

Dorothy H. Gaerke

Dorothy H. Gaerke, 94, of Coldwater, died on Friday, March 2, 2012, at Briarwood Village in Coldwater.

She was born on Oct. 10, 1917, in Coldwater, the daughter of August and Amelia (Loshe) Sanning.



On June 15, 1940, she married Herbert Gaerke in Coldwater, and he preceded her in death on Dec. 16, 1998.

She is survived by six children, Shirley Grunden of Van Wert, Ronald and Betty Gaerke of Minster, Robert and Lois Gaerke of Coldwater, Kenneth and Carolyn Gaerke of Celina, James and Dolores Gaerke of Newport, Joan and John Alexander of Cassella; 19 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; two stepgreat-grandchildren; sisters and brothers-in-law, Alfreida Sanning of Coldwater, Lillian Homan of Coldwater, Charles and Betty Gaerke of Fort Recovery, Dorothy Gaerke of Fort Recovery, Mary Ann Homan of St. Anthony, Ginny and Bob Tangeman of Maria Stein, Marcy and Dick Topp of Centerville, Janet Gaerke of Fort Recovery.

She was also preceded in death by a son-in-law, Ed Grunden; a great-grandchild, Landon Jake Rethman; five brothers, Clarence Sanning, Julius Sanning, Albert Sanning and his wife Louise, Leo Sanning, Herb Sanning; three sisters, Helen Kaiser and her husband Paul, Alvera Wehrkamp and her husband Art, Bertha Sanning; brothers and sisters-in-law, Lorine and Maurice Forthofer, Jerry and Irene Gaerke, Leonard Gaerke, Virgil and Marilyn Gaerke, Wilma Gaerke, Bernard Gaerke, Harold and Eileen Gaerke, Henry Gaerke, Clete Homan, Wilbur Homan, Walter Franck.

She was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, St. Ann's Rosary Altar Sodality of the Church and the Coldwater Eagles Auxiliary. She was a farmer's wife, gardener, worked at the former Buckeye Overall plant in Coldwater, and was a lady with various talents.

A Mass of Christian burial was held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, March 5, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Coldwater. Burial followed in St. Elizabeth Cemetery in Coldwater.

Condolences may be left at hogenkampfh.com.