



Mellie Elizabeth Stapleton

November 13, 1918 - February 17, 2016

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Mellie Elizabeth Craig Stapleton, born November 13, 1918 on the family farm near New Hartford, was from a line of pioneer stock dating back to pre-revolutionary war Pennsylvania. Her family has been in Missouri since the 1830s. Mellie was the youngest of three children of Ernest Sharp Craig and Myrtle Lee Reed Craig. Growing up, Mellie and her two older siblings would ride their horse to New Hartford School. She graduated from Bowling Green High School.

Her first son, Billy Joe Hays, was raised in the Craig home while Mellie finished high school and later went to St. Louis to work as a supervisor at a small arms plant in St. Louis during World War II. After the war Mellie returned home to New Hartford and on July 5, 1946, married local resident and returning veteran, Phillip Norton Stapleton. Lifelong New Hartford residents, their marriage resulted in seven children, Phillip Andrew, Daniel Sylvester, Patsy Lea and Paula Lynn, Jean and June and Carolyn Joy Stapleton.

After the death of Norton in 1964, Mellie raised their six children, all sixteen-years-old or younger, virtually by herself in New Hartford. She was strict not only to her own children but with other youngsters in the community as well.

To be sure, she held her children to her own strict code of expectations. Her efforts paid off. Mellie was a creative person who loved working with her hands. She was a quilter, tatter, knitter, crocheter, gardner and clothes maker. She handmade outfits for her girls and gave the boys haircuts. She was involved in school activities in New Hartford and was active in local women's groups. She also worked as Assistant Post Mistress at New Hartford Post Office and as substitute-driver for the local mail route.

Mrs. Stapleton remained in her home in New Hartford into her nineties until a series of physical setbacks necessitated her move to the Moore-Pike Nursing home in Bowling Green. She lived there until suffering a stroke on February 12. She died at Pike County Memorial Hospital on February 17, 2016 at age ninety-seven.

Mellie was more than a mother and housewife. She cared deeply for people and always tried to coax them to their potential. She loved growing flowers, craftwork and especially talking about her family. Although small, she was mighty, and would tackle about any task from wrestling with a garden tiller to stripping and refinishing furniture. As a member of that "Greatest Generation" she was innovative, liberal and actively involved in life. She was an inspiration for many. Her influence will be sorely missed yet at the same time, remains evident in those she left behind. As the last of her family generation Mellie related many of the stories and histories of her family. Her mind remained sharp until her death and she could recall names and dates that had escaped many of us.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest and Myrtle; husband, Norton; brother, Johnny Reed Craig; sister, Lucille Butler Motley Bishop; son, Billy Joe Hays; daughter, June Stapleton; and daughter-in-law, Ann Ruether Stapleton.

Survivors include daughter-in-law, Betty Hays of Vandalia, Phillip (Mary) Stapleton of Louisiana, Dan Stapleton of Columbia, Patsy Stapleton of Chesterfield, Paula Brown of Hannibal, Jean Raveill (Tom) of Blue Springs, Joy Stapleton of Mehlville and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, and great-great-great grandchildren. In our mind, we can see her reunited with all of her loved ones, knitting furiously and, of course, talking about her family members who remain behind.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, February 23, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. at the Bibb-Veach Funeral Home in Bowling Green. A memorial service will be conducted Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home by Rev. Bob Haynes with burial in the Keith Cemetery at New Hartford. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Keith Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Keith Cemetery

New Hartford, MO

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

FEB 23. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's & Crematory LLC - Bowling Green
606 West Main Street
Bowling Green, MO 63334
(573) 324-2211
office@bibbveach.com
<https://www.bibbveach.com/>

Memorial Service

FEB 24. 10:00 AM (CT)

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606 West Main Street
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Tribute Wall

KS

“ *Phil, Mary, Andrew, Elizabeth, and Carey,*

So sorry for the loss of your Mother/Grandmother. Mellie was a very special lady. Her smile and quiet manner are unforgettable.

You are in our thoughts and prayers during this sad time.

Tom and Karen Sloggett

Karen Sloggett - February 25, 2016 at 09:51 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mellie Elizabeth Stapleton.*



February 23, 2016 at 02:47 PM

DR

“ *I have so many good memories growing up and spending time with my friend Joy at their home in New Hartford!. Mellie always fed me well and made the overnight stays so fun and comfortable!! Such a sweet person!!*

Diane Ross-Rees - February 23, 2016 at 11:29 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mellie Elizabeth Stapleton.*



February 23, 2016 at 11:00 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mellie Elizabeth Stapleton.*



February 23, 2016 at 09:44 AM

DH

“ *My sincere condolences to the entire Stapleton family during your time of loss. Growing up as your aggravating little red headed next door neighbor, I have many fond memories of all of you and your mother and how Mellie, and each of you, always treated me like a member of the family even, when looking back with some wisdom, she probably wanted to tell me to get on home!!!*

She was a strong and caring woman who always told me what I needed to hear.....even when I didn't always like it!!!

It has a been a few years since I last visited with Mellie at Moore-Pike. I wish that I had made the time to see her more often.

