

## *Mae Louise Keffeler*

The 4<sup>th</sup> of 8 children, Mae was born April 15, 1913, to Eugene and Ida (Theirs) McPherson at their family home located on Alkali Creek. She attended grade school at the Alkali country school. She then attended Sturgis High School where she graduated in May 1930.

At the age of 17, Mae married the love of her life, Charles "Bud" Keffeler, on June 1, 1930, at the Meade/Pennington County line. It was later discovered that Mae and Bud were actually married a few yards short of the Pennington County line. This resulted in Mae often joking that she and Bud were "never legally married."

Bud and Mae began their married life in a one-room shack at Alkali. They ranched at Alkali until a drought moved them to Enning, SD, in 1939. Though times were tough for this young couple and they often "didn't have two pennies to rub together," their unconditional love for each other got them through. Mae and Bud did everything "Side by Side."

God blessed Mae and Bud with four children: Darleen, Duane, Kay, and Roger. All children have grown up and continue to live and ranch in Meade County. Mae's world was turned upside down on November 2, 1974, when she suddenly lost her beloved husband and best friend, Bud. She always was quick to tell anyone that she wouldn't have made it through that difficult time without her family.

She continued living at Enning for another 10 years. In 1984, she made the move to Sturgis. She said the Good Lord was watching over her when she found the perfect house. It had a large yard and garden spot that would allow her to exercise her strong work ethic. She mowed her own yard and grew her own garden until the age of 94.

After moving to Sturgis, Mae quickly became involved in a number of community organizations including Meals on Wheels, Hospital Auxiliary, the Meade County Senior Citizen Center, and Presbyterian Women. Although she was a major asset to the First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis, it was important to her to remain a member of her home church which was the Marcus Presbyterian Church in Marcus, SD.

When Mae wasn't volunteering, she enjoyed having Monday morning coffee with her friends and playing both 500 and Bridge. She also enjoyed the many trips she went on, especially those with the "Go Club" of First Western Bank.

Family was the most important thing to Mae. The highlight of each year was the Sunday before Christmas when her family gathered to celebrate. She would talk about that for an entire year until the next celebration rolled around. Mae was blessed with a large family, and she proved time and time again that she had plenty of love to go around. She touched each and every one of her kids and grandkids in a special kind of way.

Mae Louise (McPherson) Keffeler, Sturgis, went to be with her beloved husband, Bud, on January 1, 2015, at the age of 101 years 8 months 17 days.

Mae is survived by her children, Darleen (Chick) Simons, Duane (Sharon) Keffeler, Kay (De) King, and Roger (Diane) Keffeler. Her 11 surviving grandchildren are Grant (Nancy) Simons, Johnny (Janice) Simons, Russell (Dawn) Simons, Mickey (Drinda) Simons, Jay De (Dana) Keffeler, Joy Keffeler, Gayle (Troy) Roth, Gene King, Glen (Elke) King, Kristal Keffeler, and Michelle (Rich) Boyles. Also surviving are Mae's 26 great-grandchildren; 13 great-great-grandchildren; one great-great-great-granddaughter; and her brothers, Donald (Mabel) McPherson and Dale (Dorothy) McPherson; sisters-in-law, Rosalind McPherson, Darliene Keffeler, Irene Long, and Rose Marie Van Sickle; brothers-in-law, Murrin Keffeler and Ralph (Betty) Keffeler; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mae was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Charles "Bud" Keffeler; both of her parents; her sister, Edna Watkins; brothers, Earl, Arnold, Joe, and Glenn McPherson; 9 brothers-in-law; 7 sisters-in-law; 2 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandson.

Memorials have been established to both the First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis and the Marcus Presbyterian Church along with the Meade County Senior Citizen Center and the Lippold Hospice Unit.

## *In Loving Memory Of Mae Louise Keffeler*

*1913 ~ 2015*



Do not stand by my grave and weep:  
I am not there. I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow,  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn's rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush of  
quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry;  
I am not there. I did not die.  
And now Buddy and Grammy are together.



### I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me,  
I took His hand when I heard him call  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way.  
I found that place at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss.  
Ah yes, these things, I too, will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow.  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full. I savored much.  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me  
God wanted me now, He set me free.

*In Loving Memory Of*

## *Mae Louise Keffeler*

**Born**  
April 15, 1913  
Alkali, South Dakota

**Died**  
January 1, 2015  
Sturgis, South Dakota

### *Funeral Services*

Monday, January 5, 2015, at 12:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church

*Clergyman* ~ Rev. Denzel Nonhof

*Musicians* ~ Kay King & Danny Chapman

### *Special Music Selections*

"This Old House"      "Count Your Many Blessings"  
"Green, Green Grass Of Home"      "Side By Side"

### *Pallbearers*

Grant Simons, Johnny Simons, Russell Simons, Mickey Simons,  
Jay De Keffeler, Joy Keffeler, Gayle Roth, Gene King,  
Glen King, Kristal Keffeler and Michelle Boyles

### *Honorary Pallbearers*

All Great and Great-Great-Grandchildren

### *Interment*

White Owl Cemetery at 3:30 p.m.



*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch in the Erskine Club Room following the funeral service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.*