



## Marjorie Elizabeth Prewitt Clifford

July 21, 1923 - July 9, 2016

Marjorie Elizabeth Prewitt Clifford, 92, of Troy, Missouri formerly of Clarksville, Missouri passed away July 9, 2016 at the Elsberry Health Care Center in Elsberry, Missouri. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at the Annada Christian Church in Annada, Missouri with visitation from one o'clock until time of service at two o'clock p.m. Tuesday at the church. The Rev. Joe Miller assisted by The Rev. Robert Norvell will officiate. Burial will be in the Greenwood Cemetery in Clarksville, Missouri.

Marjorie Elizabeth Prewitt Clifford was born July 21, 1923, to Fredrick Moss Prewitt and Frances Lucinda Mackey Prewitt on the Prewitt Farm near Clarksville, Missouri.

Marjorie was preceded in death by her husband, Bill of 59 years; her parents, three brothers; :Moss Prewitt, Jr., Robert Irvine Prewitt and William Caswell Prewitt IV (Buddy) ; two sisters; Helen Prewitt Mackey and Sarah Frances Prewitt.

Marjorie married William Pryor Clifford on Easter Sunday, March 28, 1948 at the Ramsey Creek Baptist Church, where she and her family were members. Bill and Marjorie moved to their home in rural Elsberry where Bill was a farmer and Cattleman.

July 29, 1949 they became the parents of their only child, Natalie Clifford Lilley. As proud and devoted parents, they thought that their daughter was the most precious and most beautiful girl in the world, "as most parents think." Marjorie always put Muffin first and taught her to follow the path that Jesus

had prepared for all who believe in him. Church and Sunday School were the highlights of her childhood.

Marjorie was blessed with two grandsons, Nathan and Trevor Lilley, who were the love and pride of her life. While the boys shared a sincere affinity and love for this special “Grandmommy”, the men never lost that love and knew that the Lord had blessed them undoubtedly the most wonderful, loving and caring Grandmommy. He had ever made.

Grandmommy became “Granny” beginning in 2008, when Nathan became a “Dada” with the birth with the birth of her great-granddaughter, Addison Pearl Lilley. In 2009, and in 2013, Granny was rewarded with a great-grandson, Camden Trevor Lilley and a great-granddaughter, Averi Lane Lilley, when Trevor and Rachel Colbeck Lilley became parents. Although past her prime, Granny still enjoyed holding her great-grandchildren, counting their piggies, and giving them rides on her walker. They realized that her needs were simple ones, a kiss on the cheek, as hug, or a short conversation.

Marjorie and “Muffin” were more than mother and daughter. They were inseparable best friends, who loved and learned from each other. Marjorie was a natural teacher who yearned to learn more so that she could teach and share her knowledge with anyone willing to learn. And most were willing to learn from Mrs. Clifford because of her “style” and the love she showed to everyone, students, family, friends and strangers.

Yes, Marjorie was from an era “Gone With The Wind.” Hat, gloves, suits and pliers, yes, she could find anything in that big purse. And no, she could never fly on a plane in this world in the 21st century. But she could always find extra gloves for those cold little fingers that got off of the school bus on those wintery mornings at Clopton.

As a young woman, Marjorie attended Christian College (now Columbia College) for two years and graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia, where her great-great grandfather was one of the founders. She also attended the University of Southern California one summer while visiting her aunt and uncle.

After graduation, Marjorie traveled to visit her uncle Caswell Prewitt in Prewitt, New Mexico. Here she learned to love and appreciate the Navajo culture and people, as well as helping run her uncle's trading post. She saw the need for education and accepted a job teaching at the Navajo School for the winter. But when this word hit Clarksville, "Daddy" said, "Come home". He had gotten her a job in Louisiana teaching third grade. She hastily returned to Pike County.

Marjorie and her "Daddy" were very close, probably because of their shared love for the outdoors and horseback riding. She would rather be driving cattle be driving cattle with her dad than cooking and sewing with her mother and sister, Sarah Frances. Her father, Moss, had a fine herd of Shorthorn cattle. Most years, Marjorie's photo with her champion cow, could be found in magazines as she claimed her championship trophy.

