



Helen D. Burnley

November 7, 1918 - July 5, 2015

Helen D. (Benjamin) Burnley, 96, of Kankakee, previously of St. Anne, passed away on Sunday, July 5, 2015 at Presence Heritage Village. She was born on November 7, 1918 in Deland to Roy and Tessie Wright Simmons. Helen married Riley Benjamin and he preceded her in death on June 19, 1961. She married Bon Burnley and he preceded her in death on May 5, 1977.

Helen was a homemaker and worked on the farm with dairy cattle, hogs and livestock. She worked in a restaurant then St. Mary's Hospital. Helen enjoyed sewing, helping her daughter with crafts and making dozens of quilts.

She is survived by two sons and three daughters-in-law Sidney (Sharon) Benjamin of Manteno, Roger (Jeanne) Benjamin of Bourbonnais and Mariellen Benjamin Doenges of Ohio; one son-in-law Jim Burge of Kankakee; two step-daughters Reba Estes of Greenfield, Indiana and Emma (Floyd) Hoskins of Mississippi;; two sisters Anna Scott of Denver, Colorado and Nina Hertz of Bonfield; two brothers Charles (Barbara) Simmons of Bourbonnais and Virgil Simmons of Victorville, California; and 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren and 23 step grandchildren. She was preceded in death her parents, both husbands, one son Lawrence Benjamin, son-in-law William Moranz, two daughters Clara Burge and June Moranz,, brothers Robert, Walter, Lesly and Roy V., and grandson Eron Condon.

Visitation will be from 4 pm – 8 pm on Friday July 10, 2015 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. Funeral will be held at 11 AM Saturday July 11, 2015 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home. Burial will be at Beaver Creek Cemetery in Papineau. Memorials may be made to Iroquois Memorial Hospice.

Cemetery Details

Beaver Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 10. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Service

JUL 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
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Bourbonnais, IL 60914
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Tribute Wall

PD

“ *She was a very special Lady, & a good friend of my Mother's, Virginia Moyer. They worked together for the VFW. She even made Chicken Salad for our 25th Anniversary because Mom told her I liked it. She was from the old school. Always Busy. I imagine she is with Mom cooking up a big meal for all. You all have our deepest Sympathy.*



Paula & Tom Dandurand

Paula & Tom Dandurand - July 11, 2015 at 08:49 AM

JS

“ *With sadness we heard about Aunt Helen's death. We want to extend our condolences to her children and their families, as well as Uncle Chuck, Aunt Barb, Anne, Virgil and Nina.*

Over the years Aunt Helen was the driving force in keeping us connected with the Simmons family besides Dad (Walt), Uncle Chuck and Aunt Barb.

Even though we weren't living close enough to come regularly to the family reunion, we appreciated the yearly invite, knowing we would be welcomed and we belonged. Aunt Helen's Christmas card was the first to arrive each year. She touched us with her kindness. We treasure the handwritten family history that reminds us, our children and our grandchildren of the Simmons roots, where we came from and who we are.

Jerry and Hilde Simmons, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Jerry and Hilde Simmons - July 09, 2015 at 03:22 PM

BS

“ To Helen, a special sister and aunt. We will treasure the memories of you and Uncle Bud at your farm with Buddy, Larry, June, Clara Mae and Roger--Blackie the Pony, and those little brown and white bunny rabbits running everywhere. Our love forever, Chuck, Barb, Bonnie, Amy, Alan and Alaina, Barby Anne, Lonny and Mikah.

Bonnie Sue Simmons - July 08, 2015 at 07:49 PM

ES

“ I will always remember the day she first held Tylor (her first great-great grandson) it was a great memory for me. She will be missed greatly she was a strong, smart woman and I am privileged to have known her.



Erin Stowe - July 08, 2015 at 02:51 PM

RE

“ Helen was there for my Dad when he needed someone. They had a short marriage but I know it was a happy one. She was a great step Mother to my sister & I. Always remembering our birthdays with cards and hand written letters even when she was in her 90's. She will be missed. My heart goes out to her family. So glad she was a part of my life. Love & sympathy, Reba

Reba L. Estes - July 08, 2015 at 11:27 AM

KS

“ Helen will be greatly missed. A very good woman. I knew her from StMary's. Prayers
Kathy Sullivan

Kathy Sullivan - July 07, 2015 at 02:29 PM