

Helen Opal Cranston, 95



Helen Opal Cranston, 95, formerly of Deep River, died Saturday, May 24, 2008 at the Brooklyn Community Estate in Brooklyn.

Her funeral service will be held at the United

Church of Deep River on Friday, May 30, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Burial will be at the Goldenrod Cemetery in Deep River.

Visitation will be held at the Holland-Coble Funeral Home in Montezuma beginning at 12 noon on Thursday, May 29. Family will be present to greet guests from 6 to 8 p.m. The Holland-Coble Funeral Home in Montezuma is in charge of arrangements.

Helen Opal Cranston was born on Dec. 11, 1913 in Deep River, the daughter of David C. Johnston and Vida Mae McWilliams. She was a 1931 graduate of Deep River High School. During her senior year she was the team captain of the girls basketball team which placed third at the Girls Basketball State Championships in 1931. On Dec. 12, 1938 in Kirksville, Mo. Helen was united in marriage to Burdett Cranston. Helen and her husband were blessed with nearly 67 years of marriage before Burdett's passing on Aug. 29, 2000.

Helen was not only a homemaker, but a farm wife and mother of six children, four boys and two girls. She took

great pride in raising her children, making certain she played an active role in their lives and teaching them the values of hard work and integrity. During late summers while the temperatures were at its highest Helen would can hundreds of quarts of food from her garden or by dressing chickens. All throughout her life she was active in the First Presbyterian Church of Deep River which later became the United Church of Deep River. Helen was also a member of the Sunshine Sisters and the Pleasant Ridge Club. She always enjoyed playing cards at her friends and neighbors, yet any opportunity she had to spend time with her friends and family was very special to Helen.

She died Saturday at the Brooklyn Community Estate in Brooklyn at the age of 95 years, five months and 11 days. Her family includes her four sons: Richard (Kymme) Cranston of Phoenix, Dr. David (Linda) Cranston of Grinnell, Stephen (Francene) Cranston of Deep River, Donald (Betsy) Cranston of Deep River; two daughters: Beverly Simpson of Colorado Springs, Colo. and Karen Quick of Lineville; 14 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, one great-great grandchild; and a brother, David Mac Johnston of Pleasanton, Calif.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents, husband Burdett and two sons in law, Jay Simpson and Harold Quick.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the United Church of Deep River at P.O. Box 130, Deep River, IA 52222.

MONTEZUMA REPUBLICAN 5/28/08

Helen O. Cranston, 95

Helen Opal Cranston, formerly of Deep River, was born Dec. 11, 1913, at Deep River and passed away on May 24, 2008, at the Brooklyn Community Estates in Brooklyn, at age 94 years, five months and 13 days.

Funeral services were held at the United Church of Deep River on Friday, May 30. Burial was at the Goldenrod Cemetery in Deep River. Holland-Coble Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Helen was the daughter of Vida M. McWilliams and David C. Johnston. She was raised on the home farm northwest of Deep River, and spent over 80 of her years living on the home farm. She attended country school and then graduated from Deep River High School in 1931. She was captain of the 1931 Deep River girls' state basketball team, the first team from Poweshiek County to go to the state tournament. On Dec. 28, 1933, she married high school classmate, Burdett Cranston, in Kirksville, Mo. They were blessed with nearly 67 years of marriage, before Burdett's passing Aug. 29, 2000.

Helen was not only a homemaker, but a farm wife, and like most farm wives of her generation, she devoted her life to raising her family, teaching them values of hard work and integrity. She was an avid gardener and canned hundreds of jars of fruits and vegetables each year to provide for her family. She dressed a hundred or more chickens each summer. She was a renowned cook. Some of her family's favorite foods include her pies and cookies, chicken-and-noodles, rhubarb pudding, fried chicken and gravy, fried steak and gravy, and homemade ice cream. She was a member of the Sunshine Sisters and also the Pleasant Ridge Club. She and Burdett enjoyed socializing and attending card parties. Throughout her life she was an active member of the Deep River Presbyterian Church, later the United Church of Deep River, until her health failed her.

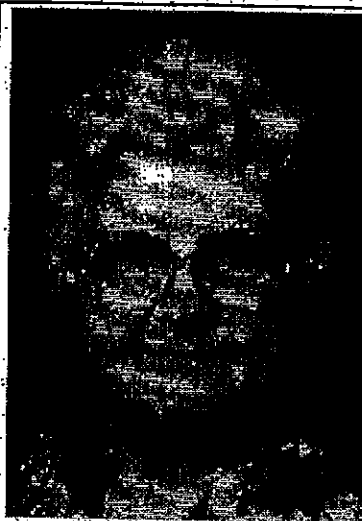
Helen's family includes four sons and two daughters: Beverly Simpson (Jay) of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Richard (Kymme Ludwig) of Phoenix, Ariz.; Karen Quick (Harold) of Lineville; Dr. David (Linda Ferguson) Cranston of Grinnell, Stephen (Francene Besser) of Deep River; and Donald (Betsy Benincosa) of Deep River. She had 14 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild and a brother, David Mac Johnston, of Pleasanton, Calif., at the time of her death. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and two sons-in-law, Jay Simpson and Harold Quick. She was a loving and devoted mother and grandmother who long will be missed.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the United Church of Deep River, at PO Box 130, Deep River, IA 52222.



BC
6/4/08

Editor's Note: The preceding obituary is being re-run per the family's request.



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