

Grandma and Grandpa's Farm

When you lose someone close to you,
The memories come flooding back as if new.
When I close my eyes I can see the ridge,
And just beyond that the bridge.
Always scared we would go over the side,
I would close my eyes absolutely terrified.
Then came the dog to chase the fear,
Knowing the happiness was near.
Into the house long enough to say "Hi",
Then off to play, "good- bye".
Whether it was to back track to the bridge,
Under the fence and up the ridge.
Sit and watch the clouds go by,
Hide-and-Seek, or playing "I Spy".
Back to the house for sugar cookies and ice cream,
Looking back it seems like a dream.
So many fun adventures had,
To share them really makes me glad.
Down the hill to the haystacks,
If your not careful "King of the Mountain"
will break your back!
Off to the barn to look for Kittens,
So soft and sweet it makes you feel smitten.
Up the hill to the chokecherry tree,
So many things to do your as busy as a bee!
Down the hill to the wagons, where we head west.
On some far imaginary quest.
Up to the iron pile to look for treasure,
It was always the simple things that have such pleasure.
Turn to the north to get to the trees,
Where building a fort was such a breeze.
Back to the house to share a meal,
Who knew being with family was such a big deal.
It was the simple things that brought such pleasure,
And in my heart I will always treasure.
Memories like this Can fade so fast,
But written stories will make them last and last.

Written With Love,
Kara Ann
4-16-2003

Visitation:

10:00 a.m., Friday, November 25, 2022
First United Methodist Church
Miller, South Dakota

Memorial Service:

11:00 a.m., Friday, November 25, 2022
First United Methodist Church
Miller, South Dakota

Minister:

Rev. Teresa Whetsel

Honorary Urnbearers:

Grady Heffner - Reis Rittel
Bailey Deuter - Charlie Theophilus
Bode Bahe - Hal Bertsch
All Aaron's Grandchildren,
Great Grandchildren
And Great Great Grandchildren

Musicians:

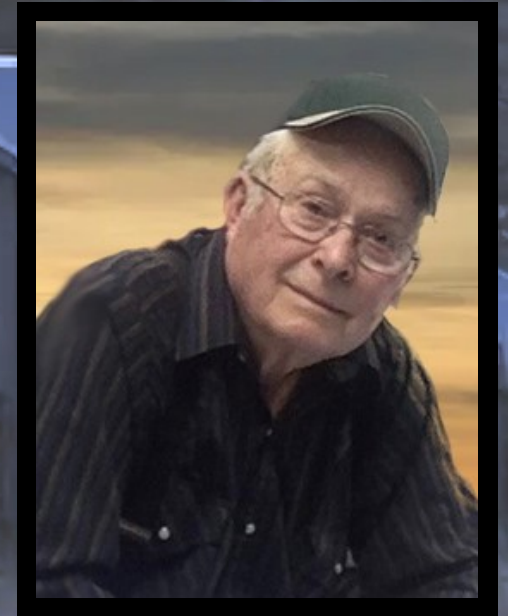
SuAnne Meyer - Dustin Moser

Musical Selections:

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" #557
"Spirit Song" #347
"The Old Rugged Cross" - Dustin Moser
"God Be With You Till We Meet Again" #672

Inurnment at a later date:

G.A.R. Cemetery
Miller, South Dakota



Aaron C. Ellsworth

December 19, 1930 - November 20, 2022



An Ode to my Grandpa.

By Lindsey Ellsworth Bahe

An icon of a place my childhood memories holds so dear. In the car anticipating the gravel and a little bridge announcing we were near. Often my Grandpa was out at work most of the day...depending on the season and the annual duties that must be paid.

Long days tending the fields...or fixing fence. Branding cattle or providing them with winter defense.

Us grandkids at play - exploring the freedom the land had to offer...unaware of how much it was enriched with history, hardship, and honor.

He is a living example of a man who has survived decades of change...deeply rooted in place but able to bend and re-arrange.

