



Wanda E. Hayes

March 17, 1920 - February 16, 2016

Wanda Hayes

SHEFFIELD, Illinois (February 18, 2016 – Eara Wanda Hayes, 95, a longtime resident of Sheffield and formerly of Bowling Green, Kentucky, died Thursday, February 18, 2016, at Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois, after a brief illness, with a son, Steven, at her side.

No visitation is planned. Graveside services will be scheduled later this spring in Bowling Green.

Wanda was born March 17, 1920, near Massey Springs in Edmonson County, Kentucky, to (Mary) Cordelia Baugh Massey and Tandy Edgar Massey.

She married Daniel Boone Wilson Hayes on April 5, 1943, in Bowling Green. He died March 22, 2012. Together, they operated Hayes Dry Cleaners in Sheffield from 1954 to 1974, retiring to Grove City and Englewood, Florida, until returning to Sheffield in 2000 to be near children and grandchildren. She and her husband earlier operated dry cleaning services in Smiths Grove, Kentucky, and Monmouth, Illinois.

She grew up in a vastly different time, wealthy in relation to nearby others, as her family always had enough to eat because her father operated a grist mill,

yet her early home lacked electricity, running water, transportation, medical care, store-bought supplies or even a complete Bible for her mother to read from to the children at night. She assisted her family by working throughout high school in Park City, Kentucky, at Mammoth Cave and later at a factory in Bowling Green making underwear for World War II soldiers, her contribution to the war effort.

Among her unique abilities, she could recall faces, names and dates forward from early childhood and could instantly count the precise number of any objects in view at any moment. She also was an avid reader, especially of history.

In Sheffield, she and her husband embraced a great many friends, almost all of whom have since passed.

In retirement, she enjoyed antique collecting with her husband and was widely regarded as an expert. They also enjoyed gardening, boating, fishing, walking the beach in early morning and at sunset, following the St. Louis Cardinals and caring for their cats and other critters.

She had been a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and Methodist Church congregations in Sheffield and Englewood.

Survivors include a daughter, Carol J. (Patrick) Piper, Ohio, Illinois; sons, Steven W. Hayes, Kewanee, Illinois, and Daniel K. (Carol) Hayes, Bettendorf, Iowa; six grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and other relatives, primarily in Kentucky.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by six sisters, (Ruby) Aileen Harrison of Kirkwood, Illinois; (Malta) Christine "Patty" Lindsey of Sebring, Florida; (Florence) Boneta Wilson of Alvaton, Kentucky;

Jean Elizabeth Carr of Metairie, Louisiana;, (June) Eloise Massey of Monmouth, Illinois, and (Mary) Ann Cook of Sarasota, Florida. (In keeping with regional traditions at the time, most family members were known by their middle names.) She also was preceded in death by two brothers, (Kenneth) Byron Wilson Massey and (James) Tandy Massey, two grandchildren in infancy and members of her husband's family, including his father, Daniel Boone Hayes; his mother, Florence Campbell Hayes; sisters, Ruth White, Louise Smith, Lida Creasy and Lenore Paschal; and brothers, Ben Hayes, David Hayes and Richard Hayes, all of Bowling Green.

Memorials may be directed to Friends of Strays in Princeton, Illinois, or to a favorite charity.

Norberg Memorial Home in Princeton is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be expressed at www.norbergfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Central Illinois Mortuary Service