



## Dr. Lucile Estell

March 3, 1930 - December 14, 2024

Dr. Lucile Estell age 94 of Rockdale was born on March 3, 1930 in Ft. Worth, TX, to Hugh and Hattie Lucile (Poole) Estell. Lucile's first honor was to be the first baby born in the Harris Ft. Worth Methodist Hospital. Many accolades followed.

The family moved to Rockdale where they lived with Lucile's maternal grandparent, Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Poole, when she was two months old. In 1937 the family moved to Rodessa, LA, and remained there until Lucile graduated from high school in 1947.

Education was always important to Lucile. She received her BA degree from East Texas Baptist University, her Master's from North Texas State University, and her Doctorate's degree from Texas A&M in Commerce. She also studied at the University of Colorado at Boulder, the University of Texas at Austin, UT Tyler and Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches.

Lucile began her teaching career in Mission, TX in 1951. She moved back to Marshall in 1953 to accept another teaching position. In 1968 she moved into a public information officer and curriculum director position at the Region 7 Education Service Center. She also taught in the history department of ETBU from 1975 -1994.

Lucile was published in several magazines and authored four books. She was also an avid photographer.

Lucile retired in 1995 as the deputy director of the service center. She returned to Rockdale where she served as an interim assistant superintendent for a year. Then she changed from a teacher to historian. She worked with the Texas Historical Commission and the Milam County Historical Commission, serving as chairman and also in other offices. Lucile is a member emeritus of the Milam County Historical Commission. She received two prestigious awards from the Texas Historical Commission, the John Ben Sheppard Award for Leadership and the Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award (Highest Honor before Governor's Award). Lucile was actively involved in bringing recognition of the El Camino Real National Trail to Milam County. She was instrumental in forming and served as chairman of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Trail Association. She was active in many other organizations. Some of these groups were TSTA, DKG, DAR, Rockdale Thursday Reading Club, Rancheria Grande chapter of El Camino Real de los Tejas, Linwood Acres Garden Club, and she was a member of the First Baptist Church in Rockdale.

Surviving her are two nephews, Ken (Betty) Harris, and Mike Harris. Also surviving her are two nieces, Judi Harris and Janette (Skip) Cross. Numerous great and great-great nephews and nieces also survive.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, January 10, 2025 at 11:00 AM at the First Baptist Church in Rockdale.

Memorials may be made to El Camino Real, P.O. Box 41286, Austin TX 78704, or any Historical organization in Milam County

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 10. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church - Rockdale  
240 Green Street  
Rockdale, TX 76567

# Tribute Wall



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Lucile Estell.* ”



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January 08, 2025 at 03:28 PM



“ *I was blessed to have been a caretaker of hers and I loved her the second I met her... she was definitely all about her cats. I do know that a wonderful woman in every shape and form and I am going to truly miss her.* ”

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**Tiffany Smith** - December 21, 2024 at 03:58 PM



“ *Lucille was instrumental for her help with my father's Bridges of Milam County book publication. She was a visionary in keeping the history alive for the county, always vigilant and proactive in preserving education, history and arts. She will be missed.* ”



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**Tracy Galbreath-Young** - December 20, 2024 at 11:23 PM



“ *Thanks for always thinking of Charlie.* ”

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**Pat Watson** - December 19, 2024 at 12:39 AM

JB

“ I will miss visiting with Lucile when I visited my Mother who was Lucile's best friend at the nursing home.

Jane Becker - December 18, 2024 at 09:37 AM

TB

“ Ms Estelle was a wonderful person!! She was always friendly and caring, and so interesting to talk to. She will truly be missed!!

Tammy Bean - December 17, 2024 at 02:09 PM

CC

“ Charlotte Christian lit a candle in memory of Dr. Lucile Estell



Charlotte Christian - December 17, 2024 at 12:25 PM

EH

I have a calico cat that Lucile gave me almost 20 years ago. Cleo is doing fine. Cleo originally belonged to her great niece that was in college. If any of the family remembers Cleopatra please let me know.

Evelyn Hirt - January 07, 2025 at 10:41 PM

JC

I didn't know about Lucile's death until much later. She and I were colleagues for years, friends for much longer. She was a wonderful mentor. I valued her wisdom and her friendship and am so very glad I had the chance to visit her personally last year.

Janis Canion - March 05, 2025 at 09:16 AM

KB

*Today, I called Lucile to wish her a happy--though belated--birthday. I received a message that the number was out of service. That led me to look her up, anticipating that she had passed away.*

*Lucile and my mother, Dr. Rita Bryant Turner, became friends when they were both students at East Texas Baptist College. That friendship lasted with frequent contacts and visits until my mother's passing in 2021. Consequently, I had some contact with Lucile and heard lots of updates about her all my life. From all I know, I can attest that she was a fantastic person. After Mother's death, she and I called each other on occasion. To her family and many friends, I offer my condolences.*

*Katie Bryant*

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**Katie Bryant** - March 06, 2025 at 01:56 PM