



Anna E. Engel

July 19, 1916 - November 9, 2011

Anna E. Engel, 95, a resident of Pine Haven, formerly of Ghent, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2011 at Columbia Memorial Hospital.

Born July 19, 1916 in Ghent, she was the daughter of the late George and Alberta (Stahlbush) Ham.

Mrs. Engel was employed as a clerk at the Ghent Post Office until retiring. She was a life member of the West Ghent Reformed Church, a member of the Eastern Star, and a member of the West Ghent Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. She was also the co-owner of Engel's Gas Station with her late husband, Walter F. Engel.

Anna was the beloved mother of Sylvia (Boyd) Schaumann of Philmont, Phyllis (James) Woodward of Niverville, Sally (Ronald) Charron of Ghent, and Walter Gordon (Jean) Engel of Ghent, and devoted grandmother of Peggy Sue (Chris) Boyle of Averill Park, Daniel (Annie) Schaumann of Nassau, Colleen (Steve) DeCarlo of Maryland, Charles (Deborah) Pulver of Pennsylvania, Pamela (Charles) Pulver Loomis of North Carolina, Ruth Ann (James) Burnell of Chatham, Rev. Brian (Laurel) Engel of Mohawk, NY, Wally (Kim) Engel of Ghent, and Jay (Polly) Engel of Spencertown. Also surviving are 18 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Calling hours are 9-11 am Saturday at the West Ghent Reformed Church. Services will follow at 11 am with the Rev. Brian Engel and Rev. Dr. Nancy A. McClure-Long officiating.

Burial will be in the West Ghent Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the Pine Haven Sunshine Fund, the West Ghent Fire Department, or the West Ghent Reformed Church.

Tribute Wall

RM

“ *Ganna was the Queen of Pine Haven and the Queen of Hearts at Ghent Reformed Church. It is the passing of an era at GRC. But we will keep her memory alive. Ganna's family and friends are always welcome to be part of our congregation. In God's Big Love, Pastor Nancy McClure-Long*



Rev. Dr. Nancy A. McClure-Long - November 14, 2011 at 11:51 AM

MH

“ *Mary Ann Horner lit a candle in memory of Anna E. Engel*



Mary Ann Horner - November 13, 2011 at 06:36 AM

VD

“ Over the 10 years I've been volunteering at Pine Haven, I've had many residents who were friends but a handful who were special, and Ganna was one of the specials. I went to see her every Wednesday, one of my favorite stops on my "rounds". Most days would find her reading her Bible. I didn't like to disturb her, but if she caught sight of me, she'd stop reading and I'd sit down and we'd chat. "How are you doing, Ganna?" "I'm doing fine", was usually her answer for all the years I've been asking. I always felt, given the setbacks she's had over the years, the illnesses in her family, that when she said "fine", she meant more than what most people mean when they say that. I always felt she meant she was doing fine on a deep and deeply spiritual level. I always got a lift from seeing and speaking with her.

When my mother-in-law and father-in-law came to Pine Haven, Ganna made it a point to go visit them and welcome them, knowing that they were feeling so dislocated and disoriented. She became a special friend to my mother-in-law. And when Dad passed, she ALWAYS went to see Mom, to urge her out of her room, to just sit and be with her in her grief. That was such a loving and caring and compassionate thing to do. Mom had lost her partner of almost 72 years, but Ganna made sure she didn't sit alone all day.

I'll miss her terribly but also always carry her with me. She was a joy and a pleasure to everyone.

Vivian deGeorges

Vivian deGeorges - November 12, 2011 at 08:55 AM

PB

“ Anna and her husband were great friends of my parents for years' & years'. Very sweet people. I was blessed to visit with her while visiting my aunt this past June at Pine Haven. Her kindness still shown to me....while I took my Aunt outside on the patio to enjoy some beautiful sunshine Anna left me a sweet note & photograph of my parents & them attending my "christening" at the Ghent Reformed Church. I had never seen this photograph before and since I have been doing genealogy work on my family--you can only imagine the joy in my heart receiving this special gift. I immediately went across the hall and gave her a big hug. Such a wonderful 'godly' lady.



Patricia Kittle Batten - November 11, 2011 at 04:42 PM



“ There are very few people that sincerely give with all their hearts and ask for nothing in return. Ganna was one of those few. I have always felt that this is the ultimate quality of a true Christian. I never saw her put her interests in front of others. She was the most positive, generous and good natured person that I have ever known. She taught me too many things to list. I cherish the time I spent with her and am at peace knowing that her and Gramps are together again (probably playing pinnacle). I am proud to have been her grandson and will love her always. I miss you Ganna and I will do my best to take care of others as you did.

Love

Jay

P.S. When Ruth and I saw Ganna in the Hospital she repeatedly paraphrased a part of psalm 34 by saying “I sought the Lord , he heard my prayers; I am not afraid”. She was telling us that she was ready. It’s ok to be sad but remember, she lived a long happy life and was seeking the Lord. Her prayers were answered.

The last words Ganna said to me were “I know you love me, and I love you too”. I couldn’t ask for a better ending.

Jay Engel - November 11, 2011 at 01:15 PM

BE

*Me neither...
Brian*

Brian Engel - November 14, 2011 at 08:43 AM

JF

“Ganna always had good hopes for all of us. We all knew that even when we felt we had no hope for ourselves Ganna did. She really was the epitome of unconditional love. she was our strength when we thought we had none. Just knowing someone like her existed, made you feel at peace. Her faith, love and the way she lived, made it possible for you to believe in anything.

