

**BROLIN, DOROTHY M.**

Birth

May 17, 1921 at Norwalk, Iowa  
Obituary at end of Z's in Additions and Corrections.

Death

March 29, 2020 at Leon, Decatur Co., Iowa.

Cause of Death

Diabetes following other age related problems.

Cemetery Lot

New Addition; Row 2; Space 7, 8, 9, 10

Maiden Name

VanPelt

Father

“Dick” Otto W. VanPelt

Mother

Kathryn Louisa Clarke

Marriage

Dorothy Mae Clarke to Lewis Gideon Brolin on January 30, 1943  
Ref: Obituary of Lewis Gideon Brolin

Census

1925 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; Book 78

VanPelt, O. W.	32	IA	IL	IL
		Father, John A. VanPelt, born in Illinois, age 75		
		Mother, Sarah Watsbull, born in Illinois		
		John and Sarah were married in Illinois		
Catherine	27	IA	ENG	IA
		Father, George Clarke, born in England		
		Bessie Kirk, born in Iowa, age 59		



			George and Bessie were married in Des Moines, IA		
Dorothy Mae	03		IA	IA	IA
			Father, O. W. VanPelt, born in Iowa, age 32		
			Mother, Catherine Clark, born in Iowa, age 27		
George Henry	01		“	“	“
			IA	IA	IA

1930 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED 18; Page 6B; April 21, 1930  
 Dwelling 128; Family 128

Van Pelt, Otto W.	37	farmer	IA	OH	IN
Kathryn L.	32		IA	ENG	IA
Dorothy M.	08		IA	IA	IA
George H.	06		IA	IA	IA
Clyde J,	04	4/12	IA	IA	IA
C. Earl	01	4/12	IA	IA	IA

1940 – Decatur Twp., Decatur Co., IA; ED27-7; Page 5B; May 6, 1940  
 Family 92 – Line 50

Van Pelt, Otto W.	47	Farmer – Same place	IA
Kathern	41		IA
George	16		IA
Clyde	14		IA
John	12		IA

Van Pelt, Dorothy M. 18 granddaughter – housekeeper IA  
 The census taker listed her on sheet 6A  
 It says she is in the household of Edward Klian  
 No more information available

BROLIN, DOROTHY MAE

From the Memorial card for Dorothy Brolin:

Dorothy Mae Brolin

Born

May 17, 1921 ~ Norwalk, Iowa

Died

March 29, 2020 ~ Leon, Iowa

Funeral Service

Slade ~ O'Donnell Funeral Home, Leon, Iowa

10 a.m. ~ Saturday, April 4, 2020

Officiating ~ Pastor Rick Hawkins

## Recorded Musical Selections

“In the Sweet By and By”

“You Are My Sunshine”

## Interment

Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Orilla, Iowa

## Life Compared to a Teapot

Like the musical porcelain teapot the moving melody seemed to bring comfort. Like teapots, life is beautiful – but also fragile. Our precious moments and special people must be handled with care. If not our contentment – like porcelain – can sadly shatter.

True as with a teapot occasionally you can glue the pieces back together. They were never quite the same, though, never quite as fine.

I want my teapot filled with sweet delights I can savor and then pour into someone else’s cup for them to share.

## Obituary

I, Dorothy Brolin, was born May 17, 1921, the oldest child of Otto “Dick” and Kathryn (Clarke) Van Pelt in a rural farm house located two miles south of Norwalk, Iowa, near the North River bridge on Highway 28. I was delivered in this rural farm home by Dr. Willet, who resided on Main Street in Norwalk, the first of five children including, George, Clyde, Earl, and John.

At age six I started to Norwalk Consolidated School meeting without doubt, Mrs. Welty, my most admired teacher that I ever had. Riding each day on the school bus in a hand-made topper built behind the cab of a 1925 Ford pick-up. Entrance was made by a door at the end of the topper. On the long side hand-made benches served as rather hard seats. Our attire was simple and casual. No slacks were allowed to be worn in the classroom.

My after school chore was to pick up cobs to be used for fuel in the cook stove. Our food was cooked on this stove every day 12 months of the year. The reservoir was our warm water. At age ten I learned to hand milk a cow which came to be an after school chore. She was fastened into a stanchion, I sat on a three-legged stool with cow kicker chains close by in case she decided to move around, I still have the chains made by the Norwalk village blacksmith. Choring before dark was necessary on our farm because there was no rural electricity unless you wanted to carry a kerosene lantern.

I was baptized in the Norwalk Methodist Church in 1933, with brothers, George and Clyde by my side. This has always remained a memory throughout my life. After moving to Leon I transferred my membership to the Leon Loving Chapel Methodist Church in 1948, remaining a member until my death.

I moved to Leon, Iowa in 1938, enrolling in the Leon Community School, graduating in 1939. Furthering my education I graduated from Drake University with a BS degree in elementary education.

On January 30, 1943, I married Louis Brolin in Leon, Iowa, my best friend and partner for 30 years. We had a wonderful daughter, Joni Kaye. We told her so many times how proud we were of her and that never changed. Now I have two precious grandchildren, Jon Louis and Jovan Lin, who call me on their cellular phones and end each conversation with “I love you Grandma.”

Teaching in the elementary classroom was an experience I cherished for 41 years before retiring from Mormon Trail Community School in 1986.

My passions were not limited – enjoying the great outdoors was number one. Planting a vegetable and flower garden, caring for a few cows and chickens on my mini-farm, painting ceramics especially Indian pieces, doing crafts and quilting, collecting swans, hearts, and teapot's, sharing my natural creative talents with everyone, and being a good friend and neighbor., I relate to the reading of Life is Like a Teapot.

Technological changes that were only one's imagination when I was growing up have changed our world. How interesting! One of the things that remain unchanged are relationships with family and friends. I am fortunate to have had your love and friendship. Thank-you.

What an amazing generation to have lived a long, fun life. 98 years with the last 75 of them at 1201 NW Church Street, Leon, Iowa

Be kind to one another.