In 1954, Marjorie began teaching fourth grade for the Pike County R-III School District (Clopton) where she taught for 20 years until because of her poor health, she received disability retirement. She was always ahead of her time, in education incorporating her love for poetry, art and nature daily in her teaching. The boys in her classrooms learned to love, learn about and feed the birds, rather than shoot them.

Marjorie was a member of Ramsey Creek Baptist Church from childhood. There she and her family were always faithful teachers and leaders who taught others and learned from others about our Saviour, Jesus Christ. After her marriage she attended Annada Christian Community Church with her daughter, Natalie and later with her grandsons, Nathan and Trevor Lilley. She taught adult class for over forty years. Saturdays, for her, were spent "studying her Sunday School lesson", as she prepared to teach her flock. The flock thanked her at Christmas with a volume of Interpreters Bible, which she used to aid her teaching and learning of the Bible. She thanked them with a red popcorn ball which she presented as they entered the church on the Sunday before Christmas.

The Christmas Pageant was always HER production. She wrote and directed a group of non-Hollywood actors who were always willing to take their positions, wear their designated costumes and do their best to honor God as they reenacted the Christmas Story as Marjorie read it from the Bible. Reverance and honor were always stressed because this was story of Jesus birth!

Pallbearers are; Dale Miller, Jason Miller, George Ricks, Tyler Ricks, Robert Omohundro and Kevin Howard.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenwood Cemetery

Pike 235  
Clarksville, MO

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 12. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Annada Christian Church  
Annada, MO

## Funeral Service

JUL 12. 2:00 PM (CT)

Annada Christian Church  
Annada, MO

# Tribute Wall



“ *Marjorie Elizabeth Prewitt Clifford*

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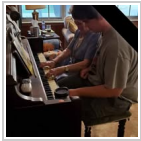
November 08, 2022 at 10:35 AM



“ *Marjorie Elizabeth Prewitt Clifford*

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November 08, 2022 at 08:46 AM



“ *When I was a first year music teacher in 1960, Marjorie was my "across the hall" neighbor; such a delight and always a smile and tidbit of news. So many amusing and funny stories...i.e. the fire drill in which she got her class to the big tree first and then discovered her class grade book was still on her desk..I "said just count noses", and "losing" a student on their way to my music class (hiding under her desk); such an amazing ,knowledge and understanding of nature and worldly traditions...sorry my boys were too young/late to have enjoyed her talents!*

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**Judy Allwood** - July 12, 2016 at 05:10 PM

DS

“ Mrs. Clifford was my 4th grade teacher at Paynesville Grade School. We were a fairly rambunctious group of kids (especially the boys), but she gave us firm and loving guidance that has stayed with me throughout my life. She always encouraged me to do my best and she was not reluctant to let me know when I did not meet her expectations. I do remember when Wendell Weeks broke his arms on that infamous playground slide and her concern for his well-being. My condolences and best wishes to Natalie and her family.

David Stover

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David C Stover - July 12, 2016 at 10:41 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marjorie Elizabeth Prewitt Clifford.



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July 12, 2016 at 08:21 AM

TD

“ Mrs. Clifford was always one of my favorite teachers. She was my 4th grade teacher and she always was so much fun to learn from. I am so thankful to have had her and have gotten the opportunity to learn from her at a very young age. Thank you Mrs. Clifford for all you did for the students at Clopton.

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Terry Dietrich - July 12, 2016 at 07:46 AM

GB

“ My condolences to the family. While I was too young to be her contemporary and too old to be her student (Clopton class of '55), reading her story brings back many fond memories of growing up in Clarksville. I remember admiring the Prewitt family, Buddy being the closest to my circle of friends. After spending the past nearly 60 years in the Columbia/Boone County area, I was pleased to find an answer to a question I've had for many years. Moss Prewitt is a prominent name in Boone County history, and the reference to Mrs. Clifford's ancestor helping found the University answered that question; there is a family connection to the Prewitts I grew up with and the one who helped build Boone County. What a treasure chest of memories for family and friends!

