



**Jean C. Skinner, age 87, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 7, 2011, at U.W. Hospital.**

**As a cherished member of the Middleton Area Historical Society, Jean will be greatly missed and her knowledge is irreplaceable.**

She was born on October 19, 1923 in Yankton, South Dakota. Jean was proud of her heritage, especially the fact that her grandfather, Antoine Cabney, was considered the first white child born in Nebraska. Antoine was born in 1827, and Jean's father, Rubin, in 1875. This made her only two generations removed from early frontier life. She was the product of a broken home and spent some of her early years in an orphanage, later she was raised by her grandparents. After graduating from Central High School in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1942, she married John Skinner on December 1, 1944.

During their many years of marriage, Jean and John travel extensively. Many of these trips included destinations abroad where she was willing to try other cultures, foods and customs. She also used these trips as an opportunity to search for items to add to her collections. Jean was an avid collector of chicken brooches and Christmas ornaments and was frequently asked to give presentations and to display the collections at numerous events. Her passion for collecting Depression Glass led to an extensive collection that can be viewed at the Rowley House Museum. Also on display in the kitchen of the museum, is her collection of egg cups.

Jean was a certified genealogist and a member of the Genealogical Society of London (England), the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Nebraska History Society and the Middleton Area Historical

Society. For more than 20 years she volunteered at the micro film room of the Wisconsin Historical Society and for more than 25 years at Wisconsin Vital Records. Jean received a personal letter from President Reagan complimenting her for her volunteer work. She also received a letter of appreciation from Governor Tony Earl.

Jean loved to do research and was never satisfied with the probably only with the provable. She served on the Middleton Area Historical Society Board of Directors for 38 years. Jean loved children and thoroughly enjoyed showing them through the museum.

Jean is survived by her husband, John; and two children, John Jr. and Janice Lynn.

A memorial gathering was held on Thursday, August 11, 2011.