

as a Squad Lead, Rifleman with the Co.E, 401st, 101 Airborne Division in England, France, and Holland.

He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds in action. He was with the Co. I 325th Glider Infantry, Regt. 82nd Division France, Belgium and Germany. He was awarded the Purple Heart Cluster for wounds received by enemy action at Seigfried Line.

On May 29, 1951, Don and Alicia "Mike" Reed were married at the United Methodist Church in What Cheer. They had one daughter, Alicia Louise.

Don farmed as well as painted out buildings and was caretaker of Sixteen Cemetery for many years.

He also dug graves at many of the other local cemeteries. After retirement he and Mike relocated to Bettendorf in 1989 to be nearer Louise and family.

Don was the typical Irishman with his quiet wit and always looking for what response he was going to get with that wit.

Don never complained, never asked for anything, and would be the first to give you the shirt off of his back. He also answered to many names, "Bill," "Fan or Fanny" or "Mac."

In his earlier years he enjoyed playing baseball and in his retirement years his pride and joy was watching his grandchildren play soccer or softball/baseball. He was a very loving husband, father, grandfather and uncle.

Don leaves behind his loving wife of 62 years Mike, one daughter, Alicia Louise, son-in-law, Dr. James Owens and grandchildren, Michael V. Owens of Royal Oak, Michigan and Catherine E. Owens of Davenport, as well as cousins, Lois Marie

Dansdill and John Edward Dansdill of Houston, Texas and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother and sister-in-law, John and Alice and niece, Jean Kelly.



**WILLIAM DONALD
MCCRACKEN**

William Donald McCracken, 88 of Bettendorf, formally of Thornburg, died peacefully in Bettendorf on July 8, 2013. Funeral services were Friday, July 12, 2013, at the Holland-Coble Funeral Home in What Cheer. Burial was in the Sixteen Cemetery at Thornburg. Memorial contributions may be made to the family.

Don was born on May 6, 1925, a son of William Edward and Eva Maude (Dansdill) McCracken on the McCracken Family farm on mile north of Thornburg.

He was raised near Thornburg graduating from North High School in 1943. Don served in the U.S. Army from Nov. 20, 1943 through January 6, 1946,