

## *John Gould, 94, Columnist In The Monitor for 60 Years*

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By The Associated Press

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John Gould, whose essays about life in Maine ran in The Christian Science Monitor for more than 60 years, died on Sunday in Portland, Me. He was 94.

Mr. Gould had been suffering from congestive heart failure and was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia, said his daughter, Kathryn MacLeod Christy.

Mr. Gould started writing his weekly columns in 1942. The essays, many of them set in Maine, covered topics like the mystery of the three-tined fork, the origin of molasses cookies and the Battle of Gettysburg as told to him by one who was there.

He also wrote 30 books, including the best seller "Farmer Takes a Wife" and his most recent one, "Tales From Rhapsody Home, or What They Don't Tell You About Senior Living" (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2000).

Born in Boston to a railway postal clerk and his wife, whom Mr. Gould described as "the prettiest woman on Prince Edward Island," he moved with his family to Freeport, Me., at the age of 10. After graduating from nearby Bowdoin College, he joined the staff of The Brunswick Record.

Mr. Gould spent most of his adulthood in Lisbon, Me., where he presided at town meetings, and later along the coast in Friendship. While writing was a constant in his life, he also was a newspaper publisher, radio commentator, lecturer and florist.

He was prolific into his 90's, and his powers of recollection served him well, especially when retelling stories from his grandfather, who served in the Civil War.

Among Mr. Gould's recent honors was the state's declaration of Aug. 17, 2002, as John Gould Day.

L. L. Bean established a library in its Freeport store and named it the John Gould Room. Growing up, Mr. Gould was a friend of the L. L. Bean who founded the company.

Mr. Gould's survivors include his wife of 70 years, Dorothy, of Freeport; their daughter, who lives in Standish; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. His older child, John Thomas Gould Jr., died last October.

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