My wife Debbie and I have you in our thoughts and prayers.

*David and Debbie Hays
Mexico, MO*

Daivd Hays - February 23, 2016 at 08:22 AM

DS

Thanks David, it was so good to see you Tuesday night. Dan

Dan Stapleton - February 25, 2016 at 07:55 AM

TW

“ *Thad and Jan Wilson purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mellie Elizabeth Stapleton.*



Thad and Jan Wilson - February 23, 2016 at 01:26 AM

BH

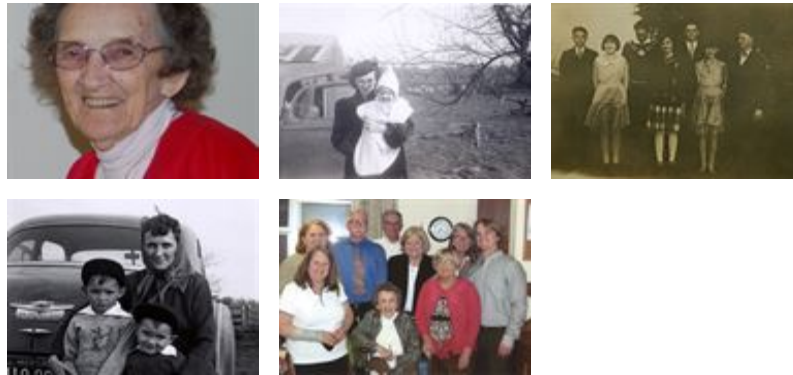
“ *Bill, Kathy, & Emma Howell purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mellie Elizabeth Stapleton.*



Bill, Kathy, & Emma Howell - February 22, 2016 at 11:25 PM



“ *53 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's, LLC. - February 22, 2016 at 10:37 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mellie Elizabeth Stapleton.*



February 22, 2016 at 10:13 AM

NF

“ *Nicole Fulcher and Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mellie Elizabeth Stapleton.*



Nicole Fulcher and Family - February 22, 2016 at 07:57 AM

JF

“ *Jessica Fiala & Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mellie Elizabeth Stapleton.*



Jessica Fiala & Family - February 21, 2016 at 10:29 PM

MF

“ *Michael Ogden and Family purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Mellie Elizabeth Stapleton.*



Michael Ogden and Family - February 20, 2016 at 01:11 PM

KS

“ *So sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. She was a dear sweet lady.*

*Kay
Sparks*

Kay Sparks - February 20, 2016 at 09:11 AM

LS

“ *Mellie was such a special lady full of love and pride for all of her family. Prayers to all of the family.* ”

Lucy Scherder - February 20, 2016 at 08:57 AM

ML

“ *Marietta & Gary Lindquist lit a candle in memory of Mellie Elizabeth Stapleton* ”



Marietta & Gary Lindquist - February 19, 2016 at 09:59 PM

 Cheryl Shadensa

“ *I was so sorry to hear about your mother's death. She sounds like a remarkable woman who had a long and wonderful life. My deepest sympathy to you and your family.* ”
Cheryl Shadensack

Cheryl Shadensack - February 19, 2016 at 06:43 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mellie Elizabeth Stapleton.* ”



February 19, 2016 at 06:06 PM

RM

“ So sorry for the loss of your dear Mom. What a joy she always was when I came to visit Mom Murray. She was usually the first person I saw when I came around the corner. Looked forward to our daily chats. Always talked so proudly of her family. Unfortunately I will be out of town for your Mom's service but know my thoughts and prayers are with all of you.
Ruthie and Ed Murray

Ruthie Murray - February 19, 2016 at 03:25 PM

PM

“ Thinking you during this time. Pam Moore Meier/Moore-Pike Nursing Home

pam meier - February 19, 2016 at 02:59 PM

DF

“ Growing up with the Stapleton family in the New Hartford area I have many memories of Miss Mellie and how she was always busy in the garden or sewing clothing. I remember the quilting rack in the back room of the house and how she would work the rack. Most of all I remember her unique sense of humor. She will be greatly missed. *Diane Fuerst*

Diane Fuerst - February 19, 2016 at 02:46 PM



“ I will greatly miss this sweet lady whom I was very proud to call my friend, neighbor and extra grandma! I enjoyed our visits and sitting on her poarch years ago talking ! She was a great inspiration to me!

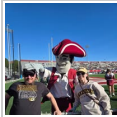
Cheryl Brown - February 19, 2016 at 02:14 PM

JH

“ *John And Linda Harmon lit a candle in memory of Mellie Elizabeth Stapleton*



John and Linda Harmon - February 19, 2016 at 01:57 PM



Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Harmon.

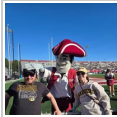
Elizabeth Stapleton - February 19, 2016 at 08:18 PM

SB

“ *Phil, Mary, Elizabeth, Andrew, and Carey,*

I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother/grandmother. Please accept my sincerest condolences.

Stacey Collins Bibb - February 19, 2016 at 12:40 PM



Thank you Stacey.

Elizabeth Stapleton - February 19, 2016 at 08:16 PM