

Lowell Sun - Lowell, Mass.
Monday, March 29, 2004

Harriet Louise Wilkins

... founded local garden market; 98

PEPPERELL — Harriet Louise Wilkins, 98, a farmer's wife who in her youth was known as "the ice-cream girl" for her work at a local stand, died Saturday, March 27, at the Apple Valley Nursing Home. She was the wife of the late Irving E. Wilkins, to whom she was married for 40 years.

Born in Portland, Maine, she later moved Pepperell and was raised there by "Doc" Davis, a local dairy farmer. She was educated in Pepperell schools and the Vocational Seamstress School at Filene's in Boston. As a seamstress, she did alterations and handmade dolls for local churches and worked at a braiding factory in Pepperell.

Mrs. Wilkins was also a founder of the Wilkins Market Garden, which is still run by the family today.

She was active in the Community Church, where she was a Sunday school teacher and a deaconess, and was a member of the Pepperell Women's Club and the Golden Agers.

Survivors include a daughter, Glenda L. Lewis of New Ipswich, N.H.; three sons, Russell L. and Gary G. Wilkins, both of Pepperell, and Larry E. Wilkins of Palm Bay, Fla.; 17 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

WILKINS — Of Pepperell, Harriet Louise, age 98 on March 27. Survived by her daughter, Glenda L. Lewis of New Ipswich, N.H., her sons: Russell L. and Gary G. of Pepperell and Larry E. of Palm Bay, FL, 17 Grandchildren, 27 Great-grandchildren, and 3 Great-Great-Grandchildren. Visiting Hours on Tuesday from 5-8 PM at the Hamilton Funeral Home, 37 Main St., Pepperell. Funeral on Wednesday at 10 AM at the First Baptist Church, 335 N. Main St., Groton. For those who wish, donations in her memory may be made to the Pepperell Senior Center.

Buried: Westlawn Cemetery
Littleton, Mass.