



Jean Peterson

March 26, 1921 - September 3, 2016

Jean Charlotte Peterson (Hunt) passed away on September 3, 2016 at Tri-County Hospital in Wadena. Jean was born in a farm house near Moritz, SD to Benjamin and Jessie Hunt (Hundertmark) in 1921. She attended a country school taught by her aunt Alice Hunt. At a very early age, in fact while in grades 1-2, she became aware that she wanted to become a teacher. In 1929 the family moved to Manfred Township, Lac qui Parle Co, Minnesota and from 1929-1935 she attended District #47 country school.

In the midst of the depression, shortly after President Franklin D. Roosevelt's March 4, 1933 speech, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself", the family faced a series of crises that would leave an indelible impact on Jean. On April 27, 1933 her father Ben died, leaving her mother alone with a farm and two children, ages twelve and one, to care for. Later in the same year, Jean had a medical emergency which nearly cost her life. Both events combined to give her a sense of calm, determination and perseverance.

From 1935-1936 Jean went to school in Gary, SD. In the spring of 1936 the family moved to Canby, MN where she finished high school in 1939. From 1939-1940 she attended teacher training in Canby, MN. At the age of nineteen in 1940-1941, she began teaching at Montevideo, MN District #16 Pleasant Knoll in Yellow Medicine County. From 1941-1944 she taught for three years at District #41 near Canby. She then taught at the Burr School District #95

from 1944–1946 and at Porter District #83 from 1946-1948. In the summers she attended teachers training at the Teachers State College in Duluth (1942) and Mankato (1944 and 1947).

In 1947 Jean and three other young teachers went on a road trip to the east coast of America including stops in Washington DC, Vermont and Niagara Falls among others. It was a classic road trip that she would remember in detail the remainder of her life.

In 1948 Jean married Walter Peterson of Minneota, MN at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Canby, MN. She and Walter farmed in Eidsvold township Lyon County, MN for five years, after which they moved to a farm in the Verndale area in 1953. That same year, they joined Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena, where they stayed members for 63 years.

Jean returned to teacher training in 1960 and in the spring of 1961 to teaching at Aldrich, MN District #2427. In the fall of 1961 she became a reading teacher in Verndale, a position that she held for eighteen of the next twenty years she taught in Verndale. She continued her education, graduating cum laude from Bemidji State in 1967. Twenty eight years had lapsed from the start of her teacher's training to college graduation. In 1981 Jean retired from teaching and moved with Walter to Wadena.

During retirement Jean and Walter traveled frequently to see relatives and made numerous road trips to the Pacific Northwest. They were heavily involved in the researching and authoring of four family history books. In 1997 they toured the east coast, visiting some of the same places she had visited in 1947.

Following her teaching career, Jean continued her interest in books; working in the Church library for several years, quilting at church and volunteering for

community organizations.

In 1998 Jean and Walter celebrated their 50 year wedding anniversary. Their anniversary was the final 50th anniversary of the four Peterson brothers who all attained this milestone.

After the passing of Walter in 1998, Jean remained active in church activities, and continued her quest for reading, learning and remembering connections. In 2011 she survived a severe fall thanks to members of the Wadena community. She then moved to the Fair Oaks Apartments where she enjoyed reading and talking to her neighbors.

Jean will be remembered for her incredible memory and attention to details. She cared for all, loved education and her perseverance in difficult times.

Jean is preceded in death by her father Ben Hunt in 1933; sister Arlene Henningsgaard in 1987; mother Jessie Kamrath in 1990; and husband Walter in 1998. She is survived by her daughter Laura; son Mark; and grandchildren Sabrina, Bryce, Nikalas and Eben.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, September 9, 2016 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena with Pastor Nate Loer and Megan Clapp presiding. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the services at the church on Friday. Interment will be in the Wadena Cemetery in Wadena.

Cemetery Details

Wadena Cemetery

Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Wadena
403 2nd St. SE
Wadena, MN 56482

Service

SEP 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Wadena
403 2nd St. SE
Wadena, MN 56482

Tribute Wall

VM

“ I am a 23-year teaching veteran, and I worked at The Children's House at MSU for three years before my graduation in 1994. A huge part of my teaching philosophy came directly from Jean: "These children spend more waking time with us than they do their own parents. We are their childhood. We must make it a good one." I have used that line every single school year. It is that mentality that makes me the teacher I am today. I will never forget her!

