

Corunna High School

Class of 1930

Updated 5-24-2021

Class of 1930





BACK IN 1930, with the Great Depression affecting most Americans, Corunna High School graduated 29 seniors who have developed a special bond spanning 50 years. Every year since 1930 the class has held a reunion in Corunna. The original CHS class of '30 consisted of, from the left, bottom row: Marian Conrad, Diantha Babcock, Edna Boursmith, Mildred Boursmith, Clara Shofnitz, Charlena Morden, Mary

Marsik, Joy Burnett and Floyd Serr; Middle row, also from the left: Asa Elkins, Jeanette Quayle, Anne Sabo, Ilo Adams, Mary Jean Eveleth, Harriet Matthews, Anne Petlach, Oliver Smith and John Gurney; Top row, left to right: Norbert Lyons, Robert Harmon, Roland Harmon, Ahijah Adams, Stuart Nichols, Max Forester, Lloyd Sanderson, Edward Wille and Eldon Burkholder.



LAST SUNDAY, for the 50th time, the Corunna High School graduates of 1930 gathered to reminisce about growing up in the midst of the Great Depression. Said one of the remaining 24 classmates: "We had only each other to enjoy...maybe that's why our class has remained so close for so many years." Attending the latest class reunion, a yearly event, were (left to right) Marian Burmer (Conrad), Asa Elkins, Diantha Semans (Babcock) and Roland Harmon, Jeanette

Somers (Quayle), Edna Spalding (Boursmith), Ahijah Adams, Mildred Horton (Boursmith), Mary Jean Taylor (Eveleth), Clara Durling (Shofnitz), Stuart Nichols, Charlena Shaver (Morden), Lloyd Sanderson, Harriet Sanderson (Matthews), Elizabeth Morris (Brainerd), Mary Yakulbek (Marsik), Anne Leitch (Petlach), John Gurney and Floyd Serr. (Argus-Press Photo)

Ahijah Adams
10-10-1910
Deceased 3-3-1985

Diantha Babcock
2-11-1914
Deceased 5-23-2007



Leo S. Semans
7-21-1941

1930

Diantha Semans

Age 93, of Grand Rapids, formerly of Corunna, passed away Wednesday, May 23, 2007, at her residence.

Mrs. Semans was a homemaker and mother.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at the First United Methodist Church of Corunna, 200 W. McArthur St. Visitation at Mowen Funeral Home-William A. Scarlett Memorial Chapel will be this evening 6 to 8 p.m., and at the church on Friday from 10 a.m. until the time of service.

Diantha was born in New Haven Township, Feb. 11, 1914, the daughter of Irving C. and Clara (Wildermuth) Babcock. She married Leo S. Semans on July 21, 1941, in Conway, S.C. He predeceased her on Dec. 9, 1989.

Diantha graduated from Corunna High School, Class of 1930, and attended Owosso Business College.

Survivors include: three children, Janice (Donald) Johnson of Lowell, Carol (James) Brink of Rockford, and Willis (Jill) Semans of Owosso; one grand-



daughter; one grandson; three step-granddaughters; one step-grandson; two great-grandchildren; and six step-great-grandchildren.

Memorials are suggested to the American Kidney Foundation; the First United Methodist Church of Corunna; or a charity of the donor's choice.

Online guestbook and condolences for the family of Mrs. Semans available at www.mowen-funeralhomeinc.com.

Edna Boursmith

Lyle Spalding

1930

Mildred B. Boursmith Deceased 3-23-1994

John N. Horton

1930

Mildred B. Horton

Age 81, of Mesa, Ariz., died Wednesday, March 23, 1994, at Henthstone of Mesa.

Mrs. Horton had been Register of Deeds for Shiawassee County from 1970—1976, retiring from that position. Mrs. Horton started working with the county on Jan. 1, 1957, as a deputy register and later appointed assistant in 1970. Previously she worked at Owosso Manufacturing Co. for 15 years as head of payroll.

Services will be held at Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mesa, Ariz., Saturday, March 26, at 2:30 p.m. Visitation will be at the church one hour prior to time of service. Burial will be in Pine Tree Cemetery, **Corunna**.

Mrs. Horton was born in Corunna. She **graduated** from **Corunna** High School in 1930 and Owosso Business School in 1931. She moved to Arizona in 1977. She was a member of the Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Mesa.

Survivors include: her husband, John N. Horton of Mesa; a daughter, Mary Jo Marks and husband Calvin of Swartz Creek; granddaughter, Lynne Bowden and husband Tom of Durand; two great-grandchildren, Laura and Axel Bowden of Durand; also several cousins.

