



Esther S. Todd

December 5, 1914 - August 25, 2013

Esther S. Todd, 98, of Wenatchee, passed away on Sunday, August 25, 2013.

She was a lifetime Wenatchee resident and she was employed with General Telephone Company for 22 years and then was a teacher for six years at Peshastin High School and then 20 years at Eastmont High School as a Librarian, retiring in 1976.

Survivors include her nephew, Mark Booker of Othello, WA.; her niece, Paula Booker Lambert of Boise, Idaho.

Visitation will be held on Friday, September 6, 2013 from 5-7 p.m. at Jones & Jones ~ Betts Memorial Chapel.

Traditional Funeral Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 7, 2013 at Calvary Crossroad Church in Wenatchee with Private Interment at Wenatchee City Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9:30-10:15 A.M. prior to service

Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guest book at jonesjonesbetts.com. Arrangements are by Jones & Jones-Betts Funeral Home.

Obituary for Esther Stevens Todd

Esther Stevens Todd, 98, a native of Wenatchee, Washington, passed away Sunday, August 25, 2013, at Central Washington Hospital in Wenatchee.

Esther was born December 05, 1914, during World War I, to Edward Francis and Loraine Johnson Stevens in their home at Second and Pine Streets, now known as McKittrick Street in Wenatchee. Esther was the youngest child of the youngest son of Artemus Augustus Stevens, Civil War veteran and regional leader of the Grand Army of the Republic, who moved his family to Wenatchee in 1894. Esther's home was situated on orchard land with an occasional house every five or ten acres. Two horses named Buck and Bird furnished the power for travel for the Stevens Family until 1917.

At age six during the first week of her school career, Esther contracted infantile paralysis, now known as polio. The time was about 18 days after President Franklin D. Roosevelt was stricken. The Beacon Reader was brought to her home where she learned to read and completed that first grade while recuperating. She returned to Lewis & Clark Elementary with a noticeable limp, but did not allow the effects of polio to hinder her purpose and achievement. Esther graduated from Wenatchee High School in 1932 during the depths of the Depression.

Although her future appeared dim, Esther applied for work at General Telephone Co. and in 1933 was offered the handsome sum of 27 ½ cents/hour. One Apple Blossom Festival day she answered 532 calls in one hour, so when the parade began Esther was told she could go to the parade and not come back the rest of the day. Seldom, if ever, did she miss attending the Apple Blossom Parade. She was a telephone operator for 12 years.

In 1945, Esther Stevens received a scholarship from the Lanham Foundation,

established to help Chelan County young people who wanted an education. In 1947 Esther received an Associate in Arts degree from Wenatchee Junior College. Continuing at the University of Washington she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1949 and a Teaching Certificate in 1950. A short wheel based bicycle, which fit behind the front seat of her car, carried her across campus. Teaching at Peshastin High School for six years followed. In 1956, Esther became Librarian at Eastmont High School, continuing for twenty years. She completed a Master of Library Science degree at UW in 1964.

Raised in a Christian home, Esther remembered attending evangelistic meetings, Sunday school and evening services religiously. When about ten years old, she answered the altar call and went forward to accept Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour. Her greatest desire was to do Christ's will for her life. Esther was active in Christian Endeavor at the Presbyterian Church and later moved to First Baptist Church in 1940 and was baptized in 1945. She assisted with Pioneer Girls at First Baptist, having a car for transporting girls plus time and interest in young people. Throughout her lifetime she was a willing witness for Christ. Esther commented, "The Lord was good in giving me opportunities."

Through the providence of God, Owen W. Todd and Esther Stevens met in the Victory Class of First Baptist Church, First & Chelan Streets. "That was a romance to end all, as far as I was concerned," she wrote. They were married on June 12, 1960, and decades later Esther shared, "My husband has been a wonderful help to me, with his strong arm and patient endurance" --- for 46 years. Together they served in the Church Library and with Heritage Society of the Mid-Columbia. Esther was a known archivist and historian, descended from Puritans who emigrated from Caversham, England, on the good ship "Confidence".

Upon the death of her husband Owen W. Todd in 2006, Esther made her home at Colonial Vista. She especially enjoyed Gardening Grannies on Saturday mornings; conversation and prayer with her roommate Lillie Rose. Esther continued with Heritage Society, attending the usual last meeting of spring in June, 2013. Her mode of transportation changed to the City of Wenatchee's Link wheelchair van. Link drivers helped her to Post-Polio meetings and personal appointments.

Esther Stevens Todd is survived by nephew Mark (Sandy) Booker of Othello, WA; niece Paula Booker (Jim) Lambert of Boise, ID; niece Carol Todd (Tom) Lewis and nephew Terry Todd of Wenatchee; nephews William Todd and Gary (Norma) Todd of Entiat, WA; numerous grand-nieces and grand-nephews and their children. Preceding her in death were her parents Edward and Loraine Stevens; husband Owen W. Todd; brother Edward F. Stevens, Jr.; sister Loraine Stevens Booker Poarch; Brother-in-law Robert Todd and wife Nadine; niece Judy Todd.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, September 7th, 2013, 10:30 a.m. at Calvary Crossroads Church, 1301 Maple Street. Visitation will be Friday, September 6th from 5 – 7 p.m. at Jones & Jones – Betts Funeral Home and at the church on Saturday, September 7th, from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. preceding the service.

Memorials may be given in Esther's name to Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, 127 S Mission Street, Wenatchee, Washington 98801.

Tribute Wall



“ Jones & Jones - Betts Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Esther S. Todd



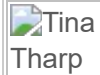
Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WJ

“ I am a graduate of Peshastin High School. For the four years there, Esther was my English teacher. She was a great teacher, whom I respected very much, both as an educator and a vibrant Christian. My college English professor said that she could tell I had a competent English teacher in high school. I graduated the final year of Peshastin High, just before the consolidation with Dryden. Fortunately, I was able to express my appreciation to her through cards, and one time in person in 1995 when she and her husband attended my father-in-law's funeral in Wenatchee. I will always be grateful for her positive influence in my life.

Wes Jeske

Wesley J. Jeske - September 08, 2013 at 03:18 PM



Tina
Tharp

“ *It is a sad day to read of Esther's passing. My late sister, Anna, and I loved going to the Steven's house with our parents, Hubert and Louise Reeve to visit. I was ten when we attended Esther and Owen's marriage ceremony and remembering her dress. I am so sorry for your loss.*

Tina Tharp - September 07, 2013 at 11:34 AM



JM

“ *We will miss knowing that Esther is not there, so we can send cards and other messages. She was a lovely addition to the Todd family when she married Owen. We attended their wedding as we did other special times with the Todd family. Paul & Joanne Peters Marr, Des Moines, WA*

Joanne Peters Marr - August 28, 2013 at 11:02 PM

ET

“ I first met Esther and her husband, Owen, when they purchased equipment for their orchard on McKittrick Street. They were a pleasure to do business with. I am reminded of the expression...."salt of the earth"....yes they were SALT!

Esther was loved by the students that she served at Eastmont High School. This was a special calling for her.

Esther was always supportive of my ventures in the political arena. Which I naturally appreciated.

She was a "true-blue" American.

Sincerely,

Earl Tilly

Earl Tilly - August 28, 2013 at 10:51 PM