



## Gerald A. Pickerell

February 19, 1921 - January 11, 2015

Funeral services for Gerald "Jerry" Pickerell will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 17, 2015 at the Farmer & Son Funeral Home in Geneva, Nebraska. Military Graveside will follow the service at the Geneva Public Cemetery. Visitation will begin Friday at 1pm until 8 pm at the Farmer & Son Funeral Home. Memorials are directed to the family

Gerald Arthur (Jerry) Pickerell was born on February 19, 1921, at Kearney, Nebraska, the only child of Arthur L. and Marguerite (Fitzgerald) Pickerell. He died on January 11, 2015 at Mount Carmel Home at the age of 93 just short of his 94th birthday by 39 days.

Jerry's parents separated soon after his birth so, to a great extent, he was raised by his grandparents, Patrick and Margaret Fitzgerald, in their Kearney home while his mother worked. His father died in March, 1929, at Whitman, NE without ever getting to know his son.

Jerry attended St. James Parochial School and graduated from Kearney High School in 1939. He immediately began an apprenticeship in the printing trade at the Kearney Daily Hub.

On July 10, 1940, Jerry married his high school sweetheart, Betty Irene Osborne of Kearney, at Norton, Kansas. To this union five children were born.

The couple lacked 40 days of celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary when Betty was taken by death at Geneva, NE on June 6, 1990.

While working at the Holdrege Daily Citizen, Jerry noted that all the young men were going into the military to fight during World War II. On July 24, 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army. He was stationed at camps in Arkansas and Texas before being sent to Italy. He served as an Infantry weapons instructor with his highest rank being sergeant. He received an honorable discharge at Camp Bowie, Texas on October 30, 1945.

Jerry returned to Nebraska and again took up his life's work as a printer and a newspaper man. He worked for several Nebraska publications, besides owning and publishing three small weekly newspapers of his own. One of his newspapers, The Thayer County Banner-Journal, at Bruning, NE won for him the Nebraska Press Association's General Excellence award in 1967.

Twenty-two years of Jerry's life were spent on the staff of the Nebraska Signal at Geneva. He first was a printer and later became the paper's editor under the publishers, the Edgecombe family.

While active in business, Jerry belonged to several service and social organizations in places where he lived. He was a fireman and served as fire chief at Elm Creek, NE. In Geneva he belonged to the Lion's Club and Rotary International. He maintained a Life membership in the Samuel J. Marsh Post 7102, Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was active in the Chambers of Commerce and Commercial Clubs in towns where he lived and worked. His newspapers all were members of the Nebraska Press Association.

After his wife's death in 1990, Jerry sold their home in Geneva and moved to the Good Samaritan Retirement Village in Hastings, NE. On September 27, 1992, he married Charlotte Goken of Scott City, Kansas. They resided at

Good Samaritan Village and did some traveling until they moved to the Kensington, an assisted living residence, in August, 2005 in Hastings. In 2012, Jerry and Charlotte divorced and in February, 2014, Jerry moved to the Mount Carmel Home in Kearney, NE until his death.

Preceding Jerry in death were his parents and his wife, Betty. He is survived by his children and their spouses, Mrs. Judith (Ron) Pendergraft of Golden Canyon, AZ; Donald (Dorothy) Pickerell of Columbia, MO; Mrs. Sue (Delbert) Naiman of Gilead, NE; Mrs. Denise (Richard) Wagner of Kearney, NE; Mrs. Nancy (Scott) Calahan of Chandler, AZ. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

# Tribute Wall

KL

“ *To the family of Gerald A. Pickerell,  
I am sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in knowing that  
"Jehovah is close to the brokenhearted; He saves those who are  
crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18) With sympathy,*

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**kelsey lee** - January 15, 2015 at 03:06 PM

CF

“ *We never met Jerry, but feel we knew him through his wonderful  
son, Don Pickerell and his lovely family. Jerry's strength and spirit  
lives on in his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with his loving family.*

*Cindy & Earl Felten*

*Prairie Home, MO*

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**Cindy Felten** - January 15, 2015 at 10:12 AM

RK

“ *Jerry,  
You are one person I will not forget from the Kensington. Lots of  
memories with your cat Duchess. Thanks for being such a great guy  
all those years.*

*Rhonda Activity Director*

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**Rhonda Kolbet** - January 13, 2015 at 11:45 AM

RM

“ I worked with Gerry at the Signal when I was a teenager. Our family (Howard Hamilton) always thought a great deal of him and his family. You had some difficult times back then, but the measure of character is how you deal with life's difficulties. You and he overcame them and set a good example for all.

