

Information about George A. and Valena Cunningham

George was born June 8, 1922 in Lafayette Township in Madison County, Indiana, one of eight children. He was born at home. The house was located on the east side of 600 W about one half mile north of Cross Street. His parents were farmers. He attended Hamilton School for the first few grades then went to Leach School. He left school after eighth grade to help work the farm to support his family during the depression.

Ethel Valena Stottlemeyer was born December 25, 1922 in Lafayette Township in Madison County, Indiana, one of seven children. The house was located on the north side of cross street across from the current Rose Hill housing addition. Valena attended Hamilton School through eighth grade then went on to Lapel High school where she graduated in 1941.

George married his childhood sweetheart of Ethel Valena Stottlemeyer on September 30, 1944. They were married by the Rev. Otto Stroup in the parsonage of the Frankton Christian Church. George and Valena purchased 40 acres in Jackson Township on 210 north in 1948. It was on this farm that they raise their three sons. George Alden was born July 8, 1948, Gary Dean was born November 13, 1951 and Randy Alan was born June 7, 1961. George was a farmer all of his life. He also drove a school bus for 32 years to Jackson and Frankton schools. During the late 1950's through most of the 1960's George along with Wayne McClintock were the 4-H leaders for the Jackson Township club. All three of their sons graduated from Frankton High School. George and Valena were big fans of Frankton High School attending many activities and serving as band parents.

George and Valena were devout Christians. They attended Beall's Chapel United Methodist Church for most of their married life. They were very active in the church and Valena served as an adult Sunday school teacher for years. In the late 1970's they attended Frankton Wesleyan Church where once again they were very active especially during the church bake sale held every September during the Frankton Heritage Days festival.

George died suddenly in January 1989 at the age of 66 from a massive heart attack. Valena died in February 2017 at the age of 94. Their bodies lie in the K of P cemetery in Frankton, but their souls resided together in heaven.