Valerie Mulcahy - April 04, 2019 at 08:28 PM

RM

“ So sorry to hear of her passing. We always enjoyed our visits to her house. She was always so anxious to make us welcome. It is a long story that I can not relate here, but it is she who introduced me to the Hundertmarks in 1989. I'll always be grateful for her help.
Ray Miller

Ray Miller - March 17, 2017 at 10:32 AM

MT

“ I am so sorry to hear that dear Jean passed away, just know that all my thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I remember so many wonderful times spent at Jean and Walter 's house sharing holidays around Jean's table. She was a wonderful cook and made us many delicious meals. One time we were visiting for Thanksgiving and Jean made a recipe called "Copper Penny Salad", I thought that it was so wonderful that I asked Jean for her recipe and I have continued to make that special salad for special family gatherings. It will always be "Jean's Copper Penny Salad" to me. May you have comfort in knowing that Jean is resting in our Heavenly Father's arms. I love you all.



Marilyn Tepley - September 09, 2016 at 05:37 PM

CB

“ Conrad and Shirley Van Batavia



Conrad and Shirley Van Batavia - September 08, 2016 at 11:25 AM

NF

“ Niece Meredith and family purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Jean Peterson.



Niece Meredith and family - September 08, 2016 at 01:04 AM

ME

“ My condolences to my cousins Mark and Laura and their families. To me she was Aunt Jean the teacher and I think we always felt a little in awe in her presence. We had to be on our best behavior of course. I have many memories of family gatherings usually at Grandma Jessie's house in Canby , gathering around the table for meals, and trips out to the farm to see Aunt Jean and Uncle Walter and our cousins, which were long hot trips back then, but always ended with happy welcoming smiles and lots of fun playing on the farm. Aunt Jean was my mother's only sibling and she and Walter were my godparents, After my mother her only sibling Arlene passed away Aunt Jean consistently kept in touch with me with letters, cards on special occasions and occasional phone calls over the years. She made baby quilts for my children and she and Uncle Walter helped me during a difficult time in my life . I will never forget and am so grateful and thankful I had such an amazing Aunt! Rest in Peace Aunt Jean , Love yu from your niece Meredith.

Meredith - September 07, 2016 at 11:55 PM

MF

“ Melanie Hunt & Family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Jean Peterson.



Melanie Hunt & Family - September 07, 2016 at 08:49 PM

KN

“ Thoughts & prayers to Aunt Jean's family. I always enjoyed visiting with her whenever she & Walter stopped by. I plan to see you on Friday. Blessed be her memory.
Karen Nesvold

Karen Nesvold - September 07, 2016 at 07:31 AM

GS

“ *My sympathies to you all. I didn't know Jean but I so enjoyed reading her obituary. What an astonishing lady. I had an aunt who was also a school teacher in the one-room schools, Many of her former students spoke to us about their teacher. It was very consoling. May you too find healing and may your memories bring a smile to your lips.*

Ginny Stuart - September 06, 2016 at 09:12 PM

AB

“ *Amber Block lit a candle in memory of Jean Peterson*



Amber Block - September 06, 2016 at 09:39 AM

MW

“ *Myron & Karen Winkelman lit a candle in memory of Jean Peterson*



Myron & Karen Winkelman - September 06, 2016 at 06:32 AM

TK

“ *Tammie Klawitter sent a virtual gift in memory of Jean Peterson*



Tammie Klawitter - September 05, 2016 at 11:24 PM

TK

“ *Tammie Klawitter lit a candle in memory of Jean Peterson*



Tammie Klawitter - September 05, 2016 at 11:23 PM

GP

“ *I always enjoyed interesting visits with Jean at Fair Oaks. A kind and thoughtful person. Gail Pierson.*



Gail Pierson - September 05, 2016 at 07:27 PM

TO

“ *Prayers to Jeans family. A beautiful soul.*



Tiffany Orsello - September 05, 2016 at 11:32 AM



“ *Jane Erckenbrack lit a candle in memory of Jean Peterson*



Jane Erckenbrack - September 04, 2016 at 09:56 PM

BG

“ *Bob & Donna Grendahl lit a candle in memory of Jean Peterson*



Bob & Donna Grendahl - September 04, 2016 at 07:25 PM