

LESTER, BETTY JEAN

Birth

Feb 8, 1929 at Yale, Guthrie Co., Iowa

Death

May 11, 2015 at Sunny
View Care Center, Ankeny,
Iowa

Cause of Death

Cemetery Lot

Row 20, Space 2 in the New Addition

Maiden Name

Tasler

Father

Henry Tasler

Mother

Dimple Alice Shell

Marriage

Betty Jean Tasler to Bert Lester in 1947

Census

1930 – Cass Twp., Guthrie Co., Iowa; ED7; Page 6A; April 18, 1930
Dwelling 139; Family 139

Tasler, Henry, Jr.	34	Farmer	IA	IA	IA
Dimple	28		IA	IN	IA
Rosella	09		IA	IA	IA
Hazel	08		IA	IA	IA
Mary	07		IA	IA	IA
Earl	05		IA	IA	IA
Betty J.	01		IA	IA	IA

1940 – Cass Twp., Guthrie Co., Iowa; ED39-7; Page 9B; April 24, 1940
Family 185

Tasler, Henry, Jr.	44	Farmer	IA
Dimple	37		IA
Rosella	20		IA
Hazel	18		IA
Mary	17		IA
Earl	14		IA
Betty	11		IA
Marvin	09		IA
Bobby	06		IA

Obituary

[Des Moines Register, Thursday, May 21, 2015, Page 15A]

Betty Lester
Sheldahl

Betty Lester, 86, of Sheldahl, died May 11, 2015 at Sunny View Care Center in Ankeny, IA. A graveside memorial service will be held at 11:00 am, Saturday, May 23, 2015 at the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Orilla, IA.

Survivors include her daughters; Dianne Brazelton of Sheldahl, IA and Judy Cline of Springfield, MO; a brother, Bob D. Tasler of Cabot, AR; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Memorials may be sent to Huxley, Polk City, and Slater First Responders, who provided excellent service and care to Betty on several occasions, at PO Box 132, Sheldahl, IA, 50243.

Slininger-Rossow Funeral Home of Jefferson
515-386-2171 www.slingerrossowfuneralhome.com

From the Memorial Card

Betty Jean Lester

Born: February 8, 1929 at Yale, Iowa
Died: May 11, 2015 at Ankeny, Iowa
Age: 86 years

Graveside Memorial Service
11:00 a.m. Saturday May 23, 2015
Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Orilla, Iowa

Mom's History

Betty Jean was born in Yale, Iowa, on February 8, 1929, to Dimple and Henry Tasler. She graduated from Yale High School in 1946 and married Bert Lester in 1947. They had two

"girls", Dianne and Judy, and lived in Amarillo, Texas, until they separated in 1961 when Betty moved back to Iowa. She had five grandchildren: Lee Anne, Tammy, Faith, Sarah, and John; three great-grandsons: Matthew, Severian, and Caleb; one great-great grandson: Raz; and the hope of a great-granddaughter due in September. During Betty's life she worked as a bookkeeper and for a short time owned a bar and grill. In 1985 she went to work for John Ruan as a companion to his wife, Betty. Since they both had the same first name, she became to be known as BJ, but her family called her Bah – as she was first called by her great-grandson Matthew. Betty retired in 2002 and resided with her daughter, Dianne, in Sheldahl until her passing on May 11, 2015.

Eulogy

Today, we would like to pay honor to Betty by recognizing and thanking her and those born in her generation. If you are here today, your life is better because of their hard work, loyalty to their country, and generosity to others.

No generation alive today has worked as hard as those born in the early part of the 20th century. It was hard work that allowed Betty, her brothers, and her sisters to survive the poverty that existed in this country when she was a child. One of Betty's first jobs was to wash the jars her mother used to can their food from the garden, and she continued to work all her life. It is on the backs of this hard working generation we enjoy such a good life today. They took us from farm to factory and set the stage for technology to advance from hand-crank wall phones to hand-held cell phones!

Betty's generation showed the highest form of loyalty there is - - to their country. Sitting here today is Betty's brother, Bob, who served in the United States Marine Corp. Betty's other brother, Marvin, and her husband Bert, were also veterans. If you didn't serve, then you kept things going back home. It is because of their unquestioning loyalty to their country that we enjoy so much freedom today.

And, they were generous. Perhaps it was a lesson learned from poverty. They never had to mull it over or think it through – they just gave to others when they saw a need. If they had it, they shared it. Betty's girls remember her buying shoes and clothes for children at their elementary school, and they are very thankful they were raised to give to others. Many in Betty's generation quit school to go to work so their families could survive, but Betty's children and grandchildren have had the opportunity of education – all of them graduating from high school and several going on to college and trade schools,. They never experienced hunger or cold and had access to the best health care in the world. To Betty and her passing generation, may we extend our sincere gratitude for all you did to make our lives better!

Closing

It's common knowledge in Betty's family that there wasn't a child or dog that didn't like her. She could be a very strong headed woman. But, these small children and animals could see past that to the love and kindness in her heart. By doing so, they allowed others to see it, too.

Betty was not a religious person. Her childhood experience with unkind people at a church who looked down on poorer families stayed with her all her life. There is a lesson to be learned from that if you are a church goer. The Word says it best when it tells us that God is no respecter of

persons and to love thy neighbor as thyself. It is Betty's family's great faith that she accepted the salvation so freely given by the Lord and that her soul rest with Him.

Written by Betty's daughter, Judy.

There is a picture of Betty holding her Kitty on the Memorial Card.