Memorial contributions may be directed to East Valley Hospice, 325 E. Elliot #27, Chandler, AZ 85225 or the American Cancer Society, 1901 E. University Dr., Mesa, AZ 85203.

Elizabeth Brainerd
8-26-1912
Deceased 8-16-1998

Bruce Morris (27)
6-16-1934

1930

Elizabeth Morris

Age 85, of Corunna, passed away Sunday, August 16, 1998, at the Memorial Healthcare Center, Owosso.

Mrs. Morris was a retired clerk from the Shiawassee County's Treasurer Office.

Services will be held at Smith Funeral Homes, Corunna Chapel, Tuesday, August 18, 1998, at 1 p.m. The Rev. Burton Jones and The Rev. David McGarvey will officiate with burial at Greenwood Cemetery, Vernon. Visitation at the chapel will be today 2 to 9 p.m. with the family present 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

Mrs. Morris was born in Chesaning, August 26, 1912, the daughter of Hiram Ackley and Zina Elizabeth Brainerd. She had resided most of her life in Corunna. On June 16, 1934, she married Bruce G. Morris in Brady Township, Saginaw County.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Corunna, enjoyed her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and writing poetry.

Survivors include: her husband, Bruce G. Morris of Corunna; one son, David and Joanne Morris of Georgia; two daughters, Pat Rock of Corunna, Maxine and Dick Kovick of Georgia; nine grandchildren, Steven Morris, Lisa Morris, Susan Morris, Kellie Weisenberger, Mike Rock, Kathy Gross, Kim Clough, Tori Koenig, and Tim Kovick; seven great-grandchildren; one sister, Joyce Korf of Corunna; a special nephew and niece, Ron Korf and Karla Ogden; nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by: her parents; one sister; and four brothers.

Memorials are suggested to the First Baptist Church of Corunna.

Eldon Burkholder

1930

David Joy Burnett
Deceased 7-23-1992

Betty ...

1930

Marian Conrad

... Burmer

1930

Ilo Dutcher

William Adams

1930

Asa Elkins

1-29-12

Deceased 8-19-2001

Alma Schulz
11-21-1940

1930

Passed away Sunday, August 19, 2001 in Tucson, Arizona.

Born January 29, 1912 in Rockford, Michigan, he was the son of John Marvin Elkins and Mildred Pearl Kinney Elkins.

On November 21, 1940 he married Alma Elizabeth Schultz of Owosso, his beloved wife of 60 years, who survives.

Asa was a 1930 graduate of Corunna High School, where he was a member of the football team and championship basketball team. He also attended Lawrence Tech in Detroit. Two memorable jobs were picking cherries near Traverse City, a place he loved, and working as a private detective in the South.

During the Depression, he traveled the nation by freight train, camping and taking work wherever he could find it.

Asa was the owner and operator of Ace Heating & Appliance in Corunna before taking the position of Manager of Distributor Sales for Redmond Motors.

He was an active member of Salem Lutheran Church. He was active in Corunna community affairs throughout his life and served as City Clerk, Mayor Pro-Tem and on the City Council and Zoning Board of Appeals.

He was also a member of the Corunna Volunteer Fire Department in high school.

He was a member of the Shiawassee Historical Society and instrumental in the establishment of the historic village in McCurdy Park. Asa was a founding member of the Corunna Library and on the Library Board.

He served as president of the Corunna Rotary Club and enjoyed visiting other clubs in his business travels around the U.S. and Canada. He received the Million Mile Award for air travel with United Airlines.

Asa Marvin Elkins



Asa loved music, had a beautiful tenor voice and sang in a barber shop quartet of Corunna and Owosso men. Asa loved sports of all kinds, as a participant in his early years, and later as an enthusiastic fan.

He loved to read, and he thoroughly enjoyed people. Always adventurous, he loved the outdoors, the natural world and camping, and traveled many times across the United States by auto with his wife, children, and the family dog and enjoyed with them the beauty of the landscape and its people. His children and grandchildren are grateful for passing this legacy on to them.

Asa brightened the lives of all who knew him with his wonderful smile and ever ready sense of humor. He was honest, compassionate, generous and always helped anyone who needed it, with never a thought of anything in return.

He was kind and loving man.

