



Clara Blankenship

February 18, 1908 - February 20, 2008

Clara Blankenship, 100, of Gentry, Arkansas, died February 20, 2008, at Siloam Springs Memorial Hospital, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Born February 18, 1908 in Long Pine, Nebraska, she was the daughter of Walter Bruce Coe and Mary Lovelady Coe. She married Calvin Blankenship in Detroit in December, 1925. After moving to Troy, Michigan in 1939, she became active in civic and volunteer work. She was involved with the Mother's Club (elementary schools) Blue Star Mothers, Home Owner's Association, was the first woman in Troy to receive the "Book of Golden Deeds" awarded from the Exchange Club, was a charter and life member of the "Friends of the Troy Library", was appointed to the Library Board by the city commission, the library is now one of the largest in the area. The Children's Room was named in her honor. She was a life member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter #495, in Clawson, Michigan. She moved to this area in 1969, where Calvin and his father grew up. She again became busy with historical and genealogical research. She was a member of the N.W. Arkansas Branch of NLAPW, the Springtown Extension Homemakers, and a charter member of N.W. Arkansas Genealogical Society. She and Calvin collected information for the nine volume "Cemeteries of Benton County". She was a member of the Highfill Willing Workers, a charter member of James Bright Chapter NSDAR and was honored by them in 1995 for years of community service, a dual member of the Gentry #359 OES, she contributed historical, genealogical and current events to the Backtracker, BCHS magazine and local newspapers.

She attended Springtown United Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband Calvin (Burt); two daughters, Mary Patricia Blankenship and Barbara Blankenship; one son, Clarence Blankenship and his wife Virginia Rose Blankenship; and granddaughter Susan Savage. Survivors include seven grandchildren; Virginia Poehlman and husband Fred, Karen Blankenship, Barbara Weaver, Clarence "Butch" Blankenship, Jr., Roger Blankenship and wife Jennifer, Wendy Blankenship, and Timothy Savage; seven great grandchildren; and two great great grandchildren. At her request, a private burial was at Centerton Cemetery, Centerton, Arkansas. Arrangements were under the direction of Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

Tribute Wall

ER

“ *Clara Blankenship*

Eva Ryman - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

CB

“ *Clara was such an inspiration. She was so good to keep in touch with my mother who is soon to be 97. In earlier days she and her husband and my parents had many good times together. I loved her independent nature and how she kept the family genealogy so intact. I'm sure her legacy will always remain important to her community. God Bless her family.*

Charles & Nancy Buckminster - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

CH

“ *I have worked at Wal-Mart for the past 16 years and 7 of those was at the Siloam Springs Wal-Mart. Clara was a customer and she was an inspiration to all that knew her. She always brought us cookies and breads that she had baked. She was always doing something for someone. She will be missed very much.*

Carolyn Higgs - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

BB

“ *I remember the first time I saw Ms. Clara. She was spoken of with such love and devotion I was immediately impressed. She has always been a much admired, loved and respected member of this community. I think she will ALWAYS be remembered as a loving legend of Gentry, a good life lived to the fullest. What a blessing! What a wonderful legacy she left! God bless you all.*

Brenda Bailey - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

KD

“ It was my privilege to have been Clara's friend. I'm so proud that she made 100 and to the end she did it her way. My birthday was in January and she always sent me a card and a hand written note and she sent one this January and died in February. She was truly a wonder. Karen

Karen Digby - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

MS

“ I have been with Wal-Mart in the photo department for 18 years and Clara was one of my customers. She would always bring us cakes and cookies that she baked. She loved to take pictures and she was always taking pictures of someone that worked at Wal-Mart and she would always make sure that they got their picture. She was a great inspiration to me. She always remembered my Birthday and Anniverary.

I always said if I could be half the woman Clara was I would be happy.

I had planned on going to her Birthday party that her Granddaughter had invited me too, but I got sick and was unable to attend and I didn't get a chance to call her which I deeply regret.

She was a great Lady and I will miss her alot but I know she is in a much better place.

Marsha Scott - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

P(

“ Just saw the nice artical in the Oakland press this week about Clara turning 100. I grew up in Troy down the street from the Blankenships and was friends with Karen and Sue .I got to thinking about some of the things Clara taught us and spending the night at her house.I am sorry for your loss.

Peggy(Rutledge) Macek

peggy macek (Rutledge) - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

LH

“ Clara Blankenship has been an inspiration to my elementary aged students for many years. I have been fascinated in sharing her life long stories throughout the years. She was a truly great lady.

Iorraine Hemmerly - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

VM

“ Clara was a special lady, I enjoyed visiting with her when I was postmaster at Gentry, she really was a great lady. Velda

cla

Velda J. McLaughlin - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

RH

“ Although I have seen Clara for several years, I have many fond memories of her and working with her in both the Benton County Historical Society and The NW Ark. Genealogical Society.

I will always remember her pickled wax beans that she would share with me each summer. She was a interesting and resourceful person, and I am proud to have called her my Friend.

Roger Huff

Roger Huff - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM