

Elsie Packard dies in 101st year

A life that spanned a century came to an end when Elsie Packard was laid to rest last week.

Mrs. Packard, who died Feb. 9, spent most of her life in the Colborne area; she was born on a farm in Shiloh and died in Streamway Villa nursing home in Cobourg, a few weeks short of her 101st birthday.

Elsie May Mutton was born March 30, 1896, the eldest of nine children of the late George Mutton and his wife, the late former Weltha Powell.

She grew up and worked hard on the family farm in Shiloh, northeast of Dundonald, where she attended classes in the old one-room fieldstone school house, and played the organ in the Shiloh Church.

She recalled having seen Halley's Comet from a hill-top in Shiloh in 1910, and she was able to observe the phenomenon a second time in 1985.

GREAT HORSE-WOMAN

In her youth she was renowned throughout the local area for her speed and skill at horseback riding and for her prodigious strength — remarkable in a small woman. Friends and relatives recall she was never daunted by any

job of work around the farm.

She met her husband, the late Roy Packard, when he returned home, in uniform, from World War I. She always said that when he jumped the fence to greet his mother and sister, instead of using the gate, she fell in love.

Mr. Mrs. Packard were married March 24, 1920, by the bride's uncle, the Rev. Herbert Mutton of Bayside.

FARMED IN ONT., SASK.

At first the couple farmed at Hilton, north of Brighton, where their two sons, Argyle (who now resides in Saskatoon) and Winston (who died in 1980) were born.

Then the couple moved out west and worked on the farm of relatives in Unity, Sask., where their two daughters, Shirley (Mrs. Cecil Oliver of Stittsville) and Eunice Blyth (of Colborne) were born.

Although Mrs. Packard liked the wide-open spaces of the prairies, Mr. Packard was homesick, so the couple moved back to the Dundonald area where they continued to farm until their retirement in 1967.

WAR WORKER

During the Second World War, Mrs. Packard kept the farm running when all her men — her sons and her husband — enlisted in the defence of their country. In spite of the hard work and long hours, she found time to knit and send parcels overseas to servicemen and women and run salvage efforts for scrap iron and other materials needed in the war effort.

At her death she was the last surviving charter member of the Colborne Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

FAITHFUL CHURCH WORKER

She was also a faithful member and worker at the Eden United Church in Dundonald, and in the church Sunday school. In one memorable year, she served as president of the UCW, choir leader and Sunday school superintendent, as well.

After their retirement in 1967, Mr. and Mrs. Packard moved into Colborne. In 1980, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with about 200 friends and relatives.

Unfortunately, however, the day which had been so happy for the couple, ended sadly when Mr.

Packard lay down to take a nap and passed away.

CELEBRATED 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mrs. Packard continued to live in Colborne until 1988, when she moved to Streamway Villa, where, on Saturday, March 30, last year, she celebrated her 100th birthday, surrounded by family and friends. She had 24 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren. Also attending were special guests Northumberland MPP Doug Galt and MP Christine Stewart.

Queen Elizabeth II and Elizabeth the Queen Mother sent special greetings.

Mrs. Packard's family received visitors at the MacCoubrey Funeral Home in Colborne last Tuesday evening, Feb. 11, and her funeral service was held the following day at 11 a.m. at Eden United Church, Dundonald, with Rev. Donald Reed and Rev. Victor Parsons officiating.

Pallbearers were her grandsons, Jim and Peter Oliver, Bob and Victor Blyth and Steve and Brian Packard.

In addition to her son,



The late Elsie Packard on her 100th birthday

daughters and descendants, she is survived by a sister, Grace Samson, a brother and sister-in-law, Lawrence and Beryl Mutton and a brother-in-law, Ted Gillespie, all of Shiloh, and a sister and brother-in-law, Sarah and Don Bennett of Trenton.

EVELY, RETAMAY
At the Kingston General Hospital, Kingston on Sunday, February 9, 1997. Retamay Evelyn was the beloved mother of Lance of Tillsonburg, Allen of Pickering, Ross of Rexdale, Robert of Guelph, Marlon, Ray of Colborne and Norm of Colborne. Survived by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Special friend to Lloyd McMurray, Jean and Don. Sister of Gordon of Colborne and Maude and Mildred, both predeceased. Aunt to many nieces and nephews. Funeral service was held at the MacCoubrey Funeral Home, 11 King Street West, Colborne on Wednesday, February 12 at 2pm. Inherent Union Cemetery, Colborne. Friends called at the funeral home on Tuesday from 7-9pm. If desired, memorial donations by cheque to the Arthritis Society or the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Feb. 12/97

MAY, DOUGLAS HOWARD "PIN"

At the Northumberland County Health Care Centre on Monday, February 17, 1997 in his 75th year. Son of the late Ernest and Althea May. Dear brother of Jack of Guelph and the late Arnold and Thelma McMurray. At the request of Mr. May, there will be no funeral service. Cremation with burial of cremated remains in Castleton Cemetery. Feb. 19/97