

Leland J. Simpson Obituary

Leland J. Simpson, 97, lifelong resident of Lyndon, died peacefully Saturday evening May 19, 2012, at his home with his family by his side.

He was born Dec. 3, 1914, in East Lyndon on the Fairholme Farm, the son of W. Arthur and Ruth (Hoffman) Simpson. When he was 6 years old his father purchased their ancestral home, the Wilder Farm near East Lyndon where he has resided ever since. He attended the Red Village School and Lyndon Institute, graduating in the class of 1933.



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On Sept. 5, 1938, he married Zelda Cox. They worked and raised their family on the Wilder farm which Leland farmed for more than 50 years. At the age of 90 he was still cutting his own firewood and overseeing his productive land. He was a lifelong member of the Lyndonville United Methodist Church.

During the years of raising a family and tending the dairy farm he found time to serve his beloved Town of Lyndon as a School Director and Lister. He was a longtime member of the Caledonia County Farm Bureau, serving on the board for many years as well as president for two of those years. He had held memberships in the Grange, Eastern States Farmers Exchange, Agway, Caledonia County 4-H dairy committee, trustee of Lyndon Institute and Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, and a charter member of the American Minor Breeds Conservancy. He also mentored many young people throughout the years who visited and worked on his farm. He farmed until 1983 when his herd of Milking Shorthorns and Holsteins were sold. He was an excellent dairyman and steward of his woods and cropland.

Leland served 14 years as Representative for Caledonia County in the Vermont Legislature where he was well respected.

His hobbies included reading, working in the woods, gardening, playing cards and dominos with neighbors, listening to jazz, talking politics, climbing mountains with the half-fast mountain climbers, watching football, and enjoying his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Survivors include three of his four children: Wilder Simpson and wife Mary of Lyndon, Carolyn Simpson of Lyndon, and Gilbert Simpson and wife Joanne of Lyndon; a daughter in-law, Sara Simpson of Lyndon; 13 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; a sister, Dorothy Witcher of Wisconsin; three sisters in-law: Sarah Cox of Lyndon, Leah Smith of Lyndonville, and Hazel Dwinell of Springfield, Vt.; many nieces, nephews and cousins, including Martin and Joan Simpson, and Arthur and Donna Gray.

He was predeceased by his parents; his son Timothy in 2003; his wife, Zelda in 2007; his brother, Alan Miller; two sisters, Marion Gray and Mabel Bubar; and his in-laws, Ruth Rivers, Elmer Cox and Maynard Cox.

A memorial service will be held Friday, May 25, at 11 a.m. at the Lyndonville United Methodist Church with the Rev. Matthew Bowles officiating.

Friends may meet with the family Thursday evening from 6-8 at the Guibord Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers please follow Leland's example and show respect for your family, your friends, and your fellow man.

Private on-line condolences may be shared with the family at www.guibordfh.com. Guibord Funeral Home is located on the corner of Main and Center Streets, Lyndonville.