

Merrilla Hays, 91

HARLAN — Merrilla Irene Shields Hays, daughter of Daniel J. and Honorah Elizabeth (Ryan) Shields was born Sept. 19, 1899, at Nashua. She attended school there, graduating from Nashua High School. She then attended the University of Iowa, and later Drake University in Des Moines where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education and English. She then did graduate work at Columbia University in New York, and Creighton University in Omaha, NE. She taught school for several years, retiring in 1928 as superintendent of the Tennant Consolidated School to be married.

July 26, 1928, she married Dr. Ralph Hays at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Nashua. After their marriage, they made their home in Harlan where she was a substitute teacher in the Harlan schools for many years, and later returned to Tennant to teach. In 1951, she was honored to have her name permanently inscribed in the Book of Memories as one of the teachers for whom the Memorial Headquarters Building Salisbury House of the Iowa State Teachers Association is especially dedicated. After the death of Ralph in May of 1975, she continued to reside in Harlan, and Oct. 24, 1989, she became a resident of the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan. She died Sept. 19, 1990 at Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital in Omaha, NE., at age 91 years.

She was an active member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan, St. Michael's Guild, and taught Catechism classes for many years. She was a member of the Harlan library board, and was the first head of the Shelby Co. Red Cross Blood Bank. Some of her plans for the visits of the blood mobile were adopted by the Omaha Chapter, for which she received a citation. She was a member of the Delphian Society, the American Association of University Women, the Harlan Literary Club, and several card clubs.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by three sisters and one brother. Surviving her are nieces, Marijane Gill of Orange Park, FL.; Dorothy Cook of Rolla, MO.; Dorothy McCarty and Marjorie Tinnon, both of Memphis, TN.; nephews, Richard Hays of Omaha; John Hays of Pocatello, ID., and Arthur Hays Jr. of Memphis, TN.; numerous grand and great-grand nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Sept. 24, 1990 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan with Rev. Edward Kelly as the celebrant. Burial was in the Harlan cemetery with Steve Mores, Al Burchett, Lud Buman, Warren Chaffey, Ray Buman, Jim Noble, Don Buman, and Roy Baron serving as casketbearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.