Others surviving include: Three children: Paula Clark of Key West, Florida, James Elkins and wife Christine Ameal of Traverse City, Mary Elkins of Ware, Massachusetts; and also Gabriele Schmidt Topitsch, the Elkins' German exchange student daughter of Darmstadt, Germany; four grandchildren, Andrew Clark of Key West, Florida; Elizabeth (Betsy) Harden and husband Scott of Tucson, Arizona; and Benjamin Elkins and Nathan Elkins, both of Traverse City; four great-grandchildren, Nicholas, Charlie (Charles Asa), and Henry Harden of Tucson, Arizona, and Jonah Elkins of Traverse City; four sisters, Naomi Kingsbury of Durand, Amber Weber of Owosso, Mildred Langdon of Three Rivers, Gladys Vibbert of Corunna; and a brother, John Elkins of Corunna.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; and by brothers Edward, Max, and Marvin; and sisters, Wauneta, who died as an infant, Audra Wetherbee, Erma Harris, and Alice Langdon.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday at 11 AM at Salem Lutheran Church in Owosso, Pastor Jonathan Balge officiating.

Burial will follow in Oak Hill Cemetery. Smith Funeral Home in Corunna is in charge of arrangements. The family will receive friends from 4-8 p.m. Friday at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Corunna Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Corunna Public Schools Education Foundation, to provide a scholarship to a worthy student active in community affairs.



**Mary Jean Eveleth
Deceased 2-23-1990**

Mary Jean (Eveleth) Taylor

Age 77, of Green Valley, Ariz., formerly of Corunna, died Friday, Feb. 23, 1990.

Mrs. Taylor was a Lieutenant in the W.A.C. in the Chemical Warfare Division stationed in Alabama and Utah. She also hsd worked at Olds in Lansing.

A memorial service will be held later in Corunna. Mrs. Taylor was predeceased by her husband, Elmer A. Taylor on Jan. 25, 1990.

**Elmer A. Taylor
5-9-1953**

1930

Elmer A. Taylor

Age 80, of Green Valley, Ariz. died Thursday, Jan. 25, 1990, at St. Mary's Hospice in Tucson, after a lengthy illness.

Mr. Taylor worked for the United States Soil Conservation Service.

Mr. Taylor will be cremated and no services will be held.

He was born in North Dakota on May 9, 1909, the son of John and Wilda (Glass) Taylor. He was raised in Malta, Ohio. Mr. Taylor attended the University of Ohio and received a master's degree from the University of Michigan. He served in the Army during World War II. Mr. Taylor married Mary Jean Eveleth on May 9, 1953, in Corunna. He and his wife resided in Corunna for 35 years before moving to Green Valley, Ariz.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Jean, and several cousins in Ohio.

Glenn M. Forster
1913
Deceased 1989

John Gurney

1930

Agusta Harmon

1930

Robert J. Harmon
3-2-1910
Deceased 4-15-1999

Genevieve Cooper
4-20-1935

1930

Robert
"Uncle Bob"
Harmon

Age 89, of New Lothrop, passed away Thursday, April 15, 1999, at Boisford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Mr. Harmon was an experimental mechanic at American Motors.

Services will be held at Juddville United Methodist Church, Saturday, April 17, 1999, at 2 p.m. The Rev. James Downing will officiate with burial at Elmwood Cemetery. Friends may call at the Whelpley-Martin Funeral Home, New Lothrop today until 9 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., then at the church after 1 p.m. until time of service.

Mr. Harmon was born March 2, 1910, the son of Jesse and Ethel (Luchenbill) Harmon. He graduated from Corunna High School in 1930, and had resided most of his life in New Lothrop and Detroit. On April 20, 1935, he married Genevieve Cooper in Columbiaville. She predeceased him.

He was a member and trustee of the New Lothrop United Methodist Church; member of the Twin Township Historical Society, and had worked part-time for the New Lothrop Hardware.

Survivors include; one daughter, Nancy Goodwin of Colorado; one son, William and Marilyn Harmon of Northville; grandchildren, William and Michael Harmon, David, Tammy and Dianne Goodwin; one brother, Carl and Loretta Harmon of Fenton; two sisters, Eleanor Haney of Chesaning, Alma and Fred Galloway of Waynesville, North Carolina.

He was predeceased by; his wife; and one brother, Roland.

Memorials are suggested to; New Lothrop Methodist Church; or Twin Township Ambulance.

Roland L. Harmon
Deceased

Phyllis Beatty

1930

Norbert W. Lyons
9-5-1913
Deceased 8-31-1955

Ethel Sanders
9-3-1944

1930

Mary Marsik

John G. Yakubek

1930

Harriett Matthews
1-18-1913
Deceased 6-15-2007

Lloyd Sanderson (30)
2-4-1932

1930

Harriett C. (Matthews) Sanderson

Age 94, of rural Corunna, passed away Friday morning, June 15, 2007, at Memorial Healthcare.

