



Ralph Marshall Hamilton

OCT 23, 1920 - DEC 20, 2008



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Ralph Hamilton, age 88 of Centerville died Saturday morning December 20, 2008 at the Beacon Harbor Rehab center in Rockwall, Texas. Ralph was born October 23, 1920, the son of Frank and Lydia (Anderson) Hamilton in Griffin Saskatchewan, Canada. He married Merilou White on June 2, 1945 in Des Moines, Iowa.

After graduating from high school, Ralph worked for Morell's Meat Packing Plant in Ottumwa, Iowa for a few years. He then entered the agricultural field where he farmed for the next forty five years. Ralph began his farming career in Appanoose County in 1956. He farmed there until the early to mid 1980s, when Ralph and Merilou made the decision to move to Seymour, Iowa. Ralph farmed in Wayne County until his retirement in 2001.

Throughout his lifetime Ralph belong to numerous organizations, including Farm Bureau, Saddle Club, and Hereford Association. Ralph was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Centerville, where he served as a youth leader, a deacon, and was on the church board. Later in life, Ralph became a member of the Dale Church where he served as a deacon and was active on Dale's Church Board.

Ralph's favorite hobby was watching the cattle auctions on the RFD channel on television. He enjoyed playing games, including checkers, dominos, and especially word search puzzles. Ralph enjoyed animals, especially his ability to "break" horses. During the summertime, he enjoyed spending time outside mowing.

Ralph is survived by his wife Merilou Hamilton of Centerville, Iowa; five children, Zelda (Tom) Starr of Centerville, Wayne (Sandy) Hamilton of Centerville, Willis Hamilton of Osceola, Iowa, Zelma (Jerry) Fry of Sunnyvale, Texas, and Zoann Willis of Rockwall, Texas; eleven grandchildren; thirteen great grandchildren; and a brother Percy Hamilton of Rockford, Illinois. Ralph was preceded in death by his parents; a brother Francis Hamilton; and three sisters, Helen Brewer, June Lane, and Joyce Onnen.



Obituary

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Funeral services will be held 11 AM, Saturday, December 27, 2008 at the Dale Church north of Centerville, off Highway 5, with Pastor Gerald Campbell officiating. Burial will follow at Mt. Ararat Cemetery in Centerville. A visitation will be held Friday at the Lange Funeral Home with the family present from 3-6 PM. A memorial has been established to the Mt. Ararat Cemetery and may be left at or mailed to the Lange Funeral Home, 1900 S. 18th St., Centerville, Iowa 52544. Condolences may be left online at www.thomaslangefuneralhome.com.



Tribute Wall

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Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 12:59 PM



Thomas Funeral Home shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 1:32 PM



Anonymous posted:

Boy there are so many memories of Grandpa from when I was little up to now. The Christmas Days that we spent out at the different houses that Grandpa and Grandma lived in. They were always exciting times. Us kids would wake up and wonder and keep asking when we was going to leave to go out to Grandpa and Grandma's house for Christmas dinner and the opening of the presents and of course the stocking that was always under the tree. That was one thing that I looked forward to each Christmas day. As soon as we walked into the house Grandpa would say There is a stocking under the tree go find yours. Then when Francis came to visit for the very first time we went over to Corydon to eat with Grandpa and Grandma at this place called The Windmill (I think). That was a really enjoyable day. Then I called Grandpa later and asked him what he thought of Francis and he said I really like him. The feeling was mutual Francis really liked Grandpa and Grandma too. Grandpa always had a strong faith in the Lord and he showed it to everybody that he was around and wasn't afraid to talk to them about the Lord. We know that he is in a better place now but he will truly be missed by us and all who knew him. Grandpa we love you and will miss you. Love, Tammie, Francis & Madison Posted by Tammie , Francis & Madison December 23, 2008

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

There are so many memories of Grandpa. The Christmas Days that we spent out at Grandpa and Grandma's. We were all eager to get out to Grandpa's house to see what presents we had out there. Grandpa always had stockings for everyone filled with candy and nuts and ofcourse the fruit [an apple, orange and banana]. I would always eat the peanut clusters first and always go through the nuts and eat the best ones first. I love you very much Grandpa and will miss you but will see you in heaven someday!!! Posted by Patti Holmes December 23, 2008

January 4 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Uncle Ralph and Aunt Marilou were like second parents to me. We would spend every summer with them on the farm. I am going to miss Uncle Ralph very much Ron Hamilton Posted by Ron Hamilton December 23, 2008

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I think one of my most vivid memories of Uncle Ralph was about a cow. I lived with Grandma Hamilton and after Grandpa Hamilton died Uncle Ralph talked Ma into getting some cattle. One of the heifers was half Jersey and pretty wild. When she had her calf Ma and I tried to milk that cow and she would NOT permit it. Uncle Ralph told us there was no cow HE couldn't milk. We said ok, and he tried, but that cow could actually aim her kicks and she went for his head about 3 times. He turned her and her calf loose and said, There is no milking that Killer! That was the only time I ever saw him give up on an animal. He told us to sell her in the fall and that we would get a good price for her and the calf. He was right! He loved all animals but especially horses. His faith in God was deep and strong and all in his family knew he loved them even more than life itself. We all will miss you Uncle Ralph. Posted by Kathy Mellecker December 22, 2008

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

You are in our hearts, our thoughts and our prayers. Hold on to your memories, and let them guide you during this time of sadness. Posted by Mark & Thelma Smothers December 28, 2008

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

To Zelda, Tammie and Family of Ralph Hamilton, We are so sorry for the loss of your father, grandfather, and loved one. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May your memories help ease your pain. Holly & Staff Posted by Holly & Staff December 28, 2008

January 4 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. Posted by Willamae Heckethorn
December 27, 2008

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. I have many memories of my childhood that include him!
You have my deepest sympathies. Sunny Hawk (Sissy) Posted by Sunny (Hawk) Anders December
27, 2008

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Wayne, Sandy and Hamilton family, so sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. Please know that you are
in my thoughts and prayers. Donna Dykes Posted by Donna Dykes December 26, 2008

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Zelma, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Remember all the joyous times that
you spent with your dad and it will make things a little easier. Posted by Janice Roberts December 24,
2008

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Media

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Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 1:32 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ralph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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