

## Fred and Mary Jane Hugh Brower

### **The Knolls**

Fred Brower was born in Dayton, Ohio in 1928. He attended Fairview High School in Dayton and graduated in 1946. He then enrolled in Miami and was inducted into the NROTC, which led to him graduating with a BS in economics in 1950 and a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Marines. One week after graduation, the Korean War broke out and, after seven months basic training, Fred was sent to Korea.

Fred became a platoon leader in the Pusan Perimeter where he gained a Purple Heart and then spent a month on a hospital ship. Returning to combat he experienced action in The Punch Bowl (August -September 1951). After the Armistice, he was assigned to command a Marine detachment on the USS Tarawa, which ultimately sailed around the world. He was discharged in 1956, with the rank of Captain.

In the ten years following his high school graduation he had earned a degree at Miami, fought in a war, been wounded and earned a purple heart, commanded men in brutal battles, sailed around the world and earned the rank of Captain in the US Marines. It was time to return to college!

Captain Frederick Brower returned to Miami in early 1956. He had pledged Beta Theta Pi before going to war, and the Betas took care of him. There he met and married the love of his life, Mary Jane Hugh.

After graduation with his second degree from Miami, Fred decided to go into Real Estate. He and Arthur P. Goldner created a firm, which eventually became ReMax of Oxford. Along the way, they developed much of Oxford from Krogers to the Knolls. Fred served on both the City Council and the Planning Commission. He was involved in converting Oxford from village status to a City. He hired the first City Manager in Oxford's history: Leonard G. Howell, who later had Howell Park named for him.

Fred became a Deacon, Elder and Trustee of the Oxford Presbyterian Church. He filled all of the lay positions in the congregation.

Fred helped found the Rotary Club of Oxford and had 50 years of perfect attendance. He was a trustee of the Beta Theta Pi General Fraternity, the Miami University Foundation, the McCullough-Hyde Hospital, and was instrumental in establishing the Knolls in Oxford. He was awarded the title as Citizen of the Years by the Oxford Chamber of Commerce.

When Fred returned to Miami from the Korean War, his Beta brothers introduced him to Mary Jane Hugh. Mary Jane was dating a Sigma Chi at the time, and might have been the Sweetheart of Sigma Chi, except for Fred. As a veteran, he had superior status, and on June 12, 1956, Fred and Mary Jane were married. Theirs' was a Miami Merger.

Mary Jane Brower graduated from Miami with a BS in Dietetics in 1956. She earned a MA from Miami in Food Management in 1978 and taught at the University for ten years. She was a member of PEO chapter CB. She was in the Women's Auxiliary of McCullough-Hyde Hospital, was a youth group leader of the Oxford Presbyterian Church, was troop leader for Campfire Girls, a docent at Miami Art Museum and on the Board of the Oxford Country Club.

Together, Fred and Mary Jane have been instrumental in providing voice scholarships for Miami students to sing in the Oxford Presbyterian Choir. They hope to leave a legacy of Music for the Church in the future.

Mary Jane loves to paint with watercolors and to garden.

She and Fred are the parents of three lovely daughters, all who have returned to settle in the Oxford area. They are: Elizabeth B. O'Beirne, Rebecca Osborne and Susanne Sadler.

Oxford Presbyterian Church and Oxford itself is fortunate to have had Fred and Mary Jane Brower as citizens and supporters.