

Schooling at Mother's Knee: Lessons in life from A to Z!

Many in Ballston Spa, NY remember Audrey Bopp Hauprich as a dedicated educator who set high standards for the students in her classrooms at Malta Avenue Elementary School during her 20-year tenure. What few of those young scholars or their parents knew was that before the teacher they called Mrs. Hauprich entered her classroom each morning, she had sent her own 10 children off to a variety of other academic settings.

It was nearly half a century ago that our “*Cheaper By The Dozen*” clan moved from a cramped Cape Cod style cottage in Latham to the rambling Victorian that remains our beloved family homestead on Church Avenue in Ballston Spa.

At the time we ranged in age from five to 19, and before we had a chance to finish unpacking our suitcases, we were being tutored in local history as well as a host of other subjects not mandated by any Board of Education.

It started out slowly enough, with my parents (who celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in March 2016) accepting an invitation from Mom’s esteemed teaching colleagues, Helen and Al Eisenhauer, to dine with them at one of the village’s finest restaurants.

Dressed in our Sunday’s Best, we took our seats at the table set for 14 and would surely have scored better grades on the Social Studies tests that were to follow if only we’d been permitted to take notes instead of minding our manners as per our mother’s instructions. Both she and her mother, Catherine Tiernan Bopp, could easily have given lessons on such things as the importance of keeping one’s elbows off the table, but in those days, my siblings and I assumed etiquette was taught in every home.

Another incorrect assumption was that everyone’s mother and grandmother lectured on the values of compassion, courage, honesty, integrity, patience, perseverance and respect. Both my mother, who celebrated her 90th birthday in 2015, and my maternal grandmother, who passed away just before her 100th birthday in 1990, taught far more about these subjects by example than they did by lecturing – though each did her fair share of both!

Of the nine children Catherine bore, she saw only seven survive to adulthood as two daughters died in infancy while a teenaged son perished in an auto accident. Despite these tragic losses, Catherine Tiernan Bopp chose to count her blessings and dedicated herself to enriching the lives of children in and outside of our family circle.

Not until I welcomed my own three babies into the world could I begin to fathom the anguish my grandmother had endured long before I was born and to admire the faith and fortitude that became the hallmarks of her life.

Those same traits saw my mother through the roughest of passages – not the least of which involved returning to college around her 40th birthday to complete her Master’s degree — before the luxury of online courses and Internet searches. Suffice to say that the standards Mrs. Hauprich was to set for her students at Malta Avenue Elementary School five decades ago were no higher than those she set for herself. Coming home at the end of a long day in the classroom, Mom somehow found the time to take an interest in our homework assignments and extracurricular activities before settling down to watch TV beside our father with a red pen in her hand and stack of papers awaiting grading on her lap! Some evenings Mom would take the telephone to a quiet nook so she could call the parents of students about whom she was genuinely concerned.

It was during this time that I first realized that a teacher’s heart – like the heart of a mother — is capable of growing in proportion to the number of children in her care.



Future teacher Audrey Bopp poses for her college graduation portrait in 1946 and retired school teacher Audrey Bopp Hauprich on her 90th birthday in 2015. Kindly turn page to view additional images of Mrs. Hauprich with some of her students at Malta Avenue Elementary School and with her 10 children at home on Church Avenue in the village of Ballston Spa, NY.



Village school teacher Audrey Hauprich and husband Donald G. Hauprich with their 10 children at home on Church Avenue in Ballston Spa in the mid-1970s. FRONT ROW: Pamela, Mary and Ann; MIDDLE ROW: Andrew, Charlene, Audrey and Christopher; BACK ROW: William, Stephen, Donald, Francis and Timothy. Top left photograph shows Audrey with her mother Catherine Tiernan Bopp and daughter Ann Hauprich in November 1974. The collage above was created in August 2015 to help celebrate Audrey's first 90 years of life.

**Pages
from
the
Past**



PATRIOTIC GIFT—To add a colonial atmosphere to the occasion, students of Malta Avenue School dressed in

costume for the presentation of their patriotic quilt to Brookside Museum. It was accepted by Kathy Jarvis, director. From the left are Wendy Schall,

Margaret Danison, Teacher Audrey Hauptrich, Laurie Fregean, Jeffrey Stanford and Shirley Ann Davis.

5th graders create quilt, present it to Brookside museum

BY ELLEN H. QUA

BALLSTON SPA—Quilting an old fashion craft?

Not the way the Malta Avenue School 5th graders made their bicentennial quilt as a gift to Brookside Museum. It was formally accepted this week by Kathy Jarvis, museum director.

Rather than use the traditional needle and thread method of embroidering the block designs, the 1976 class of Audrey Hauprich used the ballpoint type of painting.

"It is called liquid embroidery," the teacher explained. "The paint comes in a tube which is pressed out at the end which has a ball point pen type applicator. This is wonderful for outlining the designs which are then filled in with various colored paints, she said. All the drawings were traced onto white muslin

squares to contrast with the red and blue calico squares for a patriotic effect."

Many projects have been conducted during the school year but it was the quilt which drew the most interest from a dozen girls and one boy, Jeffrey Stanford. It was started after the Easter holidays and completed in time to carry during the June 13 Saratoga County Bicentennial parade. The girls, dressed in colonial costumes, marched in that parade. The boys, including Stanford, also in costume made a full-scale model of the Liberty Bell on a float which followed the "quilting party."

Stanford interviewed briefly at Brookside said, "I don't care if I was the only boy who made a design, I like to draw so I made the American seal. The quilt will be here in Brookside for many years and will be nice to have it as a

bicentennial present from our class. All of us who made a design put our initials on it. See mine!" he said pointing to the quilt.

Margaret Danison, whose mother, Eileen Danison with Nancy Forman, mother of Theresa Forman, helped in final joining of the quilt, pointed to three blocks she had contributed. "I made the quill pen and paper to sign the Declaration of Independence, the year '76 and the peace dove. I worked on mine at school and I brought it home to work on it over the weekend too. It was fun to do."

Others who worked on the quilt were Kristina Armer, Sharry Benedict, Shirley Ann Davis, Georgia DeMarsh, Laurie Fregeau, Christine Heflin, Tammy Luse, Mary Beth Morgan, Wendy Schatt and Trudy Winslow.

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