Mrs. Sanderson was a homemaker. She also formerly worked for Woolworth's, Redmonds Manufacturing, and as a seamstress for Knepps Dress Shop for many years.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Corunna Chapel, with Pastor Cliff Furness and Pastor Kay Leitelt officiating. Burial will follow at Wilkinson Cemetery, Venice Township. Visitation at the funeral home will be today from 4 to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 8 p.m.

Harriett was born Jan. 18, 1913, in Owosso, the daughter of Arthur G. and Alice L. (Johnston) Matthews. She graduated from Corunna High School, with the class of 1930. On Feb. 4, 1932, she married Lloyd Alton Sanderson at her home south of Corunna. He died Sept. 18, 1995. Harriett resided most of her life in Corunna, and she and Lloyd wintered in Zephyrhills, Fla. for 28 years.

She was a member of N.W. Venice United Methodist Church, and former affiliate of Trinity United Methodist Church in Zephyrhills. Harriett was a member of the United Methodist Women.

Survivors include: daughter, Mildred "Millie" and Ronald



Smith of Owosso; son, Rev. Gary and Caroline Sanderson of Flushing; grandchildren, Jeffrey and Sara Smith of Whitmore Lake, Matthew and Jodi Smith of Caledonia, Marc and Marie Sanderson of Sartell, Minn.; three great-granddaughters, Avery Mauray, Jaelyn Addison and Jenna Lynn Smith; three great-grandsons, Riley Marc, Grayson George, and Nicholas Lee Sanderson; many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband.

Memorials may be made to N.W. Venice United Methodist Church or to the Owosso Community Players.

Online condolences can be sent to: www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com

Charlena Morden

8-11-1913

Deceased 1992

Alonzo H. Shaver

3-27-1932

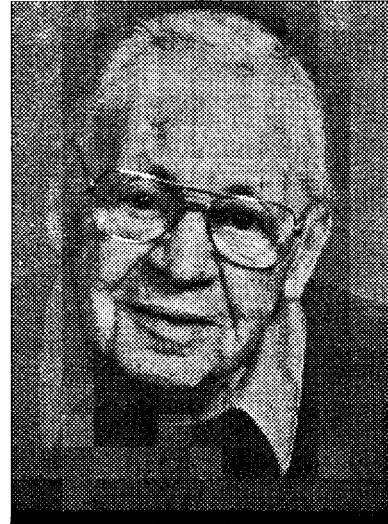
1930

Stuart Eddy Nichols
3-30-11
Deceased 12-1-2003



Marguerite Carmody (37)
9-28-1940

1930



Stuart Eddy Nichols

Age 92, of Owosso, passed away peacefully on Monday, December 1, 2003, at his farm home, which he greatly loved.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, December 4, 2003, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Morrice, with Fr. John Bosco officiating. The Parish Rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday evening at the St. Mary's Catholic Church. There will be no scheduled visitation or viewing.

Mr. Nichols was born March 30, 1911, in Corunna, the son of Hugh McCurdy and Helen (Stuart) Nichols. He married Marguerite Carmody on September 28, 1940, at St. Paul Catholic Church in Owosso.

Mr. Nichols was a graduate of Corunna High School, class of 1930, and attended Cleary Business College in Ypsilanti. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Morrice, and a former member of the Shiawassee Historical Society. He was groundskeeper-landscaper for the Don Mitchell family for 35 years. He greatly enjoyed working out-of-door, caring for his own yard and flower gardens, and raising and caring for small farm animals. He also enjoyed caning and teaching the craft to others.

Survivors include: wife, Marguerite of Owosso; daughters, Patricia Ann Scott and husband Ted of Morrice, Kathleen Rose Norman and husband Larry of Corunna; eight grandchildren, Laurie Billington, John Scott, Julie Pickell, Todd Scott, Brett Kosier, Lisa Cole, Jeni Miranda, and Joseph Scott; eleven great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Rose Carmody Rapp of Crystal; niece, Margaret Jane Thompson; many other nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by: two sons, James H. and Joseph W. Nichols.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials to the St. Mary's Catholic Church Development fund.

Online condolences for the family of Stuart E. Nichols may be made at www.mowenfuneralhome-inc.com

Ruth Noe

Theodore Ehrlich

1930

Anne Petlach

... Leitch

1930

Jeanette Quayle

Robert K. Somers

1930

Anne J. Sabo

... Riha

1930

Lloyd Sanderson
Deceased

Harriett Matthews (30)

2-4-1932

1930

Floyd Serr
7-4-1911
Deceased 2-17-1989

Genevieve A. Sharp Giller
10-23-1965

1930

Floyd Serr

Age 77, of 410 St. Mary Street, Corunna, died Friday, February 17, 1989 at his residence.

