

Thelma Marie Watters Montgomery, 91, passed away, Wednesday, December, 5 2007 at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

A 47-year resident of Housatonic, Massachusetts, she was born in Upper Mills, New Brunswick, Canada, on June 13, 1916. She was the daughter of Roy Darold Mooreside of Baring Plantation, ME and Helen E. Watters of Upper Mills, N.B. She was educated in local schools in Upper Mills and St. Stephen, New Brunswick.

She moved with her family to Housatonic in November 1960 from Upper Mills, where she and her husband had resided after they were married in Milltown, Maine on December 20, 1935.

Thelma and her husband owned the Upper Mills general store and post office in that village for 15 years prior to moving to the United States. She also had worked in the Canadian Cottons mill in Milltown, N.B. After moving to Housatonic she was employed by the Great Barrington Ben Franklin Store and also worked at the David Hats Company in Housatonic.

She was always very active in church activities and while a member of the Upper Mills Methodist church she was inducted into the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star of New Brunswick, Sunrise Chapter No. 2 on March 20, 1935. She had also been an active member of the Housatonic United Methodist Church for 47 years where she was president of the W.S.C.S. ladies society, was church treasurer and also served as organist for many, many years. She also headed the monthly church suppers purchasing provisions, doing the cooking and organizing the other church members determining who needed to help cook and who needed to wait tables.

She was considered by many to be a bit of a local "hero" when it came to cooking and baking. Many regarded her as the best cook in town. Locals were always requesting her to bake homemade pies for special occasions. Her apple and lemon meringue pies were particularly prized. She was always happy to oblige and once told her family that she must have baked 10,000 pies in her lifetime.

She was predeceased by three sons, Allan Watters Montgomery, Peter Brian Montgomery and Robert Arthur Montgomery, one sister, Madeline Doten, five brothers, Merle Johnson, William Johnson, Milford Johnson, Arthur Johnson, and Thomas Johnson and one grandson, Robert Louis Montgomery. Her husband Arthur Moses Montgomery passed away August 18, 2005.

She is survived by two daughters, Pauline Montgomery of Housatonic, MA, Constance DelMasto of Housatonic, MA. who resided with her, three sons, John of Pittsfield, MA, Paul of Egremont, MA, and Timothy of New York, N.Y. Also, one brother, Lloyd "Dunk" Johnson of Baring, ME, and one sister Evelyn McCloskey of Medford, MA, eight grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, one great great grandchild many nieces and nephews and her beloved pet Dachshund, Chester.

The calling hours were held at the Roy / Birches Funeral home in Great Barrington, MA on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 P.M. followed by a celebration of Thelma's life on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 A.M. at the Housatonic United Methodist Church officiated by the Reverend David Rogers. Pallbearers were nephews Ronald Babcock, Clifford Clark, David McCloskey, Thomas McCloskey, nieces, Nancy Clark, Janet McCloskey, grandnephew Brian Matarazzo and daughter in-law Katie Montgomery. Several of Thelma's favorite hymns including How Great thou Art, Amazing Grace, In the Garden and On Eagle's Wings were sung as well as a solo of

Precious Lord, Take my hand sung by Darlene Rogers. A special poem was read by former neighbor, Barbara Palma, whom Thelma had met 47 years earlier when she first moved to Housatonic from Upper Mills. In addition another dear friend, Mildred Barnum spoke of her many years of friendship with Thelma. The family had requested donations be made to The United Methodist Church of Housatonic, MA, to the Housatonic fire department or the charity of ones choice.

