

## Obituary

Alta Arline Royer Topham, daughter of Jacob and Ella Hall Royer, was born on the family farm in Essex, Iowa, on November 13, 1908. She attended Mount Vernon Country School and graduated from Shenandoah High School. She then attended the Sherwood School of Music in Chicago and received her Associate of Art degree from Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa. On September 4, 1932, she was united in marriage with John Topham in Omaha, Nebraska. They made their home in Shenandoah. Alta cared passionately through her long life. Her world encompassed her family, her church, her many community friends and the countryside where she was born, grew up, and spent the last 35 years. She gave strength, encouragement, commitment and love to all the people whose lives she touched. She made music in her life. After graduating from Graceland College, she gave piano lessons for the next 50 years. She started by driving a Model T Ford to her students' houses throughout the Shenandoah/Essex area. Her students gave many recitals, performing locally and in state music contests. Alta performed at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha and gave countless recitals in our area. She was in charge of music for her church for many years, directing the choir and playing the piano and organ. She also served on the hymnal committee for the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints--attending 63 of 65 meetings over 10 years--to develop its new hymnal for their ministry. Alta was a member of PEO Chapter DN, Athenaeum Club, The Shenandoah Music Club and The Essex Country Guild. Alta always put others before herself. She leaves a special place in everyone's heart.

Alta was preceded in death by her parents, Jacob and Ella Royer. She is survived by her husband, John of Shenandoah; a daughter, Anne Topham of Ridgeway, Wisconsin; a son Lee Topham and his wife Yunny of Jersey City, New Jersey; sister-in-law, Clara Jones of Sac City, Iowa; brother-in-law, Cole Moffett of Albuquerque, New Mexico; nieces and nephews, David Jones and his wife Donna, Mary LaRopa Ciera, Kathy Jones, Carroll Martin, Wayne Martin and his wife Janet, Mike Moffett and his wife Eileen, and O. C. Moffett. Also surviving are Judy Borree, her church family, many former piano students, and many treasured close friends of all ages.

*Hackett-Livingston Funeral Home*

712-246-2912

*Shenandoah, Iowa*