

Kerr, Helen

Helen May (Rapson) Kerr, 87, resident of Bad Axe, died Saturday, October 11, 2003, at her home in Bad Axe under Heartland Hospice Care. She was born November 30, 1915 in Verona Township, Bad Axe. Helen was the daughter of the late George Herbert and Susannah "Annie" (Piper) Rapson. Her parents moved from Verona Township to Alberta, Canada. Miss Helen May Rapson and Allen V. Kerr were united in marriage on March 12, 1936 at Olivet Lutheran Church in Detroit. Allen preceded his wife in death on May 15, 1972. They met at William and Minnie (Rapson) Kerr's home three miles east of Bad Axe, the first Thomas Rapson homestead. Helen attended the rural Pangborn School, Bad Axe Elementary and High Schools, graduating in the class of 1934. She was a very active member of the Bad Axe First Presbyterian Church. She enjoyed gardening and traveling. She was active in the Bad Axe Historical Society and was especially interested in genealogy. Mrs. Kerr authored and published three books, the Rapson Family Tree in 1978, the Kerr Family Tree in 1979 and the Colfax Township Cemetery book in 1998. Helen enjoyed spending time visiting with her family and friends. She is survived by three daughters, Lorraine Kerr, of Bad Axe, Carole Tschirhart and her husband, Ronald, Sr., of Troy, and Elizabeth "Beth" Stoddard and her husband, Ernest, of Sand Point; four grandchildren, Ronald Tschirhart, Jr. and his wife, Molly (Curtis) of Troy, Kerri (Tschirhart) Yuchuck and her husband, James II, of Livonia, Kimberly Stoddard, of Grand Rapids, and Brent Stoddard, of Wolverine; six great-grandchildren, Joseph Stoddard, of Grand Rapids, Michael, Erica, and Jeffrey Tschirhart, of Troy, James D. III and Kathryn "Katie" Yuchuck, of Livonia; one sister, Jessie (Rapson) Conquergood, of Alberta, Canada; and one brother-in-law, Lloyd Pitcher, of Filion; and many nieces and nephews. Helen was predeceased by her husband, Allen Kerr; parents, George Herbert and Susannah (Piper) Rapson; special aunt and uncle, William and Minnie (Rapson) Kerr; one sister, Esther (Rapson) Pitcher, of Filion; three brothers, Leslie and Alice (Johnson) Rapson, of Alberta, Canada, Paul and Violet (Carmichael) Rapson, of Bad Axe, and Chester Rapson, of Alberta, Canada; two brothers-in-law, Keith Conquergood, of Alberta, Canada, Marvin and Anna (Stadwick) Kerr, of Warren; and one sister-in-law, Betty (Kerr) and Thomas Crick, of Warren. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, October 15, 2003, at the Bad Axe First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Jan Dykshoorn, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Colfax Township Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers are Ronald Hoffman, Harold Kropp, Rick Long, Dennis Mienke, Brent Stoddard, Ronald Tschirhart, Jr., and James Yuchuck, II. Visitation will be from 1 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday at MacAlpine Funeral Home in Bad Axe and from 10 a.m. until the service at 11 a.m. on Wednesday at the church. Memorials may be offered to Heartland Hospice, Bad Axe First Presbyterian Church or the Bad Axe Historical Society.