

BIOGRAPHY

Catherine D. Fellows

Catherine Fellows almost didn't make it into this world. In 1927, before she was born, and while her American missionary parents and brother were living in Anking, China, the city and their home were looted by Nationalist Chinese forces. The family was forced to evacuate by American gunboat to Shanghai. Catherine's aunt, Jans Deahl (Turner), in her *Memories of Catherine* written in 1994 about her missionary sister, explained:

One terrible episode must be mentioned. Several women, including Catherine, holding [baby] Mac in her arms, were lined up to be shot during a War Lord uprising. Then ... something occurred that the soldiers decided was funny and they abandoned the whole idea ... American ships patrolling the river evacuated them to Shanghai.

Catherine Deahl Fellows was born in 1931 in Shanghai, China. Her father, Mac Carlyle Fellows, had been recruited by the Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church to serve as a dentist in China. Catherine's mother, Elizabeth Catherine Deahl, born in Alexandria, Virginia, was also an Episcopal missionary in China. Her parents met and married in China in 1924. Catherine's mother died in 1931 in China. After America's entry into World War II, Mac Fellows became a Japanese prisoner-of-war. Her father and his second wife Evy died in the early 1970s, and Catherine's brother, Mac, Jr., died in 1986.

Catherine lived in Nanking until 1937 when the Japanese invaded the city. When she returned to America, she lived with relatives, first in Alexandria and then in Detroit, Michigan. In 1949, Catherine left Detroit for New York City where she worked for American Home Foods. In 1951, she moved to 107 W. Walnut Street in Alexandria, working for the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority until 1952. That year she began a career with the Department of the Army, remaining until 1960. Three of those years -- 1954 to 1957 -- were spent at Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe, Heidelberg, Germany.

Returning to Alexandria in 1957, Catherine rejoined the Department of the Army in the Pentagon, leaving in 1960 to work for Time, Inc., and, later, *The Washington Post*. In 1963, Catherine entered Radford College, Radford, Virginia. Applying for a scholarship, she was offered a full-time position as housemother of one of the smaller dorms which paid her room, board, and tuition. She graduated in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree in English and History. She returned to the Department of Defense in October 1967 where she worked as a writer-editor until she retired.

Catherine has lived in Fairlington from 1960 to 1963 and from 1967 to the present. In 1993, she wrote *Fairlington at 50: May 1943 - May 1993*, which was published by the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA). At the FCA-sponsored Fairlington 50th Anniversary Celebration on May 22, 1993, Catherine was honored by the community at a book-signing event.

From: *Fairlington at 50: May 1943 – May 1993 60th Anniversary Edition*
By Catherine D. Fellows

**Catherine Fellows died at her home on Monday, April 26, 2010.
A memorial service was held at 3:00 PM, Sunday, May 16th at
Demaine Funeral Home in Springfield
5308 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22151 | 703-941-9428**



**Catherine meets with Fairlington at 50 (60th Anniversary Edition)
production editor Ron Pride – 2003**



Catherine receives first copy of Fairlington at 50 60th Anniversary Edition from Nancy Hunt (then President, Fairlington Citizens Association) and Ron Patterson (then President, Fairlington Historical Society) – 2003

The republication of Catherine's 1993 issue of Fairlington at 50, as the 60th Anniversary Edition, was published by the Fairlington Historical Society in conjunction with the Fairlington Citizens Association in 2003.



**Catherine at the November 1, 2003 Celebration of Fairlington's 60 Anniversary
(Photo by Harold Reem)**



**Catherine Discusses the Republication of her History with Adrian Hilz
and FCA Treasurer Ed Hilz (right).
(Photo by Guy Land)**