



Genevieve Mary Margaret Kendall

March 12, 1916 - November 4, 2015

Genevieve Mary Margaret Kendall, of Clare, Michigan, age 99, died at her home on Nov. 4, 2015, in her 100th year. She was born March 12, 1916, in Saginaw, Michigan, the daughter of John and Magdalen Hammis. She graduated from SS. Peter and Paul High School in 1934, and worked as a legal secretary. On February 9, 1937, she married George A. Kendall, Jr., also of Saginaw, a marriage which lasted 51 years, until his death in 1988, and produced 6 children, 9 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren.

Genevieve, known to her friends as Gen, was a lifelong Catholic, whose faith ran very deep and who had a powerful sense of the presence of eternity. She was devoted to her husband and children. She faced many challenges in caring for them, including the task of raising a son who was handicapped from polio. She met these challenges with both wisdom and courage. In middle age, she took several courses at Delta College (in English and psychology) and took great pride in this achievement. Throughout her life, she read every book she could get her hands on, and passed the love of reading on to all her children. She also enjoyed writing, kept a diary all her life, and wrote an autobiography, which she updated from time to time. And then there was her legendary gardening. She had the greenest of green thumbs, and populated her yard with lovely, colorful flowers, not to mention vegetables. If you visited her at the right time of the year, you could count on being fed salads in which every ingredient, other than the dressing, came right out of the garden. She also excelled at the notoriously difficult art of raising African violets, and for

many years donated these to St. Cecelia parish for rummage sales. She is still known to some people in Clare as the “African violet lady.” She was an accomplished photographer. She loved music and had a beautiful singing voice. For years, she was a member of the Resurrection Choir, which sang at funerals at St. Cecilia’s. Her children still remember that she sang constantly while working around the house. Her favorite was “O Danny Boy.” Love—for God, for her family, and for life—was a central theme in her life.

She is survived by her six children: Jeanne Kendall, of East Lansing, Michigan; Joan Kendall, of Grand Haven, Michigan; George Kendall, III, of Grand Marais, Michigan; Marilyn Kendall of Napanee, Ontario; Thomas Kendall, of Victoria, British Columbia; and Carolyn Marcuccio of Brockport, New York.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents and all her siblings, seven of them: Five brothers, Edward Hammis, Albert Hammis, Philip Hammis, Ralph Hammis, and John Hammis, Jr., who died in infancy; two sisters, Dorothy Black and Marian Corbat. She outlived everyone in her generation of her family and her husband’s. In high school, she once sang “The Last Rose of Summer” for a talent show, and in old age commented wryly that now she was the last rose.

She gave her children many gifts, but above all, love. May her memory be eternal.

Visitation and Services will be held on Monday, November 9, 2015 at Our Lady of Hope Parish - St. Cecilia Site. Visitation will be from 10:00 A.M. until Funeral Mass at 11:00 A.M. led by Rev. Prentice A. Tipton, Jr.. Burial to follow in the St. Cecilia Catholic Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Hospice. Arrangements were handled by the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. On-line guestbook at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Cemetery Details

St. Cecilia Catholic Cemetery

411 Schoolcrest Ave.
Clare, MI 48617

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Cecilia Site
106 E. Wheaton Street
Clare, MI 48617

Service

NOV 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Cecilia Site
106 E. Wheaton Street
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Genevieve Mary Margaret Kendall.*



November 08, 2015 at 02:46 PM



“ *Love Sally Heinritz and Family. purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Genevieve Mary Margaret Kendall.*



Love Sally Heinritz and Family. - November 07, 2015 at 03:15 PM



“ *Miriam Miller lit a candle in memory of Genevieve Mary Margaret Kendall*



Miriam Miller - November 06, 2015 at 05:11 AM



“ *As a close friend of Carolyn's, I extend my deepest sympathies to all of the Kendall family on the passing of your dear Mother.*



Sheila Galdieri - November 06, 2015 at 05:07 AM

MB

“ To all my Kendall cousins,
I am so sorry I can not be there with all of you to celebrate Aunt Gen's long life. I have so many fond childhood memories of her and all of you on Granger St. I am so glad that I have been able to visit her during these last years, when I came back to MI. I so enjoyed her stories and seeing her beautiful yard and gardens.
She was a great lady, and I will miss her. Rest in peace Aunt Gen.

Marge Beehr

Marge Beehr - November 05, 2015 at 05:24 PM

KC

“ I am so thankful for the time I got to spend with Gen, she was an amazing woman. I enjoyed her stories of family and her many challenges she faced in life. Gen raised some wonderful children who are so kind and caring. God bless your family with many memories! Katy CNA - Grace Hospice



Katy Craig - November 05, 2015 at 02:54 PM

LL

“ To Jeannie Kendall and the family of Genevieve Mary Kendall, I extend my sympathy for the loss of your dear mother. May her memories live on in each of you. Genevieve must have been an amazing woman to have raised and inspired each of you. May you find comfort in your loss through the love of friends and family.

Lois P. Lynch

Lois Lynch - November 05, 2015 at 07:50 AM