



Owen Rachel Graves

March 27, 1922 - March 2, 2017

Owen Rachel Booker Graves, 94, of Sharp, Texas, died on March 2, 2017. A graveside service will be held Friday, March 10, 2017 at 10:00 a.m., at the Lilac Cemetery, located at the intersection of North FM 487 and FM 3061, in Lilac. Visitation will take place Thursday, March 9, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home in Rockdale.

Owen Rachel was born in Ripley, Mississippi, on March 27, 1922 to Marie Reaves and Owen Thomas Booker. She was raised in Memphis, Tennessee. During World War II she worked as a draftsman for the US Army Corps of Engineers, preparing topographical maps and navigational charts of the Mississippi River.

In 1944 she married Capt. Rufus John Graves, then stationed in Memphis as a pilot with the US Army Air Corps, Air Transport Command. After the war ended, the couple settled in Sharp where they farmed and ranched.

Owen Rachel was a leader in the Sharp community. She was a founding member of the Sharp Preservation Society, Lilac Cemetery Association and Sharp Hobby Club. She was an active member of the Milam County Historical Commission and played a key role in orchestrating a thorough inventory of Milam County's cemeteries, indexing the names of the interred, and codifying relevant information from their markers. Numerous Texas Historical Markers

around Milam County are the result of her research, including markers for the Sharp community, the Lilac community, the Lilac Cemetery, and the grave of early Texas settler, William Carroll Sybert, in the Davilla Cemetery. Author of "A History of the Lilac Community" and "A History of the Lilac Cemetery," she often served as a resource for other researchers. A talented artist, she frequently donated original oil paintings, pen-and-ink drawings, quilts and other works to raise funds for her favorite causes and community projects.

Many who attended Rockdale Junior High School remember "Mrs. Graves" as the librarian who introduced and applied modern cataloging methodology to upgrade the school's library during the 1960s and 70s.

A member of Meadowbrook Baptist Church, she also attended the Sharp Presbyterian Church in later years.

Owen Rachel Graves' life was a beautiful tapestry, stitched with love and purpose. The meals she prepared for family gatherings and holidays, the bounty of vegetables and flowers in her garden, the delicate strokes of her paintings, the volumes of genealogy and photos she painstakingly curated, and the hand-sewn gifts for her family will always be remembered by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, whom she loved beyond measure.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband; her brother, David Booker; and her sisters, Edith Booker Miller and Lucille Booker Crawford.

Owen Rachel is survived by her children; Penelope Graves Redington, John Randall Graves and Stanley Owen Graves and wife Diana; four grandchildren Rachel Redington Werner and husband Eric, Towne Redington Williams and husband John, John Graves Redington and wife Christine, and Owen Winton Sharp Graves; 10 great-grandchildren, Gibson and Evan Werner, Carter, John,

Winton, and Penelope Williams, Patience and Hope Adcock, Garrett Cook and Rufus Redington; several nieces and nephews also survive her.

Pallbearers will be William H. Graves, Robert C. Graves, James McQuary, Todd C. Stauffer, Eric R. Werner and John T. Williams.

Donations in remembrance may be made to the Lilac Cemetery Association, Inc., 1000 Liberty Park Dr., #402, Austin, TX, 78746 or to Milam County Historical Commission, c/o Darlene Tucker, 5157 CR 446, Thorndale, Texas 76577.

Cemetery Details

Lilac Cemetery

4731 FM 3061
Davilla, TX 76577

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 9. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Rockdale
1041 West Highway 79
Rockdale, TX 76567
(512) 446-5454
phillips_luckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Tribute Wall

LG

“ I find it very fitting that although not born in Texas, Mrs. Graves went home on Texas Independence Day. My prayers to the entire Graves family. She was such a sweet lady.
May God be with you.
The Gibson Family

Lorna Gibson - March 10, 2017 at 04:24 PM



“ Dearest family of Mrs. Graves,
My husband and I, along with our five adopted children, moved to the area just three years ago, from Round Rock. Not knowing anyone in the community, I was praying one morning that God would introduce me to new friends. That same afternoon, Mrs. Owen Rachel showed up in my driveway. She was beautifully dressed in head to toe pink, with her hair meticulously pinned back. God had sent me an angel! It was by chance she came to our home, having meant to go to the Seale's, two driveways down. But she stayed for a bit, charming my boys who were playing outside and invited me to the Sharp Hobby Club. Little did I know that my small prayer would have been answered so sweetly.
Whenever I got to spend time with Mrs. Owen Rachel, she always made me feel special, and her genuine smile is one I will never forget. Through her inviting me to Hobby Club, I have made other sweet friends, and through their families have become knit into the community. I owe our sense of belonging in Lilac to Mrs. Graves and the kindness that she extended to me that first day we met. She was truly a blessing and will forever hold a special place in my heart.
Though I wish we had more time together, I look forward to spending eternity with my dear friend. Your family is in my prayers.
Love, Kasey Delz and Family

Kasey Delz - March 08, 2017 at 04:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Owen Rachel Graves.*



March 08, 2017 at 10:40 AM



“ *Prayers for the family. Mrs. Graves was always kind and soft spoken. That's tough when you're around junior high kids all day. Please accept my sincere condolences in the loss of a gracious lady. Morris Cook*

Morris Cook - March 07, 2017 at 06:36 AM



“ *" May the memories of love and happiness shared comfort the family."*

" With heartfelt sympathy. "

John & Betty Alexander

John & Betty Alexander - March 04, 2017 at 11:58 AM

GB

“ Owen Rachel was one of the kindest, sweetest ladies that I have known. She was kind to everyone and friendly to everyone. She was a true southern lady...beautiful inside and out. She was a valued member of the Milam County Historical Commission and Member Emeritus. Owen Rachel will be deeply missed for her gentle nature, loving kindness and wonderful mind! She was a treasure! My thoughts and prayers and deepest sympathy to her family.

Gerri Burnett

Gerri Burnett - March 03, 2017 at 10:41 PM

PW

“ Owen was a lovely, lovely lady. Rest in peace, Owen. We all love you.

Peggy Wright - March 02, 2017 at 04:46 PM