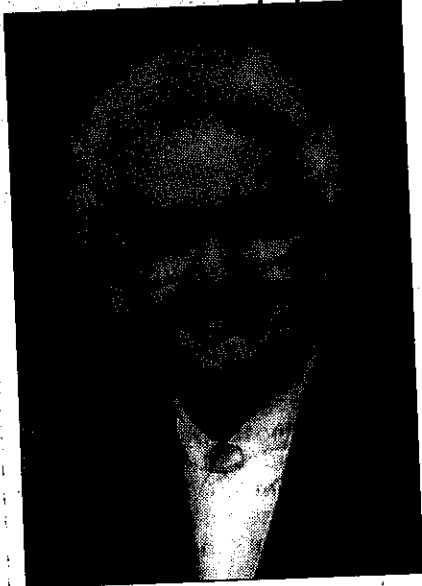


## Rita A. Sutherland <sup>GH-R</sup> 1-16-2014



Rita A. Sutherland, 93, of Gilman, died Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014, at her home.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, Jan. 20, at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with Father Ron Hodges presiding. Interment will be in Prairie View Cemetery in Gilman.

Visitation will be held from 12 noon until 4 p.m. on Sunday at Smith Funeral Home with the family present to greet friends from 2 until 4 Sunday afternoon.

Memorials may be designated to the Gilman First Responders and mailed in care of Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with Rita's family at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

Rita was born the second oldest of eleven children to Peter and Isabell Wilwerding Heese on Nov. 17, 1920, in Earling, Iowa. She grew up on the family farm near Earling and helped out with raising the large family. She even stayed home her senior year of high school to help out when her mother was ill. She returned and graduated from Earling High School and then attended beauty school in Des Moines. She later worked at Look magazine.

She was united in marriage with Jack Maurice Sutherland on March 1, 1947, in Missouri. The couple farmed on the family Century Farm, which was started 145 years ago in 1869, east of Gilman, all of their married lives. She was a farm wife and a mother to their six children.

She was an excellent cook, especially bread and rolls, and even made chocolate chip bars the day before her passing. Her other hobbies included sewing, quilting, knitting, counted cross-stitch, crossword puzzles and watching old TV shows. She made many quilts and afghans for all of her children and grandchildren, always including a box of homemade candies for each family at Christmas.

Rita is survived by her children, twins Dennis Sutherland of Waterloo and Diane Ehler of Kellogg, Gary Sutherland of Baxter, Patricia Pfantz of Grinnell, David Sutherland of Gilman, and Ron Sutherland of Grinnell; 12 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; one brother, Larry Heese of Cedar Rapids; and five sisters, Isabell Klein and Mildred Bieker, both of Harlan, Norma Schmitz of Wall Lake, Elizabeth Heese, Sr. of Milwaukee, Wis., and Helen Cochran of Omaha, Neb.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Jack Sutherland on March 25, 1978; and her siblings, Dorothy Graeve Muenchrath, Bernice Hearn, Edward Heese, and Owen Heese.

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GH-R 1-13-2014