



Winnie Pease

Winifred Adele (Knight) Pease was born on June 9, 1921. She likes to be called Winnie, the name by which people know her best. Winnie is now 95 years young.

She was born in Cato, New York, living there until the age of two. Her family moved to Boston for one year, so Winnie's father could further his medical education, specializing as a gastroentologist. As a physician he would make house calls and mainly performed as a general practioner. He was affiliated with the old Genesee Hospital on Alexander Street in Rochester. After furthering his education he moved his family to Rochester and that is where Winnie and her siblings (brother Hal and sister Millicent) grew up. They lived near Brooks Avenue and Kron Street in the 19th Ward. Winnie had a childhood of playing with a group of friends, going to the lake, playing at Genesee Valley Park, and visiting the family's cottage on the lake in Wolcott.

Winnie and other neighborhood children of the 19th Ward didn't endure the Depression. Winnie's brother Hal became a heart surgeon, following in the footsteps of their father. Her mother was a homemaker and was a hostess to many functions for her husband. Winnie graduated from West High School in 1939. She went to Genesee State Teachers College and graduated with a degree in education. While in college, Winnie belonged to the National Arethusa Sorority and is a life-time member of the Genesee Chapter.

Her first teaching position was in Nunda. While teaching there she met her husband-to-be, John Pease, through her co-worker, his sister, Ruth Pease. Winnie had that teaching position 4 years and then taught in a Webster school for 8 years. John and she courted during this time. They were married on June 29, 1953, and moved to Lima. Winnie would commute from Lima to Webster every day for work. John wanted to move closer to her work, so they moved to Furnace Road in Ontario where their son Chris was born in 1956.

While living in Ontario, John was a milk hauler. One day he went to a farm in Walworth owned by Carlyle Darron. He mentioned that he and Winnie were looking for a bigger place to live. Mr. Darron told them that Lorraine and Joe Finley were selling the estate of Joe's mother in Walworth. In 1958 Winnie and John bought the house on 2175 Church Street for \$8,000.00 and moved there with their son Chris. John went on to work for the Department of Motor Vehicles for several years, retiring in 1982. Sadly he passed away in 2005.

Winnie remembers one of their first days in Walworth when a neighbor woman, Helen Schultz, sister to Carlyle Darron, came over to greet them. Ever since that day Helen and Winnie have been great friends. Other friends the Pease family had were the Esleys, Finleys, and Darrons to name a few. Winnie became a substitute teacher at the Walworth High School the same time their son Chris started school there. She said being a substitute teacher was more work than being the teacher, but she loved it.



Winnie was a great traveler through the years. She and Helen would go to Lancaster, PA, to watch the religious performances held there. Winnie would go with a tour group to Europe and visit countries such as Switzerland, England and Germany. After visiting Germany, Winnie arrived home only three weeks before the Berlin Wall fell. While touring Europe, she became friends with Thelma Russell and they are friends to this day, staying in constant contact through Gerry Whitmire. Winnie was also friends with Marjorie Esley, Doctor Esley's daughter. Winnie tells that Marjorie was born in 1904 in the kitchen of the house where the Pease family still lives.

Many years ago Helen invited Winnie to join the Walworth Methodist Church and she has been very active there ever since. Winnie has been in the choir, a treasurer and a member of the women's society. She has lived in Walworth for 58 years. She tells that Walworth gives her the small-town feeling of knowing one another and being friends with many people. The closeness she has shared with them is her greatest memory.

Left: Wedding photo of John and Winnie Pease