VELMA HAZEL LEE JOHNSTON

Velma Hazel Lee Johnston, 88, of rural Madison, died June 24, 2010, in Moberly, Missouri. She had been in failing health following surgery for gastric cancer in October, 2009. Hazel was born June 19, 1922, to Orph Boulware and Beulah LeGrand Boulware in Union Township near Middle Grove, Monroe County, just one mile from the farm she had lived on since 1939. Her Boulware ancestors lived on part of her farm and on surrounding farms as early as the 1820's. Hazel took great pleasure in discovering her family history and had travelled several times to Virginia, Kentucky, and North Carolina to meet other relatives of Bryan, Snidow, Freeman, Sparks, and several other colonial American families. Her great-great-grandfather was Joseph Bryan of Monroe County, who was the half-brother of Rebecca Bryan Boone, Mrs. Daniel Boone. Hazel enjoyed genealogy, gardening, cooking, and caring for the pets.

Hazel married Joseph Woodrow Johnston October 30, 1937, in Moberly. He died January 7, 1981. She is survived by a son, Larry Johnston of the home, daughters Joyce (Jim) Sheerman of Marceline, MO, and Nancy (Al) Havermann of Wildwood, MO, four grandsons, Todd (Lori) Sheerman of Olathe, KS, John (Julie) Sheerman of Marceline, Seth (Dominique) Havermann of Wentzville, and Joseph Havermann of Florissant, six-great-grandchildren, Emma and Tess of Marceline, Claire and Will Sheerman of Olathe, and Noah and Miles Havermann of Wentzville, a sister, Geneva Hendren of Madison, brother Raymond Boulware of Moberly, and special nieces Wanda Jean Cook of Madison and Dorothy Black of Vandalia, as well as nieces Angela Boyles, Debra Barbey, Mary Dean Oliver, and nephews Randy Boulware and Ryan Boulware. Hazel was preceded in death by her parents and husband, as well as a sister, Ruby Faye Utterback, and an infant half-brother, Dennis Boulware. She was a member of the Middle Grove Christian Church. Burial was at Sunset Hill Cemetery, Madison, MO.

Submitted by Larry Johnston, Nancy Havermann, and Joyce Sheerman

This photo was taken in May of 2009 at Bowler's Wharf on the Rappahannock River, Essex Co., Virginia. The sign says Bowler's circa 1660, Res. R. Neale.