Services were to be held at Kribs Colonial Chapel today February 20, 1989, at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Leonard W. Gamber officiating. Burial will be in Pine Tree Cemetery, Corunna.

Mr. Serr was born in Corunna, Michigan, July 4, 1911, the son of Peter and Clara (Wiepert) Serr.

A graduate of Corunna High School, class of 1930, Mr. Serr resided his entire lifetime in Corunna.

He and Genevieve A. Sharp Giller were married in Corunna Oct. 23, 1965. He was a member of the Corunna United Methodist Church.

Mr. Serr was a life member of the Owosso Lodge #81 F & A M and Past Patron of Abigail Chapter #206 Order of Eastern Star.

Mr. Serr was a pattern maker for the automobile industry, retiring in 1976 after working 35 years.

Survivors include: his wife, Genevieve; one daughter, Josephine Davis of Owosso, one son, Floyd C. and wife Bonny Serr of Corunna; one grandson, Robert and wife Sandy Davis of Tallahassee, Fla.; one granddaughter Amy Jo Serr and one grandson, Steven C. Serr, both of Owosso, one great-granddaughter, Heidi Davis of Tallahassee, Fla.; one stepdaughter, Elaine E. Coe of Owosso, and two stepgrandsons, Shawn M. and Scot C. Coe, both of Owosso, three nieces, one nephew; and two sisters-in-law.

He was predeceased by his mother, his father, and two brothers, Fred and Harold.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider the Corunna United Methodist Church or the Owosso Lodge #81 F & A M.

Clara Shofnitz
10-10-1911
Deceased 3-8-2012



Frank Durling
11-18-1942

Clara C. Durling, age 100 of Bancroft, MI passed away on Thursday March 8, 2012 at Shiawassee County Medical Care Facility. Funeral services will be held at Watkins Brothers Funeral Home in Bancroft on Saturday March 10, 2012 at 1:00 PM. Pastor Michael McDonald will officiate with burial to follow at Greenwood Cemetery in Vernon. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Saturday 10:00 am until time of the service. Clara was born in Bay City, MI on October 10, 1911, the daughter of John & Jessie (Zamaite) Shofnitz. She graduated from Corunna High School in 1930 and married Frank E. Durling in Clarkston, MI on Nov. 18, 1942. He preceded her in death on June 26, 1985. She was a member of the Bancroft Congregational Church and was very active in different functions there. She was also a volunteer at Memorial Healthcare for 12 years. She was a homemaker. Clara is survived by her son, Steven (Rebecca) Durling of Bancroft, 10 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and 16 great great grandchildren, nieces and nephews, daughter in law Sharon Durling of Siletz, OR. She was preceded in death by a son, brother, granddaughter and great grandson.

J. Oliver Smith

1930

Edward Wille
3-28-1911
Deceased 6-22-1970

Marion Olver
9-10-1933

1930

Businessman Dies at 59

CHESANING - Henry Edward Wille Jr., banker and businessman, died Monday in St. Luke's Hospital in Saginaw following an illness of six months. He was 59.

Funeral services are to be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday from the O'Hare-Whelpley Funeral Home in New Lothrop with burial in Wildwood Cemetery in Chesaning. The Rev. Walter Ratcliff is to officiate.

Mr. Wille was born March 28, 1911, in Middleton to Maryette and Henry Wille. A graduate of Corunna High School in 1930, he and the former Marion Olver were married in Bay City on Sept. 10, 1933. They moved to Chesaning in 1948 and were making their home at 124 E. Broad St. In 1955, Mr. Wille graduated from the Wisconsin School of Banking and established his own real estate and accounting offices, the Valley Business Service of Chesaning.

Prior to that, Mr. Wille worked as a banker for 20 years in Detroit, and was with the Chesaning State Bank for seven-and-a-half years.

Mr. Wille was a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church, the Wolverine Club (Bankers club of Michigan), Masonic Order 194, F & AM of Chesaning, the Elks and Eagles lodges of Houghton Lake, the Outdoor Club in Prudenville and the Brant Rifle and Pistol Club.

He is survived by: his widow; one daughter, Mrs. Patrick (Phyllis) O'Hare of Chesaning; one son, Robert Wille of Orleans; five grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. Eva Serr of Ionia. One brother, Gordon, preceded him in death.

Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church in lieu of flowers.

The End

1930