

LEARMOUTH: Helen Ducham, 98, of St. Johnsbury, passed away Saturday, Jan. 17, 2004, at the St. Johnsbury Health and Rehab Center. She was born in Montpelier Aug. 20, 1905, a daughter of Warren and Ruth (Brown) Ducham. She was one of six children, all have predeceased her except a sister, Carol McMaster of Springfield, Mass. Helen grew up in the St. Johnsbury and Lyndon area, attending the local schools and St. Johnsbury Academy. Helen married Murray Learmouth, who preceded her in death in 1979. Both she and Murray spent most of their lives in Lyndonville. Helen endeared herself to many of her friends, neighbors and relatives by assisting them in times of sickness, emergencies and events requiring health and homemaking assistance. Helen was appreciated by everyone. She was also employed by Maple Grove Inc. of St. Johnsbury, where she successfully worked as a candy packer until her retirement after 34 years. She made many friends at Maple Grove. Helen was also a helpmate to Murray around "fair time" as they were involved in harness racing for four decades, having raised and trained several trotters and pacers. They were involved in the Snow Pac Race on Washington's birthday in Lyndonville as well as the local fairs in Lyndonville, Barton, Lancaster and Champlain Valley. Survivors include two beloved daughters, Muriel Emma Heon and her husband Robert E. of Springfield, Mass., and Betty Ely of Lyndonville; a sister-in-law, Olivine Ducham Perrault of Lyndonville; a brother-in-law, Gordon Learmouth and his wife Persis of White River Jct.; four grandchildren, Brian and Gary Ely, and Linda Newland and Robert E. Heon Jr.; 10 great-grandchildren, Jeremy and Gregg Ely, Patricia, Philip and Evan Newland, Heather and Jessica Ely, James, Robbie and Hannah Heon; two great-great-grandchildren, Lucas and Natalie Ely; also numerous nieces and nephews who will remember her dearly. The family will receive friends Tuesday, Jan. 20, between the hours of 4-7 p.m., at the Guibord Funeral Home, located at the corner of Main and Center streets in Lyndonville. A funeral Mass will be celebrated Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 11 a.m., at St. Elizabeth's Church, with the Rev. Stephen Nichols celebrant. Memorial contributions may be made in Helen's name to the St. Elizabeth Renovation Fund, P.O. Box 578, Lyndonville, VT 05851.