance blossomed during a trip to the Scottish Highlands, culminating in her greatest adventure: marrying and moving to the United States in 1969.

In America, Susan continued her passion for education, teaching at the Gill School in New Jersey before moving to Lancaster where she was a beloved third-grade teacher at Lancaster Country Day School for twenty-five years.

While she left England it never really left her, nor did her Queen's English accent which was complimented regularly and added to her charm. Susan was a gifted artist, capturing the beauty of her travels in delightful watercolors, particularly those inspired by the landscapes of Provence. Her keen visual sense also manifested in her love of gardening, transforming her Lancaster backyard into a tranquil English oasis. Ever the educator, she authored a textbook on teaching third-grade mathematics. While she did cherish her British ancestry, she eventually became an American citizen at the ripe old age of 80.

Susan embraced adventure throughout her life, spending summers exploring England, the sun-drenched fields of southern France, the cultural delights of the Shaw Festival in Niagara on the Lake, and the vibrant energy of New York City while visiting her daughter. Her spirit of exploration, dedication to education, her deep appreciation for family and friends, and infectious laugh will be profoundly missed by all who knew her.

A Memorial Service will be held at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange St., Lancaster, PA 17603 on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Friends are invited to greet the family at 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home. The

interment will be private.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **26**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc  
528 W Orange St.  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
(717) 394-5300  
admin@thegroffs.com  
<https://thegroffs.com/>

## Memorial Service

APR **26**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc  
528 W Orange St.  
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# Tribute Wall

DH

“ I remember Susan well, as I taught beside her at Lancaster Country Day School. I have memories of her sense of humor, her commitment to her teaching and her collegiality with her fellow teachers. May she rest in peace.

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**Debbie Havert** - April 26, 2025 at 09:04 AM

KR

“ There are so many memories, too innumerable to count, since I first met Sue, fifty years ago. But no matter their number, none has been forgotten by me; for how does one ever forget such a wonderful friend, a devoted wife to John, a loving mother to “Fanny” (Charlotte) as she was called as a beautiful little girl, and an extraordinary teacher over all her years at LCDS (where she became and remained my daughter, Elizabeth’s, favorite teacher from her third grade year).

*Although several years have now passed since we last spent time together, I miss you, Sue. I miss your being the epitome of all that made England an Empire, your quintessential English wit (very acerbic at times), your sense of irony, your pure English aplomb (stiff upper lip when required) and your ability to make those of us around you feel so much better about ourselves.*

*Requiescat in pace, Susan Wood Osborne. This world is be a far lesser place without you. Love always.*

*Ken Reidenbach*

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**Ken Reidenbach** - April 24, 2025 at 04:45 PM

LS

“ Love - Jane and Sarah Scarry purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Susan Wood Osborne.



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Love - Jane and Sarah Scarry - April 23, 2025 at 06:19 PM

LS

“ Love - Jane and Sarah Scarry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Susan Wood Osborne.

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Love - Jane and Sarah Scarry - April 23, 2025 at 06:19 PM

MP

“ Mike P. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Susan Wood Osborne.

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Mike P. - April 21, 2025 at 08:09 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Susan Wood Osborne.



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April 19, 2025 at 06:12 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Susan Wood Osborne.



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March 31, 2025 at 03:55 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Susan Wood Osborne.

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March 31, 2025 at 03:55 AM



“ What a fun time we had at Eric's Wedding and all the Christmas dinners.  
Becky DeMuth

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Rebecca DeMuth - March 30, 2025 at 08:20 PM



I have thought about Mrs. Osborne often over the last 50+ years. She was my third grade teacher at Lancaster Country Day, and she is one of the reasons I became a teacher. I just retired after 30 years. I went back to LCDS my senior year in high school to visit her. I was in her class around 1970 or 1971. She was young and beautiful, and I loved her accent. The year I had her, she was pregnant with Charlotte. I'll never forget her. I hope to be able to attend the service now that I'm back in Lancaster. Lots of hugs to the whole family. She was special.

Helen Grove

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Helen Grove - March 31, 2025 at 08:59 PM



“ *Your Light Shines* was purchased for the family of  
*Susan Wood Osborne.*”



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March 30, 2025 at 08:19 PM