

CHARLENE ALLEN
AUGUST 7, 1929 – JULY 29, 2010



Charlene Louise (Bunker) Allen of Great Cranberry Island passed away at home on Thursday evening, July 29th. She was surrounded by her grandson, Patrick Allen of Great Cranberry and her sons, Gary Allen of Great Cranberry and Larry Allen of New York City and her companion John French as she slipped away peacefully. Charlene was the youngest of 5 siblings and was born on the island on August 7, 1929 to Elisha and Annie Bunker. Her brother, Edgar Bunker, was killed in the Korean War. Her sister, Ada Rice,

passed away in 2000. Her older sisters, Pauline Bunker and Leona MacAllister live on Great Cranberry and in Ellsworth, respectively.

Charlene was a direct descendent, 11 generations removed, of the first settler of Great Cranberry Island, Benjamin Bunker who first came to the island in 1760 when the Governor of Massachusetts deeded the island to him. She attended the Longfellow School on the island. She was born, lived and died on property that has been in the family for 250 years.

Charlene loved to dance. She loved the island life. She was the life of the party and often the last to leave any gathering on the island or for that matter in New York City. She was a self taught landscape and folk artist. She worked for many years as a docent for the Museum of the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society at the Cranberry House. Far-flung visitors to the island were often lucky to be regaled with colorful stories of the island from her life long experiences. She generally could be found any morning before 8am at Cranberry General with her sister, Pauline and her friends having coffee where she is remembered to have said one could easily get “A pound of butter and everything you need to know”.

Charlene will undoubtedly be missed by the few remaining year round residents of her island home, the long time summer residents, many casual acquaintances, her sisters, sons, nieces, nephews and her grandchildren; Patrick and Matilda from Great Cranberry, Emma Atherton from New York City and Jennifer Allen from North Carolina.

The family requests that generous donations be made in her memory to the Ladies Aide Society of Great Cranberry Island and The Great Cranberry Island Historical Society, instead of flowers, which although lovely, wouldn't do as much good.

A memorial service and celebration of Charlene's life will be held at the Congregational Church of Great Cranberry Island on Saturday, August 14th at 1:30pm followed by a reception, dance and swimming off the town dock throughout the afternoon and evening. All are welcome and invited to do as Charlene would have always done and just get up and dance.

She will be interred with her parents, sister and brother at the family cemetery on the island.