

## **Jane Kindel Biography**

Greetings from Denver! I feel deeply honored to be recognized in this lovely way by you in the Bethlehem DAR chapter.

I was born Jane Jordan Enberg in Sayre, Pennsylvania, on September 23, 1922. My parents were Mildred Jordan Enberg and Henry Winfield Enberg. Sometime in 1923, we moved down to Bethlehem where my father began work in the accounting department of the Steel Company.

My mother's parents were Estelle Gregory Jordan and William George Jordan, both of whom had forebears in this country before the American revolution. Lt. Col. Eleazor Lindsley of New Jersey was an ancestor of my grandfather. I have three other revolutionary forebears, whose names I do not remember.

I still have many fond memories of growing up in Bethlehem. I went to Nitschman Grade and Junior High School, and graduated from Liberty High School in 1939.

Sometime in the 1930s I became a member of Nancy Hart Chapter of the CAR, which was at that time supervised by Mrs. Mabel Ruch. I enjoyed it, and during my senior year of high school, was a page to the NSDAR convention, which was a lovely experience.

In fall of 1939, I entered the College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia. The college, second oldest in the country, was founded in 1693. In its main building, along with tablets listing students who had served in WWI and WWII as all colleges have, we have a tablet telling of our students who had served in the revolutionary war! I loved my four years down there in Virginia.

In 1940, my sophomore year, as a few of you may recall, my parents had a baby boy! My little brother's arrival came as quite a surprise to my mother, but brought great joy to all of us!

Pearl Harbor occurred during my junior year, and I graduated from college in June of 1943. That summer, I began what was to be a lifelong devotion to doing volunteer work. I took the Red Cross Gray Lady Course, and because I was still only 20, St. Luke's Hospital let me do nurses aide work, which I really enjoyed. That fall, I was invited to join the Junior League, which I enjoyed greatly, both in Bethlehem and later out here in Denver.

In late 1943, I met my future husband, who was stationed at Lehigh with the Army Specialized Training program. I'd joined the AAUW after college, and a friend I made in that group had come from Denver and had known Bill in high school. I was invited to help Jean and her husband entertain this soldier by being "fourth for bridge". Bill and I hit it off immediately, and began dating.

You probably remember or have heard what a romantic time the war years were – and they were! Bill stayed in Bethlehem only until about April of 1944, but we continued to write each other,

our romance blossomed, and we became officially engaged before he was sent overseas in the fall of '44. He served in the 84<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, which took part in the Battle of the Bulge in Germany.

When he returned from overseas, we were married in Bethlehem's Trinity Church on April 20, 1946, and I became Mrs. William Harvey Kindel. After honeymooning in the East, we headed West and I began a new, wonderful life.

Bill was from an old Denver family, his parents having been born out here in the 1880's. His father had been waiting for him to return from the war so he could take over the family business, a bedding company. In 1947, they joined Serta and began manufacturing Serta mattresses and box springs for the entire Rocky Mountain region.

My life out here has been wonderful! Because Bill was well-liked, I had no difficulty quickly making friends. And in no time, I also began volunteer work with a number of worthwhile charities.

Along with the joy that starting our family brought, our early years of marriage also brought the sorrow of losing all our dear parents. My dad died in '49, Bill's mother in '51, Bill's dad in '52, and my mother in '59. Sadly, none of them made it even to age 70!

When mother died, my brother, Hank, was a sophomore at Lehigh. He finished that school year and then moved out here to live with us and attend the University of Denver. We all loved having him with us! But after graduation, he chose to return East and go to law school at NYU. He then stayed on, living and working in NYC and enjoying being actively involved in the Public Radio Stations there. Sadly, he died of cancer in early 1998, when he was only 57!

Bill and I were blest with three great children. Our boys, Bill Jr. and Winfield, were born in early '48 and late '49. In '61, when they were in junior high school, we had our little daughter, Bonnie. We had wanted to have a little playmate for her, but our plans change when my husband had a severe coronary when Bonnie was just nine days old! Thankfully, he lived to see her grown and happily married, but it was "nip and tuck" for a time.

Life in Denver has been just great. I was completely happy caring for the children and doing my volunteer work. I was fortunate in having several wonderful babysitters who were like grandmothers to the children. (One in particular had come originally from outside Philadelphia – they called her "Grandma Florey"! ) So I was free to accompany Bill on lovely trips from time to time.

Both our boys are now still in Colorado. Bill Jr., a graduate of MIT, lived and worked outside of Boston for 20 years, but is now back out here. His two boys, my oldest grandsons, are Bob, also an MIT graduate, who lives and works in the Boston area, and Steven, a pediatric cardiologist in Chicago. They are the fathers of my two adorable great-grandchildren, Violet and Jonah James.

Our younger son, Win, is here in Colorado, as are all of his three children, Mary, Jonathan, and Scott. All four attended college out here and are doing well in their chosen fields.

Our daughter, Bonnie, a graduate of Colorado College, has lived ever since her marriage (in 1984) out on the West coast, first near San Francisco and now in the Lake Tahoe area. She and her husband have a daughter, Erin, who's a sophomore at Stanford, majoring in Marine Biology.

My beloved husband, Bill, passed away in October of 1998, surrounded by his loving wife and children.

For another seven years, I continued living in our comfortable home in Denver. But then the failure of a hip replacement I'd received in 1974 made it difficult to manage the stairs, and the children were worried about my possibly falling. So we investigated a number of Assisted Living places and found one I really liked. In February of 2006, I moved into The Village, one of several lovely Christian Living Communities' facilities located in a pretty suburb south of Denver.

The children and grandchildren are all very attentive to seeing to it that I'm comfortable and well cared for. Mary and her husband made the move wonderfully easy for me by buying our old house! It gives me great joy to see them enjoying living there! Mary is also the gal who visits often and makes sure I never run out of things. She and her husband do go out of their way to keep grandma happy.

This Village is a delightful place to live. I play scrabble once a week, and have become a great fan of doing Sudoku, a puzzle based on logic. The activities department here brings a wide variety of good musical programs, which we all enjoy. I really keep busy!

I am now on oxygen and use a wheelchair, but I really feel fine. The wheelchair is no problem at all. When I was a girl, I became a very strong swimmer – and even now I still have great upper body strength. Also, I have no signs of osteoporosis and am not in pain. I really am a very fortunate almost-90 year old! I'm truly blest to be this carefree and happy, basking in our children's and grandchildren's love, and enjoying their frequent visits and phone calls!

My thanks and warm wishes to each one of you!



Jane & William Kindel



Top Left: Winfield (son), Bonnie (daughter), William Jr. (son), Roelant (Mary's husband), Mary (granddaughter), Mark (Bonnie's husband), Erin (granddaughter), Bonnie (daughter), Jon (grandson), Winfield (son).  
 Bottom Left: Scott (grandson), Robert (grandson), Violet (great-granddaughter), Tammy (Steve's wife), Jonah (great-grandson), Steve (grandson).