



Freeda Marie Huskey

May 9, 1924 - February 6, 2017

Freeda Marie VanMatre Huskey was born May 9, 1924 at Gipsy Mo the oldest of seven children born to the late Noah and Lillie Jackson VanMatre and passed away on February 6, 2017. She was united in marriage on February 13, 1944 to T.H Huskey Jr (a 1942 high school classmate) who preceded her in death on March 30, 1974. Also, preceding her in death were three brothers, J.B, Gene and Clint VanMatre.

She leaves her son Joe (Carole Smith) of Marble Hill and three sisters Ruth Hinkle of Cape Girardeau, Shirley (Melvin) Bollinger of Marble Hill and Kay (Jerry) Smith of Montgomery, Alabama, three sisters-in-law including Sandy Huskey, Palos Heights, IL, Carol Counts, Marble Hill, MO, and Becky Douglas, Pevely, MO along with several nieces and nephews.

Freeda attended grade school in Zalma, MO until 1938 when her family moved near Marble Hill. She then attended Lutesville High School (now Woodland) where she graduated as class valedictorian in 1942. The following fall she began teaching at the Marble Hill School (known as the "rock building") where she taught primary grades from 1942 until 1944. She also taught grades 1-8 at several rural schools including Pounds near Grassy, Union Ridge, Scopus and Pine Hill. After completing her bachelor's degree in education in 1960 she taught at the Woodland School system until her retirement in 1984. One of her finest moments was having former students tell

of her days in the classroom where she stressed conservation and wild life including birds and the planting of trees. She supervised the planting of trees for all retiring teachers and with help from the FFA chapter built a bridge for a nature walk behind the Woodland School building. She also recalled having her class bury a time capsule on the Woodland school grounds.

During the 1940s Freeda worked for the MO Extension Office, as well as in the County Superintendent's Office and other county offices. One of her positions involved recording military discharges during and after World War II. She also assisted in distributing rationing stamp booklets during World War II.

She was the oldest living member of Harmony Congregational Methodist Church near Marble Hill having been a member for over 65 years and the last of the older generation of pioneer church members that attended Harmony in the 1940s in the original building that was removed in the mid-1950s. She was a former dean and teacher for the Calvary Hilltop church camp, taught Sunday School and helped organize Christmas programs for many years along with helping with the church music programs as long as her health permitted. After retirement, she was a substitute teacher at Leopold and volunteered at the Senior Nutrition Center until 2011 along with various other community activities including the Bollinger County Historical Society in which she was one of the hostesses for the Massey Log House, served on committees and held various offices.

She was a 4-H leader for many years and even incorporated 4-H into her own classroom at Woodland as a creative way of teaching science, math, and other skills. She served on the Bollinger County 4-H Council and also assisted at the 4-H Camp at Lake Wappapello in the 1970s.

She was a member and officer for many years of the Hog Creek Homemakers Extension Club, served as a board member for the Bollinger County Family

Services, and belonged to Alpha Delta Kappa Teachers' sorority in which she held various offices and participated in chapter activities.

Freeda always had a smile for those with whom she came in contact even after her health declined and she was a patient in the Nursing Home and hospital. Her Christian Spirit was always burning brightly.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory can be made (through Liley Funeral home) to the Lessley Ridge Cemetery or Harmony Congregational Methodist Church.

Visitation will be Thursday, February 9, 2017 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM at the Harmony Congregational Methodist Church.

Funeral Services will be Friday, February 10, 2017 at 11:00 AM at the Church with the Rev. Elijah Allen, Rev. Bill Ross and Rev. Greg Burns officiating. Burial will follow in the Lessley Ridge Cemetery near Marble Hill, MO.

Tribute Wall

DT

“ *Mrs Freeda Huskey was a wonderful teacher to my children and I had the pleasure of running into for years and she always asked about my children. She was an amazing lady. I was able to see her when she got sick, taking her to the Hospital and we always had a wonderful talk. She will be missed.*

Donna Tucker - March 01, 2017 at 09:37 AM

JP

“ *Dear Joe,
My deepest sympathy to you and the family. I remember how your Mom always had a sweet smile on her face. Thinking of you, Jane*

Jane Reilly Purcell - February 10, 2017 at 09:21 PM

BT

“ *My Aunt Ethel Crites and my mother, Catherine Tubbs, were friends of Frieda's. This is how I came to know Freda, also I met Joe once or twice. Joe, your mom was a kind lady, sorry she has passed on. I'm sure you have many fond memories with her as I now have of Aunt Ethel and my mom.*

Brenda Tubbs-Penrose - February 09, 2017 at 03:43 PM

CB

“ I'm so thankful, not only to have had Freeda as my first grade teacher, but to also consider her family (through my Aunt Shirley). How blessed I am to have had such a sweet lady in my life. I will always remember her smile.

My thoughts and prayers are with all of Freeda's family and friends, especially Joe.

Christy Bollinger - February 09, 2017 at 03:38 PM

RR

“ I met Freeda when I taught school at Woodland. She became a dear friend. Noah and I worked with her in church and camp also. She was a faithful Christian and wonderful woman. Our condolences to Joe.

Rachel Rhodes - February 08, 2017 at 04:54 PM

RR

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Rachel Rhodes - February 08, 2017 at 04:54 PM

LS

“ I was fortunate to have Mrs. Huskey as an elementary teacher. In fact she was able to loop with our class and she taught me in both third and fourth grade! I will forever remember her kind, giving and caring spirit! She genuinely loved us and we all loved and respected her. I will never forget the birthday party she hosted for one of our classmates in her home. Myself and a few other girls participated in what turned out to be a birthday party we would never forget! I now have worked in an elementary school for 26 years and I know that Mrs. Huskey's wonderful examples have impacted me! My thoughts and prayers are with the family!

Lisa Moyers Schlegel - February 07, 2017 at 09:53 PM

JL

“ She was my teacher in both 2nd and 3rd grade when she took on the challenge of having 2/3rd grade and then 3/4th grade in one room. After hearing of her passing, I spent many times today reflecting on the good memories and the things I learned from her in those years. Indeed, her incorporating 4H in her classroom is one of the things that stick with me today. The lives she touched as a teacher has had an impact well beyond the imagination. RIP Mrs Huskey and many condolences to Joe.

Jamie Lutes - February 07, 2017 at 09:34 PM

HH

“ My heart aches at the passing of such a wonderful dear friend. BUT my heart is rejoicing because Sis. Freeda is Home at last with T. H. and other family and so many friends. To Joe, I am so sorry for your loss. I know you have wonderful memories of your momma throughout your life time. Please hang on tho those memories and cherish them.

I remember so well the years I was growing up on the farm on Hog Creek just up the creek from your mom and daddy. What great memories us Leadbetter kids had of that time in our young lives. Then of course as the years went by and we were together at school and at church services I can always remember your momma's sweet smile and sweet hugs and her sweet laughter. God sure has been good to our family and all who knew Freeda. She brought joy to our lives.

May God wrap you in His loving arms and give you the comfort that only He can give.

I will be out of town and not where I can come to the services but my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Love,

Hibernia(Bernia) Leadbetter Hovis

Hibernia (Leadbetter) Hovis - February 07, 2017 at 04:12 PM