

## Note from Mary

The job of scanning and saving the obituaries from the local funeral homes has become my job. It has been difficult during this Covid 19 quarantine to keep them updated. I am sad to say many of the obituaries don't have a lot of information in them. As a family researcher, I wonder how easily it will be for people to find much information about their ancestors 50 or more years from now. Many have been cremated and no place of burial is listed. Some have had only the barest of information mentioned as there has been no service. When I talk to people about an obituary I think of the following items included. When was the person born? What date did they die? If the deceased was a female what was her maiden name, if a male what was his wife's maiden name. What was the deceased mother's maiden name? If they are buried, where are they buried? Was the deceased in the military? What are the last names of their children and siblings? You might think this would all be common sense but it isn't.

Two of our members have lost loved ones the past few weeks. Carolyn Key's mother in law, Linda Key, passed away at age 100 and Mary Hoegh's 30 year old grandson, Ben Jessen, passed away after surgery for a broken leg on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Linda Key, 100, of Atlantic, Iowa, died Friday, May 29, 2020, at Heritage House in Atlantic.**

Linda Ferne Hawthorne was born on January 26th, 1920, near Afton, Iowa to Page Lemoine and Mary Muzetta (Gray) Hawthorne. She was the 5th child in a family of seven children. She graduated from Lenox High School and then was able to attend AIB on a basketball scholarship. She married Melvin Lewis Key in Grant City, Missouri, on June 11, 1940; they were married for 65 years. Initially they lived in Anita, Iowa, and after Melvin's tour of duty in WWII they moved to Hamburg, Iowa. In 1952, they moved to Atlantic where Mel owned the clothing store, Howard's. Linda was primarily a

homemaker, but she also worked at Mary Anderson's nursery school for many years. They raised 6 children.

Linda was always busy with her family and friends. She was an active volunteer in her community and church. She taught Sunday school, was a camp counsellor, Methodist youth group sponsor, and a member of the Merry Marrieds. She organized and coached young girls recreational basketball through the YMCA. She was also active in the local YWCA chapter, PTA, and the Hospital Auxiliary. She enjoyed watching her children's and grandchildren's games, concerts and plays. In her later years she volunteered to rock babies and play with toddlers at the Ann Wickman Child Development Center. She remained physically active all of her life; enjoying walking and swimming.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Melvin L. Key; two sons, George F. Key and Martin L. Key. Also preceding her in death were three grandchildren, two brothers, and four sisters.

Memorials are requested in Linda's name to the Atlantic Senior Alumni Scholarship Foundation (SASF) <https://atlanticsasf.org/>, Nishna Valley Family YMCA, or the Atlantic First United Methodist Church.

Linda's family is very grateful for the support and friendship the Atlantic community has extended to our mother. She has made Atlantic her home for nearly 70 years and found joy and contentment here. Linda donated her body to the Nebraska Deeded Body Program at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Consequently, there will not be a funeral service at this time, but we would like to invite you to go to [www.rolandfuneralservice.com](http://www.rolandfuneralservice.com) to view a picture slideshow of Mama's memories. We would also invite you to share any memories or thoughts on this site.

Roland Funeral Service is caring for Linda's family.

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