

. . . FROM THE ÉPILOGUE

We brought Granny back to France to be buried, just as we had done for Bon Pappy. She had lived for five years, almost to the day, without her husband of 62 years. Her body remained in the chapel at La Rocherolle for several days, while friends and family came to pay their last respects.

We had a private service, when each of us said goodbye to her in our own way, as we had done for Jerome's father. And then *les petits fils* (the grandsons) lifted her coffin into the black station wagon that took her to Tendu, a small village only two miles up the hill from the *château*. The Catholic Mass was just like the one we had had for Bon Pappy, with the same outside priest. The tiny church in Tendu is too poor and unimportant to have its own priest any longer.

Granny was laid to rest in the local cemetery, so close to the church that we all walked there behind the casket. It was early November, but it was a beautiful, sunny, almost warm day. After the Mass we served lunch at La Rocherolle for the hundred or so friends and family who had come.

It was a tearful day, but also a happy day because we were all together.

That afternoon Durdam's best friends, Steve and Amy Finley, arrived from California. It was their first trip to France. Although it was an unlikely weekend to have new visitors, we knew Granny would have been happy that they had come. Welcoming friends—and friends of friends, even at distant removes—was a tradition she and Bon Pappy had begun. Hospitality was their legacy.

The following day we took Amy and Steve to Gargillesse to meet Serge Bachelier. He was not working on anything for us at the time, but we wanted them to meet him and see the beautiful view of the *Vallée de la Creuse* from his workshop.

We ran out of gas en route. I had reminded Jerome to gas up before the weekend, but to no avail. We sputtered into the driveway of a local resident and begged him to siphon gas from his own tank so that we could make it the rest of the way to Gargillesse and back home.