He was born into a Great Depression and experienced his youth with War as a backdrop. He became an American Veteran and then cultivated a pocket of plains in the middle of America nonstop. Aaron is a strong, stubborn, and determined ranch man - made complete by having a true, strong and modern lady as his "right hand (wo)man"

They are tried and true partners who weathered all sorts of storms...who shared sorrows and kisses and watched their family transform.

4 more Ellsworth's expanded the story - each planting new roots and defining their own glories.

From Rita and Aaron - came the four... and then 9 grands - 22 greats - and 5 great-greats more.

Aaron is an icon of a place and a time...a figure head ever present in the periphery of fond memories of mine.

Summers and winters he would be there with overalls or jeans...ivory snap western shirts and opening Miller Lites with ease.

I would watch him find a place around the table after a day out in the fields...hat propped on top of his head shuffling cards...then he deals.

The beginning of a never ending game of hearts. Banter...streaked with orneriness...a moment of laughter or reluctant congratulatory remarks.

Then dinner was shared and stories were told. The stars would soon rise high across the sky and out to the car my sisters and I reluctantly strolled.

Packed in tight for our late night ride back to town...warm with memories and moments on the Ellsworth Ranch reliably found.

Happy 90th Grandpa Aaron.

12/19/2020

Aaron C. Ellsworth, 91, of Miller, passed away Sunday, November 20, 2022, at his home.

Aaron Colby Ellsworth was born to George and Della (Cunningham) on December 19, 1930 in Lane, SD. He was the oldest of seven children.

In 1945, George and Della moved their family to a ranch north of Ree Heights. Aaron graduated from Ree Heights High School in 1948.

In 1949, he met the love of his life Rita Tagtow and they married in 1951. Aaron served his country proudly from 1952-1954, training soldiers to drive tanks during the Korean War. Aaron and Rita raised their family on the Ellsworth Ranch, retiring in 1998.

Aaron was a member of Greenleaf United Methodist church and when Greenleaf closed he became a member of the First United Methodist church in Miller. He was a member of the Ree Heights American Legion, when the Ree Heights American Legion closed he became a lifetime member of the Polo American Legion.

Aaron was always there to give a hand to anyone who might need it. He was a hard worker and he and Rita enjoyed calving season. The only thing he didn't like to do was fix fence! When

Saturday night rolled around, he was ready to head to town to visit with friends. Aaron enjoyed a good game of cards, a dance, and a nice cold beer.

Aaron is survived by his wife, Rita; daughter, Janice (Doug) Purrington; sons: Mike (Susie) Ellsworth and Steve Ellsworth; son-in-law, Wayne Brock; grandchildren: Kara (Dan), Grady and Haley Heffner, Kristen (Ryan) Rittel, Kaitlyn (Clinton), Kenley, Carter, Khloe, and Colsen McKee, Reis (Mikayla) and Colby Rittel, Jonathan (Deidra) Bailey, Nichole, Amia, Raegan, Evelyn, and Maliyah Deuter, Sarah, Charlie and Adeline Theophilus, Lindsey (Alex), Bode, Tripp, and Ellsworth Bahe, Jamie (Demarion), Miller and Louie Mapp, Kelly (Brandon), Cooper and Tessa Bushnell, Dani (Kyle), Hal and Olan Bertsch; siblings: Patricia Shaw, Karen (Bob) Kroning, Barbara (Gordon) Sluneka, Janice (Gene) Moncur; sister-in-law, Sandy Smith; brother-in-law, Roger Tagtow; and many nieces and nephews.

Aaron is preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Cheryl Brock; granddaughter, Kenzi Ellsworth; brothers: Kenneth (Barbara), Robert (Bernice); brother-in-law, Jasper Shaw; parents-in-law: George (Kathrine) Tagtow; and sisters-in-law: Phylis (Pete) Bell and Lorraine (Everett) Ellerton.

*Arrangements Entrusted to
Reck Funeral Home - Miller, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net*