



## Vera Alice Leichthy

August 29, 1919 - August 7, 2011

August 7, 2011, Vera Alice (Downs) Leichthy entered her heavenly home and strolled into the arms of her husband, Simon Leichthy. Alice, as she was most often known, was born on August 29, 1919 in Jasper Co., Rensselaer, Indiana to Harry Orval & Grace Mearl (Standish) Downs. The family lived on East Oak Street in Rensselaer. In 1924, Vera moved to Broadway Gardens, near Glenn Park, close to Gary, with her parents, two older sisters, Dorothy Agnes and Farol Margaruite, and younger siblings, Audrey Jane and Donald Orval. Here she attended her first years of school at Broadway Gardens Elementary School. In 1929, they moved close to Lake Michigan, near what was known as Miller, where sister Rosemary Grace was born. In 1931, the Downs family moved to Mt. Ayr, Indiana, where Alice completed seventh through sophomore years at Mt. Ayr School. During this time her father helped build the gym on the Mt. Ayr High School and a little sister, Barbara Jean, was added to complete the Downs family. On a visit to Alice's sister, Farol, Alice met Simon Leichthy, son of John J. and Salome (Chupp) Leichthy. Simon worked in Mt. Ayr at the Sherman White Creamery for Farol's husband, Kenneth Blankenbaker. On October 12, 1935, Alice and Simon eloped and were married in Kentland by Rev. Edward Richard Edwards. Simon paid \$5 for the wedding ring and \$2 to the minister. They spent the night at sister, Dorothy and Gerald Baldwin's home on U. S. 114. There was no honeymoon. They seemed to have forgotten that Alice was only 16 years old at the time, but they didn't forget their vows and were married nearly 57 years. They settled with Simon's

parents on the present Spall farm in Jasper County where they had no electricity. Later, Simon's parents purchased Blankenbaker Creamery in Mt. Ayr and the families moved into the back part of the building. Various moves followed. In September, 1945, Simon and Alice purchased "the farm" from his uncle, Menno Chupp. The place was an old gravel pit with a house in need of much repair. They paid Menno one dollar according to tax records with \$2000 additional. In 1945, they moved to the farm and soon began the construction of their first home. In 1947-1957, they raised hundreds of chickens and eggs, which they sold to Joe's Produce, Brook, Indiana. In 1955, Alice began working in Morocco, Indiana at Permonite, a wire and electronic press factory handling auto and television parts. She retired on July 30, 1982. Alice moved to Rensselaer in May, following Simon's death on September 6, 1992. She worked as volunteer in the Auxiliary at Jasper County Hospital in 1998 and 1999. Alice was raised in the Methodist faith, and joined the Burr Oak Mennonite Church after her marriage. Survivors include: 4 children, Walter Lee Leichty, Olathe, Kansas, Jo Ann (Bruce) Maupin Brandon, Mississippi, Ronald Allen (Sharon) Leichty Argos, Indiana, and Philip Dean (Virginia) Leichty Rensselaer, Indiana; 17 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; 12 great-great grandchildren; and two sisters, Audrey Jane Kissinger, Mt. Ayr, Indiana and Barbara Jean (Urtz) Etchoe, Hammond, Indiana. She was preceded in death by her husband, one brother, three sisters, and a grandson. Visitation will be Thursday, August 11, 2011, 4:00-8:00 p.m. at the Jackson Funeral Chapel in Rensselaer, Indiana and one hour prior to the funeral service at Burr Oak Mennonite Church. The funeral will be August 12, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Debbie Voss officiating. Interment will be in the nearby Burr Oak Cemetery. A luncheon will follow at the church. Contributions can be made to Burr Oak Mennonite Church located at 11506 W 200 S, Rensselaer, Indiana.

# Previous Events

## Service

AUG **12**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Burr Oak Mennonite Church  
11506 W. CR 200 S.  
Rensselaer, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ My prayers go out to the family of Mrs. Leichty to stay strong and know that she is with the Lord and will forever be in your hearts.##imported-begin##Wannie Scott##imported-end##

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August 17, 2011 at 09:22 AM



“ Good morning Family we are with you this morning if not in person in spirit, we are praying for all of you. We loved Aunt Alice with all of our hearts, and she will forever be in our memories and look forward to seeing her again in Heaven. God Bless you all.

Love always Carlene & Ray##imported-begin##Carlene & Ray##imported-end##

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August 12, 2011 at 10:39 AM



“ You are all in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Lois & Phill Evers##imported-end##

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August 11, 2011 at 01:36 PM



“ i wish i could be there to give your family a hug thoughts and prayers with you the older she got the more she looked like grandma baldwin##imported-begin##loretta turner reecer##imported-end##

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August 10, 2011 at 11:54 PM



“ G'ma, We will miss you very much, Be with God and Grampa. Love Greg...  
Greg & Tina Leichty & family

August 10, 2011 at 08:13 PM



“ Mother, Another trip to Rensselaer to see you only this time you are in Heaven with Dad. I'm sure Dad welcomed you with open arms. There is a huge hole in my heart that won't be healed until we meet in Heaven.

I won't be bringing Lexi to see you this time. I know how you always lit up and smiled that big smile when I showed up with her. She loved you as much as you loved her. During my last visit, it was so great the way she laid beside you in your bed for the longest time with you having your arms around her.

You and Dad were wonderful parents and I will miss you both for the rest of my life.

Your best-looking son, Walt  
Walt Leichty

August 10, 2011 at 03:52 PM



“ Mother,  
While my heart is heavy, I'm pleased to know you are in Heaven having a great reunion with Dad. Now the two of you can watch over the family together. Save a little space up there for us!  
Your son,  
Ron  
Ron Leichty

August 10, 2011 at 12:56 PM



“ We send our heartfelt sympathies. Even knowing that not being with them is temporary for those who love the Lord, it is still hard. It sounds as if she lived a fascinating life.##imported-begin##Jay and Jacquie Covill##imported-end##

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August 09, 2011 at 02:26 PM



“ Mrs. Leichthy was a wonderful woman. She had a huge impact on my life. When I was a child, she and her sister-in-law (also with the name of Mrs. Leichthy) would always make sure my siblings and I had a ride to Bible School. They are both wonderful role models.##imported-begin##Doris Hammersley##imported-end##

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August 09, 2011 at 02:06 PM