

Burdett Cranston

Reuben Burdett Cranston, 87,
died at his farm north of Deep River
Tuesday, Aug. 29.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday at the United Church of Deep River, with Pastor Boyd Sparks officiating. Soloists were Carol Dale and Gene Schaefer.

Casket bearers were Carl Purvis, James Jeffrey, Richard Geiger, Doren Dale, Perry McClenathan, David Zimmerman, Dave Armstrong and Lee Roy Cheney. Honorary bearers were Bill Armstrong, LaVerne Schlesselman, Norman McCombs, Lelan Winegarden, Gerald Wyant, Gerald Byerly, Marvin Hicks, Forest McLain and Francis Purvis.

Interment was at Golden Rod Cemetery, Deep River, with the Watts Funeral Home of Montezuma in charge of arrangements.

He was the son of James Cloyd and Lydia Ann Doonan Cranston and was born June 2, 1913, south of Deep River. He was married to Helen Opal Johnston Dec. 28, 1933, in Kirksville, Mo.

Mr. Cranston attended William Penn College for two years and taught rural school near Deep River for four years before beginning to farm. He and Mrs. Cranston had farmed north of Deep River since 1947, and Mr. Cranston was among the first in the area to practice conservation tillage. He also served briefly as ASCS director for Poweshiek County.

He was active in the Presbyterian Church of Deep River and, later, the United Church formed by the union of the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations there.

Mr. Cranston sold Vigortone Feed for several years and was a member of the Iowa Nut Growers Association.

Surviving are his wife; six children, Beverly Simpson of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Richard of Ormond Beach, Fla., Karen Quick of Lineville, David of Grinnell, Stephen of Deep River and Donald of Deep River; 14 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two brothers, Cecil of Deep River and Deane of Iowa City.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Bonnibel; and a brother in infancy.

Memorial contributions may be made to his church or the Iowa Nut Growers Association.

He was particularly fond of trees and planted and grafted fruit and nut trees. He was an active member of the Iowa Nut Growers Association.

He was also active in the Presbyterian Church in Deep River and later, the United Church — which was formed by the union of the Deep River Presbyterian and Methodist congregations.

He was interested in local history and helped edit the *Deep River Centennial Book*, which was published in 1984.

An avid outdoorsman, Mr. Cranston loved hunting, fishing and trapping. He was a dreamer and collector of various 'treasures,' which his wife did not always view in the same light. He enjoyed playing cards, particularly Rook.

He enjoyed sports as well, playing baseball and basketball in high school and then centerfield in baseball and softball for many years for the Deep River town team.

A jokester and storyteller, he took pleasure in relating tales of his youth and life on the farm. He enjoyed teasing and playing with his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Bonnibel and a brother in infancy.

Left to mourn his passing are his wife, Helen and children, Beverly Simpson of Colorado Springs; Richard Cranston and his wife, Kymme of Ormond Beach, Fla.; Karen Quick and her husband, Harold of Lineville; David Cranston and his wife, Linda of Grinnell; Stephen Cranston and his wife, Francene of Deep River and Donald Cranston and his wife, Betty of Deep River; 14 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, two brothers, Cecil Cranston and his wife, Lulu of Deep River; Deane Cranston of Iowa City and many friends.

Memorials may be made to United Church of Deep River or the Iowa Nut Growers Association.

H-A September 7, 2000