

Burkholder, Dorothy M.

Dorothy Burkholder, age 93 of Pigeon (formerly of Harper, Kansas), passed away Monday, March 5 at Pine River Healthcare Center in St. Louis, Michigan.

Dorothy Laing was born on November 15, 1913 on the family farm northwest of Anthony, Kansas, the daughter of the late Edward and Hazel (Miller) Laing. She attended Pleasant Valley School District 19 grade school and graduated from Anthony High School with honors in 1931. She accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized in the Anthony Christian Church at age 16. On January 18, 1933 she was united in marriage to Clarence Burkholder and to this union was born a daughter, Betty Ann, December 16, 1933. Clarence preceded her in death on August 26, 2002.

Dorothy and Clarence joined the Crystal Springs Mennonite Church in 1941 where they were ordained Deacon and Deaconess. In 1991 they later moved to Harper, Kansas where they were associate members of Hesston Mennonite Church. Dorothy enjoyed working with children and taught Sunday School and Bible School for many years in both Kansas and Arkansas. She served on the Mennonite District Women's Missionary and Service Auxiliary committee for several years as president and secretary of Home and Special Interest. She also led several women's retreats throughout the South Central Conference District of the Mennonite Church. Dorothy loved music and studied piano and organ for four years at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas and offered piano and organ lessons for years for as many as 25 students. Dorothy moved to Country Gardens in Pigeon in 2003 to be near her family.

Mrs. Burkholder is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Lyle Shetler of Pigeon; two grandchildren, Kent (Karin) Shetler of Pigeon and Karla (Marlin) Nussbaum of Poplar Grove, Illinois; five great-grandchildren: Andrea and Eric Nussbaum, and Kate, Kacy and Koty Shetler; a brother, Marlan Laing, a sister, Norma (Wilmer) Stewart, and a sister-in-law, Helen Laing, all of Newton Kansas; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brothers Archie and Bill Laing; a sister-in-law Barbara Laing; and a grandson Ronald Shetler.

Funeral Services will be conducted at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 8 from Michigan Avenue Mennonite Church, Pigeon, with Rev. Scot Wilson, pastor, officiating. A Funeral Service for Mrs. Burkholder in her previous home community of Harper, Kansas will be conducted at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 10 at Crystal Springs Mennonite Church. Burial will be in the Crystal Springs Mennonite Church Cemetery, Harper, Kansas.

Memorials may be made in her memory to the Gideons International.

Friends may call at Michigan Avenue Mennonite Church on Thursday, March 8 beginning at 3:00 p.m. until the time of services at 7:00 p.m.