

Tribute to Lolita Ann (Thayer) Guthrie

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I could wish for a happier message as I continue urging Clan Guthrie members to submit news and historical data about their ancestors for inclusion in the genealogy section of the News. And, of course, I hope you will do so. It is, however, with great sadness that I report the recent death of Lolita Guthrie. Her service to Clan Guthrie spanned more than a decade, during which time she was the tireless editor of the genealogy pages and the unselfish mentor of struggling genealogists—I was one of them—who sought her guidance. She also corresponded with and supplied information to hundreds of Guthrie family members who inquired about their ancestors. To support this work, she spent countless hours delving into the Guthrie publications she had acquired and later donated to the Ohio Genealogical Society library for the use of those who would follow her. She will be sorely missed. The following data about her mother were submitted by her daughter, Carla A. (Sanner) Hall:

“Lolita Ann (Thayer) Guthrie passed away peacefully on Nov. 16, 2015. She was born September 14, 1925 in Hancock County, Indiana to Orlando Franklin and Lora Frances Wall Thayer. After growing up in Anderson, IN, she graduated from Ball State Teachers College (now Univ.) with a BA in Education in 1947.

“In late 1943, she met Mearl Guthrie at Ball State, where he was in Army training before seeing active service in Europe. After WWII Guthrie Genealogy Update – March 2016 Continued on Page 8 Page 8 ended, Mearl returned to marry Lolita and join her in completing college degrees. They were married July 21, 1946, at Central Christian Church in Anderson, Indiana, and enjoyed 66 wonderful years of marriage before Mearl passed away 2 years ago.

“Lolita taught in elementary schools in Muncie, IN, Minneapolis, MN, and Cincinnati, OH, before starting a family. A stay-at-home Mom, Lolita served as an honored volunteer in the community for over 60 years. Activities at First Presbyterian Church include teacher, elder, Women’s Association, Maumee Valley Presbytery Ministerial Committee, and serving as a representative at the National Assembly. At Bowling Green Schools, Lolita was a Conneaut Room Mom and helped organize Jr. Hi Mothers of Bobkittens (MOB). Later, the Hospital Guild became a focus, and she served as co-buyer for the hospital gift shop. Her most recent passion was genealogy with leadership roles at the county and state levels of the Ohio Genealogical Society, a governor’s appointment to the Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission, and receiving a volunteerism award from the national Federation of Genealogical Societies. In 1988, Lolita was named Bowling Green Outstanding Citizen, and in 1996 received the Wood County Good Citizenship Award.

“Lolita is survived by children Scott R. Guthrie, Bowling Green, and Carla A. (Sanner) Hall (Bill), Wooster, OH, one granddaughter, Julie (Sanner) Pooler (Jimmy), Wooster, OH, with twin great-grandchildren expected in February. She was preceded in death by her husband Mearl R. Guthrie and four siblings.”