

The Obituary

Do you read obituaries? What do you look for in an obituary?

If you are “into genealogy” you will likely look at an obituary in a different light.
You want facts – names – dates – places!

To me, an obituary is important! It is an historical record. It is a final tribute you can give a loved one.

I have been interested in family history for at least 70 years. While helping my father milk the cows he explained the relationship of his family - grandfather, grandmother, step-grandmother, first cousins and half-first cousins. Then I helped my mother with several booklets on her family. This interest grew and when I got married to the 14th child of a family of 17 it became even more serious. I learned to use a computer and a genealogy program, the first of several. By now I have a database of over 581,000 individuals. If possible, an obituary is attached to them.

I knew what I wanted to see when I read an obituary so when I wrote my husband, Rufus’s obituary in 2013 I was determined to do it right! (See 2nd page)

Use full name. If name used is different but in quotes – “*name*”

Give date of birth – give place of birth. Give date of death & place of death – cause of death
Don’t assume that where a person lived is where he died.

Give a synopsis of their life’s work - Church affiliation, if any.

Marriage – who – when – where - Include spouse’s birth name and parents
Surviving? Deceased? When

Survivors -

Children – Full names in order of birth - Include spouses with birth names
Include city & state where they live.
Grandchildren - Give full names

Siblings – Full names with spouses and their birth names, if applicable
Include city & state where they live.

Deceased – same as under Survivors – include sibling in-laws.

Time of visitation and service – Give exact location.

Give place of burial - body or ashes.

Expression of appreciation to care givers.

Memorial contributions – to what?

Thelma Lucile Hoover Martin
June 2019 – Updated April 2025
(from my soapbox!)

Rufus S. Martin

August 14, 1933 – October 8, 2013

Rufus S. Martin, 80, Nappanee, IN, 14th child of 17, was born to Joseph E. and Mary (Shaum) Martin on August 14, 1933 near Wakarusa, Elkhart County, Indiana. In July 2013 he found out the prostate cancer from 21 years ago had returned. He died Tuesday evening at 5:25, October 8, 2013 at Miller's Merry Manor, Wakarusa, IN, where he had been cared for since September 20, 2013.

Rufus grew up on the family farm, attended the one-room school at Morningstar, and furthered his education with high school correspondence, and one term at Goshen College. As a conscientious objector he served two years in Voluntary Service under Mennonite Central Committee at Eureka, Illinois at what is now called Maple Lawn Homes, a senior care facility. He was a farmer, construction superintendent, owned his own construction company and after retirement delivered mobile homes throughout the US and Canada until December 2012.

He was active within his church family, Yellow Creek Mennonite Church for over 56 years, where he served as Sunday School teacher, elder and Stephen's Minister. During this time he also served as assistant pastor of Wildwood Mennonite Church, Engadine, Michigan for one year and helped with a church plant, Community Mennonite Church, South Bend, Indiana for twelve years.

On September 26, 1954, in Harrison Township, Elkhart County, Indiana, he was married to Thelma Lucile Hoover, daughter of George E. and Kathryn (Schmucker) Hoover. Together they had six children: Tina Dawn Weldy (Marge Farr), Goshen, IN; Kent Jay Martin (Lita Horst), Kalamazoo, MI; Evan Ross Martin (Jennifer Konecny), Osceola, IN; Gail Renita Blum (Peter Blum), Hillsdale, MI; Craig Ruskin Martin (Laura Iverson), Brookings, SD; and Roma Jo Miller (Brent Miller), Goshen, IN; all of whom survive.

He took great joy in his family that includes 16 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren: Heidi (Weldy) & Steve Yeung, with Samuel and Liliana Yeung, Streamwood, IL; Kristen (Weldy) & Jeff Wills, Round Lake, IL; Braden Weldy & Krystal (Kalb) with Declan Weldy, Granger, IN; Mackenzie (Martin) & Greg Snader, Lancaster, PA; Aaron Martin, Holland, MI; and Avery Martin, Grand

Rapids, MI; Austin Martin, New Orleans, LA; Nicholas Martin, Mishawaka, IN; Emily Martin, Avon, CO; and Carley Martin, Osceola, IN; Abigail (Blum) & Colin Sudds, Hillsdale, MI; and Elaine Blum, Lafayette, IN; Amanda & Jessica Martin, Brookings, SD; and Kelsie (Miller) & Adam Friesen Miller, Goshen, IN and Joseph Miller, Johnstown, PA.

He is also survived by four sisters; Edna Brubaker, Nappanee, IN; Miriam (David) Hoover, Goshen, IN; Rhoda Martin, New Paris, IN; and Suetta (James) Bechtel, Goshen, IN; three brothers: Naaman (Ruth Lahman) Martin, Wakarusa, IN; Allen (Ruth Nussbaum) Martin, Goshen, IN; and Benjamin (Edith Lahman) Martin, New Market, VA; and two sisters-in law: Katherina (Brubacher) Martin, Nappanee, IN; and Mary (Baer) Martin, Goshen, IN.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers: Daniel Martin, and Jason Martin; seven sisters and brothers-in-law: Barbara (Sidney) Brubacher, Susie (Mervin) Ramer, Ida (Ira) Ramer, Emma (Nathan) Ramer, Bertha (Irvin) Martin, Grace (Ben) Shirk, and Ruth (Harvey) Brubaker; and two brothers-in-law, Clayton Brubaker and Leonard Martin.

Rufus requested that he have a simple burial as soon as possible following his death. The family burial service was held Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at the Yellow Creek Brick Cemetery, Harrison Township, Elkhart County, Indiana.

Family visitation will be at the Yellow Creek Mennonite Church on Friday, October 11, 2013 from 2:00-8:00 PM. A Remembrance of Life service will be Saturday, October 12, 2013 at 11:00AM at the same place. The church is located at the corner of Elkhart County Roads 38 & 11.

The family wishes to express their appreciation for the loving care he received at Miller's Merry Manor, and for the support and concern shown by Yellow Creek Mennonite pastors and friends.

In recognition of Rufus's love for children we suggest that any memorial contributions be given to Yellow Creek Day Care.