Gene Baumann - July 12, 2016 at 06:51 AM

Roni Bryant

“ Roni Bryant sent a virtual gift in memory of Marjorie Elizabeth Prewitt Clifford



Roni Bryant - July 12, 2016 at 05:25 AM

Roni Bryant

“ Roni Bryant sent a virtual gift in memory of Marjorie Elizabeth Prewitt Clifford



Roni Bryant - July 12, 2016 at 05:24 AM

WW

“ Living so nearby during my childhood, Mrs. Clifford was a big part of my life. My clearest memory, aside from painting her bomb shelter, was as her student. When I broke both arms in the 4th grade jumping off the slide at recess, she had me sit next to her and gave me questions and tests orally so I could still pass onto 5th grade. She always made me feel special. She was special to me! She will be well remembered!

*Wendell Weeks*

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**Wendell Weeks** - July 12, 2016 at 01:19 AM

LF

“ Love, Linda (Lilley) Curtis & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Marjorie Elizabeth Prewitt Clifford.



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**Love, Linda (Lilley) Curtis & Family** - July 12, 2016 at 12:58 AM

LB

“ She was the best teacher and made learning interesting and fun. I remember her crying in the back of the room when we read the sad parts of Charlottes Web. She was loved by many and she made us all feel loved by her.  
*i am glad & grateful she was a part of my life.*

*Our condolences & love to Natalie and the family.*

*Lexie and David Biggs*

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**Lexie Biggs** - July 11, 2016 at 11:58 PM



“ *Connie Crank Price Ph.D., Lawrence, KS. She influenced my life greatly. She was a wonderful teacher, my fourth grade year at Paynesville School. In the Annada Church, I loved being part of her Christmas Pageant every year. I would eavesdrop whenever I could, when she taught the grownups' Sunday School class. She was a progressive, creative, and inspiring leader in the church. She was a loyal and loving friend of my Aunt, Rose A. Crank, who left us in 2013. Often in the winter months, Mrs. Clifford rode the school bus with us, and I recall that she was always reading: books, the more substantive magazines. Yet she always had time to talk to us when we had concerns, and she liked to share her interesting new findings with us. Love was her way of doing things, and I have always remembered her with gratitude and fondness. My condolences to Natalie and the rest of the family. You have consolation in knowing that she was a good person, full of kindness, compassion, humor, and wisdom. Had I known a bit sooner, I would have attended her funeral. I will be praying for you, and for her, tomorrow...and always!*

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**Connie Price** - July 11, 2016 at 08:51 PM



“ *Sally Sterne, & families of Steve, Ruth, & Geoff purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Marjorie Elizabeth Prewitt Clifford.*



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**Sally Sterne, & families of Steve, Ruth, & Geoff** - July 11, 2016 at 07:28 PM



“ *She was my favorite teacher! Best ever!*

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**Matt Bennett** - July 11, 2016 at 06:36 PM

SM

“ Mrs. Clifford was one of my favorite teachers. I was in her 4th grade class at Clopton. I will always remember learning how to make real butter and also sassafras tea. She was very kind and patient. RIP Mrs. Clifford.

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**Sherry Noble Masterson** - July 11, 2016 at 05:46 PM

NM

“ Mrs. Clifford was my fourth grade teacher and she was a marvel! She brewed us sassafras tea and always had treasures in her purse. She was very proud of her pink Mercury with the diagonal back window. She was a great Christian lady and she made an impact on me and hundreds of children. Thank you for loving life!

*Nancy Grimshaw Miller*

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**Nancy Grimshaw Miller** - July 11, 2016 at 05:41 PM



“ Mrs. Clifford was my favorite teacher in elementary school. She made it fun to learn by teaching with hands on experiences. I remember making things like Sassafras tea in class.

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**Nathan Cottrell** - July 11, 2016 at 04:30 PM