

OBITUARIES

23 APR 2009

ADA M. VREELAND, 88

Ada M. Vreeland, age 88, of rural Conrad, passed away, Sunday, April 19, 2009, at her home, with her family by her side, while under the care of Iowa River Hospice. Funeral services were held



Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at First Presbyterian Church in Conrad. Burial followed in the Conrad Cemetery. Online condolences may be sent to the family at vogelfuneral-homes.com. Johnston Funeral Home in Conrad is entrusted with arrangements.

Ada Marie (Stewart) Vreeland was born on February 8th, 1921, the daughter of Burton A. and Nina (McClain) Stewart. Ada was the middle of nine children. She attended a country school, Conrad High School, Marshalltown HS, and junior college. She received her degree in Home Economics from Iowa State. Ada passed away on Sunday, April 19th, 2009, in the loving care of her husband, children, grandchildren, friends, and Iowa River Hospice. Memorials may be directed to First Presbyterian Church Conrad, or the Iowa River Hospice.

Ada came from a family of pioneers. Her paternal grandfather, Alva T. Stewart, came here with a land grant for his service in the Civil War. She was named after her adored maternal grandmother Ada (Wiley) McClain, the wife of Conrad's first doctor. Her namesake's grandfather, John Conrad, founded the town of Conrad.

She first met Don Vreeland at a dance in the Memorial Union at Iowa State in 1941. After college, Ada taught a semester at Fontanelle HS. On Feb. 12, 1943 in Plymouth, MI, she married Don. Seven hundred miles from their Iowa families, and a world war going on, there were only 11 at their wedding – including the minister!

During the war Ada and her sisters Sarah and Barbara all worked at the Ford B25 Bomber plant in Detroit while Don worked at the Engineering Lab. of the Detroit Diesel Div. of General Motors. He later became an officer in the Navy and they were stationed in Florida and Philadelphia. Their son, Stewart, was born in 1945 in the Navy hospital in Miami Beach.

The war over, they moved to Marshalltown where Ada was a full time mother and homemaker and Don worked at Lennox in engineering and management. During their ten years in Marshalltown, Virginia, Roger, and Jack were born. In 1955, they purchased the Marshall County farm where they now live and daughter Mary was born. They designed their present home and helped Ken Bailey, (husband of Ada's sister Sarah) build it. In 1961 Ada and Don started traveling with the children in pickup campers and motor homes, visiting all the 48 states. After the children were grown, Ada and Don added Alaska and Hawaii and 20 foreign countries to their list, returning from New Zealand most recently. In 1965, they hosted Conrad's first AFS foreign student, Inger Eidner of Norway, who now lives near Paris. That

opened a whole new area of experiences. Inger and her family continue to be a joy to everyone in the Vreeland family.

Ada proudly spent almost every minute of her career as a master homemaker. She has always been a very busy person, raising five children, excelling in gardening and sewing. She also taught Sunday School for nearly 50 years, singing in the church choir and Tuesday Music Club, leading 4H, and serving in various Presbyterian Church offices.

Ada always believed there was good in everyone and let everyone she met know she believed that – as evidenced by the enormous circle of those that love her, from her neighbors, church, and community to friends of literally all ages from all over the world.

Ada is survived by her husband, Don; children, Stewart (Midge) Vreeland of Gray, Maine; Virginia (Jim Hall) Gold of North Yarmouth, Maine; Roger (Donna) Vreeland of Marshalltown, Jack (Nancy) Vreeland of Portland, Maine; and Mary (Bill) Hawk of Vinton, Iowa. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, Zachary, Wiley, Grayson, Sam, Natalie, Vreeland; Geoffrey (Shir Yin) and Harry (Amber) Gold; Jacob (Tiffany) Phillip (Amber) Hawk. One great-grandchild, Dylan Gold; sisters, Doris McKibben and Barbara Woodburn and sister-in-laws, Dee Stewart and Jean Miller and brother-in-law, Ken Bailey.

Ada was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Wayne, Allen, Robert and sisters, Frances, Elsie, and Sarah.


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