

MARY NINON PATTON CRAIG

Mrs. Mary Ninon Patton Craig, was born April 13, 1915 in Weches, Texas and passed away, Thursday, August 27, 2009 in Little Rock, Arkansas. She grew up on a farm in the Plain community of Houston County, land that has been in the family since 1875. The family also farmed in Cherokee County. She graduated from Crockett High School. In 1937 she married Ellis Craig, who had come to Texas with the Civil Conservation Corps. He was involved in the construction and development of Ratcliff Lake.

After their marriage Ellis began working for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and they spent their early marriage years in south Texas where both their children were born. In 1954 they began a grand adventure in Alaska, where Ellis worked for the Alaska Railroad. Ellis suffered heart problems and had to retire in 1960. They returned to Texas, eventually building a home, primarily by themselves, on the family land in the Plain community. They raised cattle and horses and became involved in the community, helping to rejuvenate the Plain Church. Ellis died suddenly in 1980, and Nina's granddaughter's family came to live with her.

She helped to rear three great-grand-children at the family farm. In 2002 her children convinced her to move in with her daughter and son-in-law in Little Rock, Arkansas. She suffered a debilitating stroke later that year and lived in a nursing care center until her recent death at Arkansas Hospice.

She was admired by all who knew her for her humility, kindness, and curiosity about the world. Her family benefited

from her unconditional love.

Survivors include brother Willis O. Patton; son Ellis Morgan Craig and his partner Beatrice W. Sager; daughter Nina Carolyn Jenkins and son-in-law Clay S. Jenkins; granddaughters Marye Anne Boyd, Teresa Anne Robison and her husband Norm Robison, and Michelle Jenkins; great-grandchildren Crystal Lee Boyd, Carlye Anne Martinsky, Caroline Cassidy Boyd, Rachel Robison, Carnell Robison, and Cardell Robison; great-great grandson Jon Tatum Martinsky; and a host of nieces, nephews and their descendents.

Preceded in death by her father William O. Patton and mother Cora Ann Francis (Bursen) Patton; sisters Vera Milo Pate, Phoebe Adeline Julian and Lois Pauline Goff; grandson Michael Craig Jenkins.

Funeral Services for Mrs. Mary Ninon Patton Craig were held Sunday, August 30, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the Callaway-Allee Memorial Chapel with Mr. Don Hobson officiating. Interment followed in the Conner Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be directed to Arkansas Hospice, 5600 West 12th Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204 or the Plain Baptist Church.

Callaway-Allee Funeral Home