*I hope your family is otherwise well.*

*Robert F. Hamilton, M.D.*

*Godfrey , IL*

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**Robert F. Hamilton, M.D.** - January 13, 2015 at 09:36 AM

DP

“ Dad, your life was a spectrum of many events, the good times, the bad times, in war, in peace, but through all of it you taught us to be brave, strong, and to work hard to do our best. We honor you by our hard work, and our many accomplishments. We hope you are at peace next to our beloved mother Betty, and may you rest in the light of our Savior.

*The Missouri Pickerells*

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**Don Pickerell** - January 12, 2015 at 05:39 PM

GN

*Judy and the rest of the "Kids", Our father and mother respected Jerry for his intelligence, hard work and friendship. Our father thought he was one of the most intelligent men he knew. Our mother respected him for his struggles and how he conquered his demons. He was always proud of your many accomplishments and talents. He will be remembered kindly by the Hamilton/Nichols family. Georgia Hamilton Nichols*

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**Georgia Nichols** - January 13, 2015 at 11:37 AM

PS

*To the Pickerell Family  
sorry to read of your Dad's passing. I remeber your family well. We all  
ived at the courts at one time or another and attended school in  
Geneva. Your parents were the nicest people. your Mom had the most  
beautiful voice (singing) and your Dad was always smiling.  
God Bless each of you and hold on to the memories.*

*Pam (Clark) Schroeder "62*

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**Pamela (Clark) Schroeder** - January 16, 2015 at 11:51 AM

DP

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Don Pickerell** - January 12, 2015 at 05:31 PM

DP

*Dad, you didn't get to meet Jacob Downing March, Sarah's son. He is 9  
months old and definately has some Pickerell blood in him. He has a  
great personality and can be stubborn at times. Does that remind you  
of someone, or maybe all of us? Sarah & Wes, and Laura and Josh all  
send their love and prayers.*

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**Don Pickerell** - January 13, 2015 at 10:33 AM

JP

*Dad, you have lived a long and honorable life. You taught us to work hard with excellence and pride. We strived for perfection and at times it was difficult. But we have been successful because of the model you set. I sometimes had a difficult time in school at Geneva because you weren't a strong father. But I was so proud when you joined AA and put your family first. THANK YOU! I will always remember what a great storyteller you were about growing up in Kearney. Then you wrote the wonderful book "THIS IS A GRANDFATHER'S BOOK . . . GRANDMA WROTE IN IT TOO!" Your writing skills created this treasure most families don't have and we all thank you for it! Rest in peace, Dad because you are now with Mom. I love you both. Your oldest daughter, Judy.*

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**Judy Furry Pendergraft** - January 14, 2015 at 09:40 AM

CF

*We never met Jerry, but feel we knew him through his wonderful son, Don Pickerell and his lovely family. Jerry's strength and spirit lives on in his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with his loving family.  
Cindy & Earl Felten  
Prairie Home, MO*

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**Cindy Felten** - January 15, 2015 at 09:57 AM

CS

*So sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. I didn't know Jerry well, but I remember his son Don. Don use to come and play football with our neighbor, Steve Jurgens, in the courts in Geneva. I will miss reading Jerry's "Letters to the Editor" in The Nebraska Signal. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

*Cindy (Clark) Suter GHS class of '67*

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**Cindy Suter** - January 16, 2015 at 01:21 PM

JV

*I didn't know Jerry in person, but I did know who he was by the letters he wrote to the paper. They were intelligent, thoughtful, and sometimes burned in just the right places! I'm sure he will be missed by many. Sympathy to all. Joyce Votipka, Burress, NE*

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**Joyce Votipka** - January 20, 2015 at 11:56 PM

SA

*Don,*

*Our deepest sympathy to you, and our prayers are with your family at this time of sorrow.*

*Bruning High School Class of 1966*

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**Sandra** - January 26, 2015 at 04:16 PM