

Genevieve Oppold, 93

July 30, 1914 - March 1, 2008

PANAMA — Genevieve Oppold was the youngest of the twelve children of Theodore and Bertha (Huetteman) Stessman. She was born on a farm about one mile north of Panama, IA on July 30, 1914. Genevieve was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. She attended St. Mary's Catholic schools, graduating from high school in 1932. Genevieve attended Mt. St. Scholastica College in Atchison, KS and University of Iowa at Cedar Falls, IA. She taught school for nine years: three years in country school and six years in the Defiance Public Schools.



August 17, 1942, Gen married Franklin Oppold of Panama at St. Patrick's Church in Missouri Valley, IA. They established their home in Panama, where they lived until their deaths. Franklin and Gen had five children: Pat, Beth, Alice, Tim, Frank. Gen was always very active in church and civic activities. She served on the first St. Mary's parish council, on the school board, and on the regional school board. She was a member of the Community Club and the American Legion Auxiliary. In 1960, Gen was honored as Panama's "Citizen of the Year." Her greatest interest was local history and genealogy. She served as chairman of the Panama Centennial History Book in 1984. In 2006, the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce honored Gen as the "Citizen of the Years." Genevieve died on March 1, 2008, at Immanuel Fontenelle Home in Omaha, NE having attained the age of ninety-three years, seven months, and one day.

In addition to her parents, Genevieve is preceded in death by eleven of her brothers and sisters; her husband Franklin, in 2002; and her son-in-law, Jim Leuschen. She is survived by her family: Mary Patricia Leuschen of Omaha, NE; Beth Muenchrath and her husband Roger Erpelding of Des Moines, IA; Alice and her husband Earl West of Ashland, NE; Tim Oppold of Panama and friend Debbie Garrett of Dunlap, IA; and Frank Oppold and his wife Joanne of Dunlap, IA. Genevieve was the proud grandmother of thirteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2008, with Rev. David Muenchrath celebrating the 10:30 AM service at

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St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, IA. Casket bearers were Ron Kohles, Duane Assmann, Dan Herbst, Paul Theulen, Pat Stessman, and Bob Huebert. Interment was held at St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama.

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