



Martha Lee Harris Olson

January 21, 1938 - September 9, 2012

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Martha Lee Harris Olson went to her heavenly home on September 9, 2012. She was born January 21, 1938 at La Farge, Wisconsin to Byron Lee Harris and Virginia E. Strait. She attended schools at Otter Creek and La Farge as well as Vernon County Teachers' College, teaching one year at Mount Horeb, Wisconsin. In 1960 she married Willard "Bill" Olson, son of Ole and Mildred Olson and they made their home in East Troy, Wisconsin. To this union were born three sons, Patrick, Dan and John.

She is survived by her three sons, daughters-in-law Colleen (Knip) and Celeste (Bisson) and 4 grand children, Bryce, Olivia, Monique and Madeline.

Others who survive are her brother Pat and his wife Beanie Harris of Missoula, Montana, sisters-in law, Marjorie Harris of Beloit and Iris Olson of East Troy, half-sister Birkie Pejko, Colorado and Scott Harris of Kenosha and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Those who predeceased her include her husband "Bill" in 1996, Mother and father-in-law Mildred and Ole Olson and brother-in-law, Robert Olson. Also her brother David Harris, Beloit, Wisconsin, grandmother Alice Strait, Father and Mother Byron and Virginia Harris, Step Father Frank Brown and Step Mother, Marsha Harris.

She was a member of the Troy Center Methodist Church and the East Troy Area Historical Society, where many happy hours were spent working with great friends on local history.

A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday September 16, 2012 at 2:30PM at the Troy Center Methodist Church, N8801 Briggs Street, Troy Center (East Troy) Wisconsin.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to either the East Troy Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 722, East Troy Wisconsin 53120 or the East Troy Food Pantry, P.O. Box 233, East Troy, Wisconsin 53120.

Tribute Wall

MC

“ We were in shock to hear that our first cousin, Martha (Harris) Olson had passed without us knowing about it. We last saw her when she came to my brothers funeral and she looked great. I will remember all the great times that we spent down on the Otter Creek at my grandmothers house. We enjoyed going to my grandmothers and aunts house because it was in the country and the air was fresh and the water was pure, The six of us-my brother Larry, Martha, and her brothers Pat and David Harris and Jimmy McCormick and myself spent out time either fishing or swimming in the creek or just wading. This was the best time of our lives and I will not forget the great times we shared with Martha. She was like a sister to me. I will surely miss her and I'm sorry that I didn't stay in contact with her over all these years.

Micael and Sue Stephen - Viroqua, WI - First cousin - October 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ My thoughts & sympathy to Martha's family. Although I never got to meet Martha, I enjoyed our emails and correspondence on the genealogy of our Harris family lines as Martha's Grandfather, James was my Great Grandmother's brother. I appreciate all her help and sharing of info., etc. Her hard work will continue to help so many now and in the future.

Linda Samuelson - Janesville, WI - Harris Cousin - September 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ I am saddened to hear of Marth'a passing and unfortunately can not attend her memorial service today. I worked with Martha at Walworth County's Lakeland Nursing Home; a part of my career I consider to be among my happiest work experiences. Martha was an employee in the dietary department and I was her supervisor. Martha was an active member of the union shop at the facility. I have been on both "sides of the fence:" as a union member and a management member. What I remember most about Martha was her work in the union and her political convictions. To state Martha was very passionate about her union work would be a gross understatement. Martha believed in the rights and dignity of workers. She believed in fairness; that what was essentially good for workers was good for management. It is so sad in many of today's businesses those standards have been diminished. I won't forget Martha for her strong opinions; expressed even when not solicited. She made me angry at times, she made me laugh. She reminded me of the larger picture. Thank you Martha, and God Bless you.

Gary Bebler - Burlington, WI - former coworker - September 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Charlie and I were saddened to hear of Martha's passing. Several years ago she sent me a copy of of our family genealogy and history in a lovely leather bound album. She had traced our ancestors all the way back to 1644 in Mulheim, Germany. I was dumbfounded! But i was very happy because without Martha's hard work I would have no knowledge of my roots beyond my father's generation. That was followed by several long telephone conversations and e-mails over the last several years where I learned more about her love of genealogy. She told me how much she loved her sons and enjoyed her grandchildren and was there for us when our own son died in 2008. I have lost a sister but may her memory stay strong in the hearts of the family and friends that loved her.
Sincerely, Berkie Harris Pejko

Berkie Harris Pejko - Denver, CO - half sister - September 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

OG

“ Grandma- I know you're in a better place now, but I just can't wrap my head around the fact that you're gone. I love you so much.

Olivia - East Troy, WI - Granddaughter - September 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Good memories, Old friends and goodtimes. I will miss Martha as long as I live.

Carol Donovan - LaFarge, WI - Old friend - September 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM