



## Virginia Dawson

August 2, 1922 - January 17, 2012

Virginia May Dawson (Ginny) passed away peacefully in her sleep on Jan. 17, 2012, in Portland. She was 89.

Virginia was born Aug. 2, 1922, to Lydia and Herschel Hayden in Albany. As a fourth-generation descendant of the Hayden pioneers, who in 1853 homesteaded in the Alsea Valley, Virginia was the local historian. She was generous in sharing her stories, pictures and memorabilia of the early settlers. She graduated from Alsea High School in 1939, and Monmouth Normal School with a teaching credential.

Virginia made the term “small-town girl” something to be proud of. She had a lifelong commitment to the community and culture of her beloved Alsea.

Virginia married her high school sweetheart, Robert Crawford, who was lost in 1945 in Zimmer, Germany, during World War II. She married R. Keith Dawson in 1946, and he preceded her in death in 1984. She is survived by Myron and Nancy Crawford, Glenn and Beverly Dawson, Kathy (Dawson) and Stan Parks, Karl and Cindy Dawson, and Kenneth and Melanie Dawson; 10 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

In 1944, Virginia joined the Starlight Rebekah Lodge of Alsea, which later merged with Social Rebekah Lodge of Philomath No. 73, and was Noble Grand in 1982. She was later the District Chairman. The lodge members remember having the very best potluck picnics in the Dawsons' front yard. Virginia was a member for 68 years.

Virginia was the secretary/treasurer of the Alsea Cemetery for many years, a

long-term member of the Alsea Grange, assistant postmaster of the Alsea Post Office, and active in the Alsea Garden Club. She was a member of the Alsea Methodist Church and Alsea Christian Fellowship. Her love and skill for making pies, potato salad and home preserves, and her beautiful seamstress work, were admired and appreciated by all who knew her.

A memorial service to honor her life will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28, at McHenry Funeral Home, 206 N.W. Fifth St. in Corvallis. Virginia loved flowers, and each Memorial Day placed bouquets on her ancestors' graves. In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions to the Alsea Cemetery at P.O. Box 164, Alsea, OR 97324.