

## Estella Louise Reese

Perkins County Pioneer, Estella Louise Reese, also known as Grandma Reese to many, was born at home in Wentworth, SD, on November 5, 1909, to Frank and Hattie Knittel. She attended school through eighth grade at the Happy Hills School near Rabbit Creek north of Usta, SD.

In 1926, at the age of 16, she married Clifford Newton Reese when he returned from Germany where he served on the front lines during World War I. They settled in Perkins County in the Bixby area in 1935. Of this union three children were born; a son, Harold, and two daughters, Ellen Price and Erma Draine.

True to her pioneer spirit, Estella loved the ranch life. After the death of Clifford in 1963, Harold and Estella continued to ranch. During her

78 years of ranching, she raised many bum lambs, hatched her own chickens, milked cows, and enjoyed many years of gardening, canning, and cooking. She was self-sufficient and rarely had a need to go to town for supplies. Estella loved tending her chickens and splitting her own wood for her cook stove. She loved to make cake donuts and always had donuts for coffee company.

In 1996, following the death of her son, Harold, Estella's youngest daughter, Erma, moved to the ranch, and they continued living on the ranch until 2006. At the age of 96, Estella left the ranch to live with Erma in rural Sturgis.

Estella celebrated her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 5, 2014, and even at the age of 105, she still loved walking to her kitchen for her meals and tending her many houseplants.

This Perkins County Pioneer witnessed more change in 105 years than most will see in their lifetime. From horse-drawn buggies to the invention of electricity; from man walking on the moon to the computer age, Estella saw it all and continued to live the pioneer way of life until she passed away peacefully on January 9, 2015.

Estella is survived by her daughters, Ellen Price, Opal, and Erma Draine, Sturgis; and numerous grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents; her husband, Clifford; her brothers, Ervin and Harry; her sisters, Ida, Sarah, and Mildred; her son, Harold; son-in-laws, Robert Draine and Harley Price; and her great-grandsons, Coy Price and Riley Haines.

Memorials have been established to the Faith VFW and the Wayne & Janet Lippold Hospice Suite at Sturgis Regional Hospital.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).



## *In Loving Memory Of*



## *Estella Louise Reese*

*1909 ~ 2015*





*Whisper of a Woman*

*It's hard to believe that one woman  
can touch and change so many lives.*

*Her kind, generous, soft-spoken ways have touched  
all our lives and souls in some way or another.*

*She gave her heart and soul to her family.*

*Now that she has passed into a new life,*

*It's our hearts and souls that are filled with a big emptiness.*

*Let's not grieve for her, let's be thankful that her heart and soul  
are now living with her Lord.*

*She is standing beside her Lord, in the heavens above with her father,  
mother, brothers, sisters, husband, and son, along with a numerous  
amount of friends who have passed into the great beyond.*

*God bless you, Lord, for taking care and calling her to your side,  
and gracing her with eternal life.*

*For someday we will be joined together again with this  
Whisper of a Woman.*

*Doug*

*In Loving Memory Of*

***Estella Louise Reese***

***Born***

November 5, 1909  
Wentworth, South Dakota

***Died***

January 9, 2015  
Sturgis, South Dakota

***Funeral Service***

Tuesday, January 13, 2015, at 1:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church

***Clergy***

Rev. Denzel Nonhof  
Pastor Harold Delbridge

***Accompanist*** ~ Butch Samuelson

***Soloist*** ~ Terri Kissack

***Musical Selections***

"Beyond The Sunset"      "Amazing Grace"  
"The Old Rugged Cross"      "Life's Railway To Heaven"

***Pallbearers***

Rich Price ~ Dan Price ~ Squeak Haines  
Rick Richards ~ Gerald Draine ~ Doug Draine  
Ric Lensegrav ~ Larry Ross ~ Wes Reeves

***Honorary Pallbearers***

All Relatives, Friends, and Neighbors

***Interment***

Black Hills National Cemetery

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch in the Erskine Club Room  
following the funeral service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.*