

OBITUARY

Helen Riemenschneider, 98

Helen M. German Riemenschneider, 98 of Clinton, formerly of State Center, died Friday, Dec. 5, 2003 at the Alverno Health Care Facility in Clinton.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Dec. 13, 2003 at the First Presbyterian Church in State Center. A private committal service at Hillside Cemetery will precede the service. The Wensel-Perrin Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Helen M. Gray was born March 31, 1905 in Rhodes, Iowa, the daughter of Robert and Nellie Gray. She married Dwight German in Oct. 1933. He died in April, 1968. She married Earl Riemenschneider in June, 1977. He died in Jan., 1993.

Helen is survived by one son, Dr. Robert German and his wife Sharon, Fulton, IL; two step-sons, Ron Riemenschneider and his wife Fonda, State Center, and Stan Riemenschneider and his wife Letabelle, Woolstock, IA; three grandsons and their wives; four great-grandchildren; 11 step-grandchildren; 16 step-great-grandchildren; one brother, Harold (Griz) Gray, Arvada, CO; nieces

and nephews.

Helen received degrees in education from Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, and Drake University.

She began her long teaching career in Lamoille, Iowa in the 1920's. She taught in State Center schools and later in the Marshalltown school systems at Glick School, retiring from there at age 65. She then returned to teach in the State Center schools for another seven years. In the course of her career she taught many students from three generations of families. During WWII she spent two years as a foreman in the Ankeny Defense Plant. She was a lifetime member of Order of Eastern Star. She was well-known throughout the area for her piano playing, and in her later years she especially enjoyed playing piano at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown. She also enjoyed playing bridge, reading and fishing. She loved visiting with family and friends - she never met a stranger.

Memorials may be made to the Alverno Health Care Facility, Clinton, Iowa or First Presbyterian Church in State Center.

Thursday, December 18, 2003 - MID IOWA ENTERPRISE

LOOKING BACK

BY SHIRLEY SCHAPER

A tribute to a dear friend—

A dear friend to a large number of us died on December 5 and her funeral was held on Saturday, December 13. Helen Gray German Riemenschneider touched a great many lives in this community during her 98 years—as a teacher, card playing friend, through church and other organizations. Helen was my teacher for three years in junior high and is the one who instilled the love of State Center history and genealogy in my heart and soul. When you tell me how much you enjoy this column, you are also thanking Helen. Helen continued to teach me even though it was almost 50 years ago that I was her student. I will always have great memories of Helen as I know so many of you will also.

Three generations of students for Mrs. German

April 24, 1973 Melbourne Record

Not many kids can say that their teacher also taught their father and their grandmother, too. But such is the case with Nancy and Steven Weuve, children of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Weuve of State Center.

Mrs. Dwight (Helen) German, fifth grade teacher at State Center, is pictured in a three-generation grouping of her students.

This year she has Nancy in her class and last year Nancy's brother, Steven. She taught the children's father, Roger of State Center during his junior high school years, in 1950-52. Roger's mother, Mrs. Howard (Evelyn) E. Wilkening Weuve, had Mrs. German in the intermediate grades in the early 1930's.

Helen Gray German struck out on her teaching career following her graduation from State Center with the class of 1922, and two years at Cornell at Mt. Vernon. She later received her degree from Drake University. She had also attended grade school in State Center in the old building, which has since been razed.

She began teaching in State Center in 1927 and continued here until 1955, when she went to Marshalltown and taught 15 years. She returned to West Marshall in 1970.

This reporter accompanied Mrs. German on a field trip to Des Moines with her fifth grade last week and can say that after over 40 years in the teaching profession she does not lack the stamina to keep up with the lively youngsters. It was up and down, up and down the steps in the State Capitol and State Historical Museum; and Mrs. German seemed tireless. On the noisy bus for the return trip home, she sat, obviously enjoying the songs and jokes of her charges.