

Maxine O. Berg

Maxine Olive (Watts) Berg, daughter of James Earl and Maude (Jewett) Watts, was born on December 16, 1904, in Lenox, Iowa, and passed away Saturday, September 11, 1999, in Shenandoah, Iowa. She was 94 years of age. Maxine's parents moved to the Shenandoah area in 1905. She attended Centennial Rural School through the ninth grade, and graduated from Shenandoah High School. She was valedictorian of her class. Maxine took the "normal training course" for teaching, and then attended the University of Iowa, receiving a Masters in Arts degree in 1929. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa. After one year of teaching science in Waterloo, Iowa, she taught at the State Teachers College in Valley City, North Dakota. She also taught at Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, Iowa, Ball State Teachers College in Muncie, Indiana, and at the University of Chicago. Maxine married Garfield Berg on June 14, 1941, in Muncie, Indiana. Two sons, Curtis Berg and Vincent Berg, were born to this union. After Garfield was discharged from World War II service, the couple moved into Maxine's grandfather's farm home eight miles southeast of Shenandoah. She lived there until 1994, when poor health forced her to move to Elm Heights Care Center and then to Garden View Care Center. Maxine was active in the Shenandoah Christian Church, the Farm Bureau, 4-H, the Shenandoah Historical Society and many other community organizations. She was a major contributor to Morton's Milestones, a history of Morton Township and its people.

Maxine had an interest in just about everything including reading, writing, playing bridge, gardening; rock, stamp and insect collecting and much more. She will be remembered for her infinite love and sacrifice for her family, her respect for all people, her self-giving nature, her strength through many hard times and her great sense of humor.

Maxine was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Garfield Norman Berg, who passed away in 1989, and their infant first-born son. She is survived by a sister, Frances Dean, of Baltimore, Maryland, two sons, Curtis Berg of Seattle, Washington, Vincent Berg of Leavenworth, Washington, three granddaughters and two great-grandchildren.