When you view this page it says you can share a favorite memory. With Ganna how can you pick just one? I remember so many things! Some just partial memories from being so young, and some memories so detailed it's hard to break them down so this won't be a novel.

Most of the childhood memories with Ganna either happened in her kitchen or in Ganna and Gramp's garden. I learned so many things there. I remember her making lunch and telling me to go out in to the garden and find radishes, lettuce and tomatoes. I remember asking what a radish tasted like...so she told me to bite it!!! never again will I make that mistake! my mouth BURNED!

That garden to me was magical. I could hide in the peas. she and Gramps taught me how things grew, and how things needed sunshine, water, soil and most importantly love to grow. They had an awesome tree in the garden with a 'monkey swing' for me to swing on. the plastic orange monkey face was a little creepy, but I loved that thing.

Ganna taught me all about cooking and baking. That's where my love of it came from. Making ranger cookies or fresh salad or anything else was so cool as long as it was with her. I use to climb up on the kitchen stool she had and help(EAT) as much as possible. I also spent many hours at that kitchen table trying to learn to play cards, talking and joking, coloring singing and anything else we managed to do.

I remember the tin of hard candies I always tried to sneak in to. Having many extravagant tea parties with the mini tea set Ganna had in her nick-nack corner. When ever I was there usually it was the first thing i went for. that nick-nack shelf was my version of a toy chest. I felt so special being able to play with all those amazing little odds and ends. There were some actual toys at ganna's

house....however the only one I really remember was chewed up wooden abc blocks!!

I have almost almost every card Ganna ever gave me. Most people don't always keep cards, but for me they always held importance. even when she was unable to write the beautiful messages like she use to and her name was the only thing she could really write, it was still the one of the things I looked forward to on the holidays.

So many memories, so many favorite things...So many things that mean so much...

she was a mother, grandmother, great grandmother and even great great grandmother and SO much more!

sorry if this is hard to read.. i spent sometime thinking about what to say here and decided it best to just type and see what happens.....

Love and Miss you Ganna!

Jessica Fox - November 11, 2011 at 09:17 AM

JB

“ Being RuthAnne's best friend growing up meant that I had the pleasure to spend some time with Ganna growing up. And I have to say knowing her enriched my life. She was the epitome of what a grandmother should be. She made you feel special just being around her. She had a sparkle in her eye and a smile for everyone she would meet. She was the kind of grandmother anyone would want. She was patient and kind. She would teach you things like how to sew something or how to cook, etc. but she did it in a way that sticks with you forever. I never saw Ganna angry at anyone. She always had a kind word to say. I learned from Ganna how to be a great grandmother to my own grandchildren and I thank her for that!

A few weeks ago my parents, Bernie and Eleanor Roy, were at Pine Haven Nursing Home visiting some friends of theirs who had just arrived at Pine Haven. They were visiting and when they were in the hall getting ready to leave Ganna came out and said hello. Ganna knew who they were. Her memory sharp and clear as the day God placed her on this earth. My mom didn't recognize her at first, but when she told her she was RuthAnne's grandmother, they knew who she was. They had a nice short visit. Ganna asked about me and my family. My parent's later told me they saw her and were amazed how she remembered them and me. That's just the way Ganna was, always thinking about other people. She always made you feel special.

I will treasure all my memories Ganna in my life. She was an angel among us here on earth. She will be missed tremendously, but now she's an Angel with Gramps up in Heaven watching over us!

Thank you, Ganna, for you being you! You touched my life and everyone around you. I'll remember you forever! You are one of a kind!

Jeanie (Roy) Barnes - November 11, 2011 at 06:03 AM

RB

Very well said...Thank you Jeanie... Ganna was the bestest and I am glad you got to know her. Everytime I visited Ganna she would ask about you.

RuthAnne (Engel) Burnell - November 11, 2011 at 09:40 AM

JB

“ *Jean Barnes lit a candle in memory of Anna E. Engel*



Jean Barnes - November 11, 2011 at 05:22 AM

RB

“ *Ganna Banana was the epitome of a grandmother. Even in her last days she loved to remind me of the memories we shared. She will always be my Ganna Banana. When I was little she would keep her bananas out on the counter... I'd get into them. Gramps told her to put them in the cupboard... and when she opened it I'd say... "Ganna... I smell your bananas". I can still here her voice telling me the story. Though she still let me get into the onions.... Ganna taught me to cook, sew, and yes even drive... She was Always there for me. Ganna said to me the other night, "I don't know why God keeps me here, I have nothing more to offer"... I told Ganna yes you do... "You are an inspiration and a blessing to everyone you meet!" She smiled and said "Well I keep smiling at people and they just keep giving it back!" Holding my hand before I left she said "I love you and those aren't just words!" Ganna I love you and miss you sooo very much. I feel a part of me is missing without you here...there is an emptiness in the air around me. You will always be in my heart and I pray I can even be half of the Grandmother to my grandkids, that you were to me. Thank you for a life full of precious memories, blessings and love! RuthAnne*

RuthAnne (Engel) Burnell - November 10, 2011 at 12:29 PM



All i can bring myself to say right now is BEAUTIFUL

Jessica Fox - November 10, 2011 at 03:12 PM